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INTERNATIONAL

Abu Dhabi Opens Government Assets to Investors Through Digital Portal

New platform allows investors to explore, bid for and digitally complete agreements for government-owned assets.

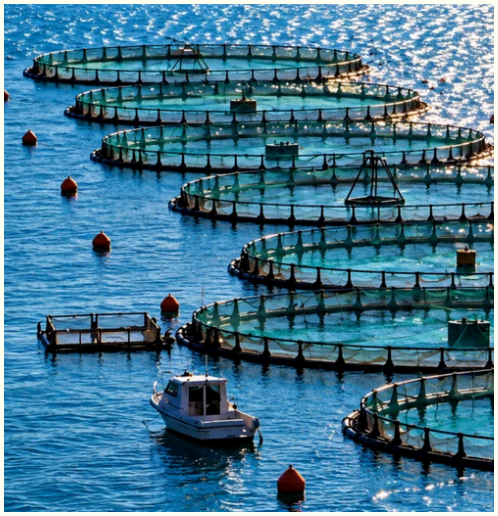


(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: The Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) has launched the Government Assets Investment Opportunities Portal, providing investors with digital access to investment opportunities involving government-owned land and existing built assets across the emirate. The service was unveiled at LIVEX 2026 and is available through Abu Dhabi's TAMM platform. The portal brings multiple stages of the investment process into a single digital system. Investors can discover available assets, evaluate opportunities, submit expressions of interest and bids, follow investor-selection and award procedures and eventually complete Musataha or lease agreements through the platform. In its current phase, the service covers opportunities involving commercial land and existing government-owned assets. DMT says later phases are expected to expand the platform into additional sectors, potentially including government assets such as hospitals and schools. The portal is accessible to investors from both inside and outside the UAE.

The platform also incorporates AI-powered personalisation to highlight assets that may better match an investor's profile and preferences. Location-based information provides details about nearby parks, public facilities, bus stops and other amenities, helping investors assess the surrounding environment of each opportunity. The new system is designed to make government asset investment more accessible and streamlined by bringing discovery, bidding and agreement procedures into one digital journey. Further sectors and asset categories are expected to be added as the platform expands.

Abu Dhabi Plans 30,000-Tonne Seafood Farm With Japanese Partner

QITAF and Japan's Global Academy sign MoU for proposed facility targeting 30,000 tonnes of annual production.



(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: QITAF Holding, a subsidiary of Abu Dhabi National Investment and Development (ADID), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan's Global Academy Limited to explore a major land-based seafood farming project in Abu Dhabi. The proposed facility is targeting approximately 30,000 metric tonnes of annual production once it reaches full operational capacity. The project is expected to use advanced Japanese Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS), which treat and reuse water within controlled fish-farming facilities. Initial production is planned to focus on commercially important species including hamour, sea bass, cobia, snapper, halibut and shrimp. The proposed development could also incorporate fish hatcheries, seafood processing facilities, freezing units, cold storage, fish-feed production and distribution infrastructure. Technologies under consideration include artificial intelligence, automated feeding systems and smart water-quality monitoring to support efficient aquaculture operations.

Saudi Arabia Launches Greening Drive to Restore 60,000 Hectares

Programme targets degraded rangelands using native seeds as part of wider environmental goals under Vision 2030.

(International Desk) Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has officially launched its 2026 National Greening Season, targeting the expansion of vegetation cover, restoration of degraded land and efforts to combat desertification across the Kingdom. The campaign is linked to the Saudi Green Initiative and supports the country's environmental objectives under Vision 2030. The 2026 restoration programme targets more than 60,000 hectares of natural rangeland and will use over 110 tonnes of seeds from 70 native plant species. The initiative aims to encourage vegetation suited to Saudi Arabia's climate while improving the ecological condition of degraded landscapes. According to the National Center for Vegetation Cover Development and Combating Desertification, more than 51,000 hectares were rehabilitated during the previous two years using 109 tonnes of seeds from 40 native species. The longer-term programme aims to rehabilitate 350,000 hectares of natural rangeland by 2030.

The programme will also coordinate seed distribution with rainfall forecasts and cloud-seeding opportunities to improve germination prospects. Authorities are seeking participation from government agencies, private organisations, volunteers and educational institutions in greening activities across the Kingdom. The initiative represents another phase of Saudi Arabia's wider efforts to improve vegetation cover and restore natural ecosystems. Progress toward the 2030 rehabilitation target will depend on continued restoration activities, suitable weather conditions and successful establishment of native vegetation.



Abu Dhabi Explores Underground Transport With Musk's Boring Company

ADPIC explores tunnelling solutions for transport, utilities and future urban infrastructure across the emirate.

(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: The Abu Dhabi Projects and Infrastructure Centre (ADPIC) has signed a partnership with The Boring Company, founded by Elon Musk, to explore advanced underground infrastructure solutions across the emirate. The collaboration covers potential underground transport systems, utility tunnels and related infrastructure. The agreement was signed during LIVEX 2026 by ADPIC Director General Maysarah Mahmoud Salim Eid and The Boring Company President Steve Davis, in the presence of Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport Chairman Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa. Elon Musk was not announced as a signatory to the agreement. Under the partnership, the two organisations will study feasibility, construction methods, advanced boring technologies, safety standards, operations, digital engineering and automation. They will also examine how underground infrastructure could improve connectivity, optimise urban space and strengthen utility networks.



The collaboration is currently at the exploratory stage, with no specific tunnel route, project cost, construction start date or opening timeline announced. Any future projects would depend on feasibility studies, technical assessments and subsequent approvals. The agreement also includes exploring opportunities for local skills development and strengthening Abu Dhabi's position as a potential regional centre for advanced tunnelling technology. The initiative forms part of wider efforts to examine innovative infrastructure solutions for the emirate's future urban development.

UN Chief Meets Naqvi as Pakistan Reaffirms Global Peacekeeping Role

Mohsin Naqvi reaffirms Pakistan's UN peacekeeping commitment and highlights security concerns linked to Afghanistan.

