The Real Time

31 August 2026 to 06 September 2026 **www.therealtimeofficial.com**

INTERNATIONAL



Dubai's mega-airport enters next phase with $14.9bn expansion contracts

AED55 billion in major contracts are expected to be awarded by the end of 2026 as construction advances on the mega airport project.

(International Desk) Dubai: Construction of Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) is accelerating, with another AED55 billion, equivalent to about $14.9 billion, in major contracts expected to be awarded before the end of 2026. Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths said around AED13 billion worth of packages are already under construction, reflecting the scale of activity at the airport site. Dubai's official Media Office also confirmed that the project has recorded more than 10 million work hours during the past 15 months.

Construction progress includes the installation of more than 17,000 concrete piles and excavation of around 45 million cubic metres of earth. The extensive groundwork is part of preparations for the airport's planned expansion into a major global aviation hub.The first major phase remains targeted for completion in 2032, when DWC is planned to handle around 150 million passengers annually. At full development, the airport is expected to accommodate more than 260 million passengers and handle up to 12 million tonnes of cargo every year.

Aviation observers believe the expansion can strengthen Dubai's position as a global transport and logistics hub while supporting future passenger and cargo growth. The project's scale also reflects the emirate's long-term investment in aviation infrastructure and international connectivity.



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia target $3bn boost in food, agriculture exports

The initiative aims to increase agricultural exports and create new opportunities for Pakistani farmers and food producers.

(International Desk) Islamabad: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to work towards a $3 billion export target in the food and agriculture sectors as both countries seek to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The initiative is focused on expanding Pakistan's access to the Saudi market by increasing exports of agricultural products and food-related goods. It is expected to create new opportunities for Pakistani farmers, food processors and exporters by connecting them with a larger international consumer base.



Officials believe greater cooperation in the agriculture sector can help improve Pakistan's export earnings while supporting local producers and businesses. Enhanced market access in Saudi Arabia may also encourage investment in food processing, supply chains and quality improvement to meet international standards. Trade observers say achieving the export target will require stronger logistics, consistent product quality, certification compliance and better coordination between exporters and government institutions. They believe the agreement can contribute to diversifying Pakistan's export destinations and strengthening long-term economic ties with Saudi Arabia.

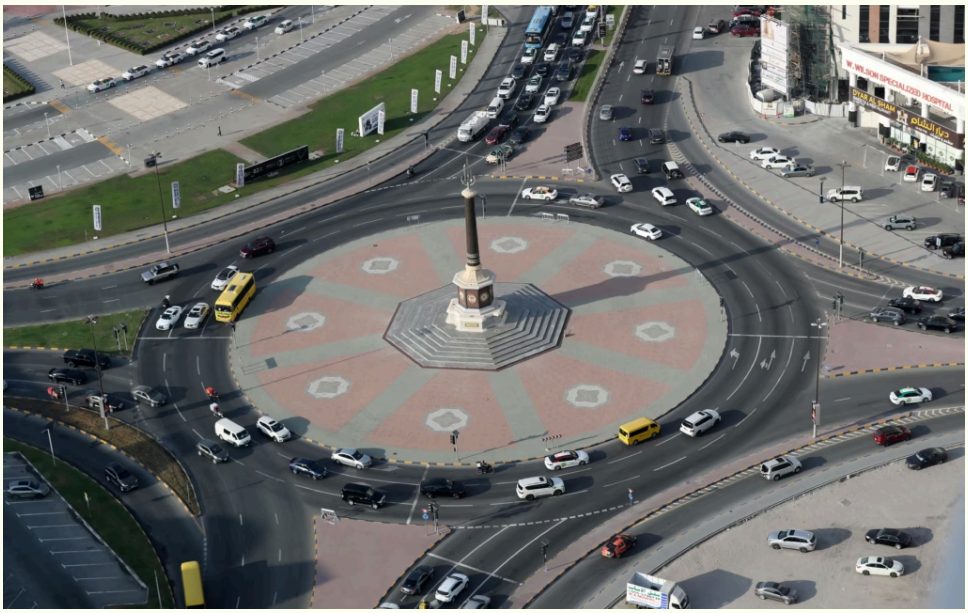
Dubai awards Dh1.16bn Al Meydan project, cuts key journey times by 66pc

The project will improve north–south connectivity with new roads, bridges and cycling tracks across key areas of the emirate.

(International Desk) Dubai: Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has awarded two contracts worth AED1.161 billion for the Al Meydan Street Development Project, a major infrastructure initiative aimed at improving road connectivity and easing traffic movement across key parts of the emirate. The project will deliver around 17 kilometres of new roads and 3.7 kilometres of bridges, along with cycling tracks connected to Dubai's existing network. The development will link important corridors including Al Khail Road, Latifa bint Hamdan Street, Al Marabea' Street, Umm Suqeim Street and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road.

According to RTA, one of the major benefits of the project will be a significant reduction in travel time between Al Manama Street/Dubai–Al Ain Road and Umm Suqeim Street. The journey is expected to reduce from around 30 minutes to nearly 10 minutes, representing a 66 percent improvement.

