The Real Time

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INTERNATIONAL

Riyadh Airport Closed Until October 17 Following Attacks, Flights Disrupted

King Khalid International Airport remains suspended as authorities conduct safety checks and airlines cancel flights.

(International Desk) Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has extended the suspension of operations at King Khalid International Airport until October 17, 2026, following a series of missile and drone attacks targeting Riyadh and other locations. The closure has caused widespread disruption to domestic and international air travel, with several airlines cancelling or adjusting services. According to the latest aviation notice, the airport is scheduled to remain closed until 21:00 GMT on October 17. Saudi aviation authorities said the extension is intended to allow additional safety inspections and operational checks before services can fully resume. The actual reopening will depend on further safety assessments and official instructions. The disruption follows deadly attacks reported over the weekend, with Yemen's Houthi movement claiming responsibility for strikes involving missiles and drones. Saudi authorities have reported interceptions of incoming threats, while the attacks have led to heightened security measures around the country's aviation infrastructure.



Several international airlines have suspended or modified services to Riyadh and other Saudi destinations. Lufthansa, Etihad Airways and multiple other carriers have announced cancellations or schedule changes as the security situation remains under assessment. Passengers travelling to or from Riyadh are advised to check directly with their airlines before travelling to the airport. Flight schedules may remain subject to further changes depending on security assessments and decisions by Saudi aviation authorities.

Dubai Safari Park Reopens for Season 8 With Over 3,000 Animals

Wildlife destination launches new season with special activities, safari experiences and conservation-focused programmes.

(International Desk) Dubai: Dubai Safari Park officially reopened for its eighth season on October 12, 2026, welcoming visitors with more than 3,000 animals representing approximately 300 species. Located across 119 hectares in Al Warqa, the wildlife destination offers safari experiences, animal encounters and educational activities for families and tourists. The new season has been launched under the theme "Live More Wild Life", encouraging visitors to explore wildlife, learn about natural habitats and understand the importance of animal conservation. The park features six themed zones, including African Village, Asian Village and Arabian Desert Safari. Visitors can observe a variety of animals including giraffes, elephants, lions and zebras while taking part in guided safari experiences and wildlife presentations. The park also offers educational activities designed to provide visitors with greater awareness of wildlife and conservation.



Dubai Opens New Pedestrian Bridge Linking Etihad Rail and Metro

400-metre enclosed walkway connects Al Yalayis Station with Jumeirah Golf Estates Metro Station in around five minutes.

(International Desk) **Dubai:** A new pedestrian bridge connecting Etihad Rail's Al Yalayis Station with Jumeirah Golf Estates Metro Station officially opened to passengers on October 15, 2026. The approximately 400-metre enclosed walkway allows travellers to move directly between the two stations in around five minutes without requiring a taxi or separate road journey. The bridge is equipped with air conditioning, moving walkways, escalators and staircases to make transfers more convenient, particularly for passengers carrying luggage. The connection provides direct access to Dubai Metro's Red Line, allowing Etihad Rail passengers to continue their journeys towards Dubai Marina, Business Bay, Downtown Dubai and other parts of the city. Passengers can also use a free shuttle bus service between the two stations. The shuttle journey takes less than two minutes and remains available alongside the newly opened pedestrian connection.

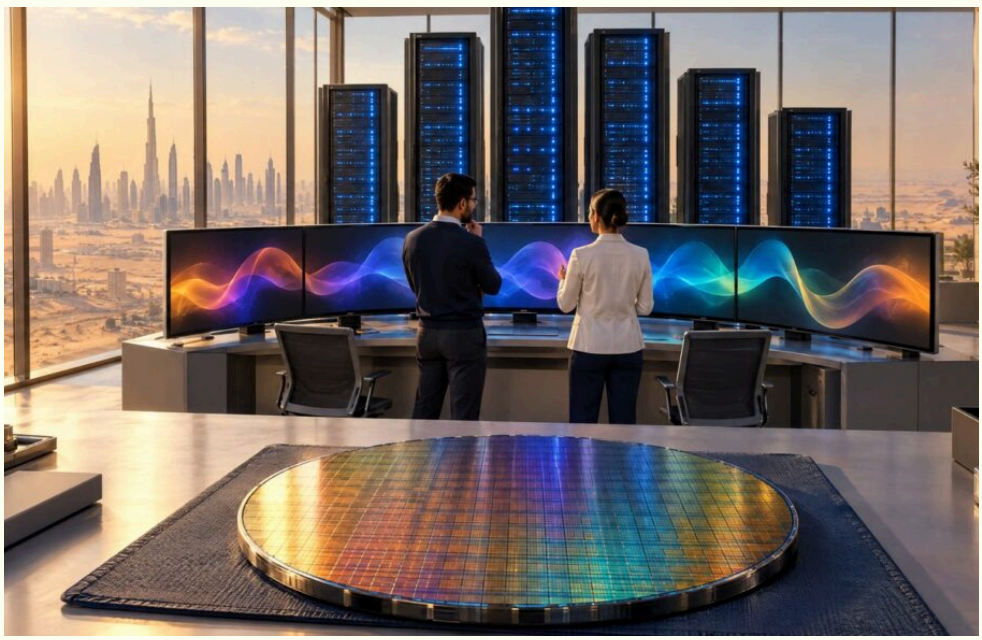
Etihad Rail's Dubai Al Yalayis Station began passenger operations on September 30, 2026, providing rail connections to Abu Dhabi and Fujairah. The new pedestrian link further integrates the national railway with Dubai's existing public transport network. The bridge is expected to make transfers between rail and metro services more convenient for commuters, residents and visitors using the interconnected transport system. Although the walkway is now accessible to passengers, some final finishing work was still underway at the time of its opening. Further operational details may be updated as the connection becomes fully integrated into the wider transport network.



UAE Launches Jais 3 AI With Speech Support Across 19 Arab Countries

Six open AI models and Jais Speech aim to improve Arabic-language content, transcription and digital tasks.