(International Desk) Islamabad: United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres visited Pakistan's Ministry of Interior and met Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister of State Talal Chaudhry. The meeting focused on regional and global security, as well as Pakistan's continued role in United Nations peacekeeping missions. During the meeting, Mohsin Naqvi reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to UN peacekeeping and said Pakistani police officers and other personnel continue to serve under UN missions. He stated that 181 Pakistani peacekeepers have lost their lives while contributing to international peace efforts. Pakistan's long-standing contribution and the figure of 181 fatalities are also reflected in UN and Pakistani official records.

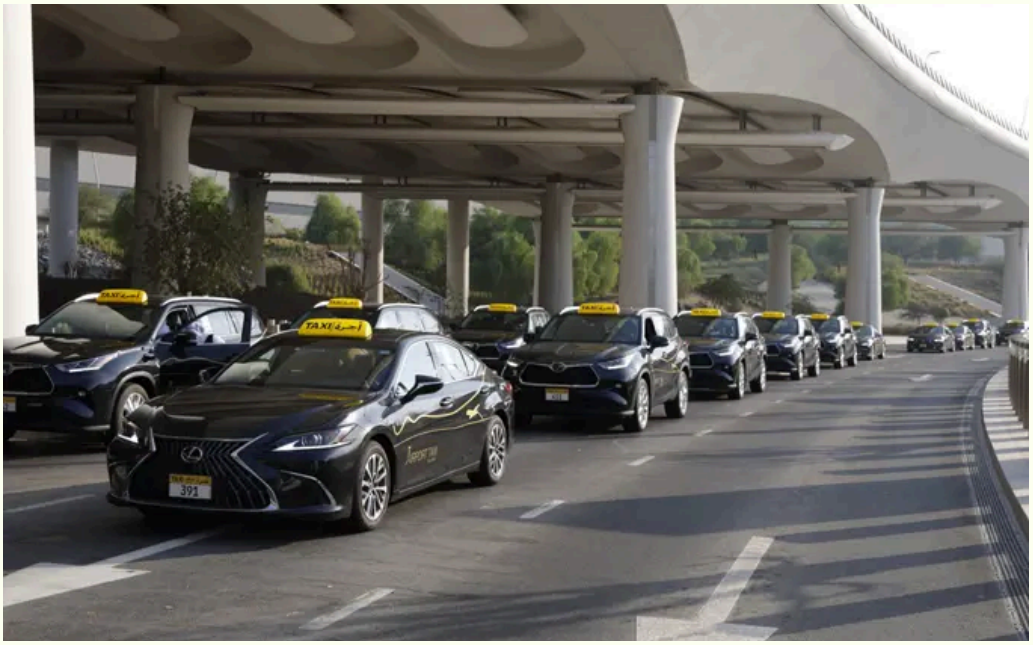
Naqvi also discussed Pakistan's security concerns and said 25 terrorist organisations are currently operating in Afghanistan. He described these groups as a threat to international peace and called for greater international cooperation to address terrorism. This figure represents the interior minister's stated assessment and should not be presented as an independently established UN finding. Guterres acknowledged Pakistan's longstanding contribution to UN peacekeeping and its sacrifices in international missions. Pakistan has served in numerous UN operations over several decades and remains among the major contributors to UN peacekeeping efforts.



800 New Taxis Added to Improve Abu Dhabi Airport Travel

500 luxury taxis allocated to Zayed International Airport, while 300 will operate across Abu Dhabi city.

(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: Abu Dhabi Mobility, in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Airports, has added 800 taxis to the emirate's transport network to strengthen connectivity with Zayed International Airport and meet rising passenger demand. Of the total fleet, 500 luxury taxis have been specifically allocated to Zayed International Airport. The remaining 300 taxis will operate across Abu Dhabi city and can also be deployed to support airport journeys during peak periods and major events. The 500-plus-300 allocation is consistent with an earlier Integrated Transport Centre official tender, which provided for 500 vehicles dedicated to airport operations and another 300 serving Abu Dhabi city with the ability to support airport demand when required. The additional vehicles are intended to improve transport availability and provide passengers with greater access to taxi services as travel demand increases. The arrangement also gives authorities flexibility to deploy city-based taxis toward the airport during periods of higher demand.



Zayed International Airport already provides official metered taxi services around the clock. The airport network also includes accessible vehicles and larger taxis to accommodate passengers with different mobility and transportation requirements. The expansion is part of Abu Dhabi's wider efforts to strengthen public transport connectivity and ensure adequate taxi availability around major transport hubs.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye Activate Makkah Defence Commitments

Three countries endorse Nauman Mahmood as first Secretary-General and agree to advance collective defence measures.

(International Desk) Riyadh: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye held an emergency meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee of the Makkah Alliance for Defence on October 5 to discuss regional security and collective defence cooperation. During the meeting, the three countries endorsed retired Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood as the alliance's first Secretary-General for a three-year term. His appointment is intended to establish the alliance's administrative structure and support coordination among the participating countries. The three countries condemned attacks targeting Makkah, Madinah and Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the security and sovereignty of the Kingdom. The meeting also focused on strengthening cooperation in response to emerging regional security challenges. The participants agreed to move toward the practical implementation of their collective defence commitments. This includes measures for the rapid deployment of agreed military capabilities when required under the alliance framework.

The emergency meeting represents a step toward establishing operational mechanisms for the alliance and improving coordination among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye on defence and security matters. Further details regarding the alliance's command structure, force composition, specific deployment arrangements and future military exercises were not provided in the supplied information. The three countries are expected to continue consultations as the alliance develops its institutional and operational framework.



PM Shehbaz Sharif Meets Polish Minister Tomasz Siemoniak

Pakistan and Poland discuss leadership exchanges, business cooperation and regional developments.

