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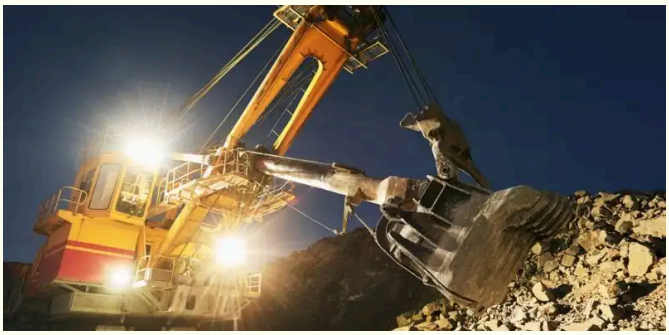
INTERNATIONAL

Saudi Arabia Reveals Massive Uranium-Bearing Ore Find in Madinah

Exploration at Jabal Sayid identifies around 114 million tonnes of ore containing rare earth minerals and uranium concentrations.

(International Desk) Vienna: Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman has announced that exploration and geological studies at the Jabal Sayid project in the Madinah region have identified a large estimated resource of ore containing rare earth minerals and promising uranium concentrations. The official Saudi statement puts the estimated ore resource at around 114 million tonnes, while wider reporting has cited a figure of approximately 110 million tonnes. The figure refers to the total amount of ore or raw mineral material identified during exploration and does not represent 110 million tonnes of pure uranium. Further exploration, resource evaluation, feasibility studies, regulatory approvals and development would be required before any potential commercial extraction could begin.

No official estimate of the quantity of extractable pure uranium contained within the reported resource was announced in the materials reviewed. The distinction is important because uranium-bearing ore contains other minerals and materials, with the actual uranium content requiring further geological assessment and processing studies. The announcement was made during the 70th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna and comes as Saudi Arabia expands its plans for uranium exploration and nuclear energy development. The discovery remains at the exploration and resource-assessment stage. It does not confirm that a commercial uranium extraction operation, large-scale production facility or nuclear-fuel operation has already been established at Jabal Sayid.



Saudi Arabia Says Houthi Drone Downed Before Entering Makkah Airspace : Al Jazeera

Authorities say drone was destroyed before entering prohibited airspace, while Houthis deny targeting the holy city.

(International Desk) Makkah: Saudi Arabia's Royal Air Defense Forces intercepted and destroyed a drone south of Makkah at around 6:50pm on September 15, according to Saudi-led coalition spokesperson Maj. Gen. Turki Al-Malki.The spokesperson said the drone was neutralised before it entered the prohibited airspace over the holy city. Saudi-led coalition authorities attributed the drone to Yemen's Houthis and described the incident as an attempted targeting of Makkah. Maj. Gen. Al-Malki said the security of the Two Holy Mosques and pilgrims remained a priority and described their protection as a "red line." Saudi authorities stated that defensive measures were taken to prevent any threat from reaching the restricted area.



Dubai Approves 80km Fourth Corridor to Strengthen Abu Dhabi–Sharjah Connectivity

The 80-kilometre corridor will include 12 lanes, bridges and tunnels to improve regional connectivity.

(International Desk) Dubai: Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has approved the implementation of the New Fourth Corridor, an approximately 80-kilometre road project designed to strengthen connectivity between Dubai and the UAE's federal road network. The corridor will extend from Al Faya Road in Abu Dhabi to Al Shanouf Road in Sharjah through Dubai and will be developed in two phases. The project is planned to feature 12 lanes across both directions, along with 72 bridges, 17 tunnels and 45 stormwater drainage culverts.



The new route will also connect with major infrastructure and development areas, including Al Maktoum International Airport and the Etihad Rail route, supporting improved movement of people and goods across key parts of the UAE. Phase One covers around 30 kilometres from Al Shanouf Road to Dubai–Al Ain Road and has an estimated cost of approximately AED3.5 billion. According to Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), this section is expected to reduce travel time from 35 minutes to 14 minutes and serve around 600,000 people. Phase Two will extend approximately 50 kilometres from Dubai–Al Ain Road to Al Faya Road in Abu Dhabi. The planned section is expected to reduce travel time from 50 minutes to 24 minutes and serve around 3.1 million people.

Palm Jebel Ali's First Retail Hub Set to Debut in 2027 With 26 Concepts

The 70,000-square-foot retail and lifestyle hub is planned to open in 2027 with 26 concepts.

(International Desk) Dubai: Dubai Retail has announced "The Yard", the first retail and lifestyle destination planned for Palm Jebel Ali, with an opening target set for 2027. According to the company's official statement, the waterfront destination will cover around 70,000 square feet and feature 26 concepts across retail, dining, wellness, healthcare and family-focused services. The project is being designed as a community-focused destination for residents and visitors within the wider Palm Jebel Ali development.