The project is also expected to increase north–south traffic capacity by 18 percent and serve communities with more than 500,000 residents. Transport observers believe the development will strengthen Dubai's road network, improve mobility and support future urban growth. The initiative reflects Dubai's continued investment in smart transport infrastructure aimed at improving connectivity, reducing congestion and enhancing travel efficiency for residents and visitors.



PM Shehbaz Sharif joins SCO leaders in Bishkek as Pakistan takes chairmanship

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif joins regional leaders in Bishkek as Pakistan prepares to assume SCO chairmanship for 2026–27.

(International Desk) Bishkek: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif joined leaders of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states for the official group photograph at the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit held in Kyrgyzstan's capital. Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov welcomed the prime minister at the summit venue before leaders gathered for the photograph and formal proceedings. The summit brought together heads of state from Pakistan, China, Russia, India, Iran, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also participated in the SCO Plus Summit and held bilateral meetings with leaders of participating countries. Discussions focused on regional cooperation, economic ties, connectivity, security and shared challenges among member states.



A key development for Pakistan is its upcoming chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for 2026–27. Under the arrangement, Pakistan is expected to host the next SCO Heads of State Summit in Islamabad in 2027. Diplomatic observers believe the chairmanship will provide Pakistan with an opportunity to highlight regional connectivity, trade cooperation and economic partnerships. They say hosting the summit could further strengthen Pakistan's role in regional diplomacy and provide a platform for engagement with major regional economies.

Nokia opens Saudi Arabia's first R&D centre for AI-powered network automation

The new facility will develop AI-powered network automation and explore next-generation 6G technologies.

(International Desk) Riyadh: Nokia has opened its first research and development centre in Saudi Arabia, establishing a new technology hub in Riyadh focused on artificial intelligence, software and advanced telecommunications. According to Nokia, the centre will primarily develop AI-powered network automation and orchestration software for customers in Saudi Arabia and international markets. Its research areas include Service Management and Orchestration (SMO), Self-Organizing Networks (SON), Autopilot and rApps.



The company aims to develop communication networks capable of greater automation, including self-configuration, self-healing, improved performance and reduced energy consumption. Teams at the Riyadh facility will also explore AI-native 6G technologies as part of Nokia's broader telecommunications research and development activities. The centre is expected to create engineering and research opportunities while providing training, boot camps and certifications to develop Saudi talent in AI, software and network automation. Nokia also plans to develop exportable "Made in Saudi" software technologies for customers around the world.

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology separately confirmed the centre's opening during LEAP 2026, highlighting its role in strengthening local research capabilities and supporting advanced telecommunications development. Technology observers believe the facility could contribute to Saudi Arabia's digital transformation ambitions by combining local talent development with global technology research and innovation.

Dubai Land Department launches AI-powered property registration platform

The new system uses artificial intelligence to simplify project registration, property transactions and escrow account management.



(International Desk) Dubai: Land Department has launched the AI-powered "Initial Registration" platform to streamline project registration, property transactions and escrow account management for real estate developers. The new system uses artificial intelligence to read Emirates IDs, passports and sales contracts, automatically extract relevant information and complete application fields. The technology is designed to reduce repetitive data entry, improve accuracy and make the registration process more efficient for developers. Standard transactions that meet the department's business rules may also qualify for approval upon submission, helping reduce delays in routine procedures. The platform provides developers with a consolidated view of property projects, unit status, escrow accounts, financial information and related project records. Although some reports have suggested processing time reductions of up to 80 percent, Dubai Land Department's official announcement reviewed did not specify a fixed percentage.

The system also allows users to add missing information without restarting the entire application process, making the workflow more flexible and user-friendly. Real estate technology observers believe AI-based platforms can improve transparency, reduce administrative workload and enhance efficiency in property markets. They say digital transformation in real estate services can support faster transactions while improving record management.

Jeddah Tower reaches 454 metres, closing in on Burj Khalifa's height record

The Saudi skyscraper has crossed 113 floors but Burj Khalifa remains the world's tallest completed building.

(International Desk) Jeddah: Saudi Arabia's under-construction Jeddah Tower has reached 454 metres and 113 floors, marking a major milestone in the development of the planned world's tallest building. The latest progress was confirmed by Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture (AS+GG), the tower's architect, which published the update on September 3, 2026. The milestone has renewed global attention on whether Jeddah Tower could eventually surpass Dubai's Burj Khalifa. For now, Burj Khalifa remains the world's tallest completed building at 828 metres, while Jeddah Tower is still under construction. However, the Saudi project is designed to rise more than 1,000 metres, which would make it significantly taller than the Dubai landmark once completed as planned.



The mixed-use tower is expected to include hotel facilities, offices, serviced apartments, residential units and observation spaces. The building has already surpassed Malaysia's 452-metre Petronas Towers and continues to progress under Saudi Binladin Group's construction agreement. The project was revived after years of delays, with Kingdom Holding Company announcing a SAR7.2 billion completion agreement in 2024. Current reports point towards a 2028 completion target, although large-scale projects can face schedule changes.