(International Desk) Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met Poland's Minister, Member of the Council of Ministers and Coordinator of Special Services Tomasz Siemoniak during his official visit to Pakistan. The meeting focused on bilateral relations and opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Poland relations and emphasised the importance of continued leadership-level exchanges. He also highlighted the need to promote stronger business-to-business engagement to expand economic and commercial cooperation.

The two sides reviewed areas of mutual interest and discussed ways to further develop relations through regular high-level contacts and greater interaction between the business communities of Pakistan and Poland. Regional and international developments were also discussed during the meeting. The situation in the Middle East featured among the issues considered by the two sides, reflecting the broader regional challenges facing the international community. The meeting provided an opportunity for Pakistan and Poland to reaffirm their interest in maintaining constructive bilateral engagement. Further details regarding specific agreements, investment commitments or new cooperation projects were not provided in the supplied information.

The meeting also underscored the importance of continued diplomatic coordination on shared regional and global concerns. Both sides expressed interest in maintaining regular engagement to further strengthen bilateral ties.



NATIONAL

Pakistan's PSO Signs Oil Supply Deal With Oman's OQ Trading

Sale and Purchase Agreement formalises commercial framework for petroleum product supplies from Oman.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter) : Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has signed a Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Oman's OQ Trading Limited for the supply of petroleum products. The agreement was signed on October 8, 2026, after receiving formal approval from PSO's Board of Management and the Federal Cabinet. PSO disclosed the development to the Pakistan Stock Exchange on October 9. The agreement follows an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed between Pakistan and Oman on May 14, 2018. Under that arrangement, OQ Trading, formerly known as Oman Trading International, was nominated to represent Oman, while PSO was nominated on behalf of Pakistan.



The Cabinet's Economic Coordination Committee approved the proposed agreement on August 24, 2026, as part of cooperation aimed at strengthening Pakistan's petroleum supply arrangements. Pakistan had also imported three petrol cargoes and one diesel cargo from Oman in March 2026, according to subsequent reporting. The latest agreement provides a formal commercial framework for future petroleum product supplies between the two sides.

PM Shehbaz Sharif Highlights One Crore Beneficiaries of Fuel Relief Scheme

Rs75 billion programme provides monthly relief to eligible motorcyclists, rickshaw users and small-car owners.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said more than 10 million people have directly benefited from the government's targeted fuel subsidy scheme, which provides relief to motorcyclists, Qingqi and rickshaw users and owners of cars up to 800cc. The government has allocated Rs75 billion for the programme. According to the latest official briefing, more than 21.7 million fuel tokens have been issued, while around 19.4 million have been redeemed by eligible beneficiaries under the scheme. Under the current structure, eligible two- and three-wheeler users can receive up to Rs2,000 in monthly fuel relief, while qualifying small-car users can receive up to Rs3,000 per month. The programme is designed to provide targeted assistance to people using smaller vehicles for transportation and daily activities.



Shehbaz Sharif said that if an average beneficiary represents a household of five people, the scheme could indirectly affect around 50 million people. However, this figure is a household-based estimate by the prime minister and does not represent a separately measured beneficiary count.The prime minister also announced a national award for Federal IT Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja and shields for other officials involved in implementing the programme. The government has described the subsidy as targeted relief aimed at supporting eligible vehicle users.

NA Petroleum Committee Seeks More Clarity on Fuel Prices and Refinery Upgrades

Members seek greater transparency in fuel pricing and discuss refinery modernisation and cheaper options for farmers.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Energy (Petroleum Division) held its 16th meeting at Parliament House on October 8, 2026, under the chairmanship of Syed Mustafa Mehmood, MNA. The committee reviewed key issues concerning Pakistan's petroleum sector and fuel pricing. Members stressed the need for greater transparency in the calculation of petrol and diesel prices. Officials briefed the committee on components including international oil benchmarks, exchange rates, taxes, levies and transportation costs, which contribute to the final prices paid by consumers. The committee was also briefed on refinery operations and planned upgradation. Officials said four of Pakistan's five refineries have signed agreements for upgrades, while discussions with the remaining refinery are continuing. Members also examined measures aimed at modernising the country's refining capacity.

Petroleum smuggling and the use of higher-sulphur fuels were discussed during the meeting. Members also considered the possibility of providing cheaper fuel options to farmers through Light Diesel Oil and reviewed the provision of gas facilities to communities located near oil and gas wells. The committee deferred two government bills relating to the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess and Natural Gas Development Surcharge until its next meeting. The committee is expected to continue reviewing petroleum-sector issues, including pricing transparency, refinery upgrades and measures affecting consumers and energy users.

Sohail Afridi Calls Peshawar Out as PTI March Enters Next Phase

Next phase scheduled to resume from Hayatabad Toll Plaza as convoy prepares to move towards Charsadda.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has appealed to residents of Peshawar to join the next phase of PTI's long march in large numbers and show solidarity with party founder Imran Khan. According to the latest party schedule, the march is set to resume from Hayatabad Toll Plaza at 2pm on Thursday, October 8, 2026. The convoy is expected to move through Peshawar before proceeding towards Charsadda as part of the next phase of the announced route. Party organisers have called on supporters in Peshawar and surrounding areas to participate in the procession. Afridi said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would not accept policies that, in PTI's view, could contribute to renewed unrest, terrorism or violence in the province. He also said decisions concerning the province's future should reflect the aspirations of its people.

These remarks represent the chief minister's political position and are being reported as attributed statements. The march is taking place amid heightened political activity and security considerations across parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Authorities are expected to maintain security and traffic arrangements along the route as the convoy moves through Peshawar and towards Charsadda. Further developments will depend on the movement of the procession and decisions announced by its organisers.

The organisers have urged supporters to maintain discipline and follow the announced route during the procession. The next phase is expected to remain focused on mobilisation and political expression as the convoy moves towards Charsadda.



Salaried Pakistanis Pay Nearly Three Times More Tax Than Real Estate Sector

Salary taxpayers contribute 2.7 times more than real estate and retail sectors combined during July–September.