(International Desk) **Abu Dhabi:** The United Arab Emirates has launched Jais 3, a new family of artificial intelligence models designed to understand and generate Arabic across different regional dialects. The technology was introduced on October 15, 2026, by the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) and Inception42, in collaboration with Cerebras Systems. The Jais 3 family includes six open language models ranging from 900 million to 375 billion parameters, alongside a separate speech-recognition system called Jais Speech. The models are designed to support tasks such as writing content, preparing documents and presentations, transcribing conversations and interacting with connected digital tools. One of the key features is Jais Speech's ability to recognise Arabic dialects spoken across 19 Arab countries. The system can also process conversations in which speakers switch between Arabic, English and French, potentially supporting multilingual communication in everyday and professional settings.



According to its developers, Jais 3 has been designed for Arabic-speaking individuals, businesses and government organisations. The models have been made available through Hugging Face for developers and researchers to access and experiment with. The developers have also published evaluations comparing Jais 3 with other AI systems. However, such performance claims should be understood in the context of the developers' own testing and published benchmarks rather than treated as independently established rankings.

UAE Aims to Grow 50% of Crops Locally as Sharjah Diverts 93% of Waste

Sharjah reports 93% landfill waste diversion as UAE expands smart farming and waste-to-energy initiatives.

(International Desk) Sharjah: The United Arab Emirates has announced a target to produce 50 percent of its crops locally as part of efforts to strengthen national food security. The goal was highlighted during the Sharjah Investment Forum on October 15, 2026, where officials also reported significant progress in the emirate's waste-management system. Mohammed Saeed Al Nuaimi, Undersecretary of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, said the country is updating its National Food Security Strategy 2051 in cooperation with the private sector. Smart farming, indoor agriculture and hydroponic technologies are expected to play an important role in increasing domestic crop production and reducing reliance on imported food.

Meanwhile, BEEAH Group CEO Khaled Al Huraimel reported that Sharjah has achieved a 93 percent waste-diversion rate, with waste being diverted from landfills through recycling, treatment, recovery and energy production. This figure relates specifically to Sharjah's waste-management system and should not be treated as a nationwide UAE recycling rate. BEEAH is also planning to expand its Sharjah waste-to-energy facility. The plant currently generates around 30 megawatts of electricity, with the next development phase expected to increase capacity to approximately 60 megawatts. The expansion is intended to process additional waste while generating more low-carbon electricity. Together, the food-security and waste-management initiatives reflect ongoing efforts to strengthen sustainable development and resource efficiency in the UAE.



Dubai Unveils $1.4 Billion Water Gardens Project in DIFC Targeting 2028

Mixed-use project features luxury residences, offices, hotels and retail spaces with completion targeted for 2028.

(International Desk) Dubai: Real estate developer H&H has unveiled Water Gardens, a major mixed-use development in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), featuring luxury residences, premium offices, hotels and retail spaces. Announced on October 16, 2026, the project has a reported investment value of approximately $1.4 billion, with construction already underway and completion targeted for 2028. Designed by internationally recognised architect Sir David Chipperfield, Water Gardens will comprise four buildings arranged around landscaped gardens, water features and pedestrian-friendly public spaces. The development is located between Al Sukook Street and Al Mustaqbal Street and will connect directly with DIFC's Gate Avenue retail and pedestrian network. The project will include Four Seasons Private Residences, Eden House apartments, luxury hospitality facilities, restaurants and premium office space. According to DIFC's official announcement, the office component will provide approximately 21,965 square metres of Grade A leasable space, while a central garden will connect the different parts of the development.



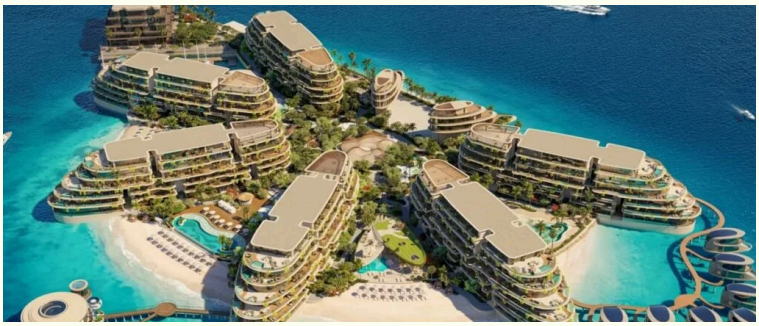
H&H has also reported strong interest in the branded residences, highlighting demand for premium residential offerings within the financial district. The combination of residential, commercial, hospitality and retail components is intended to create an integrated destination within DIFC. Construction is currently underway, with 2028 set as the target completion year. However, final handover dates, individual hotel opening schedules and future investment returns have not been independently confirmed.

Samana Unveils AED4bn Dubai Island Project With 849 Planned Homes

Samana Collecta to feature 849 planned residences, private beaches, floating villas and luxury lifestyle facilities.

(International Desk) Dubai: Samana Developers has announced a major residential development at The World Islands in Dubai, with a gross development value exceeding AED4 billion, or approximately $1.09 billion. Announced on October 15, 2026, the project marks the debut of the company's new premium real estate brand, Samana Collecta, which is being positioned around luxury island living for year-round residents. According to the developer, the project will feature 840 branded apartments, seven floating villas and two tree villas, bringing the planned total to 849 residences. The residential offering will range from studios to four-bedroom homes, with entry-level apartment prices expected to start below AED2 million. The planned island community will include private beaches, a lagoon, swimming pools, restaurants, a beach club, fitness facilities, co-working spaces and retail outlets. The developer also plans to provide yacht shuttle services connecting the island with mainland Dubai at 30-minute intervals.

The development is also expected to include essential infrastructure for electricity, water, sewerage and waste management, supporting its proposed year-round residential model. Samana Developers CEO Imran Farooq said the company intends to complete the project within four years of construction commencing, with an internal target of approximately 39 months. However, the actual construction start date has not yet been confirmed.