Architectural observers note the unique connection between the two skyscrapers, as Adrian Smith was involved in designing both Burj Khalifa and Jeddah Tower. Until completion, however, Burj Khalifa continues to hold the global height record. The building has already surpassed Malaysia's 452-metre Petronas Towers and continues to progress under Saudi Binladin Group's construction agreement.

NATIONAL

Guddu Power Plant eyes 297MW revival, Rs4.19 drop in generation cost

Restoration of Steam Turbine-16 could bring the 747MW plant back to full capacity and reduce generation costs.

Guddu, Sindh: (Staff Reporter) : The federal government has formally launched the procurement process to rehabilitate the fire-damaged Steam Turbine-16 (ST-16) at the 747MW Guddu Power Plant, inviting international competitive bids for the restoration project. The turbine and its associated generator have remained out of service since a fire incident in July 2022. Due to the outage, the power plant is currently operating in open-cycle mode with an output of around 450MW.

International bids for the EPC turnkey project are due by October 7, 2026, while commissioning of the rehabilitation work is targeted for December 2028. Energy sector observers believe restoring the facility can improve power availability and support more efficient electricity generation.

Once ST-16 is restored and the plant returns to full combined-cycle operation, its generation capacity is expected to increase to the designed 747MW, effectively restoring around 297MW of lost capacity. According to the Power Division, rehabilitation of the turbine could reduce the plant's generation cost from Rs13.87 per unit to Rs9.68 per unit, resulting in savings of Rs4.19 per unit. The plant's dispatch merit-order position could also improve from around 11th to approximately 7th, allowing greater utilisation of lower-cost electricity generation.



Overseas Pakistanis must declare Pakistan property in IRIS for 2026 returns

IRIS 2.0 workflow requires non-resident taxpayers to provide immovable property information for Tax Year 2026 returns.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Overseas Pakistanis filing income tax returns for Tax Year 2026 are being required through the updated IRIS 2.0 filing system to provide details of immovable property owned in Pakistan, including plots, houses and other real estate assets.

The FBR has separately confirmed that Tax Year 2026 filing procedures include updated requirements through its official online filing system. Tax experts are advising overseas filers to keep purchase documents, registry details and relevant property valuation records available to ensure that information entered into the system matches official ownership documents. However, tax experts have clarified that owning property alone does not mean every overseas Pakistani is automatically required to file a tax return. FBR's overseas-Pakistani guidance allows qualifying NICOP and POC holders who meet prescribed conditions to receive filer-rate treatment on property transactions even if they are non-filers.



According to current tax-practitioner guidance, the requirement applies even if the property is not generating rental income. Recent updates related to IRIS 2.0 indicate that the Federal Board of Revenue has introduced a separate immovable-property record for non-resident taxpayers, while eligible non-residents are no longer required to follow the standard resident wealth-statement process.

Pakistan plans stricter SIM checks after blocking 18.2m SIMs

Committee reviews enhanced identity checks after 18.2 million SIMs were blocked over illegal issuance concerns.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan is considering stronger identity verification measures for SIM issuance after the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control was informed that approximately 18.2 million SIMs had been blocked during the previous two-and-a-half years. The committee expressed concerns over illegal SIM issuance, misuse of biometric information and increasing cases of financial fraud linked to identity misuse. Officials discussed the need for enhanced verification technologies, including facial and iris recognition, along with immediate customer alerts whenever a new SIM is issued in their name.

However, the official National Assembly record does not state that facial verification has already become mandatory for every new SIM. The proposed technologies are being considered as measures to strengthen the existing verification system. PTA Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Hafeezur Rehman told the committee that the current biometric verification process was being bypassed. Reports also highlighted alleged misuse of fingerprint data, while joint PTA-NCCIA operations reportedly resulted in raids, arrests and blocking of illegal SIMs.

Additional proposals included issuing SIMs through NADRA's PAK ID system, linking each SIM with a single IMEI number and sending automatic SMS alerts when a SIM is registered against a citizen's CNIC. Authorities said these ideas remain recommendations and no nationwide implementation has been confirmed yet.

Pakistan's cotton arrivals surge 27pc to 1.7m bales

Sindh leads the increase while favourable weather conditions support higher yields and improved cotton quality.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan's cotton arrivals increased by 27 percent year-on-year, reaching 1,696,451 bales by August 31, according to data released by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association. Cotton arrivals during the same period last year stood at 1,335,632 bales. Sindh recorded the highest contribution with 1,139,374 bales, showing a 31 percent increase, while Punjab reported 557,097 bales, nearly 20 percent higher compared with the previous year.



Industry officials attributed the improvement to favourable weather conditions, including dry weather, lower night-time temperatures and suitable winds, which supported better per-acre yields and helped reduce moisture and trash content in cotton. Textile mills reportedly purchased a record 975,000 bales, while exporters acquired 70,600 bales during the period. Increased buying activity reflects stronger demand from the textile sector and export market.

