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INTERNATIONAL

Dubai's $1bn Trump Tower Enters Next Build Phase With 80% Inventory Secured

The $1 billion development on Sheikh Zayed Road is planned as an 80-storey mixed-use tower with a 2031 completion target.

(International Desk) Dubai: Construction of the $1 billion Trump International Hotel & Tower Dubai has moved into its next phase after developer Dar Global awarded Gulf Asia Contracting the contract to construct the project's podium. The developer said the project is progressing on schedule following completion of its enabling works programme. The tower is planned to rise approximately 350 metres across 80 floors at the entrance to Downtown Dubai on Sheikh Zayed Road. The development will combine a five-star Trump-branded hotel, private residences and an exclusive members-only club. Dar Global's official project information lists the development as under construction, with completion expected in December 2031.

The project is planned to include more than 500 homes, along with what the developer describes as Dubai's highest outdoor swimming pool. Two signature duplex penthouses will also feature in the development, drawing design inspiration from Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York. Dar Global Chief Executive Ziad El Chaar said around 80 percent of the project's inventory had already been secured, with buyers representing approximately 40 nationalities. Investors from Pakistan, India, the UK and Saudi Arabia are among the markets represented.



Dubai Developer HOLM Takes $250m Bet on Georgia With Batumi Waterfront Project

The Dubai-based developer has signed an agreement for a 140,000-square-metre multifunctional complex on Ambassadori Island.



(International Desk) Batumi, Georgia: Dubai-based HOLM Developments has signed an international investment and development agreement with Ambassadori Island Batumi to develop a 140,000-square-metre multifunctional complex with an investment exceeding $250 million. The agreement was signed by HOLM Chief Executive Sergey Avayan and Ambassadori Island Batumi CEO Gocha Kamkia, marking the Dubai developer's first major international expansion beyond the UAE. HOLM introduced its first Georgian development, One Peninsula, at a launch event on August 28, 2026. The residential project forms part of the wider Ambassadori Island waterfront masterplan, which is being developed as a mixed-use destination on the Batumi waterfront. The broader masterplan is planned to include residential communities, hospitality facilities, retail outlets, leisure attractions and cultural destinations. HOLM said its involvement extends beyond a single residential building, giving the company a strategic position within the wider island development.

Dubai's Moon Mega Project Advances as RLB Joins $5 Billion Development

The developer appoints Rider Levett Bucknall as programme manager and cost consultant for its global MOON Smart City vision.

(International Desk) Dubai: The proposed $5 billion Moon project has moved forward in its planning phase after Moon World Resorts appointed Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) as programme manager and cost consultant for its MOON Smart City developments worldwide. RLB will support the project from pre-development through delivery, with responsibilities including programme management, cost planning and budget control. The appointment represents a further step in developing the large-scale concept and establishing the framework for its potential future delivery.



Moon World Resorts describes MOON as a giant moon-shaped experiential destination combining hospitality, entertainment, wellness, attractions, luxury residences and commercial real estate under a single concept. The company presents the development as part of a wider global MOON Smart City vision rather than simply a standalone building. The project has attracted international attention because of its proposed scale and distinctive design. However, the latest announcement should be viewed as progress in planning and pre-development rather than the beginning of physical construction.

UAE Backs Elon Musk's Boring Company in Dh11 Billion Tunnel Deal

Funding round values Elon Musk's tunnelling company at $23 billion as plans advance for more than 150km of underground infrastructure in the UAE.

(International Desk) Dubai: The Boring Company has raised $3 billion, equivalent to around Dh11 billion, in a Series D funding round led by the UAE and affiliated investment entities, valuing the Elon Musk-founded tunnelling company at approximately $23 billion. The company said the funding will support an expanded partnership to deploy more than 150 kilometres of underground infrastructure across the UAE. However, the Dh11 billion figure represents the size of the funding round and should not be interpreted as the construction value of a 150-kilometre UAE tunnel contract.

The planned expansion comes in addition to the Dubai Loop project already contracted by Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority. RTA signed a definitive agreement with The Boring Company in February 2026 for the project.

The Dubai Loop pilot phase is planned to include 6.4 kilometres of tunnels and four stations connecting Dubai International Financial Centre with Dubai Mall. The full proposed alignment could extend up to 22.2 kilometres with 19 stations. RTA has estimated the first phase at around AED565 million and the full route at approximately AED2 billion. The Boring Company currently lists Dubai Loop as "Under Contract", meaning the wider UAE partnership should not be interpreted as 150 kilometres of tunnels already constructed or operational.



Majid Al Futtaim Posts Record Dh2.5bn EBITDA as Pipeline Tops Dh100bn

Property development drives growth as the group's development pipeline exceeds AED100 billion.