Dubai Retail said The Yard is expected to serve around 20,000 residents in surrounding communities. The confirmed brands named in the announcement include Waitrose, American Hospital, Piccoli, Jumeirah International Nursery, Bateel Café and Friends Avenue.

he company also confirmed that McLaren Construction L.L.C. has been appointed as the main contractor for the development. The destination is planned to combine everyday services, lifestyle facilities and waterfront experiences in one integrated location. The Yard forms part of Palm Jebel Ali's broader master-planned development, which is being positioned as a major future residential and tourism destination in Dubai. However, The Yard remains a future opening project at this stage. The 2027 timeline, concept mix and delivery status are based on the latest announcement from Dubai Retail and should not be considered as confirmation of a completed or operational facility.



NATIONAL

Petrol Nears Rs400 as Fresh Hike Pushes Diesel Above Rs409

High-speed diesel also becomes costlier by Rs6.10 as international petroleum prices push up domestic rates.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter) : The government has increased the price of petrol by Rs4.42 per litre, taking the new rate to Rs380.24 per litre from September 15. High-speed diesel has also become more expensive by Rs6.10 per litre, reaching Rs409.42 per litre. Before the latest revision, petrol was priced at Rs375.82 per litre, while high-speed diesel stood at Rs403.32 per litre. The Petroleum Division officially confirmed the revised prices, while Business Recorder reported that the increase was largely linked to higher ex-refinery costs following a sharp rise in international refined petroleum prices.



According to the Petroleum Division's price breakdown, the Petroleum Levy remains at Rs80 per litre on both petrol and high-speed diesel. A Rs5 per litre Climate Support Levy also continues to apply. Customs duty stands at Rs21.15 per litre on petrol and Rs15.68 per litre on high-speed diesel, while dealer and oil-marketing-company margins are also included in the final retail rates. Separately, the government has approved Rs75 billion for the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme, under which eligible consumers can receive targeted support of Rs100 per litre on petrol. Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik has said around Rs25 billion will be allocated monthly for the scheme.

The latest fuel price revision is expected to increase transportation and operating costs for consumers and businesses.

FBR Excise Collection Hits Rs840bn, Cigarettes and Cement Lead Revenue

Cigarettes remain the largest contributor as revenue increases by Rs73 billion compared with previous year.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan's Federal Excise Duty (FED) collection reached Rs840.02 billion in FY2025-26, showing an increase of 9.6 percent compared with Rs766.64 billion collected during the previous fiscal year, according to figures attributed to Federal Board of Revenue data. The rise represents an additional collection of around Rs73.38 billion, reflecting higher contributions from several major FED categories. Cigarettes remained the largest source of FED revenue, generating Rs251.26 billion, an increase of 11.4 percent compared with the previous year.

Cement was the second-largest contributor with Rs160.35 billion, while FED from inland air-travel services stood at Rs57.68 billion. Another air-travel category contributed Rs44.12 billion during the fiscal year. Other notable contributors included motor cars with Rs25.58 billion, fertilisers and urea with Rs22.19 billion, and sugar with Rs12.57 billion. FED collection from washing machines recorded a 48.7 percent increase, reaching Rs7.26 billion.



The 15 largest FED categories collectively generated Rs687.42 billion, while remaining categories contributed another Rs152.60 billion. For comparison, official government data shows that FED collection in FY2024-25 stood at Rs766.64 billion. The federal budget for FY2025-26 had set a provisional FED collection target of around Rs899 billion.

Pakistan Railways upgrades coaches for safer, better journeys

Railways minister visits Carriage Factory as refurbishment and technical improvement work continues.





Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi visited the Pakistan Railways Carriage Factory and reviewed ongoing work for the upgrade of passenger coaches. According to the supplied Pakistan Railways update, the minister appreciated the efforts of workers involved in refurbishing and improving passenger trains. Officials briefed that coach upgrades involve more than exterior repainting and include multiple technical, mechanical and safety-related processes before a carriage is cleared for passenger operations. The upgrade work is aimed at improving the overall condition of coaches, enhancing onboard facilities and strengthening travel safety standards for passengers. Authorities said refurbishment activities form part of broader efforts to improve railway services and passenger experience.

The Ministry of Railways has confirmed Muhammad Hanif Abbasi's designation as federal minister, while APP has previously reported that Pakistan Railways is working on service improvements under its wider reform programme. However, no fresh figures regarding the number of coaches being upgraded, project cost or completion timeline were announced during the visit. The latest update therefore confirms an inspection and ongoing refurbishment activity rather than the completion of a specific upgrade phase.

Pakistan Launches Quantum Valley, Signs Global Partnerships for High-Tech Startups

New platform aims to connect researchers, startups and innovators with global technology ecosystems.