Dubai Replaces Al Satwa Roundabout With Signals, Cuts Travel Time 50%

RTA says the upgrade has cut journey times by 50% and reduced peak-hour queues by up to 60%.

(International Desk) Dubai: The Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has completed the conversion of Al Satwa Roundabout into a traffic signal-controlled intersection as part of Dubai's wider road and infrastructure improvement programme. The project includes additional road upgrades aimed at improving traffic flow, reducing congestion and enhancing road safety. According to RTA, the completed upgrade has reduced journey times by 50%, while waiting times and traffic queues during peak hours have fallen by up to 60%. The changes are intended to make movement through the busy Al Satwa area more efficient, particularly during periods of high traffic demand. The upgraded intersection improves traffic flow along 2nd December Street towards the Trade Centre and Al Satwa. It also facilitates bus movement and provides easier access to public transport services in the surrounding area.

The project has additionally strengthened connectivity between Al Satwa and Sheikh Zayed Road, as well as nearby communities including Al Bada'a, Al Jafiliya, Al Hudaiba and Jumeirah. The conversion forms part of Dubai's ongoing efforts to upgrade its road network and improve mobility across key urban areas. Traffic signal control at the intersection is expected to provide more organised vehicle movement compared with the previous roundabout arrangement. The latest RTA figures reflect the authority's reported results following completion of the project. Actual journey times and congestion levels may vary depending on traffic volumes and time of day.



NATIONAL

Jhang Desert Rally Set for October 16 With 100 Drivers

95-kilometre Thal Desert track to feature around 100 drivers and riders from across Pakistan.

Jhang: (Badar Butt) : The district administration has announced that the first Jhang Desert Rally 2026 and a three-day cultural festival will be held from October 16 to 18 at Rahmatabad in Tehsil Athara Hazari, located in the Thal Desert. Deputy Commissioner Jhang Babar Sahib Din announced the updated schedule during a press conference in Lahore. The rally will feature a 95-kilometre desert track, with around 100 drivers and riders from across Pakistan expected to participate. The participants will include female jeep drivers, adding to the diversity of competitors taking part in the inaugural event. The administration said the rally is being organised to promote tourism and highlight Jhang's desert landscape and cultural identity. The event is also intended to introduce the district's natural and cultural attractions to visitors from across the country.



Alongside the rally, the three-day cultural festival will feature a range of sporting, recreational and cultural activities. These will include tent pegging, kabaddi, volleyball and paragliding, providing additional attractions for visitors attending the event. Food courts and accommodation camps are also planned at the venue to facilitate participants and visitors during the three-day programme. The arrangements are expected to support visitors travelling to Rahmatabad for the rally and festival.

Pakistan's Largest Shaukat Khanum Hospital Set to Open December 29

Rs30 billion facility in DHA City aims to expand cancer diagnosis and treatment services in Sindh and southern Balochistan.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan's third and largest Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital is scheduled to open on December 29, 2026, in DHA City, Karachi. Chief Medical Officer Dr Aasim Yusuf confirmed the planned opening date during a media briefing at the hospital site on October 7. The Rs30 billion project is aimed at expanding access to cancer diagnosis and treatment for patients from Sindh and southern Balochistan. According to Dr Aasim Yusuf, the new hospital will be approximately twice the size of the Lahore facility when fully developed. It is designed to bring cancer diagnosis, treatment and supporting medical services under one roof. The physical structure has been completed, while finishing work, installation of advanced medical equipment and staff recruitment are still underway.



The hospital will feature advanced cancer-treatment technologies, including linear accelerators for radiotherapy and a cyclotron supporting nuclear medicine services. Shaukat Khanum reports that more than 75 percent of its cancer patients receive treatment free of charge and that the organisation has spent approximately Rs137 billion on free cancer care since 1994. The hospital network has also announced a Rs43.2 billion operating and development budget for 2026 to support medical services and expansion. The Karachi facility's opening remains a scheduled target, while some services are expected to become operational in later phases rather than necessarily launching in full on the first day.

Peshawar Returns to Normal as Roads, Markets and Transport Reopen

Major roads, public transport, BRT services, markets and educational institutions reopen as restrictions ease.



Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Normal life is gradually returning to Peshawar after two days of tight security measures and road closures. Major roads have reopened, while public transport and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) services have resumed operations. Markets and commercial centres have also reopened, allowing routine economic activity to return across much of the provincial capital. Authorities have removed or shifted several containers that had been placed on key routes, including roads leading towards sensitive areas. However, some restrictions remain in place around the Red Zone and the Peshawar High Court–Press Club corridor as security arrangements continue. Police and other security personnel remain deployed at important locations across the city. Authorities are continuing to monitor the situation and maintain security measures at sensitive points while normal movement gradually resumes.

Educational institutions in Peshawar have also reopened following the easing of restrictions. However, closures and security measures remain in effect in some of the 12 districts placed under emergency arrangements. The reopening of major roads, restoration of public transport and resumption of commercial activities have helped bring routine life back to much of Peshawar. Residents are gradually returning to workplaces, markets and other daily activities as movement becomes easier. Despite the easing of restrictions, political and security tensions remain, and authorities continue to monitor developments. Further changes to road restrictions and security arrangements will depend on the situation and official decisions.

Islamabad Model Jail Finally Ready to Open After Years of Delay

Rs7 billion phase includes three barracks for 1,500 inmates and a 35-bed hospital.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The first phase of the long-delayed Islamabad Model Jail in Sector H-16 has been completed and is ready for inauguration, according to the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The completed phase includes three barracks with a combined capacity of around 1,500 inmates, along with a 35-bed hospital and other essential facilities. Landscaping and final preparations are currently being completed ahead of the planned opening. The facility is expected to provide Islamabad with a dedicated jail for prisoners connected with cases registered in the federal capital. The first phase has cost approximately Rs7 billion, including expenditure incurred before responsibility for the project was transferred to CDA. The jail was originally approved in 2016 at an estimated cost of Rs3.9 billion and was scheduled for completion in 2019. The facility is expected to ease pressure on existing prison infrastructure serving the capital. Authorities are also completing landscaping and final site preparations before the inauguration.