(International Desk) Dubai: Majid Al Futtaim has reported record EBITDA of AED2.5 billion for the first half of 2026, representing an 11 percent increase year-on-year. Revenue also rose 1 percent to AED17.5 billion, while net operating profit after tax increased 25 percent to AED1.8 billion. The company's property development business emerged as one of its strongest growth drivers, with development revenue increasing 38 percent during the period. Majid Al Futtaim's development pipeline has now exceeded AED100 billion, while construction contracts worth AED2.8 billion were awarded during the first half of the year. A major component of the pipeline is the AED62 billion Dubai South mixed-use community, which covers approximately 22 million square feet near Al Maktoum International Airport. Construction activity is also progressing at Ghaf Woods and as part of the redevelopment of Mall of the Emirates.



The group is expanding its real estate presence beyond the UAE as well. In Egypt, Majid Al Futtaim has entered a mixed-use partnership with Midar and broken ground on the JUNCTION business park in West Cairo. The first phase of JUNCTION forms part of an investment exceeding EGP20 billion, adding to the company's growing portfolio of residential, commercial and mixed-use developments across the region.

UAE's Marlan Space and Loft Orbital lead $1bn project for 50 AI satellites

Marlan Space and Loft Orbital lead a consortium investing in France, with satellite production planned at Orbitworks' Abu Dhabi facility.

(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: UAE-based Marlan Space and Loft Orbital are leading a consortium investing $1 billion in France to develop Altair-Next Gen, a planned network of 50 AI-enabled satellites. The project was announced in Paris on September 9, 2026, with satellite production forming part of the programme at Orbitworks' facility in Abu Dhabi. According to the companies, production of the first 10 satellites has already begun, while the first AI-enabled satellite is scheduled for launch in October. The satellites are being designed with onboard artificial intelligence capabilities that can process and analyse observations directly in space. This approach is intended to reduce the time required to transmit and analyse data on the ground and potentially provide faster alerts for important applications.



Planned uses include wildfire detection, disaster response and infrastructure monitoring. By processing information closer to where it is collected, the project aims to support quicker decision-making and more responsive monitoring of events on Earth. However, these capabilities remain stated objectives of the planned constellation rather than confirmed results from a fully operational network. The effectiveness of the system will depend on the successful launch, deployment and operation of the satellites.

NATIONAL

Pakistan IT Exports Hit Record $4.6bn as 872 New Tech Firms Register

Technology exports rise 20.6pc as Pakistan records a $3.9 billion trade surplus and expands its international tech presence.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter) : Pakistan's information and communication technology (ICT) export earnings reached an all-time high of $4.6 billion in FY2025-26, registering growth of around 20.6 percent year-on-year, according to official figures reported by APP. The sector also recorded a record $3.9 billion trade surplus, strengthening its position as Pakistan's largest services-export segment. The latest full-year figures are significantly higher than the previously reported July-March numbers, when ICT exports stood at $3.38 billion with a trade surplus of $2.91 billion.

The government is simultaneously promoting Pakistani technology companies in international markets. At LEAP 2026 in Riyadh, the Tech Destination Pakistan Pavilion featured 25 startups and 50 established Pakistani technology companies, with the aim of building business partnerships, attracting investment and expanding overseas market access. Federal IT Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said government policies and the Special Investment Facilitation Council are supporting digital transformation, connectivity and technology-sector



Pakistan's technology sector is also expanding its domestic business base. In August 2026, the IT sector recorded the highest number of new company registrations, with 872 incorporations out of 4,761 companies registered across the country during the month, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

Islamabad Police receives 50 electric vehicles for Capital Patrol force

The new 200-member force will use electric vehicles, body cameras and motorcycle units to strengthen modern policing.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has handed over 50 electric vehicles to Islamabad Police for the newly established Capital Patrol force, aimed at introducing modern, safe and environment-friendly policing in the federal capital.

The new force will comprise 200 personnel, with each patrol unit including one male and one female officer. Motorcycle personnel will also be deployed to provide rapid response and improve patrolling across different areas of Islamabad. All Capital Patrol officers will wear body cameras to strengthen transparency, monitoring and accountability during field operations. The use of modern equipment is expected to improve oversight and provide better documentation of interactions between police personnel and citizens.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Islamabad Police should become a role model for other cities through improved technology, modern equipment and better public services. The Capital Patrol force is expected to focus on visible patrolling, quicker response and improved engagement with citizens. The initiative represents a broader shift towards technology-based policing in Islamabad, with electric vehicles and body cameras being combined with conventional motorcycle patrols to improve mobility, efficiency and accountability.

Quetta government school upgraded with modern learning facilities

Renovated school in BMC Colony now offers IT facilities, a science laboratory and improved classrooms.