Islamabad: (Reporter Badar Butt): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal formally launched Quantum Valley Pakistan on September 16, 2026, introducing a national platform aimed at connecting Pakistani researchers, startups and young innovators with international technology and innovation ecosystems. The launch ceremony was held at the Pak-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad, where two technology cooperation agreements were signed. One agreement was signed between Quantum Valley Pakistan and the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC), while the second was signed with global startup platform Plug and Play



According to the government, these partnerships are intended to support innovation, entrepreneurship, technology commercialisation and the growth of high-tech businesses in Pakistan. Quantum Valley Pakistan is being developed as a broader innovation and commercialisation ecosystem rather than a project focused only on quantum computing. Its stated areas of focus include artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, semiconductors, biotechnology, AgriTech, advanced materials, cybersecurity and other emerging technologies. The initiative aims to create stronger links between research institutions, industry, investors and commercial production networks. It is designed to help transform research and ideas into market-ready products and services.

Speaking at the launch, Ahsan Iqbal said global competition increasingly depends on the ability of countries to develop ideas, convert them into products and successfully enter international markets.

PM orders push to take Pakistani products into new global markets

Government focuses on new export sectors, product quality and technology-driven industrial growth.

Islamabad: (Reporter Badar Butt): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed authorities to make export growth a central part of Pakistan's economic strategy and prepare additional industries to enter international markets. Chairing a review meeting on exports and economic growth, the prime minister called for reducing dependence on traditional export sectors by involving more industries in international trade. He instructed relevant institutions to identify opportunities for expanding Pakistan's export base and improving global market access. The prime minister directed officials to enhance product quality, strengthen quality-assurance systems and ensure that Pakistani products meet international standards and regulatory requirements. He also emphasised the importance of value addition to increase the competitiveness and market value of exports.

Special attention was given to promoting modern technology, research, innovation and digitalisation across export-oriented industries. The government said these measures are intended to improve productivity, encourage innovation and help businesses compete more effectively in global markets. The directives were issued during a review meeting and were confirmed through an official Prime Minister's Office statement. However, specific implementation deadlines or sector-wise targets were not announced.





Fuel Price Surge Revives Four-Day Workweek Proposal Across Pakistan

Possible fuel-saving measure remains under discussion as no official nationwide implementation notification has been issued.

Islamabad: (Reporter Badar Butt): The government is reportedly considering a four-day working week as part of possible fuel-conservation measures after petrol and diesel prices reached new highs. A recent media report suggested that the proposal could apply to public and private offices as well as educational institutions, reducing regular physical activity to four days a week. However, no fresh notification from the Cabinet Division confirming nationwide implementation of a four-day workweek has been identified so far. The proposal should therefore be considered a measure under discussion rather than an approved policy. The discussion comes after the latest Petroleum Division price revision, which increased petrol by Rs4.42 to Rs380.24 per litre and high-speed diesel by Rs6.10 to Rs409.42 per litre from September 15.

Pakistan had previously introduced a four-day workweek during the March 2026 fuel crisis along with work-from-home arrangements and other conservation measures. Those steps were later ended by the federal government on June 19, restoring the normal working schedule. The latest reports represent renewed consideration of fuel-saving options in response to higher energy costs.

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GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Rural road construction and rehabilitation continue in Muzaffargarh under Punjab programme

Local Roads Programme aims to improve connectivity and travel facilities for village communities across the district.

Muzaffargarh: (Staff Reporter): Construction and rehabilitation work on rural roads is underway in Muzaffargarh under Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Local Roads Programme, according to the latest development update. The initiative aims to improve road connectivity and make daily travel easier for residents of village communities. The programme focuses on upgrading rural transport infrastructure to support better access to markets, schools, healthcare facilities and other essential services. Officials have highlighted improved roads as an important factor in strengthening rural development and improving mobility for communities outside major urban centres. Better road networks can also support local economic activity by making transportation of agricultural products and goods more efficient.



However, the available update does not identify specific roads, project costs, road lengths or expected completion dates. The individual progress details mentioned in the update could not be independently verified through accessible sources. The Local Roads Programme is part of Punjab's broader efforts to improve transportation infrastructure across the province, with a focus on upgrading road links in both urban and rural areas. Authorities say continued development of local roads can contribute to improved living standards and stronger connectivity for residents.

Punjab Tightens Pre-Smog Cleanliness Drive, Orders Water-Based Mechanical Road Sweeping

Suthra Punjab teams directed to prevent road dust and strengthen field monitoring across districts.