However, funding shortages and other administrative and implementation issues resulted in repeated delays to the project. Authorities later directed that the remaining construction and administrative work be completed before the planned October 2026 inauguration. Once operational, the facility will allow Islamabad authorities to accommodate prisoners within the federal capital instead of relying primarily on Adiala Jail in Punjab. Adiala has faced pressure from its existing inmate population and is located outside Islamabad. The completion of the first phase represents progress on a project that has remained pending for several years. Further phases and additional facilities may be developed separately as part of the jail's longer-term expansion. The first phase will provide essential accommodation, healthcare and support facilities for inmates. Further expansion can be undertaken through subsequent phases as required.

Reko Diq Targets Massive Copper and Gold Output Amid Delays

Major Balochistan mining project targets large-scale copper and gold production, but its development timeline remains uncertain

Islamabad: (Badar Butt): Chagai, Balochistan: Pakistan's Reko Diq copper and gold project has the potential to become one of the country's major mining developments, with Barrick Mining Corporation's updated feasibility study projecting annual production of approximately 240,000 tonnes of copper and 297,000 ounces of gold during the first phase. These figures represent expected production once the mine becomes fully operational and should not be treated as minerals currently being extracted. The project is expected to play an important role in Pakistan's future minerals and export sector. Reko Diq is being developed through a partnership in which Barrick Mining Corporation holds a 50 percent stake, the Government of Balochistan owns 25 percent and three Pakistani state-owned enterprises hold the remaining 25 percent. The feasibility study outlines a mine life of approximately 37 years, while Phase One is designed to process around 45 million tonnes of ore annually. A potential second phase could further increase the project's copper and gold production capacity.

The project's development timeline has faced uncertainty because of security concerns in Balochistan. Barrick had previously targeted first production by the end of 2028, but in April 2026 the company announced that development activity would be slowed because of growing security risks. The company extended its project review until mid-2027 to reassess security conditions, financing requirements, construction costs and the overall development schedule.

Recent reports have indicated that a full construction schedule remains dependent on improved security conditions, meaning the previously announced 2028 production target is no longer a confirmed delivery timeline. Barrick has not announced a revised date for the start of commercial production. Further decisions regarding construction and development will depend on the outcome of the ongoing review and assessments of security, financing and project costs.



Once operational, Reko Diq could make a significant contribution to Pakistan's mineral exports, employment opportunities and infrastructure development in Balochistan. The large-scale copper and gold project could also strengthen the country's position in the international minerals market and generate wider economic activity. However, these potential benefits depend on successful project development, construction and eventual commercial production, while the current timeline remains subject to review.

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GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Lahore Steps Up School Inspections to Improve Safety and Standards

Officials review facilities and teaching conditions as new classrooms and washrooms are added at 73 schools.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): The district administration has intensified inspections of government schools across Lahore to improve educational standards and ensure student safety. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Lahore Capt. (R) Muhammad Ali Ejaz, assistant commissioners are visiting schools in different tehsils to review attendance, cleanliness, infrastructure, security and teaching standards. During the inspections, officials are checking drinking water facilities, washrooms, classroom cleanliness, lighting, fans and the condition of computer and science laboratories. The structural condition of school buildings is also being assessed, with unsafe classrooms and blocks ordered to be vacated and cordoned off until necessary structural checks and repairs are completed. The administration has further directed schools to strengthen security arrangements, ensure regular attendance of staff and students and maintain continuous monitoring of teaching quality. Officials are also expected to identify shortcomings in basic facilities and take appropriate measures to address them.

Separately, construction of new classrooms and additional washrooms is underway at 73 schools across Lahore. The work is intended to address shortages in educational facilities according to student enrolment and provide more suitable learning environments. The inspection drive and infrastructure improvements form part of wider efforts to strengthen government schools across the district. Authorities are focusing on both physical facilities and academic standards while prioritising the safety of students and staff. Further details regarding the number of schools inspected, individual project costs and completion timelines for the construction work were not provided in the supplied information.



Punjab Launches 65 Mobile Health Units for Industrial Workers

65 mobile healthcare units to provide medical services to industrial workers and families in three districts.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has inaugurated the Social Security Mobile Health Programme, launching 65 mobile healthcare units to provide medical treatment to registered industrial workers and their families at workplaces and near their homes. The first phase will cover Lahore, Kasur and Sheikhupura, benefiting more than 4.6 million workers and family members. The programme includes 10 mobile hospitals, five mobile clinics, dental and cardiac facilities, 40 motorcycles and 10 scooters. The mobile units will provide OPD consultations, medicines, first aid, X-rays, ultrasound, basic laboratory testing, telemedicine and dental treatment. All mobile healthcare units will be connected to a digital hub at the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) headquarters. The system will allow authorities to monitor routes and field operations in real time and improve coordination of mobile medical services.

A separate Mobile Rheumatic Heart Disease screening initiative will visit 29,845 factories and workplaces across Lahore, Sheikhupura and Kasur. Around 54,000 children studying in workers' welfare schools will also be screened for possible heart conditions under the programme. The Punjab government plans to expand the mobile healthcare programme to 12 additional districts by March 2027. The initiative is intended to bring medical services closer to registered workers and their families, particularly those who may face difficulties accessing conventional healthcare facilities.



Maryam Launches Livestock Card Phase II With Rs16.2bn Loans



Eligible livestock farmers can receive up to Rs540,000 in interest-free financing for animal feed and farm needs.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has digitally inaugurated Livestock Card Phase II, expanding interest-free financing support for livestock farmers across the province. Under the programme, eligible farmers will receive Rs27,000 per animal, with the total interest-free financing envelope set at Rs16.2 billion. The scheme is designed for livestock farmers who own between five and 20 male calves or bull calves. Eligible applicants can receive up to Rs540,000 in interest-free financing, with the funds primarily intended for livestock feed, silage, mineral mixtures and other related farm requirements. According to the Punjab government's Phase-II framework, applicants must be residents of Punjab and possess a valid Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). Farmers must also have a mobile SIM registered in their own name to qualify for the programme.