Quetta : (Staff Reporter): Government Girls High School in BMC Colony has been renovated and equipped with modern educational facilities as part of efforts to improve the quality of public-sector schooling in Balochistan. The upgraded school now includes information technology facilities, a fully equipped science laboratory, improved classrooms and a more supportive learning environment for students. The new facilities will allow students to conduct practical experiments and use modern learning resources alongside their regular classroom studies. Education officials said the initiative is aimed at raising educational standards and providing children with free and quality education comparable to facilities available in well-equipped private institutions. The improvements are expected to give students greater access to practical learning and modern educational tools.

The renovation also reflects efforts to strengthen public-sector schools by improving both physical infrastructure and learning facilities. Better-equipped classrooms and laboratories can help encourage students to develop practical skills and take greater interest in science and technology. The provincial government plans to extend similar improvements to more public schools across Balochistan. Education observers believe upgrading government schools can help improve learning opportunities for children, particularly in communities where access to high-quality educational facilities remains limited.

If petrol tax cuts need IMF nod, who approved Punjab's Rs11.7bn jet, asks Miftah

Former finance minister compares reported aircraft expenditure with government efforts to secure IMF approval for fuel-tax relief.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Former federal finance minister and Awaam Pakistan leader Miftah Ismail has questioned government spending priorities, asking why IMF approval was considered necessary for reducing taxes on petrol while Punjab was reportedly able to acquire an aircraft costing up to Rs11.7 billion. Ismail made the remarks while addressing a Jamaat-i-Islami sit-in in Karachi, where concerns over fuel prices and broader economic pressures remained central to public discussion. He questioned whether government resources were being directed towards priorities that could provide greater relief to citizens facing rising living costs.



Ismail had previously claimed that Punjab acquired a Gulfstream G500 for between $38 million and $42 million, equivalent to approximately Rs10.64 billion to Rs11.76 billion. His comments regarding the aircraft and its intended use represent his own position on the matter. Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has disputed the allegation that the aircraft was intended for VIP use. She said the aircraft was meant to form part of the proposed Air Punjab fleet rather than serve as a dedicated personal jet. The contrasting positions have sparked further debate over provincial spending priorities, particularly at a time when fuel prices and fiscal constraints remain significant public concerns.

The issue also highlights wider questions about government expenditure, public accountability and the allocation of resources amid Pakistan's ongoing economic adjustment programme.

Pakistan's Salaried Class Pays Rs91bn Tax in Two Months, More Than Real Estate

Salaried taxpayers contribute more than twice the real estate sector's collection as overall FBR revenue reaches Rs1.72 trillion.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan's salaried class paid Rs91 billion in income tax during July-August of FY2026-27, according to FBR data cited by The Express Tribune. The collection was Rs6.3 billion, or 7.5 percent, higher than the amount collected from salaried taxpayers during the same period last year. In comparison, income-tax collection from the real estate sector declined to Rs28 billion from Rs39.4 billion a year earlier, representing a fall of around 29 percent. Salaried taxpayers therefore contributed more than three times the tax collected from real estate during the two-month period. The difference was also significant compared with wholesalers and retailers, who collectively paid around Rs12 billion in withholding taxes. The salaried class contributed approximately Rs79 billion more than this group during the period.

However, the decline in real estate tax collection does not necessarily indicate a corresponding fall in property activity. Under the FY2026-27 budget, the government reduced key advance-tax rates on property transactions. The filer rate on property purchases was lowered from 2.5 percent to 1.25 percent, while the rate on sales was reduced from 5.5 percent to 2.75 percent. Overall, FBR collected around Rs1.722 trillion during July-August, slightly exceeding its two-month target, although the authority fell short of its separate August collection target.





Gwadar-Sohar Sister Port Plan Could Open a New Gulf Trade Gateway

Pakistan and Oman discuss maritime connectivity, logistics, investment and possible direct air links between Gwadar and Oman.

Gwadar: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan and Oman are moving towards establishing Gwadar Port and Oman's Sohar Port as sister ports, with both sides discussing stronger cooperation in maritime connectivity, shipping, logistics and investment. The proposal was discussed during a meeting between Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Noor Ul Haq Baloch and Oman's Consul General Sami Abdullah Salim Al Khanjari. Officials explored ways to strengthen cargo movement between the two ports and create closer links between CPEC, Gulf markets and Central Asia.

The proposed partnership could support greater trade connectivity and potentially reduce transit times for regional cargo. Discussions also covered possible Omani investment in the Gwadar Free Zone and joint ventures in logistics, warehousing and fisheries. Both sides also considered technical cooperation in port management, dredging, digital port operations and staff capacity building. Possible direct air connectivity between Gwadar and Oman through SalamAir using New Gwadar International Airport was also discussed.

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GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Punjab completes rural road rehabilitation in Rahim Yar Khan

Upgraded roads feature improved surfaces, lane markings and designated school crossings to enhance rural connectivity.