However, industry representatives warned that mixing cotton waste with pure cotton could affect lint quality and damage Pakistan's reputation in international markets. They stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards to support exports and ensure long-term competitiveness. Agriculture observers believe improved cotton arrivals could provide support to Pakistan's textile industry, but maintaining quality, increasing productivity and addressing supply-chain challenges will remain important for sustaining growth in the sector.

Maritime Ministry begins Rs12bn Gadani shipbreaking yard upgrade

The Rs12 billion modernization project aims to improve worker facilities, environmental safety and ship-recycling standards.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced that construction has begun on the Rs12 billion modernization project of the Gadani shipbreaking yard, marking a major step towards upgrading one of Pakistan's key ship-recycling facilities. The project includes the development of a 30-bed hospital, workers' colony, school, solar power infrastructure and 32 kilometres of internal roads. Additional facilities will include a public park, hazardous and industrial waste-treatment systems, fire and rescue stations and dedicated water-treatment facilities.

According to the government, the project has entered its active procurement and construction phase, supported by a Rs780 million allocation under the 2026–27 federal Public Sector Development Programme. The modernization plan is aimed at improving working conditions, strengthening safety measures and reducing environmental risks associated with ship recycling activities.

Officials said the upgrade will also help align Gadani's operations with the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. Maritime observers believe improved infrastructure and compliance standards could enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's shipbreaking industry while providing safer conditions for thousands of workers.





Hub planned as Pakistan's petroleum logistics and trading hub

The proposed facility aims to improve oil handling capacity and strengthen the country's energy supply network.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The government is working on plans to develop Hub as a major petroleum logistics and trading hub aimed at strengthening Pakistan's energy infrastructure and improving the efficiency of oil supply operations. The proposed facility is expected to enhance the country's ability to handle large crude oil and petroleum product vessels. Currently, Karachi and Port Qasim face limitations in accommodating very large vessels, creating challenges for expanding oil import and storage capacity.

The development of a new petroleum hub at Hub could help reduce pressure on existing ports while improving the movement, storage and distribution of petroleum products across the country. The project is also expected to support a more efficient supply chain for energy imports. Energy sector observers believe establishing dedicated petroleum infrastructure can improve operational efficiency, reduce logistics challenges and strengthen Pakistan's long-term energy security. They say successful implementation will require investment in terminals, storage facilities, transportation links and supporting infrastructure.

AUZBER®
DHA Office: 202 MB DHA Phase 6
Etihad Town Office: Etihad Town Phase 2
Head Office: 112A sector E Iqbal Block Bahria Town
Contact Us: +92 323 0173020 | auzberconsultants@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Punjab doubles housing loan push after Rs243bn disbursed under Apni Chhat Apna Ghar

More than Rs243 billion in interest-free loans have been provided as approved housing loans cross 200,000.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab has doubled its interest-free housing-loan target for the current financial year after receiving a record number of applications under the Apni Chhat Apna Ghar programme. During an August 31 meeting chaired by Housing and Urban Development Minister Bilal Yasin, officials briefed that more than Rs243 billion in interest-free loans have been provided within a relatively short period. The programme aims to support eligible families in constructing their own homes through accessible housing finance.

The briefing stated that the number of approved loans has crossed 200,000, while 114,237 houses have reportedly been completed and another 45,254 are currently under construction. The progress reflects increased activity in the housing sector and demand for affordable home construction support.



The minister directed officials to ensure immediate release of pending payments and ordered that complaints related to unnecessary delays in loan disbursement should be addressed promptly. Housing sector observers believe such initiatives can support construction activity, create employment opportunities and improve access to home ownership for low-income families. They say timely loan processing, transparent eligibility procedures and effective monitoring will be important to ensure the programme achieves its long-term housing objectives across Punjab.

CDWP approves three projects worth Rs11.7bn, sends two worth Rs48.5bn to Ecnec

Two major projects worth over Rs48.54 billion have been referred to Ecnec for final approval.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The Central Development Working Party (CDWP), chaired by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, has approved three development projects worth more than Rs11.71 billion and referred two projects valued at over Rs48.54 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) for approval.

The approved projects include the establishment of a Medical and Nursing College in Gilgit, the National Defence University FCS Campus in Islamabad and a 53.4-kilometre road project from Zera to Dabori in Orakzai. These initiatives are aimed at improving education, infrastructure and connectivity in different regions. The CDWP also referred the Karachi Neighbourhood Improvement Project and a water supply project for Gwadar Town from Mirani Dam to Ecnec for further consideration. The projects are expected to support urban development and improve basic facilities in important areas.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal directed officials to study a wastewater treatment project aimed at preventing sewage pollution in the sea around Gwadar. The initiative highlights growing attention towards environmental protection alongside infrastructure development. Development observers believe approval of such projects can support regional growth, improve public services and strengthen connectivity. They say timely execution, proper monitoring and effective use of allocated funds will be essential to achieve the intended benefits of these development schemes.



Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz launches AI hub to strengthen security response



The AI-powered system aims to improve threat detection, intelligence coordination and emergency response capabilities.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has e-launched the Artificial Intelligence Hub Punjab along with the Provincial Intelligence Fusion and Threat Assessment Center (PIFTAC), introducing an AI-based system focused on improving security monitoring and intelligence coordination. According to APP, the chief minister said Punjab has become the first province in Pakistan to establish an Artificial Intelligence Hub. The system is designed to support authorities by generating digital alerts, analysing information and helping district coordination committees identify potential threats before they develop into major incidents.

The AI-enabled platform will integrate intelligence-related information and provide support for faster decision-making during security situations. Officials said the initiative is aimed at strengthening coordination between different departments and improving response mechanisms. Security observers believe the use of artificial intelligence in threat assessment can help authorities process large amounts of information more efficiently and improve preventive measures. However, they note that effective implementation will depend on accurate data management, system reliability and proper coordination among relevant institutions.

Punjab local govt minister Zeeshan Rafiq pushes public participation in Suthra Punjab initiative

The programme now operates with 180,000 workers and 40,000 vehicles while focusing on public participation and waste management reforms.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has called for increased public participation in the Suthra Punjab Programme, saying effective sanitation requires cooperation from citizens alongside government efforts. The minister made the remarks while chairing the fifth meeting of the Suthra Punjab Authority, where administrative, financial and operational matters of the programme were reviewed. He stressed the need for greater awareness regarding proper waste disposal and maintaining cleanliness in communities.



According to the briefing, Suthra Punjab is operating a digitally monitored sanitation network involving around 180,000 workers and 40,000 vehicles and fleet assets. The system includes GPS-based vehicle tracking, worker monitoring, geo-tagged field activities and digital complaint management. Rafiq said the programme is moving towards the next phase of Waste-to-Value, which aims to promote productive use of collected waste through recycling, composting, recovery and improved disposal methods. The minister also highlighted changes in the programme's institutional structure, stating that an authority-and-district-agency model has replaced the earlier company-based system from July 2026. The framework operates under the Suthra Punjab Authority Act 2026. Urban management observers believe digital monitoring and citizen involvement can improve sanitation efficiency. They say long-term success will depend on public cooperation, effective waste processing and consistent implementation across districts.

Lahore Smart City gains momentum as development progress continues

The latest Progress Journal highlights ongoing infrastructure, construction and landscaping activities across the housing project.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Lahore: Lahore Smart City has released its latest Progress Journal, highlighting ongoing development activities across different areas of the housing project. The update provides details of construction and infrastructure work carried out during the past week. However, the specific works claimed as completed during the latest seven-day Progress Journal have not been independently itemized in publicly accessible sources. Therefore, the weekly update should primarily be considered a developer-issued progress report, while buyers and investors are advised to verify official project updates, approvals and development status before making decisions.

According to the developer's report, development activities are continuing across the society, including road works, building construction, infrastructure development, horticulture and villa-related projects. The project's official development portal also confirms that construction work remains in progress in multiple sections. The official portal further states that possession has been initiated in Sector A and Sector B of the Overseas Prime Block, marking progress towards residential occupancy in these areas. Real estate observers believe continued infrastructure development plays an important role in strengthening confidence among residents and investors. They say timely completion of roads, utilities, landscaping and community facilities is essential for the successful delivery of large-scale housing projects.

The project's continued development reflects ongoing efforts to establish modern residential infrastructure and community facilities. Future progress will depend on timely completion of remaining works and delivery of planned amenities.

AUZBER

DHA Office:
202 MB DHA Phase 6

Etihad Town Office:
Etihad Town Phase 2

Head Office:
T12A sector E Igbal Block Bahria Town

Contact Us: +92 323 0173020 | auzberconsultants@gmail.com |

ParkView City Lahore's planned Multan Road entrance highlights 5, 10-marla plots

Marketing update highlights 5 and 10 Marla on-ground plots, while the second entrance plan remains under development.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): A real-estate marketing update is promoting 5 and 10 Marla on-ground residential plots near ParkView City Lahore's proposed second entrance from Multan Road, presenting the location as a potential connectivity-based investment opportunity. ParkView City's official website confirms that the Lahore project is located around 3 kilometres from Thokar Niaz Baig on Multan Road and currently offers several on-ground and possession-ready residential plot options.

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.

However, the specific claim that the proposed entrance will include a 200-foot boulevard could not be independently verified from ParkView City's current official Lahore information. The promoted "Grand Deal" appears to be a dealer-led property offer rather than an officially announced new launch by the developer. Real estate observers advise buyers to verify official approvals, payment plans, location details and development updates before making investment decisions, particularly where promotional offers involve future infrastructure claims.

GT Estates announces upcoming townhouse price revision ahead of new rates

The developer says buyers can reserve available townhouse units at current pre-launch rates before the new pricing structure takes effect.