Lahore: (Reporter Badar Butt): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique has directed sanitation agencies to adopt stronger preventive measures ahead of the smog season, instructing teams to avoid raising road dust and ensure road cleaning through mechanical sweeping with water. The directions were issued during a meeting at the Civil Secretariat reviewing possible smog risks and Suthra Punjab operations. The minister stressed that sanitation activities should be carried out in a way that reduces dust emissions and supports better air quality in urban areas.Zeeshan Rafique also warned that action would be taken against the relevant tehsil manager if garbage burning is reported in any area. Each Field Monitoring Officer (FMO) has been assigned 24 operational beats and directed to visit at least 12 beats daily to monitor sanitation activities.

According to the meeting briefing, FMO performance will undergo third-party validation, while district managing directors will also be reviewed individually. The monitoring system is aimed at improving accountability and ensuring effective implementation of sanitation operations. The anti-dust instructions are consistent with earlier pre-smog measures where sanitation teams were advised to use mechanical sweeping and avoid activities that create additional dust. Officials clarified that these directions are operational and monitoring measures under the Suthra Punjab sanitation programme rather than a separate new smog law or notification. Authorities are expected to continue inspections and preventive actions as the smog season approaches.



CDA Crackdown Hits 58 Units Along Islamabad Expressway Service Road

58 construction units targeted as authorities begin sealing and compliance drive on Service Road East.



Islamabad: (Reporter Badar Butt): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has intensified action against illegal, unauthorised and non-conforming construction units along Islamabad Expressway Service Road East, with enforcement being carried out jointly by CDA's Building Control Section, Enforcement Directorate, district administration and Islamabad Police. According to official CDA data, action has so far covered 58 construction units. Of these, 34 units are located between Sohan and Iqbal Town, while 24 fall within the area between Korang Bridge, Korang Police Station and Gulberg Greens. Several commercial properties were sealed over alleged violations of building regulations, non-conforming use and inadequate fire-safety arrangements. Authorities are continuing surveys of the remaining corridor to identify further cases requiring action.

CDA said property owners had been issued notices before enforcement and were provided opportunities to submit approved building plans, address unauthorised use, improve fire-safety measures, clear applicable dues and seek regularisation where allowed under regulations. The ongoing operation is being described as a sealing, compliance and regularisation drive. The official CDA statement does not confirm that all identified structures are subject to demolition, but focuses on bringing properties into compliance with approved rules and safety requirements. Authorities say the action is part of broader efforts to regulate construction activity, improve safety standards and ensure planned development along major corridors of the federal capital.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Launches Free Green Bus Service in Multan

New electric buses aim to improve urban mobility with cleaner and more affordable travel options.

Multan: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has inaugurated the green electric bus service in Multan, formally launching a new public transport facility for the city and surrounding areas. According to reports, the service has been introduced to provide modern, environment-friendly and affordable transportation for citizens. Provincial Transport Minister Bilal Akbar briefed that 45 electric buses will operate on city routes in the first phase, connecting important locations including Vehari Chowk, Nishtar Hospital, Ghanta Ghar, Ibn-e-Sina Hospital and Dera Adda.



Other reports have also mentioned the launch of the service with 60 buses, with plans to increase the fleet to 160 buses in the coming weeks. Since different rollout figures have been reported, the exact operational fleet size and division-wide expansion plan will require confirmation through a consolidated official notification. The government has also announced free travel facilities for women, students, senior citizens and persons with disabilities as part of the service initiative. The electric bus project is part of Punjab's wider efforts to expand cleaner urban transport solutions and improve public mobility. Authorities say the service is intended to provide easier access to transportation while supporting reduced-emission travel in Multan.

The long-term impact will depend on fleet expansion, route coverage, service frequency and continued operational management. The service is expected to provide an alternative to traditional fuel-based public transport and improve daily commuting facilities for residents. Officials say the introduction of electric buses will also help modernise the city's transport network through the use of cleaner technology. The initiative is part of Punjab's broader plan to introduce electric public transport in major cities and expand sustainable mobility options. Further expansion of routes and fleet size will depend on operational requirements and future government decisions. Authorities are expected to monitor passenger response, route performance and service efficiency after the launch.



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Opens 100-Bed Cancer Centre in Multan

New facility aims to expand cancer treatment services and provide specialised healthcare in South Punjab.

Multan: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has inaugurated a 100-bed cancer centre in Multan, marking the launch of a new specialised healthcare facility aimed at improving access to cancer treatment services in South Punjab. The newly opened centre is designed to provide cancer patients with better diagnostic and treatment facilities closer to their home districts, reducing the need to travel to major cities for medical care. The facility is expected to support patients through specialised healthcare services and improved treatment arrangements. The establishment of the cancer centre is part of the Punjab government's broader healthcare initiatives focused on expanding medical facilities and strengthening specialised treatment infrastructure across the province.