Rahim Yar Khan: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab Communication and Works Department has completed the construction and rehabilitation of roads across Rahim Yar Khan district under the Local Roads Programme, marking another step towards improving rural transport infrastructure. The initiative, carried out on the directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, includes upgraded road surfaces, modern lane markings and designated school crossings. The improvements are aimed at making daily travel safer and more convenient for residents, particularly communities in rural areas.

The rehabilitated roads are expected to strengthen connectivity between villages and nearby urban centres, making it easier for residents to access schools, healthcare facilities, markets and other essential services. Better road infrastructure can also support the movement of agricultural goods and local businesses. The development forms part of the provincial government's "Sarkain Bahaal, Punjab Khushhaal" and "Sohnay Pind, Sohnian Sarkaan" initiatives, which focus on improving road infrastructure and transportation facilities across rural Punjab.



Officials say continued investment in local roads is important for reducing travel difficulties and supporting economic activity in underserved communities. Proper maintenance of the newly upgraded roads will also be necessary to ensure that the improvements remain effective over the long term.

Islamabad Could Get Its Own Assembly as 27-Seat Plan Reaches PM

Draft governance model recommends elected local leadership while keeping law and order and master planning under federal control.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): A high-level government committee has submitted a proposed new governance model for the federal capital to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, recommending the creation of a 27-member Islamabad Capital Territory Assembly and a locally elected chief executive. Under the draft proposal, 21 assembly members would be directly elected, while five seats would be reserved for women and one for minorities. The model suggests dividing Islamabad's three National Assembly constituencies into seven ICT Assembly seats each, creating 21 directly elected constituencies. The proposed chief executive could be designated either Chief Minister or Mayor and would remain accountable to the elected assembly. The new ICT government could oversee 27 administrative departments, including health, education, environment and various public services.

However, important areas would remain under federal control. Law and order and Islamabad's master planning would continue to be managed at the federal level. The powers currently distributed among different institutions, including the Capital Development Authority, would also be reorganised under the proposed governance structure. The proposal is not yet final and would require government approval and legislation before implementation. The concept was also discussed publicly by the Ministry of Planning in June 2026, which outlined the same 27-member assembly structure.



Punjab Sets Two-Month Target to Activate 1,886 New Water Filtration Plants

Officials directed to accelerate monitoring, maintenance and water-quality checks across the province.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab has set a two-month target to make 1,886 new water filtration plants operational across the province under its clean drinking water programme, aiming to improve access to safe drinking water for communities. The latest progress was reviewed in a meeting chaired by Punjab Housing and Urban Development Minister Bilal Yasin, where officials were directed to strengthen monitoring, maintenance and regular water-quality testing of filtration plants. According to the briefing, 1,082 filtration plants are planned for Rawalpindi Division and 800 for South Punjab. Lahore has also upgraded the façades of 650 older filtration plants, while another 2,000 new plants are planned for other districts next year.

The 1,886 filtration plants are part of an already announced programme. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif had directed authorities on August 6 to complete the projects as early as possible, while the latest review has now set a more specific two-month target for their activation. Punjab's wider clean-water programme is substantially larger, with official reporting indicating plans for more than 5,600 filtration plants across the province. The initiative also includes digital geo-tagging of facilities and the 1336 public complaints helpline. Officials say regular water-quality checks and proper maintenance will be necessary to ensure the plants continue providing safe drinking water after becoming operational.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Says Rs800bn Recovered Without New Taxes

PM Shehbaz Sharif says stronger tax enforcement and reforms helped boost revenue as government pushes for export-led growth.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said the government recovered Rs800 billion through enforcement measures during one year without imposing new taxes, highlighting the administration's efforts to improve revenue collection through stronger compliance. Speaking to a delegation of prominent industrialists and business leaders in Islamabad on September 8, 2026, the prime minister said the recovery was achieved through stronger enforcement, action on long-pending tax cases and structural reforms developed in consultation with the business community.



Shehbaz Sharif stressed that Pakistan's future economic growth must be export-led, saying economic expansion without a corresponding increase in exports would not provide meaningful long-term benefits. He asked business leaders to identify obstacles affecting export growth and highlighted tax relief provided to exporters in the latest budget. During the meeting, the prime minister also directed authorities to review the possibility of extending the super-tax exemption for exporters and take immediate steps to address concerns raised by the business community. Officials briefed participants on progress in Federal Board of Revenue digitisation and improvements in port operations and charges. Separately, the government has expanded the Export Finance Scheme from Rs1 trillion to Rs1.5 trillion for FY2026-27, including Rs300 billion for SME exporters, agri-SMEs and new borrowers.



