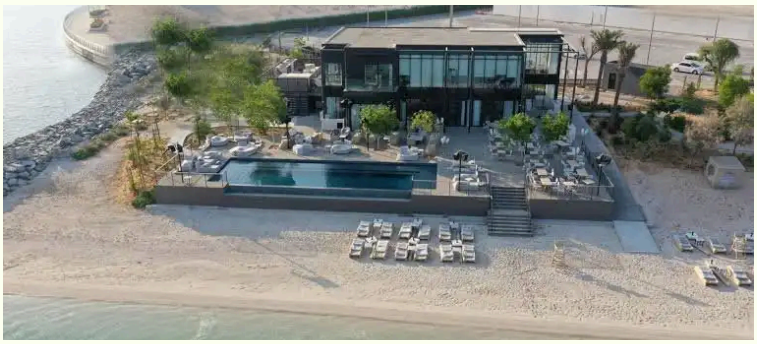
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INTERNATIONAL

TARAF, Mubadala plan 10-plot waterfront development on Al Reem Island



Proposed mixed-use project could span 655,000 square feet with residential, retail and commercial spaces.

(International Desk) Abu Dhabi: TARAF, the real-estate arm of Yas Holding, and Abu Dhabi sovereign investor Mubadala have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore a major mixed-use waterfront development on Al Reem Island. The proposed masterplan would cover 10 plots across approximately 655,000 square feet of land, with around 5.4 million square feet of gross floor area. The concept is planned to bring together residential, commercial, retail and dining spaces within a waterfront-focused development. Proposed residential options include one- to four-bedroom apartments and penthouses, while landscaped pedestrian routes, public plazas and improved access to the waterfront are also part of the concept.

The proposed development is intended to create an integrated urban destination combining living, business and leisure facilities. The waterfront setting and planned pedestrian areas are expected to form key elements of the overall masterplan if the proposal moves forward. However, the project is still at the exploration and planning stage. The MoU establishes a framework for TARAF and Mubadala to study and progress the proposed development, but it does not confirm that construction has started or that the project has received final development approval. No final project cost, construction start date, completion timeline or detailed delivery schedule has been announced. Further details will depend on the outcome of the planning and development process.

Burj Al Arab set to reopen in October 2027 after major restoration

Dubai's iconic hotel undergoes its first large-scale restoration in more than 25 years.

(International Desk) Dubai: Dubai's iconic Burj Al Arab has temporarily closed for an extensive 18-month restoration programme and is expected to reopen to guests in October 2027. The hotel, which first opened in 1999, is undergoing its first major restoration of this scale since beginning operations. The restoration programme is being led by French interior architect Tristan Auer, with work focused on upgrading the hotel's interiors while preserving its distinctive architectural identity and luxury character. The project covers several key areas of the property.



According to the available information, restoration work includes the hotel's suites, restaurants and leisure spaces. The upgrades are intended to refresh the guest experience while maintaining the design elements and features that have made Burj Al Arab one of Dubai's most recognisable landmarks. The temporary closure forms part of a long-term programme to maintain and modernise the property after more than two decades of operation.

Etihad Rail begins first passenger trips between Dubai, Abu Dhabi

First passenger train departs Dubai as new rail service connects the UAE's two major cities.

(International Desk) **Dubai:** Etihad Rail officially launched passenger services between Dubai and Abu Dhabi on September 30, marking the start of a new rail connection between the two emirates. The first train departed Dubai at 6:14am, carrying residents, tourists and families on the inaugural journey. The first service also included Greek visitors travelling in the UAE, highlighting the potential of the new rail link to support tourism as well as everyday travel. The journey between Dubai and Abu Dhabi took around one hour and four minutes, offering passengers an additional transport option between the two major cities.



The passenger service is expected to improve connectivity between Dubai and Abu Dhabi by providing a rail alternative to road travel. It is also intended to support people travelling between the emirates for work, family visits, tourism and other activities. The launch represents an important step in the development of the UAE's national railway network and its passenger transport services. The connection is expected to make inter-emirate travel more convenient while supporting wider mobility and tourism objectives. Etihad Rail's passenger services are now operating following the inaugural journey, giving residents and visitors another option for travelling between Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi plans Dh250bn power, water expansion over next decade

Major spending programme will expand electricity, water and district-cooling infrastructure to support future growth.

(International Desk) **Abu Dhabi:** Abu Dhabi plans to commit around Dh250 billion over the next 10 years to expand electricity, water and district-cooling infrastructure, according to Department of Energy Chairman Dr Abdulla Humaid Al Jarwan. He announced the planned investment while speaking at LIVEX 2026 on September 29. The investment is aimed at preparing Abu Dhabi's utility networks for continued urban and economic growth, including the development of new neighbourhoods, hospitals, schools and universities. Electricity demand is expected to increase significantly over the coming decade, requiring additional generation, transmission and distribution capacity.

Al Jarwan also said clean and sustainable power had increased from less than 1 percent of Abu Dhabi's energy mix a decade ago to more than 5 percent today. He added that the carbon footprint of water production had declined by around 20 percent over the same period, while production costs had also fallen.