Officials said the facility will help increase availability of cancer-related services, including patient care, diagnosis and other necessary medical support. The centre is expected to benefit residents of Multan and nearby districts by providing additional healthcare capacity in the region. The government has also been working on expanding healthcare infrastructure through new hospitals, upgrades of existing facilities and specialised medical centres in different parts of Punjab. Further details regarding the centre's complete operational capacity, available treatments and service schedule are expected to be provided through official health department updates.

Fuel-Saving Drive Changes Islamabad Business Hours, Markets Shut at 9pm

Islamabad markets to close by 9pm as government announces restrictions on timings, fuel use and official spending.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The federal government has reintroduced austerity and fuel-conservation measures with immediate effect, following the issuance of a Cabinet Division notification dated September 17, 2026. Under the new measures, shops, markets, bazaars and shopping malls in Islamabad will close by 9pm, while marriage halls and marquees will operate until 10pm. Restaurants, cafés and food outlets can remain open until 11pm, while takeaway and home-delivery services have been exempted from the closing-time restrictions.

Several essential and specialised services have been excluded from the timing limits, including pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, laboratories, standalone bakeries and tandoors, milk and dairy shops, fuel and CNG stations, EV charging stations, gyms, sports facilities, IT companies and call centres. Marriage functions will also continue under the single-dish rule. The government has separately announced a 50 percent reduction in fuel provision for official vehicles for three months. The austerity package also includes restrictions on most new government vehicle and durable-goods purchases, limits on official foreign travel and instructions for departments to prefer teleconferencing.



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.

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

Rs2.7 trillion to Rs3 trillion feasibility highlights the scale of Lahore's planned 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 project that the authority describes as Pakistan's first Central Business District. The project aims to establish a major business and investment hub through high-rise commercial, residential and mixed-use developments. According to official PCBDDA material, the preliminary financial feasibility of CBD Punjab is estimated at around Rs2.7 trillion to Rs3 trillion. The master plan is divided into five major zones, including commercial, digital, residential, entertainment and government districts. These areas are planned to be connected through modern urban infrastructure, green spaces and improved mobility networks.

PCBDDA is also offering investment and development opportunities through public auctions, joint ventures, public-private partnerships and foreign direct investment models. As part of its latest investment offering, 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.

The authority has also announced that CBD Quaid and CBD Bab received LEED for Communities Gold Precertification, recognising district-level planning in areas including sustainability, infrastructure, mobility, resilience and governance. The development is expected to play a major role in Lahore's future urban expansion by attracting businesses, investors and mixed-use developments at a strategically important location.

The authority says the project is designed to create a modern business environment with opportunities for local and international investors. The development is also expected to introduce new commercial activity, employment opportunities and advanced urban facilities in Lahore. PCBDDA continues to focus on attracting investment while developing infrastructure required for a large-scale central business district.

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Union Town Takes Shape as Roads and Infrastructure Advance Across Lahore

Road and infrastructure work is progressing as the residential and commercial project remains under active development.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Development activity is continuing at Union Town, a residential and commercial project located along Pine Avenue with access from Abdul Sattar Edhi Road. Union Developers currently describes the project as "under active development", with regular updates being used to track infrastructure and site progress. The developer's project information highlights ongoing road and infrastructure work, including development of a 150-foot main boulevard. An earlier development update from December 2025 also reported that construction work on the boulevard was progressing on ground. The project's current development status should therefore be understood based on the developer's latest information, while regulatory and documentation details should be confirmed through the relevant authorities.

Union Town is planned to include residential and commercial plots, while several larger community facilities remain part of the project's broader development programme. The ongoing infrastructure work is aimed at establishing the road network and supporting facilities required for the planned community. Union Developers describes Union Town as LDA-approved and says the project is included among LDA's approved private housing schemes. The Lahore Development Authority maintains a public portal through which approved housing schemes can be reviewed.

Islamabad's 30-Storey Giga Mall Extension Takes Shape in DHA Phase II

The 30-storey mixed-use project is progressing with structural work underway beside the existing mall complex.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Construction work on the Giga Mall Extension in DHA Phase II is continuing, with the latest developer update showing substantial structural activity underway on the high-rise project. Giga Group's official project page currently lists the development as "In Progress" and includes construction updates dated July 2026. The extension is planned as a 30-storey mixed-use development located adjacent to the existing Giga Mall. According to the developer, the project is designed to include retail spaces, hotel apartments, dining areas and entertainment facilities. The extension will also be directly connected with the existing mall complex, creating an expanded commercial and lifestyle destination.

The project was originally announced on a site covering around 14.5 kanals, with the first three floors planned to provide direct connectivity with Giga Mall. The development is expected to add additional commercial and hospitality facilities to the existing complex. Current official information confirms that construction activity is ongoing; however, no fresh independently verified completion percentage or final opening and possession date has been identified. The project remains part of Islamabad's expanding mixed-use real estate landscape, where developers are increasingly focusing on integrated commercial, residential and entertainment facilities.