Punjab Nears Waste Collection Geofencing as Poor Performance Faces Action

Digital mapping of union councils will help monitor door-to-door collection and identify service gaps.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique has said geofencing of door-to-door waste collection operations under Suthra Punjab is nearing completion, as authorities move towards more detailed digital monitoring of sanitation services across the province. During a performance review of district Suthra Punjab agencies at the Civil Secretariat, officials were informed that geo-mapping data would be connected with the programme's digital monitoring system. The system is intended to identify service gaps and improve waste collection at the union-council level. The minister directed authorities to arrange megaphone announcements on loader rickshaws to inform residents about waste collection services. He also ordered that names and contact details of workers and monitors be displayed in every operational beat so citizens can directly contact the relevant teams when problems arise.

District managing directors and tehsil managers were instructed to inspect their assigned beats daily. Zeeshan Rafique warned that poor performance would not lead to action against field workers alone and that responsible officers could also face disciplinary measures. An official APP update issued on September 1 reported that mapping of 1,992 union councils had already been completed with support from the Punjab Information Technology Board. The same update said the digital system had achieved a reported 96 percent response rate to public complaints.

Pakistan's home loan market hits record high as financing reaches Rs286bn

Housing finance rises 37.2pc year-on-year as demand for residential construction and home purchases strengthens.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan's outstanding house-building finance reached a record Rs286 billion in July 2026, registering year-on-year growth of approximately 37.2 percent, according to figures reported from the banking sector. The increase points to stronger borrowing for residential construction and home purchases as housing finance activity continues to recover. Demand for subsidised mortgages has also increased under government-backed affordable housing initiatives, although available data does not establish that any single scheme was responsible for the entire rise.

The government's Mera Ghar–Mera Ashiana programme provides subsidised financing through participating banks to eligible applicants seeking to purchase or construct homes. The initiative is aimed at improving access to housing finance for qualifying borrowers. Separate figures presented to a parliamentary committee showed that total housing finance continued to rise after July, reaching around Rs307 billion by mid-August. The increase indicates continued momentum in a sector that has traditionally faced challenges including high borrowing costs, limited mortgage penetration and restricted access to long-term housing finance.



Banking and real estate observers believe the expansion of housing finance could support construction activity, increase demand for building materials and generate employment across related sectors. However, sustained growth will depend on financing costs, borrower eligibility, property documentation and broader economic conditions. The recovery in housing finance could also encourage greater formal participation in Pakistan's residential property market as more buyers and builders gain access to structured banking finance.

REAL ESTATE

Bahria Town investors in trouble; Malik Riaz seeks government assistance.

Bahria Town founder calls for suspension of auction and possession proceedings until related legal disputes are resolved.



Islamabad : (Staff Reporter): Bahria Town founder Malik Riaz has appealed to the government to intervene in the legal and financial disputes surrounding the company's housing projects, saying restrictions on development, property seizures and auction proceedings are affecting investors and residents. In his latest appeal, Riaz urged authorities to suspend what he described as low-value auctions, property transfers and possession proceedings until the disputes are decided by the relevant legal forums. He said the ongoing situation was creating uncertainty for people associated with Bahria Town projects. According to his statement, the appeal is his fourth request for negotiations or government intervention since August 2025. Riaz also proposed restarting development activities under transparent supervision and using an agreed portion of project proceeds to address outstanding liabilities.

The dispute has wider implications for property owners, investors and businesses connected with the housing projects. Bahria Town properties have faced auction proceedings in connection with cases pursued by the National Accountability Bureau, while related matters have also been considered by the courts. Riaz's statements regarding property values, auction prices and the broader economic impact remain his own claims and have not been independently established. Any future government intervention or settlement would depend on legal proceedings, regulatory decisions and agreements among the relevant parties.

The proposed approach calls for development activities to resume under a transparent oversight mechanism, with the aim of protecting ongoing projects and maintaining economic activity linked to the housing schemes. Riaz has also suggested that a mutually agreed share of proceeds could be directed towards settling outstanding liabilities.

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Lahore's New Business Skyline Takes Shape as CBD Punjab Draws Investment Focus

Rs2.7 trillion to Rs3 trillion preliminary feasibility highlights the scale of Lahore's planned high-rise business and investment district.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) is developing CBD Punjab at the former Walton Airport site, a major urban development that the authority describes as Pakistan's first Central Business District. The project is planned as a major business and investment destination featuring high-rise commercial, residential and mixed-use developments. According to official PCBDDA material, its preliminary financial feasibility is estimated at around Rs2.7 trillion to Rs3 trillion.

Available project mapping material also identifies a "Proposed 2nd Entrance" connecting towards Multan Road, indicating that an additional access point has been planned as part of the project's future connectivity improvements. Improved access routes can play an important role in enhancing convenience for residents and supporting the overall appeal of residential developments.