Lahore : (Staff Reporter): GT Estates has announced that its current pre-launch pricing for townhouse units is expected to be revised soon, creating an opportunity for potential buyers to secure units at the existing introductory rates. According to the company, availability is limited and early booking may allow investors to select their preferred townhouse before the updated pricing structure comes into effect. The announcement has been positioned as a limited-time opportunity for buyers considering townhouse investment.

The developer said the pricing revision reflects the next phase of the project's market offering, although specific details regarding the revised rates have not been announced. Real estate observers believe early-stage pricing strategies are commonly used by developers to attract initial buyers and build market interest during the launch phase.

However, investors are advised to review official project details, approvals, payment plans, location information and documentation before making any investment decision. Market experts say factors such as development progress, project credibility and long-term demand should be considered alongside promotional offers.



Al Haram City highlights modern family living in Rawalpindi

Buyers advised to verify approval details as different phases and extensions have separate regulatory statuses.

Rawalpindi: (Staff Reporter): Al Haram City is promoting its residential community as a planned development focused on family living, security, modern infrastructure and lifestyle facilities. The latest promotional update highlights landscaped surroundings, organised development and amenities designed for residents. However, the project's regulatory status varies phase by phase. According to Rawalpindi Development Authority records, Al Haram City Phase 1 at Kolian Par, Chakri Road, has an approved layout plan (LOP). RDA housing-scheme records also identify Al-Haram City at Kolian Par as approved over approximately 330.92 kanals.

At the same time, RDA records separately identify some extensions and phases carrying the Al-Haram City name as illegal or unauthorized. In March 2025, the authority took enforcement action against Al-Haram City Phase-I Part-II at Kolian Per, while certain Phase-II schemes have also appeared in RDA records as unauthorized.



Real estate observers advise buyers to carefully verify the exact phase, block, plot location, approval status and official documentation before making any investment decision. They say regulatory verification is particularly important in large housing developments where different phases may have different approval positions. The latest lifestyle and development claims should therefore be considered developer marketing, while investment decisions should be based on officially verified records and approvals.

Urban Oasis Bahawalpur gains pace as 140-foot boulevard takes shape

Construction activities are underway at the main gate, boulevard, park and Wonderland Zone as the project moves forward.

Bahawalpur: (Staff Reporter): Urban Oasis has shared a fresh development update highlighting ongoing work at different parts of the residential project, including the main gate, 140-foot Main Boulevard, park and Wonderland Zone. According to Al Maroof Developers & Builders, these development activities are part of the company's plan to establish Urban Oasis as a modern residential community with improved road connectivity, recreational facilities and community-oriented amenities.



The developer has also announced the foundation stone laying ceremony for the project's Main Office, marking another milestone in the development process. The ongoing works indicate continued on-ground activity as the project progresses towards creating a planned residential environment.

Public records confirm that Al-Maroof Developer & Builders appears in an FBR developer/project registration list. However, the available record reviewed relates to another Bahawalpur project, Al-Haider City, and does not independently confirm Urban Oasis's regulatory approval or NOC status.

Real estate observers advise buyers to verify the project's exact approval status, development permissions, payment plans and official documentation before making any investment decision. The latest construction updates should currently be considered developer-reported progress, while regulatory verification remains essential for investors.

METRO POLITAN

Lahore's 333-kanal cancer hospital set to open with free care for all stages

The 915-bed facility near Pine Avenue Road will provide comprehensive cancer treatment and diagnostic services under one roof.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab's Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research, being developed on 333 kanals near Pine Avenue Road, is moving towards its operational stage as work continues on establishing a major specialised cancer-care facility in the provincial capital. The institute is ultimately planned as a 915-bed comprehensive cancer centre, with a wide range of specialised services available at a single location. Planned facilities include cancer diagnostics, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, surgery, bone-marrow treatment and palliative care.

The integrated model is expected to allow patients to receive different stages of cancer treatment without having to visit multiple healthcare facilities. The project could also strengthen Lahore's capacity to provide advanced cancer care to patients from across Punjab. Healthcare observers believe the facility can help improve access to specialised treatment and reduce the burden on existing hospitals once fully operational. They say modern medical equipment, specialist doctors, trained staff and effective management will be essential for maintaining quality cancer-care services.

Karachi begins next 65MGD expansion at Haroonabad sewage plant after 35MGD upgrade

The Haroonabad facility is planned to reach a combined treatment capacity of 100 MGD by the end of 2026.



Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Work has begun on the 65 million gallons per day (MGD) expansion phase of the TP-1 sewage treatment plant at Haroonabad, Karachi, following the reported completion of its 35 MGD secondary-treatment facility. Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab said the new 65 MGD phase is targeted for completion by December 31, 2026. Once completed, the additional capacity is expected to bring TP-1's total sewage-treatment capacity to 100 MGD.

The expansion follows the timeline outlined by the mayor in July, when he said the initial 35 MGD capacity was being brought online while another 65 MGD phase was planned for completion by December.Located in Haroonabad in Karachi's Keamari area, TP-1 forms part of the city's wastewater-treatment infrastructure. The project is aimed at reducing the discharge of untreated sewage into the environment and improving the management of wastewater generated across Karachi.