Islamabad: (Badar Butt): Pakistan's salaried class paid Rs144 billion in income tax during July–September 2026, according to provisional Federal Board of Revenue figures reported on October 7. The collection was Rs13.4 billion, or 10.2 percent, higher than the amount collected during the same period last year. By comparison, the real estate sector contributed Rs35.2 billion while wholesalers and retailers paid Rs18.4 billion during the quarter. Their combined contribution stood at around Rs54 billion, meaning salaried taxpayers contributed approximately 2.7 times more than the two sectors combined.Income-tax receipts from the real estate sector declined 38 percent year-on-year following reductions in advance tax rates on property transactions. Tax collected on property sales fell 42 percent to Rs23 billion, while collections on property purchases declined 31 percent to Rs12.2 billion.



The annual income-tax contribution from salaried individuals has also increased significantly, rising from Rs391 billion before the IMF programme to Rs629 billion in the fiscal year ending June 2026. The FY2026-27 budget included an estimated Rs52 billion in salary-tax relief, including reduced rates for certain income slabs. The latest figures highlight the continuing contribution of salaried taxpayers to income-tax collections while showing a decline in receipts from property transactions following changes in advance taxation.



Fears of electric vehicles becoming expensive in Pakistan

Proposed shift from 1% concessional rate to 18% standard sales tax remains under discussion.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Electric vehicles in Pakistan could become significantly more expensive if the government withdraws the existing concessional sales-tax treatment as part of discussions around the new Auto Policy 2026–31. Recent reports indicate that the International Monetary Fund has raised concerns over preferential tax treatment for electric vehicles. The government is reportedly considering moving eligible electric vehicles from the existing 1 percent concessional sales tax to the standard 18 percent rate. However, no formal notification implementing such an increase has been issued, meaning the proposed change should not be treated as a confirmed tax measure. At an illustrative taxable value of Rs10 million, sales tax at 1 percent would amount to approximately Rs100,000. If the same value were taxed at 18 percent, the tax would rise to around Rs1.8 million, representing an increase of Rs1.7 million. The potential change could significantly affect the final prices of eligible electric vehicles if approved and implemented. However, the actual impact would depend on the final policy, applicable vehicle categories and taxable values.

Importantly, FBR's FY2026–27 budget documents currently extend the existing EV-related sales-tax relief until June 30, 2027. Therefore, the reported 18 percent rate remains a proposal under discussion rather than an officially implemented tax increase. The proposed tax change is being considered amid wider discussions on Pakistan's automotive policy and fiscal measures. If approved, the higher rate could affect both imported and locally assembled EVs, depending on the final policy framework. However, consumers should wait for an official notification before assuming that the 18% rate has taken effect. The final tax structure will depend on the government's decision under Auto Policy 2026–31. Until then, the existing concessional treatment remains applicable under the current FBR framework.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Punjab Tightens Anti-Smog Checks, Orders Sealing and Fines

431 brick kilns and 269 industrial units inspected as authorities step up action against pollution violations.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): Punjab's Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has intensified inspections of brick kilns, industrial units, construction sites and other pollution sources as part of its anti-smog enforcement drive. The department says day-and-night surveillance is being conducted to identify environmental violations and improve compliance with applicable laws. During a recent 24-hour operation, EPA teams inspected 431 brick kilns across different areas. Five kilns were demolished, nine were sealed and nine FIRs were registered against units found in violation of environmental requirements. Authorities also inspected 269 industrial units, with 11 sealed and fines imposed over reported violations. Construction-related dust has also been included in the enforcement campaign, with teams inspecting sites and taking action against locations found failing to comply with environmental requirements. Officials are focusing on activities that can contribute to increased air pollution and smog during the season.

Punjab has further expanded its monitoring system through the use of drones, AI-enabled surveillance and specialised field squads. These measures are being used to identify smoke emissions, industrial pollution and other potential sources contributing to deteriorating air quality. The EPA said enforcement activities will continue around the clock, with sealing, fines, legal proceedings and corrective measures being taken against units that violate environmental standards. Authorities have also urged businesses and construction operators to follow prescribed environmental requirements to reduce pollution.



Punjab Speeds Up Reforms Across Major Public Services

Mobile police stations expand public access as stroke centres and digital driving services show further growth.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Punjab government has reported progress across several public-service sectors, including policing, healthcare, traffic safety and digital services, under initiatives led by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. A total of 33 mobile police stations have been made functional across different districts, providing services including FIR registration, document reporting and driving-licence facilities closer to citizens. Six of these mobile units are dedicated to addressing women-related matters, expanding access to police services outside traditional stations. In the healthcare sector, officials said 40 Primary Stroke Centers are currently fully functional, while another 17 centres are targeted to become operational by December 2026. The government said the CM Stroke Program has already provided timely treatment to hundreds of stroke patients, with the initiative aimed at improving access to emergency stroke care.

Traffic Police Punjab has also reported a 34 percent decline in fatal road accidents during 2026, with reductions recorded across 26 districts. Authorities have linked the improvement to continued traffic enforcement and road-safety measures across the province. Separately, more than 856,000 citizens used driving-licence services during September. These included learner licences, regular licences, renewals, international licences and online services. The figures highlight the government's focus on expanding public services through mobile facilities, specialised healthcare centres and digital platforms. Further performance updates will depend on continued implementation and monitoring of these initiatives.



Section 144 Imposed in Southern KP as PTI Long March Moves Ahead

First phase of PTI's long march starts from Lakki Marwat amid security restrictions in southern KP.



Peshawar: (Badar Butt): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi set out for Gandi Chowk in Lakki Marwat to lead the first phase of PTI's long march towards Islamabad. The march formally began from Gandi Chowk on October 4, with participants from Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Bannu and Lakki Marwat joining the convoy. According to the announced schedule, the procession was planned to move towards Karak after gathering at Gandi Chowk. Participants from Karak were scheduled to join the convoy before it moved towards Kohat, followed by further participation from Kohat, Hangu, Kurram and Orakzai. The march comes amid heightened security arrangements and movement restrictions in several districts of southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Authorities have imposed Section 144 in parts of the region, citing security and law-and-order concerns.