The master plan is divided into five broad districts covering commercial, digital, residential, entertainment and government activities. These areas are planned to be connected through modern urban infrastructure, public spaces and green areas. The authority is also offering development and investment opportunities through public auctions, joint ventures, public-private partnerships and foreign direct investment models. Two high-rise commercial plots in CBD Quaid District were scheduled for auction on September 10, 2026, with a reserve price of Rs300 million per kanal, including development charges.

Askari Villas Grand Launch Brings 270-Yard Homes With 3-Year Payment Plan

The 270-square-yard villa project is being promoted with a three-year installment plan near Malir Cantt.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Askari Villas is scheduled to hold its grand launch on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at Askari VI, adjacent to Malir Cantt. The launch event is announced for 3:00pm to 8:30pm, with the project being promoted as a premium residential option focused on secure and modern living. The development is being marketed with 270-square-yard villas and an easy three-year installment plan. Current property listings also show 270-square-yard Askari Villas in Askari 6 being offered under three-year payment arrangements. The project's location near Malir Cantt and its focus on villa-style residential units are being positioned as key features for families seeking a planned and secure living environment in Karachi.

Marketing material is also highlighting pre-launch booking opportunities for prospective buyers. Promotional campaigns suggest that prices are expected to be revised after the official launch, potentially making the pre-launch period attractive to buyers considering the project. However, the expected price revision should be treated as a developer or marketing claim rather than a guaranteed increase in property values or future returns. Buyers should independently verify the final prices, payment schedule, development status, documentation and applicable approvals before making a booking decision.



METRO POLITAN

Data Darbar Lights Up as LDA Director General Tahir Farooq Reviews Night Upgrade

Green areas, walking streets and decorative lighting added as adjoining roads and pedestrian facilities continue to improve.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Lahore Development Authority Director General Tahir Farooq conducted a late-night inspection of the Hazrat Ali Hajveri Underpass and Data Darbar area to review ongoing development and finishing works. According to the latest LDA update, a green area and walking street have been developed outside Data Darbar, while solar and decorative lighting has been installed around the shrine. The improvements are aimed at enhancing the surroundings and providing better facilities for visitors and pedestrians. The Hazrat Ali Hajveri/Bhati Chowk Underpass has already been opened to traffic, with vehicles using the facility since its opening. Work is continuing on adjoining roads, building façades, pedestrian facilities and other finishing elements in the surrounding area.

The wider Data Darbar remodelling scheme includes improved pedestrian areas, parking facilities, walkways, façade enhancements and other visitor-focused facilities. Earlier plans had also included a green area in front of the shrine and dedicated pedestrian zones. The latest development activity reflects efforts to improve both traffic movement and the overall urban environment around one of Lahore's important religious and historic locations. Authorities are continuing to monitor the remaining works, with attention focused on completing adjoining infrastructure and finishing

LDA introduces digital monitoring of enforcement operations in Lahore

New system will track illegal construction, unauthorised commercial use and unpaid dues through digital records and geo-tagged evidence.



Lahore: Staff Reporter): The Lahore Development Authority has introduced a digital monitoring system for enforcement proceedings against illegal construction, unauthorised commercial use, land-use violations and non-payment of dues, aiming to improve transparency and oversight. Under the new standard operating procedures, notices, sealing and demolition proceedings will be processed through a digital file-management system. Enforcement notices will carry QR codes, while geo-tagged photographs and supporting documents will be uploaded to allow authorities to monitor cases online.

Properties facing enforcement action have been divided into three main categories: illegal construction, unauthorised change of building use and unpaid dues. The classification is intended to help officials track cases according to the nature of the violation and ensure that enforcement actions follow the prescribed procedure. The LDA will also maintain digital records of de-sealing proceedings. Properties that have been sealed will only be reopened after the relevant legal requirements, applicable fines or approvals from the competent authority have been completed.

Urban planning experts believe digitising enforcement records could improve accountability, reduce paperwork and make it easier for authorities to track the status of individual cases. Geo-tagged evidence and QR-coded notices may also help establish clearer records of enforcement activity.

Delayed drainage work slows Burki Road upgrade in Lahore

Late-stage drainage installation between Paragon City and Green City is slowing progress on the second section of the project.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Burki Road upgradation project is facing delays after drainage work between Paragon City and Green City reportedly began at a late stage, affecting progress on an important section of the road improvement scheme. The Lahore Development Authority divided the first phase of the project into three sections: Burki Chowk to Paragon City, Paragon City to Green City and Green City to LSC. Stone-laying work has reportedly been completed on the first and third sections, while drainage installation has slowed construction on the second section.

They have urged authorities to accelerate drainage installation and complete the remaining road works to restore smoother traffic movement. Urban planning experts say coordination between development and utility agencies is essential before major road construction begins, as late-stage utility work can lead to delays, additional costs and repeated disruption for commuters.