Centaurus Faces 7-Day Deadline as CDA Cancels 8-Kanal Site Permit

Authority directs concerned party to vacate around eight kanals of CDA land within seven days.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has reportedly cancelled the temporary site permission linked to Plot No. 1 at The Centaurus and directed the concerned party to vacate approximately eight kanals of CDA-owned land within seven days. The action is based on a letter issued by CDA's Directorate of Urban Planning-I on September 11, 2026. According to the reported CDA letter, the temporary site area measured 160 by 272 feet and had been permitted for a two-year period from March 6, 2024, to March 5, 2026.

CDA officials inspected the site on March 10 and reported that the area contained temporary facilities including containers used for workers' accommodation, toilets, a temporary mosque and ablution area, badminton courts and construction material. The authority stated that these uses were inconsistent with the conditions under which the temporary permission was granted. Following the inspection, CDA reportedly withdrew the temporary permission with immediate effect and directed the concerned party to clear outstanding dues and vacate the land.



Long-Awaited Margalla Enclave Underpass Opens to Traffic on Islamabad's Park Road

New underpass aims to improve connectivity between Park Road, Margalla Avenue and nearby residential areas.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Margalla Enclave Underpass on Park Road has opened to traffic, with fresh footage from September 18 showing vehicles using the newly constructed passage. Multiple current reports have confirmed traffic movement through the underpass, marking the opening of another major road facility in the federal capital. The underpass is part of the first phase of the wider Rs10 billion Park Road infrastructure project. The scheme includes the underpass, an overhead structure, service roads and other road improvements aimed at strengthening connectivity between Park Road, Margalla Avenue and surrounding areas.

In June, Minister of State for Interior Muhammad Talal Chaudhry informed the Senate that the project was designed to improve traffic flow and provide better access to adjoining residential and commercial zones. Construction activity on the project began earlier in 2026, while Islamabad Traffic Police had issued traffic diversions in February due to ongoing development work around Margalla Enclave. The underpass was initially expected to be completed in July, but the opening took place later in September.

The newly opened facility is expected to ease travel for residents and commuters heading towards areas including DHA Margalla Enclave, Park View City and Bahria Enclave. However, the opening of the underpass represents completion of one component of the wider Park Road infrastructure package, while other elements of the overall project may continue separately.



METRO POLITAN

Peshawar's 6-Lane Hazar Khwani Overpass Nears Finish, Traffic Relief in Sight

The Rs1.25 billion six-lane project aims to improve traffic flow and connectivity along Peshawar Ring Road.



Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): The Hazar Khwani Overpass has entered its final stages of development under the Peshawar Revitalization Plan, marking another major step towards improving traffic movement and urban connectivity in the provincial capital. The project is being developed at the Hazar Khwani Interchange on Peshawar Ring Road. According to official details, the six-lane overpass is being constructed at an estimated cost of approximately Rs1.257 billion. The foundation stone of the project was laid by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi in June 2026.

The overpass is designed to improve traffic movement at one of the city's important corridors by reducing congestion and providing smoother travel for commuters. The project is part of a broader urban transport improvement programme that includes flyovers, underpasses, road rehabilitation and other infrastructure initiatives across Peshawar. The provincial government has stated that these development projects are aimed at strengthening mobility, improving road safety and upgrading major traffic routes in the city. The initiative is being pursued under the leadership of Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi and Provincial Minister for Local Government and Higher Education Meena Khan Afridi. Officials say completion of the overpass will contribute to better traffic management and support the city's expanding transportation needs.

Lahore Anti-Smog Crackdown Impounds 25 Vehicles, Fines Reach Rs200,000

25 vehicles impounded, 52 challaned and Rs200,000 in fines imposed during latest enforcement operation.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The district administration has intensified action against smoke-emitting and pollution-causing vehicles as part of the city's pre-smog enforcement drive, with authorities carrying out inspections to control vehicle emissions. According to the latest administration update, 25 vehicles were impounded during the operation, while 52 motorists were issued challans. Authorities also imposed fines totaling Rs200,000 for violations identified during the enforcement activity.

Citizens can also report pollution and smog-related violations through the Green Punjab App or the Environment Protection Agency's helpline 1373. The official Punjab helpline directory also lists 1071 for the Transport Department. Authorities are expected to continue inspections and enforcement operations across different parts of Lahore as the province prepares for the upcoming smog season.

The operation was conducted on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Lahore Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Ali Ijaz. Punjab's environmental authorities are separately implementing an intensified pre-smog campaign, with vehicle-emission checks identified as an important enforcement priority ahead of the expected smog season. Officials are focusing on vehicles producing excessive smoke and other sources of air pollution as part of efforts to improve air quality across Lahore. Motorists are being encouraged to ensure their vehicles meet applicable emission standards and remain properly maintained.