The organisers have announced further phases of the march through Peshawar and onward towards Khairabad, where the next phase of the route is expected to be announced. The development has also prompted additional security measures along routes leading towards Islamabad. The march is being led by Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, with PTI seeking to press its political demands through the mobilisation. The latest reports confirm that the first phase has commenced from Lakki Marwat and the convoy has moved onward from the initial gathering point.

Punjab Seals 8 Factories After 263 Anti-Smog Inspections

28 environmental violations identified as authorities seal eight units and impose Rs400,000 in fines.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab has intensified enforcement against industrial units contributing to air pollution as part of the province's ongoing anti-smog campaign. The latest 24-hour operation focused on monitoring industrial emissions and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. According to the latest enforcement update, EPA teams inspected 263 industrial units across Punjab and identified 28 environmental violations. Authorities sealed eight units and imposed fines totalling Rs400,000 on violators found failing to meet prescribed environmental standards. The enforcement action is part of wider efforts to control industrial emissions and identify pollution sources ahead of periods of poor air quality. EPA teams are conducting field inspections and using specialised surveillance methods and technology to monitor industrial activity and detect sources of smoke and emissions.



Authorities have said enforcement will continue against industrial units that violate environmental regulations. Measures including inspections, sealing and financial penalties are being used to encourage industries to comply with required environmental standards and reduce emissions contributing to air pollution. Citizens have also been encouraged to report smoke-emitting factories and other environmental violations to the authorities. Complaints can be submitted through the official EPA Punjab helpline 1373 or the Green Punjab complaint system. The latest operation reflects Punjab's continued focus on controlling industrial pollution and strengthening environmental enforcement. Further inspections and action against non-compliant units are expected as the anti-smog campaign continues across the province.

The campaign is aimed at reducing emissions from industrial sources and improving compliance before air pollution levels worsen. EPA teams are expected to continue inspections across industrial areas, with violators facing enforcement under applicable environmental laws. The agency said strict monitoring would continue to discourage repeated violations. Officials are also urging industries to adopt cleaner practices and comply with prescribed emission-control requirements.

REAL ESTATE

Kuwait Mall Construction Moves Ahead in Bahria Town Lahore

Day-and-night activity reported as structural and on-site development work progresses at the mixed-use project.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Construction work at Kuwait Mall in Bahria Town Lahore is continuing, with the developer reporting active activity across structural and on-site construction stages. The latest update dated October 3, 2026, describes day-and-night work as the mixed-use development continues to take shape. Kuwait Mall is a project of United Actros and is located in Sector E of Bahria Town Lahore, opposite the Eiffel Tower monument. According to the project's official website, the development is planned as a commercial and residential project featuring retail floors and residential components. Recent developer updates and project channels indicate that construction activity remains underway at the site. Earlier official project videos published in September 2026 also documented ongoing construction work, supporting the current status of active development.



However, the October 3 update does not provide a verified overall completion percentage or a confirmed handover date. Therefore, the latest construction activity should not be interpreted as evidence that the project is nearing completion or that possession is imminent. The developer markets Kuwait Mall as LDA approved. However, a separate publicly accessible LDA-issued approval reference or approval number was not identified during the available check. Prospective buyers should independently verify the sanctioned building plan, permitted land use and approval status directly with the Lahore Development Authority before making any investment decision.

WAADA Takes Shape as Construction Moves Across Key Projects

Construction advances at Altura, Cascada, Raiha and Rayhan as residential and community facilities take shape.

Dubai: (Staff Reporter): Construction is progressing across multiple parts of WAADA by BT Properties in Dubai South, with work continuing on residential towers, villas, townhouses and community facilities. BT Properties describes WAADA as a master-planned development featuring apartments, townhouses and villas. According to the October 2026 developer update, Altura 1 has completed shoring and piling, while excavation is continuing for the next foundation stage. At Altura 2, waterproofing and Zone A raft works are progressing. Cascada 1 has also completed Zone A raft casting, with construction continuing across Zones B and C. Development activity is also advancing across the villa and townhouse neighbourhoods. Foundation and slab works are underway for Raiha villas, while Rayhan townhouses have reached stages including first-floor and roof slab construction, blockwork and mock-up interior finishing. The reported progress broadly follows BT Properties' September updates, which also documented foundation, raft, slab and blockwork activities across the same developments. The latest update therefore indicates continued construction progress rather than a newly announced project launch.

The developer has also reported ongoing work at Masjid-e-Rafi within the development. At the Dubai South Sales Center, the two-bedroom show apartment has been completed, while studio, one-bedroom and three-bedroom show units are nearing completion. The latest update does not provide a project-wide completion percentage or a confirmed overall handover



UAE's 80km Fourth Corridor Draws Developers, 3,800 Homes Planned



Developers eye land opportunities as 80-kilometre highway links Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

UAE: (Staff Reporter): Property developers are beginning to explore land and new housing opportunities around the planned 80-kilometre Fourth Corridor, which will connect Sharjah, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The strategic highway was officially approved in September and is expected to become the UAE's fourth major inter-emirate road corridor. One of the strongest real estate developments currently linked to the route is being planned by Reportage Group. Group Managing Director Andrea Nucera told Khaleej Times that the company has acquired an approximately 750,000-square-metre site in Abu Dhabi near the planned corridor, where around 3,800 residential units are currently in the design phase. The project could be launched in 2027 or 2028. The Fourth Corridor will run from Al Shanouf Road in Sharjah to Al Faya Road in Abu Dhabi and will be developed in two phases. The project includes 72 bridges, 17 tunnels and 45 stormwater culverts. Phase One will cover around 30 kilometres toward Dubai–Al Ain Road and is estimated to cost Dh3.5 billion, while Phase Two will extend another 50 kilometres toward Abu Dhabi.