The initiative aims to provide farmers with access to interest-free financing during key livestock management periods. The government expects the support to improve farmers' liquidity and help them maintain adequate nutrition and care for their animals. Livestock Card Phase II is also intended to strengthen livestock management and support economic activity in rural communities. By providing financing for essential livestock inputs, the programme seeks to reduce financial pressure on eligible farmers.

KP Orders School Safety Audit as Damaged Buildings Raise Alarm

Unsafe school buildings to be closed as authorities assess structural conditions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Concerns over the condition of government school buildings in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have intensified, prompting the provincial education department to order a province-wide safety audit. Authorities have directed that classes be suspended in buildings found to be structurally unsafe, following growing concerns over weak school structures and a recent deadly roof-collapse incident in Peshawar. The audit is intended to identify buildings requiring immediate safety measures, repairs or reconstruction. Reports from different parts of the province indicate that some schools continue to face shortages of proper buildings, furniture and safe classrooms. In parts of Khyber district, students have reportedly been attending classes in temporary structures, damaged buildings or even in open spaces. Several schools destroyed during earlier years of militancy are also still awaiting complete reconstruction, highlighting the long-standing nature of some education infrastructure gaps.



The safety review is expected to provide authorities with a clearer assessment of the condition of government school buildings across the province. Schools identified as unsafe will be required to suspend classes in affected structures until necessary safety measures are taken. The move is aimed at reducing risks to students, teachers and other school staff.

At the same time, current official records show that the provincial government has allocated funds for school furniture, new classrooms and education infrastructure. These allocations indicate that remedial work and infrastructure development are already part of the government's ongoing education programme. The extent and pace of improvements, however, vary across different districts and schools. The available evidence does not establish that the current condition of school buildings is solely the result of policies adopted by any previous government. Instead, the situation reflects a combination of long-standing infrastructure deficiencies, reconstruction needs and ongoing government efforts to improve educational facilities. The province-wide audit is now expected to identify priority areas requiring immediate intervention and further investment.

REAL ESTATE

Aureum Mall & Residences Begins Rising at Lahore Ring Road

Excavation and foundation work begins at the 16-kanal mixed-use project near the Ring Road Interchange.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Construction of Aureum Mall & Residences is now underway at the Bahria Town Ring Road Interchange, with excavation and foundation-stage activities marking the beginning of on-ground development. Developer updates had earlier announced October 1, 2026, as the start of digging and construction work. The project is being developed by Alfalah Real Estate & Builders (AREB) as a mixed-use destination combining a shopping mall, residential units, offices and a hotel. According to the project's official website, the development covers approximately 16 kanals and has direct access to the Lahore Ring Road SL-3 corridor. Current developer updates indicate that physical construction activity is progressing at the site as the project moves from its planning phase into execution. Excavation and foundation work represent the initial stages of the construction programme.



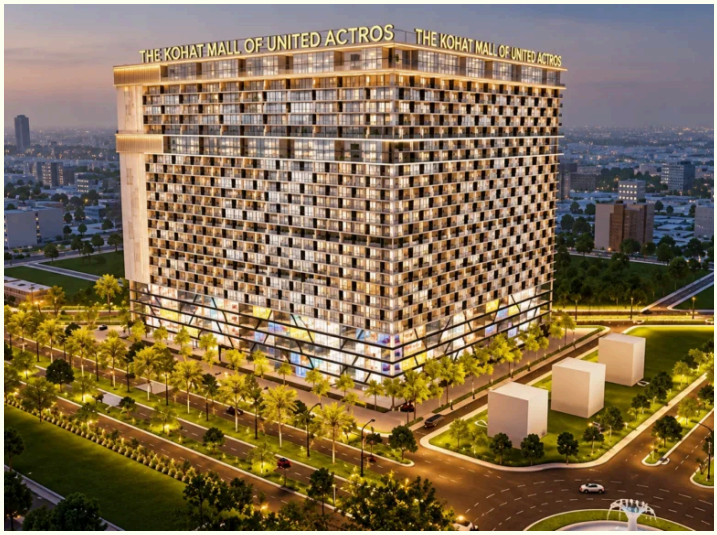
The project's location near the Bahria Town Ring Road Interchange is being highlighted by the developer as a key accessibility feature, providing connectivity with major routes around Lahore. However, the available update does not provide a verified overall completion percentage or confirmed handover date. Claims describing Aureum Mall & Residences as a future "landmark" or suggesting exceptional investment value are promotional statements and should not be treated as guaranteed outcomes. Prospective buyers should independently verify project approvals, title documentation, sanctioned plans, payment schedules and development timelines before making an investment decision.

Kuwait Mall Lahore Signs MOU With Inverex Go for EV Mobility

New collaboration aims to explore mobility and modern lifestyle solutions at the Bahria Town project.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Kuwait Mall Lahore has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Inverex Go Car & Bike, establishing a new partnership focused on mobility, innovation and modern lifestyle services at the Bahria Town Lahore project. Kuwait Mall is being developed by United Actros as a mixed-use commercial and residential destination in Bahria Town Lahore. The project combines shops, apartments, penthouses and various planned lifestyle facilities, positioning it as a mixed-use development within the community. Inverex Go is the electric-mobility arm of the Inverex Group and offers electric bikes, scooters, three-wheelers and related electric-vehicle solutions in Pakistan. The company promotes electric mobility as a cleaner and more affordable transportation option. The newly announced MOU provides a framework for collaboration between Kuwait Mall and Inverex Go. However, the exact commercial scope of the agreement has not yet been publicly detailed. It remains unclear whether the partnership will involve a showroom, dealership, charging infrastructure, test-ride facility or other EV-related services within Kuwait Mall.