Lahore's Jilani Park gets dedicated recreation area for children with disabilities

New facility aims to provide a safe and inclusive space for children with disabilities to enjoy outdoor activities.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab government and Parks and Horticulture Authority have established a dedicated recreational area for children with disabilities at Jilani Park on the instructions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, according to the supplied announcement. The initiative aims to provide children with disabilities a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment where they can participate in recreational activities and enjoy outdoor spaces. The facility is being presented as part of broader efforts to improve equal access to public amenities and make Lahore's recreational areas more inclusive.



Officials say providing dedicated spaces can help ensure that children with different needs are able to access public parks and recreational facilities in a more suitable environment. The initiative also highlights the importance of designing public spaces around accessibility and the needs of diverse communities. The supplied announcement does not provide details about the specific play equipment or facilities installed at the site. It also does not mention an official opening date or provide details about the size and cost of the recreational area.

Independent confirmation of this particular facility could not be found in the sources reviewed. Therefore, the development should currently be described based on the supplied government announcement rather than as an independently verified project milestone. Further details regarding the facility, including its equipment, accessibility features and operational arrangements, may become available through official updates.

Lahore Railway Station Gets Heritage Facelift as Fountain Returns, Parking Improves

Fountain renovation and improved parking arrangements form part of the wider heritage-focused modernization programme.

Lahore: (Reporter Badar Butt): The Punjab government says beautification and passenger-facility improvement work is continuing at Lahore Railway Station, with the station's fountain being renovated and parking arrangements improved under the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The broader upgrade of the historic railway station is supported by official and APP reporting. Pakistan Railways confirmed in July 2026 that comprehensive master plans had been finalised for the restoration, conservation and modernization of the station, with support from the Punjab government. The plans include heritage-sensitive repair and conservation work, improved passenger amenities, better lighting, upgraded public areas and other facilities while maintaining the historic character of the railway station

Earlier project reporting also identified a modern parking area and adjoining public-space improvements as part of the wider development scheme. The parking facility was planned to accommodate approximately 250 to 300 vehicles, with the aim of easing congestion and improving access for passengers arriving at the station.

However, the latest claim that the parking issue has been completely resolved should be treated as the issuing side's latest status update rather than an independently verified final outcome. The verified position is that Lahore Railway Station remains part of an ongoing heritage-focused restoration and modernization programme, with authorities working to improve passenger facilities, access, lighting and surrounding public spaces.





KW&SC, FWO sign Rs14.237bn pipeline deal to boost water supply to Karachi's DHA and Clifton

KW&SC and FWO agreement aims to provide 10 million gallons daily to DHA and Clifton areas.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) and Frontier Works Organization (FWO) have signed an agreement for the construction of a dedicated water pipeline from Dumlottee to DHA and Clifton, according to the supplied report. The Rs14.237 billion project is designed to provide an additional 10 million gallons of water daily after completion. Construction work was announced to begin in the week following the agreement, with the project targeted for completion within one year. The revised project cost includes changes related to design and materials, taxes, inflation adjustments, filtration facilities and monitoring systems. Authorities say the pipeline is aimed at improving the reliability of water supply in DHA and Clifton while reducing pressure caused by existing shortages.

The project is also expected to help decrease residents' dependence on water tankers by providing an additional and more structured water supply source. Officials believe improved infrastructure will support better water distribution in the two major residential areas. Water supply remains a major challenge for Karachi due to increasing demand and limitations in existing distribution networks. Development of new pipelines and related facilities is considered part of wider efforts to strengthen the city's water infrastructure. The successful completion of the project will depend on timely construction, effective monitoring and integration with the existing water supply system.

Peshawar's Dalazak Chowk Underpass Nears Completion, Major Traffic Relief Ahead

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

Peshawar : (Staff Reporter): Construction of the Dalazak Chowk Underpass has entered its final stages under the Peshawar Revitalisation Plan, with the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) confirming that work is continuing under the provincial government's urban-development programme. The project is part of a wider initiative aimed at improving traffic movement and reducing congestion at major bottlenecks across Peshawar. Senior PDA officials are monitoring construction activities to ensure timely progress and completion according to required standards. In August, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah inspected the Dalazak Chowk project along with other under-construction flyovers and underpasses. During the visit, he directed relevant authorities to accelerate development work while maintaining construction quality.



The underpass is among several transport infrastructure projects being developed to improve connectivity and ease pressure on busy roads in the provincial capital. These projects include flyovers, underpasses and road improvements under the broader Peshawar Revitalisation Plan. The latest PDA-linked update describes the Dalazak Chowk Underpass as being in the final stages of development. However, no independently confirmed opening date has been announced so far. Therefore, claims that the project will be completed within only a few days should be treated as a project-side expectation rather than a confirmed official opening deadline.