Official plans also show connections with major growth areas, including Al Maktoum International Airport and Etihad Rail. Developers expect improved accessibility to encourage residential and commercial development along the route. However, any impact on property prices or rents will depend on actual demand, supply, amenities and development activity rather than the highway alone. Further real estate projects may emerge as infrastructure planning progresses.

HS Prime Tower Set for Grand Launch in Lahore Today

12-storey mixed-use project offers apartments and commercial units facing DHA Phase 8.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): HS Prime Tower is being launched as a new mixed-use high-rise project on Lahore's Airport Road corridor, facing DHA Phase 8. The project is being marketed by Hafiz Sajjad Builders and is planned to include residential apartments and commercial units within the development. Current project information describes HS Prime Tower as a 12-storey building with two basement levels, spread across approximately five kanals. The development is being promoted with apartments, commercial spaces and a range of planned amenities aimed at creating a mixed-use destination along the Airport Road corridor. Pre-launch promotional material had advertised residential units at rates starting from around Rs26,000 per square foot. However, launch-day prices, available unit sizes, payment plans and inventory should be confirmed directly with the developer before making any booking or investment decision.

HS Prime Tower is being promoted as the developer's next major venture following HS Ideal Tower. Its location opposite DHA Phase 8 is also being highlighted as a key feature of the project's commercial and residential positioning. As the project enters its launch phase, prospective buyers should independently verify title documents, development approvals, sanctioned building plans and applicable permissions from the relevant authorities. The latest available information does not establish guaranteed rental returns, capital appreciation or a confirmed completion and handover date. Buyers should therefore review all official documentation and contractual terms before proceeding with a purchase.



Ravi Ratan Development Moves Ahead at New Metro City Lahore

Precinct moves forward with ongoing development following its master-plan and groundbreaking milestones.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Development work at Ravi Ratan, Precinct 2 of New Metro City Lahore, is continuing as part of the wider expansion of the housing project. Official New Metro City material states that development activities in Ravi Ratan are in progress alongside ongoing work in other areas of the scheme. Ravi Ratan was formally introduced through its master plan in June 2025, followed by a groundbreaking and map reveal ceremony in November 2025. These milestones indicate that the precinct has moved beyond its initial launch stage and into active development. The latest project update describes continued development momentum across Ravi Ratan, with work progressing as part of the broader development programme. However, the supplied information does not provide a verified overall completion percentage or a detailed breakdown of the current construction stages.

No confirmed possession date has been provided in the latest update. Therefore, the current status of Ravi Ratan is best described as ongoing development rather than completed development or possession. The precinct forms part of New Metro City Lahore's broader expansion, with development activities continuing across different portions of the project. Further progress will depend on the pace of infrastructure and site development. Prospective buyers should verify the latest development status, approvals, payment schedule, possession commitments and relevant project documentation directly through official channels before making an investment decision.



Capital Smart City Gets a Modern Learning Hub With Smart STEM

School in Overseas East adds dedicated education facilities to the master-planned community.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Smart STEM High School is operational in Capital Smart City, providing dedicated education facilities within the master-planned community. Capital Smart City's public information lists the Smart STEM School among facilities that have been completed and are operational. The school is located in Overseas East, Sector B, Capital Smart City, and forms part of the community's education network. A project update published in 2022 described the school as prepared to provide technology-integrated education, while subsequent school activities and events indicate continued use of the campus. The Smart STEM Education System also signed an affiliation Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) in 2022. FBISE result records also list The Smart STEM High School at Overseas East, Sector B, Capital Smart City.



The presence of an operational school provides an additional education facility for families living within and around the community. It also contributes to the availability of essential community services within the development. The school's operational status distinguishes it from proposed or under-construction educational facilities, as the campus is already being used for academic activities. However, the availability of an operational school should not be treated as a guarantee of property price increases or investment returns in Capital Smart City. Property values can be influenced by several factors, including demand, location, infrastructure and broader market conditions.

Lahore Orders Unsafe School Buildings Shut as Inspections Continue

Assistant commissioners review attendance, facilities, security and construction-site safety across schools.



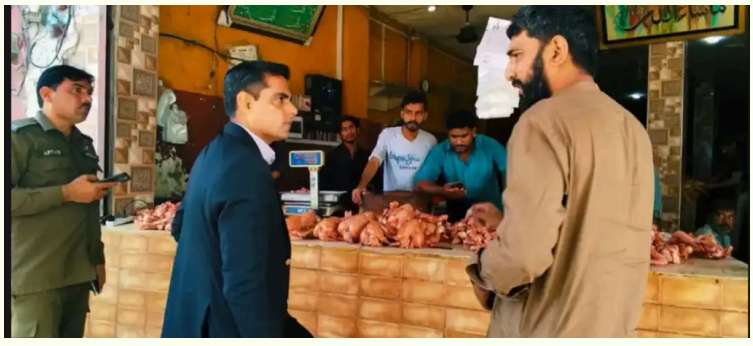
Lahore: (Badar Butt): Assistant commissioners across Lahore are conducting detailed inspections of schools on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Lahore Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Ali Ijaz. During the visits, officials are reviewing student and staff attendance, cleanliness, infrastructure, security arrangements, drinking water, washrooms, computer laboratories and teaching standards. The district administration has directed schools to immediately vacate and close classrooms declared dangerous. Officials have also been instructed to ensure that construction areas are properly secured and that all required safety standard operating procedures are followed to protect students and staff. Inspection teams are reviewing basic facilities including drinking water, sanitation, lighting, fans, washrooms and furniture. The administration has directed relevant officials to identify deficiencies and take steps to improve facilities where required.

Separately, Punjab's School Education Department issued province-wide safety instructions on October 1, 2026, requiring school construction sites to be cordoned off, student access to restricted areas to be blocked and regular safety monitoring to be conducted. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali Ijaz said student safety would remain a zero-tolerance priority. He directed assistant commissioners to continue surprise visits to schools and submit daily inspection reports, with the administration maintaining close monitoring of educational facilities across Lahore.