For now, the agreement should be treated as a formal collaboration announcement rather than confirmation of a completed operational rollout. Further details about the partnership are expected to become available as both parties develop and implement the agreed plans. The collaboration reflects growing interest in integrating electric mobility and modern transportation solutions with commercial and mixed-use developments in Lahore.



DHA Multan Steps Up Road Maintenance and Green Development



Routine upkeep and plantation activities underway to improve the community's environment and infrastructure.

Multan: (Staff Reporter): DHA Multan is continuing road maintenance, plantation and upkeep of green spaces as part of its efforts to maintain a cleaner and more environmentally friendly community. Routine activities are being carried out across different areas to preserve infrastructure and improve the overall appearance of the development. DHA Multan's official material describes the project as an environmentally compliant planned community featuring developed road infrastructure, green belts and modern amenities. The development's infrastructure updates have also highlighted improvements to street-light systems and internal connectivity. According to the supplied update, road maintenance work is continuing to address routine infrastructure requirements across the community. Plantation and landscaping activities are also being carried out to maintain green areas and improve the visual environment for residents and visitors.

he upkeep programme includes maintenance of landscaped spaces and green belts, alongside regular attention to internal roads. These activities are intended to preserve existing infrastructure and support a well-maintained community environment. The ongoing work forms part of DHA Multan's broader infrastructure and environmental maintenance efforts. Continued road and landscape upkeep is expected to support the appearance and functionality of different areas within the development. However, the latest update does not provide a specific cost for the maintenance activities, a verified completion percentage or a defined plantation target. The current status is therefore best described as ongoing routine maintenance and landscaping activity.

New Lahore City Phase III Block B Sees Faster On-Ground Development

Road formation and on-ground infrastructure activities continue across key areas of the developing block.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Development activity is progressing in New Lahore City Phase III, Block B, where road formation and other site works are continuing across key parts of the block. The ongoing work reflects continued development activity within one of the expanding areas of the housing scheme. New Lahore City's official project material identifies Phase III, including Blocks A, B and C, as a rapidly developing part of the scheme. The overall development model includes wide roads, green belts, sewerage, drainage and other planned infrastructure designed to support residential and community development. According to the supplied developer update, current work in Block B is focused on road formation and broader on-ground development activities. These works are aimed at establishing the basic infrastructure required for further development within the block.

The ongoing road and site development indicates that construction activity remains underway in Phase III. However, the latest update does not provide a verified overall completion percentage for Block B or details of the exact infrastructure completed to date. No specific possession date or fresh delivery timeline has been announced for the block. Therefore, the latest update should be treated as a construction-progress statement rather than a confirmed completion or possession milestone. Prospective buyers should verify the latest development status, approvals, possession commitments and project documentation directly through official channels before making an investment decision.



Connectivity between Ravi Expressway and Dara Chahar Bagh further improved.

50-acre joint-venture project offers planned connectivity through Bhaini Road, Ring Road and Ravi Expressway corridor.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Dara Chahar Bagh is being positioned as a strategically connected development within RUDA's wider Chahar Bagh district, with access through Bhaini Road, Lahore Ring Road and the planned 300-foot Ravi Expressway corridor. The project forms part of the broader Ravi City development programme. According to RUDA's official project information, Dara Chahar Bagh is a 50-acre joint-venture project designed as a planned residential and investment community within Ravi City. The development is situated within the wider Chahar Bagh district, which is located close to Lahore Ring Road and connected with major road networks. RUDA's project-location material places Dara Chahar Bagh along the planned 300-foot Ravi Expressway corridor. Bhaini Road and Lahore Ring Road are also identified as key connectivity routes serving the development and surrounding areas.

The location is being highlighted as an important feature of the project, particularly because of its connection with existing and planned major transportation infrastructure. These routes are expected to provide access to different parts of Lahore as the surrounding development and road network continues to expand. Broader Chahar Bagh location material places the development zone around 15 minutes from Quaid-e-Azam Interchange.



Pine Avenue Continues Development, Shaping a New Urban Destination

Ongoing development focuses on infrastructure, commercial opportunities and modern community planning in Etihad Town.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Pine Avenue continues to take shape as a planned destination within Etihad Town, with development activities progressing across different areas. The ongoing work reflects the project's focus on infrastructure development and creating spaces suited to modern residential and commercial requirements. According to the supplied update, development is moving forward steadily, with construction milestones being achieved as work progresses on site. The project is being positioned around premium urban living, commercial opportunities and a planned community environment. The development strategy emphasises quality infrastructure and thoughtful planning, with spaces intended to support modern lifestyles and future growth. Pine Avenue is expected to combine residential surroundings with commercial activity as development advances.



Ongoing infrastructure work is gradually establishing the physical framework of the destination. Each stage of development is contributing to the wider vision of creating a well-organised and accessible area within Etihad Town. The project is being developed with a long-term focus on urban growth and community planning. As construction continues, further infrastructure and commercial elements are expected to take shape across the development. However, the supplied update does not provide a verified completion percentage, specific construction milestones, possession date or confirmed delivery timeline. Therefore, the current status should be described as ongoing development rather than a completed destination.

METRO POLITAN

LESCO Catches Two Consumers Stealing Electricity Through Meter Tampering

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

Lahore: (Badar Butt): LESCO's Central Circle conducted an anti-electricity theft operation in College Road Sub-Division, where two consumers were allegedly caught stealing electricity through meter tampering. According to the supplied LESCO update, checking teams detected irregularities in both meters during the inspection. The company said the meters had allegedly been manipulated through software interference and physical tampering to facilitate electricity theft. Following the detection, both meters were removed from the site and the relevant equipment was taken into departmental custody for further proceedings. LESCO said FIRs were registered against the accused in connection with the alleged electricity theft, while further departmental action was also initiated under the applicable procedures. The operation forms part of the company's wider campaign against power theft across its service areas.