The Burki Road project is expected to improve connectivity between surrounding residential communities and major routes once completed. Timely completion of both the road and drainage infrastructure will be important to ensure the upgraded corridor delivers its intended benefits.

Punjab Builds 105 Water Tanks With 18 Million Gallon Capacity Across 51 Cities

The Rs? development programme also includes drains and disposal stations to strengthen sewerage and flood-management infrastructure.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab is developing 105 water tanks with a reported combined capacity of 18 million gallons across 51 cities under the Punjab Development Programme (PDP), as part of a wider effort to improve sewerage and drainage infrastructure. According to the latest review chaired by Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique, 92 underground water tanks have already been completed. The programme is aimed at improving the storage and management of rainwater and supporting drainage systems in urban areas. The development plan also includes 124 drains covering around 77 kilometres. Officials said 92 drains have been completed, while work on another six is progressing rapidly. The projects are intended to strengthen drainage networks and reduce the risk of water accumulation during heavy rainfall.

Another major component is the construction and rehabilitation of 81 disposal stations. Work has started on 23 stations, while the remaining 58 are expected to begin in phases. The provincial government also plans to convert these disposal stations to solar power.

Officials believe solarisation could reduce electricity costs and improve the reliability of disposal operations, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. The wider Punjab Development Programme represents a large-scale upgrade of sewerage and drainage infrastructure across 51 cities, including thousands of kilometres of sewer lines and numerous drainage schemes.



Lahore Railway Station Gets 100-Foot Dancing Fountain and Up to 300-Car Parking

Remodelled parking area and a 100-foot dancing fountain add new facilities to the historic railway station's surroundings.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Lahore Railway Station has received a major exterior upgrade with the remodelling of the parking area in front of the historic station and installation of Lahore's first colourful dancing fountain. According to LDA officials, the fountain rises more than 100 feet and became operational around the Independence Day celebrations. The new feature is part of a wider urban-regeneration and beautification effort aimed at improving the appearance and visitor experience around the railway station. The parking area was originally designed to accommodate around 250 to 300 vehicles, with improved access arrangements intended to reduce congestion and make arrivals and departures more convenient for passengers. The broader scheme also includes landscaping and improvements to public spaces surrounding the station.

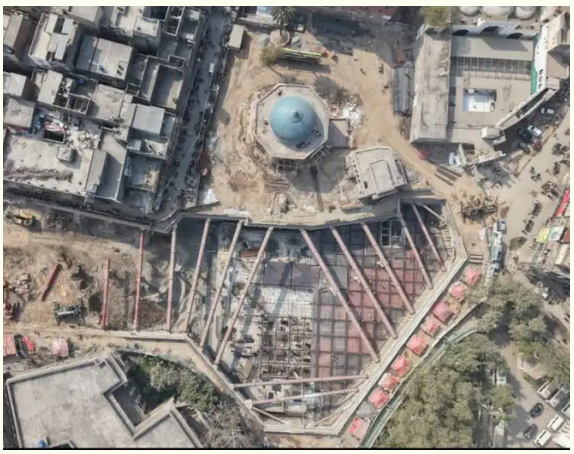
LDA Director General Tahir Farooq inspected the remodelled area in August and reviewed the newly installed dancing fountain. He directed officials to complete the remaining finishing work, improve traffic signage and provide better seating and facilities for porters and visitors. The station upgrade forms part of Punjab's wider beautification programme for central Lahore, which has also covered areas around Data Darbar, Bhati Chowk and Circular Road. The improvements are expected to enhance the appearance of key public spaces while making access and movement easier for residents, passengers and visitors.



After Delays, Neela Gumbad Underground Parking Plaza Gets October 30 Deadline

The Rs2.45 billion underground facility has been given a new completion deadline of October 30, 2026.

Lahore : (Staff Reporter): Construction of the Neela Gumbad underground parking plaza at the historic Cycle Market area has entered its finishing stage, with authorities setting October 30, 2026 as the revised completion deadline after the project missed its earlier target. According to recent reports, the main structural work has been completed, while finishing, landscaping and beautification activities are now underway. A separate Housing Department review placed the project at around 75 percent completion, indicating that significant work remained at the time of the assessment. The facility is being developed by the Traffic Engineering and Planning Agency under the Lahore Development Authority framework at a reported cost of approximately Rs2.451 billion. The project consists of a ground floor and three basement levels.



Earlier project plans stated that the plaza would provide parking space for around 400 cars and 800 motorcycles. In addition, 62 shops are planned on the first basement level for traders affected by the redevelopment of the old Cycle Market. The parking plaza forms part of a wider effort to reorganise the Neela Gumbad commercial and heritage area, improve parking and traffic management and restore the visibility of historic structures that were previously surrounded by commercial activity. Once completed, the facility is expected to improve parking capacity and pedestrian movement while supporting the broader regeneration of the historic central Lahore area.