Lahore Orders Strict Price Checks, Violators Face Tough Action

58 challans issued, Rs271,500 in fines imposed and 11 people arrested over profiteering violations.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): The district administration has intensified its crackdown on profiteering and overcharging, conducting 2,130 inspections across Lahore during the last 24 hours, according to the latest administration update. Assistant commissioners, price control magistrates and Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority teams remained active across different tehsils. The supplied official figures show that 58 challans were issued during the inspections, while fines amounting to Rs271,500 were imposed. Authorities also arrested 11 people in connection with reported violations, as enforcement teams continued monitoring markets and checking compliance with officially notified prices. The administration conducted 67 special inspections of fruit and vegetable sellers and 35 inspections related to chicken prices. Officials reviewed the prices being charged to consumers and took action where violations of notified rates were identified.



Deputy Commissioner Lahore Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Ali Ijaz directed officials to ensure that essential commodities are sold at officially notified rates. He also instructed enforcement teams to maintain daily market monitoring and take action against violators without discrimination. The latest operation forms part of Lahore's wider price-control campaign. A September monthly report had recorded more than 112,000 inspections by price-control officials and PARA teams, while earlier enforcement operations also resulted in fines and arrests over reported overcharging.

Shalimar Town Zero-Waste Drive Expands With 1,100 Workers Deployed

Over 1,100 workers and 110 vehicles deployed as authorities clear waste hotspots and expand door-to-door collection.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Suthra Punjab Agency Lahore has intensified its zero-waste operation in Shalimar Town, deploying more than 1,100 sanitation workers and 110 operational vehicles for special cleanliness activities. The October 5 update said teams are working across residential, commercial and major public areas to improve waste management services. According to the update, 190 loader rickshaws are being used for door-to-door waste collection. Special cleaning operations have been conducted around Shalimar Bagh, Neelam Cinema Commercial Market, Kotli Pir Abdul Rehman, Jameel Park, Ali Park, Bhogiwal Road and Shalimar Link Road.



Sanitation teams are also deployed in China Scheme, Misri Shah, Shad Bagh, Baghbanpura and nearby areas. Authorities said six identified waste hotspots in Shalimar Town have been cleared as part of the ongoing operation, while Fazal Pura Waste Enclosure and the China Scheme temporary collection point are being cleared on a daily basis. The operation is aimed at improving cleanliness standards and ensuring timely removal of accumulated waste from different parts of the town. Door-to-door collection is also being strengthened to improve the disposal system and reduce open dumping. However, the latest update repeats several operational figures and details previously reported by APP in April 2026. Therefore, the figures should not necessarily be treated as newly achieved milestones on October 5. Authorities are continuing field operations and monitoring sanitation arrangements across Shalimar Town as part of the wider Suthra Punjab cleanliness programme.

Hyderabad Moves Ahead With Phased Repair of Damaged City Roads

Authorities focus on repairing damaged roads as part of a wider infrastructure development programme.

Hyderabad: (Badar Butt): Work to repair and restore damaged roads across Hyderabad is being advanced in phases, with authorities focusing on safer travel, improved urban mobility and better infrastructure for residents. The ongoing rehabilitation programme targets deteriorated road sections across different parts of the city. The supplied update states that road repair and improved transport facilities remain key priorities for the city. Authorities are addressing affected roads through a phased approach, with rehabilitation work aimed at improving road conditions and supporting smoother movement for residents and commuters. The road rehabilitation programme forms part of a broader infrastructure push currently underway in Hyderabad. Recent official reporting indicates that development efforts are also covering drainage, water supply and urban transport alongside road construction and rehabilitation.

Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro said in August that Rs39.251 billion was being spent on development projects across the city. The reported development programme includes road construction and rehabilitation as part of efforts to improve municipal infrastructure and public facilities. Sindh government officials have also identified road rehabilitation, drainage, public transport and basic civic facilities among the priorities for Hyderabad and other urban areas. These projects are intended to address infrastructure requirements and improve service delivery for residents. The available information does not provide a specific list of roads currently under repair, individual project costs or completion dates. Further details regarding the phased rehabilitation programme are expected as work progresses across different areas of Hyderabad.





CDA Starts Plot Possession in C-14 as Basic Infrastructure Is Completed

Core infrastructure completed as chairman reviews development work and Sangjani Interchange progress.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Sohail Ashraf visited Sector C-14 and Sangjani Interchange to review development progress, construction quality and the pace of ongoing work. Senior officials from the Estate, Administration, Works, Infrastructure and district administration departments accompanied him during the inspection. CDA officials briefed the chairman that basic infrastructure in Sector C-14 has been completed, while arrangements for electricity supply are in their final stages. Installation of light poles along main roads and signboards on roads and streets has also been completed, while landscaping and horticulture activities remain underway. Following completion of the core infrastructure, the CDA has started handing over possession of developed plots to eligible allottees. Sohail Ashraf directed officials to accelerate the possession process and remove remaining administrative and technical hurdles so that pending allottees can receive their plots without unnecessary delays.

During the visit to Sangjani Interchange, the CDA chairman reviewed construction progress and assessed compliance with required quality standards. He directed project teams to accelerate the remaining development work while ensuring that construction follows approved specifications and established completion targets. The inspection reflects the CDA's continued focus on completing infrastructure projects and facilitating plot possession in developed sectors.

DC Gujranwala Naveed Ahmad Reviews City Development and Cleanliness Works

Naveed Ahmad inspects Satellite Town Model Market and Nowshera Road, directs officials to speed up projects.

Gujranwala: (Staff Reporter): Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmad carried out early-morning inspections across the city, reviewing development work at Satellite Town Model Market, road restoration following sewerage upgrades on Nowshera Road and cleanliness operations in markets and residential areas. At Satellite Town Model Market, the deputy commissioner reviewed construction progress and directed the Assistant Commissioner City and Municipal Corporation officials to complete the remaining work without delay while maintaining required construction standards. He also instructed authorities to ensure strict implementation of sanitation beat plans and regular attendance of field workers. On Nowshera Road, Naveed Ahmad inspected road restoration work following the completion of sewerage-system upgrades. He directed WASA officials to complete the project within the given deadline and minimise inconvenience to commuters during the reconstruction and restoration process.