LESCO CEO Engineer Muhammad Ramzan Butt has directed field teams to continue indiscriminate action against electricity theft and strengthen checking mechanisms. Teams have been instructed to maintain regular inspections and take action where illegal electricity use or meter manipulation is detected. The company's ongoing enforcement drive is aimed at reducing power theft and improving monitoring of electricity connections across Lahore and other areas served by LESCO. The latest operation highlights the use of technical inspection and meter checking as part of efforts to detect electricity theft. Further action against other suspected cases is expected as field teams continue inspections across the company's service areas.

Horticulture Drive Gives Lahore a Greener New Look

PHA teams continue plantation and green-belt maintenance as 4.742 million flower seeds are distributed across the city.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): Horticulture teams are continuing plantation, beautification and green-belt maintenance across Lahore under the Punjab government's vision for a greener and cleaner city. Recent official updates show active work in parks, green belts and along major roads, including tree washing, seasonal flower plantation and routine maintenance. Managing Director Ahmed Usman Javed has also been reviewing horticulture and development activities at different locations across the city. Earlier, the agency directed its zones to identify suitable sites along major roads for the plantation of thousands of flowering trees as part of efforts to improve Lahore's green landscape. The horticulture programme includes maintenance of existing green spaces as well as new seasonal plantation. Teams are carrying out field activities to improve the appearance of public areas and maintain greenery along important roads and recreational spaces.



The agency has also launched its largest winter flower campaign, under which 13,853 flower beds are being prepared across Lahore. A total of 4.742 million flower seeds are being distributed for plantation in parks and green belts across the city. Officials are continuing field monitoring to ensure that plantation and maintenance activities progress according to the planned horticulture programme. The campaign is expected to add seasonal colour to public spaces while supporting broader efforts to expand and maintain Lahore's green areas.

AC Kamoke Gives Three-Hour Deadline to Clear Waste in Mandiala Tega

AC Kamoke identifies waste heaps and blocked drains, gives FMO three hours to complete cleanup.

Gujranwala: (Staff Reporter): On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Kamoke inspected cleanliness conditions in Mandiala Tega and reviewed sanitation arrangements in the area. During the inspection, officials identified multiple waste heaps and drains requiring thorough desilting. The assistant commissioner also reviewed the performance of the FMO through the official login dashboard. After assessing the reported cleanliness situation, he ordered immediate corrective measures to address the identified sanitation issues and improve conditions in the inspected areas. The FMO was given a strict three-hour deadline to remove all identified waste heaps and submit a compliance report. The directive was issued as part of efforts to ensure timely action against sanitation problems and strengthen accountability among field teams responsible for cleanliness services.



The inspection comes amid tighter cleanliness monitoring across Gujranwala district. Authorities have been conducting field checks and reviewing sanitation arrangements in different areas to identify waste accumulation, drainage problems and other issues requiring immediate attention. Recent reporting also confirms that the district administration and waste-management authorities have intensified field inspections, desilting operations and accountability measures under the ongoing cleanliness drive.

Lahore Officials Inspect Ravi Town as Cleanliness Drive Intensifies

Field inspection covers Shahdara, Aziz Colony and several parks as teams review waste collection and street cleanliness.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): Adviser to the Punjab Chief Minister Shoaib Mirza, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Capt. (R) Muhammad Ali Ejaz, LWMC CEO Shahryar Arif Khan and Assistant Commissioner Ravi Umaira Shah visited different areas of Ravi Town to review cleanliness arrangements and waste-management services. The inspection covered UC-6 and UC-7, Qazi Park, Saif Habib Town, Gulshan Hayat Park, Shahdara and Aziz Colony. Officials reviewed the condition of open plots, street cleanliness and door-to-door waste collection arrangements during their visit. The officials also interacted directly with residents to obtain feedback regarding sanitation services and identify areas requiring improvement. Field teams were directed to further strengthen cleanliness standards and ensure timely collection of waste across the inspected locations.

The visit forms part of the ongoing cleanliness monitoring drive across Lahore, under which district administration officials and LWMC teams are conducting field inspections and reviewing sanitation performance in different areas. Recent APP-linked reporting has also confirmed increased field monitoring by LWMC across Lahore. The company is focusing on timely container clearance and beat-wise door-to-door waste collection to improve sanitation services. Authorities have continued to emphasise regular monitoring and direct engagement with residents to identify sanitation-related issues. Field teams are expected to maintain waste collection schedules and address cleanliness complaints in their respective areas.





MCL Demolishes Illegal Constructions in Lahore's Wagah Zone

Commercial structures demolished as authorities act against buildings without approved plans and rule violations.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The Town Planning Wing of Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) has carried out a major operation in Wagah Zone against buildings constructed in violation of approved building regulations and without sanctioned plans. The action targeted commercial and other structures found to be in breach of applicable construction rules. According to the supplied update, commercial structures on Skyland Road were demolished for violating building regulations. Action was also taken against multiple constructions in Al-Hafeez Garden, Indigo Scheme and Yaadgar Road, while owners who had started construction without approved building plans were also targeted. The operation forms part of MCL's wider enforcement drive in Wagah Zone against illegal and unapproved construction. In an earlier operation, the civic body demolished three illegal structures and sealed three others in areas including Jallo, Skyland Road and Mominpura Road. MCL has also tightened construction monitoring across Lahore to ensure that developers and property owners comply with approved plans and applicable regulations. Officials have stressed that construction without sanctioned plans or in violation of approved regulations can lead to enforcement action. The latest operation highlights the corporation's continued focus on controlling unauthorised development and ensuring compliance with building standards.Further enforcement operations are expected across Wagah Zone and other parts of Lahore as the civic administration continues monitoring construction.