Hazar Khwani Overpass Work Accelerates as Peshawar Pushes for Early Completion

The Rs1.257 billion six-lane project aims to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion on Peshawar Ring Road.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Construction activity on the Hazar Khwani Overpass is continuing at an accelerated pace under the Peshawar Revitalisation Plan, with development work progressing across different sections of the project. According to the latest update from the Director General, Peshawar Development Authority, efforts are being intensified to maintain progress and complete the project within the planned timeline. Officials are monitoring construction activities to ensure quality standards are maintained throughout the development process. The project involves a six-lane overpass at the Hazar Khwani Interchange on Peshawar Ring Road, with an officially reported estimated cost of Rs1.257 billion. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi laid the foundation stone of the project in June 2026.

The Hazar Khwani Overpass is part of the wider Peshawar Revitalisation Plan, which includes multiple transport infrastructure projects aimed at reducing traffic bottlenecks and improving connectivity across major city corridors. An APP-sourced inspection in August also confirmed that the project remained under construction, with officials directed to accelerate development work while maintaining construction quality.



The completion of the overpass is expected to improve traffic movement around the Hazar Khwani Interchange and provide smoother connectivity for commuters using Peshawar Ring Road.

Karachi's 35 MGD TP-1 Sewage Facility Begins Test Run, 65 MGD Underway

35 MGD secondary treatment unit starts test operations as another 65 MGD facility remains under construction.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): A 35 million gallons per day (MGD) secondary sewage treatment facility at TP-1 Haroonabad has become operational and has been running on a test basis since last week, according to Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab's latest update. The mayor also said that another 65 MGD sewage treatment facility is under construction at the same site. Once completed, the additional facilities are expected to increase treatment capacity at TP-1 to 100 MGD. The latest development follows earlier targets set for the rehabilitation and expansion of TP-1. In March, the Sindh government approved Rs5 billion to partially operationalise 30–35 MGD of secondary wastewater treatment capacity at the facility. Later updates outlined plans to expand the overall capacity towards 100 MGD.

Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) identifies TP-1 Haroonabad as one of the city's major sewage treatment facilities. The rehabilitation and expansion work forms part of broader efforts to improve wastewater management and reduce the discharge of untreated sewage into the environment. Officials say increasing treatment capacity will help strengthen Karachi's wastewater infrastructure and support better management of the city's growing sanitation needs. The completion of the remaining 65 MGD facility will be an important step toward achieving the planned treatment capacity at TP-1.



WEATHER

Heavy rain floods Rawalpindi and Islamabad roads, leaving vehicles stranded

Accumulated rainwater reportedly stranded vehicles and disrupted movement across parts of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Rawalpindi/Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Heavy rainfall reportedly caused water to accumulate on roads in the twin cities, leaving several cars and motorcycles stranded and creating difficulties for commuters. According to the supplied report, waterlogged stretches disrupted normal traffic movement and made travelling difficult for motorists and motorcyclists. The accumulation of rainwater affected road conditions and caused inconvenience for people travelling through the affected areas.



The report does not identify the specific roads or locations where the water accumulation occurred. It also does not provide details regarding the duration or exact timing of the rainfall, making it difficult to determine the full extent of the reported disruption. No rainfall measurements or official figures regarding the amount of accumulated water were provided in the supplied material. Similarly, details of any emergency drainage operation, traffic diversion or response by local authorities were not included.

Waterlogging can create temporary disruptions in urban areas when rainfall exceeds the capacity of drainage systems or when existing drainage infrastructure becomes overwhelmed. Timely clearance of accumulated water is generally important for restoring normal traffic movement and reducing inconvenience for residents. The timing and extent of this particular incident could not be independently verified through the sources reviewed.

Pakistan Weather Update: More Rain and Thunderstorms Expected in Coming Days

Several parts of the country may experience rainfall and thunderstorms during the next seven days.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): More rain and thunderstorm activity is expected across different parts of Pakistan during the next seven days, according to the latest weather outlook. Weather conditions may remain unsettled in several regions, with chances of rainfall, strong winds and thunderstorms at various locations. Areas including Punjab, Islamabad and other parts of the country may experience changing weather conditions during the forecast period. The expected rainfall could bring relief from hot and humid conditions in affected areas, while some locations may also experience heavy showers during thunderstorms. Residents in vulnerable areas are advised to remain cautious, especially during periods of strong winds and intense rainfall.

Weather patterns can change due to developing atmospheric conditions, so citizens are advised to follow the latest updates issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department and local authorities. People travelling during rainy conditions are encouraged to remain careful, particularly in areas where water accumulation, slippery roads or reduced visibility may create difficulties. The public is also advised to take precautions during thunderstorms and avoid unnecessary exposure near trees, weak structures and electricity installations.