Could Hayatabad Toll Plaza Underpass Finally Ease Peshawar's Traffic Bottleneck?

The Rs1.6 billion project aims to improve access to Bara Road and ease traffic congestion along Hayatabad Ring Road.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Construction is continuing on the PDA Toll Plaza Underpass at Hayatabad Ring Road, a two-lane infrastructure project being developed at an estimated cost of Rs1.6 billion. The underpass forms part of the broader Peshawar Revitalisation Plan and is designed to improve access towards Bara Road while reducing congestion along the busy corridor. The project is also expected to make traffic movement safer and more convenient for motorists travelling through the area. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi laid the foundation stone of the project on June 14, 2026. The Peshawar Development Authority's latest project updates continue to list the underpass as in progress.

During an inspection on August 28, the Chief Secretary, PDA Director General, Chief Engineer and other officials reviewed the ongoing development work at the site. Authorities are monitoring construction activity as the project moves forward under the city's wider urban renewal programme. The PDA Toll Plaza Underpass is one of several transport projects being implemented to improve Peshawar's road network. The broader revitalisation plan also includes road rehabilitation and additional underpasses aimed at improving traffic movement across the provincial capital.



Urban transport experts believe improved grade-separated infrastructure can reduce delays at busy intersections and strengthen connectivity between major residential and commercial areas. Timely completion and quality construction will be important to ensure the project delivers its intended benefits.

Mohsin Naqvi Opens Upgraded Aabpara Police Station With Modern Public Facilities

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi directs police to ensure prompt complaint resolution and courteous treatment of citizens.

Islamabad : (Staff Reporter): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Aabpara Police Station after its reconstruction and upgradation, describing the facility as a model for modern, dignified and citizen-friendly policing in the capital. During his visit, the minister inspected several sections of the upgraded police station, including the SHO office, Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC), inquiry office, waiting area and citizen facilitation counters. He reviewed the facilities and stressed the need to make police stations more accessible and responsive to the public. Mohsin Naqvi directed police officials to ensure prompt redressal of public complaints and take action on every application received from citizens. He also instructed officers to avoid unnecessary delays in the registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) and deal with members of the public in a courteous and responsible manner.

The interior minister appreciated the role of the Dispute Resolution Committee in resolving public disputes and reducing unnecessary litigation. He emphasised that citizens should approach police stations with confidence and trust rather than fear. The upgraded facility is expected to provide a more organised environment for visitors while improving access to police services. The initiative reflects efforts to modernise policing infrastructure and strengthen public-facing services in Islamabad.



WEATHER

Karachi set for fresh monsoon spell as rain returns from Sept 14

PMD forecasts intermittent rain, strong winds and thunderstorms across Karachi and several parts of Sindh.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast thunderstorms and light rain in Karachi from September 14 to 16, while a broader spell is expected to affect several parts of Sindh from the evening of September 13. According to the PMD forecast, rain accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms, with isolated heavy falls, may occur intermittently in Karachi, Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad, Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar, Umerkot, Thatta, Badin and surrounding areas through September 16.



The weather system comes as monsoon currents continue to enter northern parts of Pakistan, while a westerly weather system is also expected to influence upper areas of the country. The combination of these systems may produce changing weather conditions across different regions. As weather forecasts can change with evolving atmospheric conditions, citizens are advised to monitor the latest updates and advisories issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department.

Residents in Karachi and other affected districts have been advised to remain alert during thunderstorms and avoid unnecessary exposure to vulnerable locations. Particular caution is recommended around trees, weak structures, electric poles and other electricity installations during periods of strong winds.



Pakistan Weather Update: Hot Conditions Persist, Rain Expected in Upper Areas

Gulshan-e-Ravi receives highest rainfall of 41.6mm as field teams remain active across the city.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Most plain areas of Pakistan are expected to remain hot and humid today, while scattered parts of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, the Potohar region and southeastern Sindh may receive rain accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms. According to the latest weather outlook, southeastern Sindh and the Potohar region could experience thunderstorms, heavy rainfall and isolated hailstorms at some locations. The weather may turn comparatively pleasant in areas receiving rainfall, while hot and humid conditions are expected to continue across much of the country's plains.

Residents have been advised to remain cautious during thunderstorms and strong winds, particularly near trees, weak structures, electric poles and other power installations. Heavy rainfall may also cause temporary water accumulation in low-lying areas.

Weather conditions can vary significantly between cities and may change as the weather system develops. Citizens are therefore advised to follow the latest updates issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department and take necessary precautions during periods of severe weather.

The public is also encouraged to share local weather conditions and rainfall updates from their respective areas to help provide a broader picture of the ongoing weather situation across the country.