Azma Bokhari Inaugurates Renovated Alhamra Performing Arts Academy

Upgraded facility aims to improve creative education and provide better facilities for artists and performers.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Renovation and upgradation work at Punjab's cultural institutions is continuing under a wider initiative linked to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, with the Alhamra Academy of Performing Arts among the facilities being modernised. Punjab Information and Culture Minister Azma Bokhari inaugurated the renovated Alhamra Arts Academy on October 8, 2026, marking completion of this phase of the improvement programme. The renovated academy is aimed at providing improved facilities for artists, performers and students while strengthening opportunities for creative education and training. The upgraded facility is expected to support performing-arts activities and provide a more suitable environment for students and professionals. The development forms part of broader efforts to improve Punjab's cultural infrastructure. The provincial government has allocated funds for additional upgrades at Alhamra, covering halls, galleries, studios and other cultural facilities. The wider modernisation programme is intended to improve the condition and functionality of cultural institutions while supporting artistic activities across the province. Officials have been focusing on upgrading facilities that serve artists, students and audiences.



The inauguration of the renovated academy marks the completion of this particular section of the wider Alhamra improvement programme. Further renovation and development work at other cultural facilities is expected to continue under the provincial initiative. The available information does not provide the total cost of the academy renovation, the detailed list of upgraded facilities or a completion timeline for all remaining Alhamra projects.

RUDA Showcases Investment Projects at Karachi SDG Fair

Authority showcases investment potential as 35 sustainable-development projects worth $26 billion are presented in Karachi.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Officials of the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) presented the authority's projects at the National SDGs Investment Fair 2026 in Karachi, highlighting their investment potential and alignment with sustainable-development priorities. The two-day investment fair was held on October 6 and 7, 2026, and was convened by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Pakistan. The event brought together public-sector organisations, investors, banks and development-finance institutions to explore opportunities linked to sustainable development. A total of 35 Sustainable Development Goal-aligned public-private partnership projects worth around US$26 billion were showcased during the fair. The projects covered a range of sectors, including transport, climate resilience, water, industry and technology.
RUDA was among the participating institutions and presented its development initiatives to investors and other stakeholders. According to the supplied update, RUDA's Corporate Social Responsibility Division also collaborated with UNDP, creating opportunities for engagement around sustainable investment and project development.



The event provided a platform for government agencies and private-sector stakeholders to discuss potential investment and partnerships in projects connected with national and international development priorities. However, the specific RUDA projects presented at the fair were not detailed in the available material. No confirmed investment commitments, agreements or financial deals resulting directly from RUDA's participation were also disclosed. Further details regarding individual projects, investment proposals and potential partnerships may become available as discussions following the investment fair progress.

DC Gujranwala Orders Immediate Desilting on Sui Gas Road

Naveed Ahmad inspects Sui Gas Road and directs WASA to improve drainage and remove accumulated silt.

Gujranwala: (Badar Butt): Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmad visited Sui Gas Road early in the morning to review cleanliness and drainage conditions and took notice of sewerage-related problems in the area. During the inspection, the deputy commissioner directed WASA officials to carry out immediate desilting and improve the drainage system to reduce inconvenience for residents. He also reviewed sanitation arrangements and instructed relevant departments to improve the delivery of public services. The DC emphasised the need for timely action on drainage and sewerage-related issues, particularly in areas where poor drainage can affect residents and routine movement. Officials were directed to ensure that field teams respond promptly to identified problems. The inspection is part of the district administration's wider monitoring of municipal services across Gujranwala. Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmad has recently conducted inspections in different parts of the city focusing on cleanliness, drain desilting, drainage conditions and public-service delivery.

Similar sanitation and drainage operations have also been ordered in other areas of Gujranwala as authorities continue efforts to improve municipal conditions and address complaints at the local level. Officials are expected to monitor the implementation of the directives and ensure that desilting and drainage improvement work is completed promptly. The latest update does not provide details about the specific length of drains requiring work, project cost or a completion timeline.



WEATHER

More Rain and Thunderstorms Expected Across Pakistan After Dry Weather

Weather patterns may shift again as rain-producing systems bring showers and thunderstorms to several regions.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Pakistan is expected to see another change in weather conditions as rain-producing systems may bring showers and thunderstorms to parts of the country after a relatively dry spell. The Pakistan Meteorological Department regularly monitors approaching weather systems and issues forecasts for affected regions. During the coming days, rainfall activity is expected to remain variable, with some areas experiencing intermittent showers while others may continue to see mainly dry conditions. Upper parts of the country are generally more likely to experience rain and thunderstorms when westerly systems become active.



For the next 10 days, weather conditions should therefore be monitored through updated PMD forecasts rather than treated as a fixed nationwide rainfall prediction. Rainfall timing and intensity can change as weather systems develop, so residents are advised to check local forecasts and official weather alerts before planning outdoor activities.

Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa may also experience scattered rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds under favourable weather conditions. Earlier PMD forecasts have included cities such as Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Peshawar and Mardan among areas that can receive rainfall during active weather spells.

Pakistan Weather Update: Rain and Snow Expected in Several Cities

Rain, thunderstorms and snowfall may affect northern areas, while several parts of Punjab and Sindh could also receive showers.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa may see rain and snowfall in Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kohat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Malakand, Mingora and other northern and hilly areas. Higher elevations are more likely to receive snowfall, which could affect road travel and visibility in mountainous regions. Parts of Sindh and Balochistan may also experience changing weather conditions, with Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta, Sukkur, Quetta and Ziarat among the areas to watch for rain or cloudy conditions. Weather intensity can vary from city to city, and not every listed location is expected to receive heavy rainfall.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): A weather system is expected to bring rain, thunderstorms and snowfall to several parts of Pakistan on October 16, with northern and upper parts of the country likely to experience the main impact. Cities and areas including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Swat, Kalam, Malam Jabba, Dir, Chitral, Gilgit and Skardu may experience rain or snowfall under the prevailing weather conditions. In Punjab, rainfall is possible in Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Gujrat, Jhelum, Chakwal, Attock, Faisalabad, Sargodha and surrounding areas. Some locations may receive thunderstorms and gusty winds, while temperatures are expected to remain comparatively cooler following the change in weather.