The expanded facility could also create opportunities for the reuse of treated wastewater, particularly for industrial purposes, helping reduce pressure on freshwater resources. Environmental observers believe increasing wastewater-treatment capacity can improve sanitation, support cleaner waterways and strengthen Karachi's long-term urban infrastructure. They say consistent operation, maintenance and effective monitoring will be essential to ensure the facility delivers its intended environmental and civic benefits.

Lahore e-challans can now be challenged online through PSCA portal

Motorists can now request online review of incorrect e-challans through the Punjab Safe Cities Authority portal.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Traffic Police has shared an online procedure for motorists who believe an e-challan has been issued incorrectly, allowing them to request a review through the Punjab Safe Cities Authority's e-challan portal without visiting a traffic office. Under the procedure, citizens can search for the relevant challan on the portal, review its details, select the "Review" option and submit the required information along with supporting evidence. The submitted request is then examined by the concerned authorities, and applicants are informed about the final outcome.

Officials clarified that the online review facility itself is not a newly launched service. The Punjab Safe Cities Authority introduced the dedicated online review feature in August 2025, while the latest Lahore Traffic Police guidance explains the process for motorists to access the existing facility. According to PSCA data shared in April 2026, more than 38,000 incorrect e-challans had been cancelled, while over 162,000 citizens benefited from the review facility.



The digital system is aimed at improving transparency, reducing unnecessary visits to traffic offices and providing citizens with a convenient mechanism to raise concerns regarding traffic violations. Authorities have encouraged motorists to use the official portal for challan-related complaints and reviews.

Kabutar Chowk underpass construction accelerates as drainage work enters next stage

The ongoing construction aims to improve traffic flow and upgrade infrastructure at a key Lahore intersection.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Development work on the Kabutar Chowk Underpass is progressing, with drainage system construction entering the next major stage as part of the ongoing infrastructure project. The project is aimed at improving traffic movement and reducing congestion at one of Lahore's important road junctions. Current construction activities include drainage-related works and other infrastructure preparations required for the completion of the underpass.

The development is expected to provide smoother traffic flow for commuters by improving road connectivity and reducing delays during peak hours. Authorities are focusing on completing essential components, including drainage arrangements, to ensure the project performs effectively during different weather conditions.



Mayor Murtaza Wahab inaugurates Rs128.3m road project in North Nazimabad

The upgraded 3,500-foot dual carriageway includes paved shoulders and a new footpath to improve mobility and safety.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab has inaugurated the improvement and rehabilitation project of a dual carriageway in Block J, North Nazimabad, marking another step towards upgrading the city's road infrastructure. Completed at a cost of Rs128.3 million, the project covers a 3,500-foot-long road and includes reconstruction and rehabilitation works, paved shoulders and a footpath extending along the same length. The upgraded road is intended to provide smoother and safer movement for motorists while improving accessibility for pedestrians and residents of the surrounding area.

The development forms part of the city administration's broader efforts to improve Karachi's deteriorating road network and essential civic infrastructure. Improved road conditions are expected to make daily commuting more convenient and potentially reduce traffic-related difficulties in the locality. Urban development observers believe rehabilitation of existing roads can provide immediate benefits to communities, particularly in densely populated areas where traffic and pedestrian movement remain high. They say proper drainage, regular maintenance and timely repairs will be important to preserve the newly upgraded infrastructure.



Peshawar's Rs3.2bn Warsak Road flyover construction moves ahead at full pace

The Rs3.2 billion project aims to ease congestion and improve connectivity along the Warsak Road–Ring Road corridor.

Peshawar : (Staff Reporter): Construction work is continuing on the Warsak Road Flyover, a major component of the Peshawar Revitalisation Plan and the Ring Road Phase-II corridor. The project was formally launched by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi in late June 2026. The flyover is planned to be approximately 800 metres long and is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs3.2 billion. According to the project plan, construction is expected to be completed within 180 days.

The latest contractor-issued update from M/s New Khan Builders shows construction activity continuing across multiple work fronts. However, no official percentage of completion has been provided, so the current status is best described as ongoing rather than assigning an unverified completion figure.

The flyover is designed to improve traffic movement around the busy Warsak Road–Ring Road corridor, where congestion has remained a major challenge for commuters. Officials have also described the nearby Palosi Flyover as an important part of the broader effort to strengthen Peshawar's urban road network.



Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz announces seven more electric buses for Sargodha

The additional buses will expand the city's growing electric public transport network and improve connectivity for daily commuters.

Sargodha: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced seven additional electric buses for Sargodha, further expanding the city's electric public transport service. The announcement was made during a meeting with provincial lawmakers from Sargodha on September 4, 2026. Lawmakers informed the chief minister that thousands of passengers are already using electric bus services every day on routes connecting Bhalwal, Bhera, Sillanwali, University, DHQ, Shaheenabad, Kot Momin and Tehsil Sahiwal.