The city administration has also intensified sanitation monitoring across markets, streets and residential neighbourhoods. Recent inspections have included directions for timely garbage collection, proper attendance of sanitation workers and corrective action where cleanliness standards are not being maintained. The inspections reflect the administration's focus on monitoring municipal development, road infrastructure and sanitation services across Gujranwala. Officials have been directed to maintain quality and ensure that ongoing works are completed according to their respective timelines.

Bilawal Inaugurates 25-Acre KMC Sports Complex in Karachi's Baldia Town

KMC facility in Baldia Town aims to expand access to sports and recreational infrastructure in western Karachi.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inaugurated a 25-acre sports complex built by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) in Baldia Town on October 9, 2026. The facility is intended to expand access to sports and recreational infrastructure for residents of the western parts of Karachi. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Bilawal Bhutto highlighted development initiatives in Karachi and also commented on the country's political situation. The inauguration forms part of broader efforts by the KMC and Sindh government to improve civic and recreational facilities in areas where access to such infrastructure has remained limited. The 25-acre size of the complex and its development by KMC have been independently confirmed by current reporting. The facility is expected to provide a dedicated space for sports and recreational activities for residents of Baldia Town and surrounding areas.



The project represents an addition to Karachi's public infrastructure and reflects the authorities' focus on developing community facilities in different parts of the city. Its location in Baldia Town is particularly relevant for expanding recreational opportunities in western Karachi. However, the reports reviewed do not specify the project's total cost, detailed list of sports facilities or its full operational capacity. These details have therefore not been included without separate confirmation. Further information regarding the facilities available at the complex and its operational arrangements is expected through KMC or Sindh government announcements.

Islam Pura's Tanki Wali Park Cleared of 25-Year-Old Illegal Encroachments

PHA-led operation clears illegal occupation from park land in Islam Pura after around 25 years.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): Tanki Wali Park in Islam Pura has been cleared of long-standing illegal encroachments in an operation carried out on the directions of PHA Lahore Managing Director Ahmed Usman Javed. The operation was supervised by Additional Managing Director Tasleem Akhtar Rao, with support from the district administration and Lahore Development Authority. According to the supplied report, the encroachments had remained at the park site for around 25 years. A committee-led operation was conducted using heavy machinery and field staff to remove illegal occupation and reclaim the park land for public use. Officials said the action was part of wider efforts to protect public parks and prevent unauthorised occupation of recreational spaces. The authorities maintained that illegal occupation and unauthorised construction on park land would not be tolerated.

Following the clearance operation, the reclaimed land can now be managed for its intended public purpose. Authorities are also taking steps across Lahore to protect existing parks, improve greenery and enhance public facilities for residents. The operation highlights continued enforcement against encroachments on public and recreational land across the city. Officials have indicated that similar action may continue where park land is found to have been illegally occupied or developed. The supplied information does not provide details regarding the exact area cleared, the number of structures removed or any further development plan for Tanki Wali Park.



WEATHER

Heavy Rain Triggers Flooding in KP, Nowshera Hit as 83 PESCO Feeders Lose Power

PESCO begins restoration in areas where rainfall has stopped as teams remain on high alert.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Heavy rainfall across different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa disrupted electricity supply on 83 PESCO feeders on October 6. According to PESCO, 19 feeders were affected in Peshawar, 13 in Khyber, nine in Swabi, 29 in Mardan and 13 in Swat. PESCO said restoration work has started in areas where rainfall has stopped, while repair teams will begin work in remaining affected areas once weather conditions improve. Operational staff have been placed on high alert to respond to power-related faults caused by the weather. The rainfall also affected routine electricity operations in several districts as the province experienced unstable weather conditions. PESCO teams are continuing to monitor the network and restore affected feeders while maintaining safety precautions during ongoing rainfall and thunderstorms.



The Pakistan Meteorological Department had forecast rain for Nowshera, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi and Khyber under the prevailing westerly weather system. Scattered rain, strong winds and thunderstorms were expected to continue across parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Authorities have advised residents to remain cautious around damaged electrical infrastructure and avoid contact with fallen wires or other potentially hazardous equipment.

The circulated claim of a flood-like situation in Landi Kotal could not be independently verified from a strong current official source during the available check. It should therefore not be presented as a confirmed flood event without further official confirmation.

Rain Spell Reaches Islamabad as North Punjab Braces for Showers

PMD forecasts rain, strong winds and thunderstorms across Islamabad and several districts of Punjab.



The weather situation is being monitored as rainfall activity continues in different regions, while further updates are expected from the Meteorological Department regarding changing conditions. Residents have been advised to remain alert, especially in areas vulnerable to water accumulation and drainage issues. Authorities will continue monitoring the situation as weather conditions develop. Officials have advised citizens to follow safety guidelines during thunderstorms and avoid standing near weak structures or electric installations. Further weather updates will depend on the ongoing rainfall system and official forecasts.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Rain was reported in the federal capital on October 6 as a fresh westerly weather system affected upper parts of Pakistan. Current weather observations also listed Islamabad among areas experiencing rainy conditions during the weather spell. The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast rain, strong winds and thunderstorms across Islamabad and several parts of Punjab. The affected areas include Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Gujrat, Jhelum, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Sialkot and other districts. According to the forecast, weather activity may continue intermittently as the westerly system moves across the region. Residents in affected areas have been advised to remain cautious during periods of strong winds and thunderstorms, particularly in open areas and near vulnerable structures. The Flood Forecasting Division said the weather system could produce scattered rainfall over Islamabad and North Punjab between October 6 and October 11, with occasional gaps in the spell. Despite the expected rainfall, major rivers were forecast to remain within normal flow ranges during the period.