Electric bus operations were originally launched in Sargodha in September 2025 as part of Punjab's efforts to introduce cleaner and more modern public transportation. At the time, the provincial government announced plans for 60 electric buses for Sargodha city and 105 buses for the wider Sargodha Division. The newly announced seven buses represent an additional expansion of the service and are expected to provide more transport options for residents. Transport observers believe expanding electric bus networks can improve urban mobility while reducing emissions and dependence on conventional fuel-powered public transport.



The continued expansion also reflects Punjab's wider push towards modernising public transportation and improving connectivity between urban centres and surrounding areas. Effective route management, charging infrastructure and regular maintenance will remain important for the long-term success of the electric bus programme.

Lahore DC Muhammad Ali Ijaz orders action against six illegal constructions

Three structures were partially demolished and three others sealed during an enforcement operation in Data Ganj Bakhsh Zone.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Metropolitan Corporation Lahore's Planning Wing has carried out another enforcement operation against allegedly illegal constructions in Data Ganj Bakhsh Zone on the directions of Lahore Deputy Commissioner and MCL Administrator Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Ali Ijaz. According to the report, the enforcement squad partially demolished three constructions and sealed three others during the operation. The action was supervised by Metropolitan Officer Planning Dr Rai Imtiaz Hassan.

The operation covered several locations, including Islampura, Outfall Road, Ganda Nala Hall Road, Link Jail Road and Alamgir Road. Authorities said the latest drive forms part of MCL's continuing enforcement efforts against buildings and construction activities allegedly being carried out in violation of approved plans and applicable building regulations.

Urban planning observers say regular enforcement is important for maintaining compliance with approved building plans and preventing unregulated development in densely populated parts of Lahore. They also emphasise that construction-related action should follow established legal and regulatory procedures. The MCL is expected to continue inspections and enforcement activities in different areas to identify structures that do not comply with approved plans and building regulations. The latest operation highlights the administration's focus on strengthening oversight of construction activity within the city.



WEATHER

NDMA issues 72-hour flood alert for Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and upper KP

Heavy rain and thunderstorms may trigger flash and urban flooding across GB, AJK and upper KP.

Northern Pakistan: (Staff Reporter): The National Disaster Management Authority's National Emergencies Operation Centre has issued a 72-hour potential flood alert as heavy rain, thunderstorms and strong winds are forecast across Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Gilgit-Baltistan, vulnerable areas include Gilgit, Diamer, Ghizer, Hunza, Astore, Skardu and Shigar. In AJK, Bagh, Poonch, Muzaffarabad, Haveli, Bhimber, Sudhanoti, Mirpur and Kotli have also been identified as potentially vulnerable.



Several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Chitral, Dir, Swat, Bajaur, Mohmand, Shangla, Battagram, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad and Haripur, may face flash-flood risks. NDMA has additionally warned of possible urban flooding in Nowshera, Peshawar, Swabi and Mardan. Emergency and local administration teams have been advised to remain alert and closely monitor the situation as the weather system develops.

The weather system could increase water flows in major rivers, including the Indus, Kabul, Swat, Panjkora, Kurram, Tochi, Jhelum, Chenab and Ravi. Authorities have advised residents and tourists to avoid rivers, streams and other vulnerable locations and limit unnecessary travel through mountainous areas.



Lahore records rainfall as WASA continues drainage operations

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

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): WASA Lahore has released its latest rainfall record, showing varying rainfall levels across different areas of the city during the ongoing rain spell. According to the monitoring data, Gulshan-e-Ravi received the highest rainfall at 41.6mm, followed by Farrukhabad with 31.2mm and Samanabad with 25.6mm. Other areas recorded 20.2mm at Islampura Bazaar, 18mm at Saggian, 17.2mm at Shadbagh Disposal, 15.8mm at Shahdara and 15mm at Garden Town Ali Block. Rainfall totals were also recorded at Jail Road with 14mm, Johar Town with 13.2mm and Chowk Nakhuda with 11.4mm. Lower rainfall was reported in areas including Pani Wala Talab, Iqbal Town, Gulberg, Lakshmi Chowk, Upper Mall, Tajpura, Shadipura and Mughalpura, while Nishtar Town Director Office and Thokar Niaz Baig recorded only 0.2mm each.

The rain spell has prompted WASA teams to remain on alert across Lahore, with staff deployed in different areas to monitor drainage channels, disposal stations and low-lying points. Authorities are using available resources to ensure timely removal of accumulated rainwater and minimise inconvenience for residents. Weather conditions and rainfall intensity may continue to vary across different parts of the city. Officials have advised citizens to avoid unnecessary travel during heavy rainfall, stay away from waterlogged roads and follow official updates regarding weather and drainage operations.

WASA Lahore Managing Director Ghufran Ahmed is monitoring drainage operations, while field teams are working to clear rainwater from affected locations. Officials have advised citizens to remain cautious during the rain spell and follow updates from relevant authorities. WASA said drainage operations will continue until water is cleared from affected areas.