The Department of Energy has a long-term strategy for Abu Dhabi's energy and water sectors extending to 2050, with priorities including secure supply, efficiency and lower emissions. The planned investment is expected to support the emirate's infrastructure requirements as population and economic activity continue to expand. However, a detailed official breakdown showing how the full Dh250 billion investment will be distributed among individual projects or sectors has not yet been published in the sources reviewed. Further details are expected as specific infrastructure projects are announced.



Abu Dhabi tests AI to map pedestrians' exposure to traffic pollution

DMT and MIT research lab develop two AI systems to study vehicle emissions and pedestrian exposure.

(International Desk) **Abu Dhabi:** The Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) and MIT Senseable City Lab are developing two artificial intelligence-based research tools to better understand traffic emissions and pedestrians' exposure to pollution across Abu Dhabi. The projects, named Exposure AI and Emission AI, are being developed as part of an expanded urban research partnership. Exposure AI is designed to assess the level of traffic-related pollution pedestrians may encounter while moving through different urban areas. Emission AI uses artificial intelligence to analyse dashcam footage and estimate emissions from individual vehicles, helping planners develop a more detailed understanding of pollution sources and exposure patterns.

According to the Abu Dhabi Media Office, both systems are currently proof-of-concept projects and are nearing completion. This means they should be considered tools under development and testing rather than fully deployed citywide services. The expanded partnership between DMT and MIT Senseable City Lab was signed at LIVEX 2026 by Fatema Al Mutawa, Acting Executive Director of DMT's Strategy Sector, and Carlo Ratti, Director of MIT Senseable City Lab. The collaboration goes beyond traffic emissions and includes research into urban heat, mobility, AI-assisted tree planting and light pollution.



GCC hotels to add 126,000 rooms by 2030, Saudi Arabia leads expansion

Saudi Arabia leads the pipeline while the UAE remains a major contributor to the region's hotel supply.

(International Desk) **Dubai:** GCC countries are expected to add around 126,000 new hotel rooms by 2030, increasing the region's current supply by approximately 25 percent and taking total inventory to nearly 616,000 rooms, according to a report by property consultancy Cavendish Maxwell released at the Future Hospitality Summit World. The GCC currently has around 490,000 hotel rooms in operation, with the UAE accounting for approximately 43 percent of the region's existing supply. As of August 2026, the UAE had around 212,135 hotel rooms, including approximately 151,380 rooms in Dubai, highlighting the emirate's significant role in the regional hospitality market. Saudi Arabia is expected to lead the expansion, with almost 94,500 new hotel rooms in its development pipeline. If delivered as planned, the additions could take Saudi Arabia's total hotel supply to nearly 275,300 rooms by 2030. The UAE ranks second, with more than 23,000 rooms in the pipeline, including around 11,180 planned for Dubai.



Despite the expected increase in supply, the report indicates softer hotel occupancy across GCC markets during the first eight months of 2026. Saudi Arabia recorded around 59 percent occupancy, while the UAE averaged a similar level, with Dubai experiencing a sharper year-on-year decline. The figures highlight continued investment in GCC hospitality infrastructure while also pointing to the need for sustained visitor demand as thousands of new rooms enter the market over the coming years. The expansion is expected to support growing tourism, business travel and major events across the Gulf region. At the same time, rising room supply could increase competition among hotels, particularly in markets where occupancy has softened. The pace of new hotel openings will therefore remain an important factor for the region's hospitality and tourism sectors.

Dubai rent hikes face limits as RERA index sets rules

Landlords must follow the official rental index and 90-day notice requirement before increasing rent.

(International Desk) Dubai: Tenants in Dubai can challenge a proposed rent increase if the RERA Smart Rental Index does not permit a hike for their property. Dubai Land Department guidance states that a rent increase is subject to the applicable rental index and the required notice procedures. Under Dubai tenancy rules, landlords or tenants seeking to change rental value or other contract terms generally need to provide at least 90 days' notice before the tenancy contract expires, unless both parties have agreed otherwise. The notice requirement applies to proposed changes in rental value and other contractual terms. The permitted rent increase can range from 0% to 20%, depending on how much the existing rent falls below the average rental value for similar properties. If the current rent is up to 10% below the average value, no increase is allowed. Higher differences may allow increases of 5%, 10%, 15% or 20% under the applicable rules.

Tenants can check the official DLD Rental Index before responding to a rent increase notice to determine whether their property is eligible for a hike. If the landlord and tenant cannot reach an agreement, the matter can be referred to Dubai's Rental Dispute Centre for resolution. The rules provide tenants with a formal mechanism to review and challenge rental increases that do not comply with the applicable index or notice requirements.



Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif receives red-carpet welcome in Italy

Italian Defence Minister welcomes Khawaja Asif as Pakistan-Italy defence ties continue to strengthen.

(International Desk) New York: Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif received a red-carpet welcome from Italy's Defence Minister during his visit to Italy. The reception reflected the warm diplomatic engagement and growing interaction between Pakistan and Italy. The visit provides an opportunity for both sides to strengthen bilateral relations and discuss matters of mutual interest, particularly in the defence and security sectors. The welcome also highlights continued high-level engagement between the two countries.

Khawaja Asif's visit comes as Pakistan seeks to expand cooperation with international partners in areas of defence, security and other strategic interests. Engagements between defence officials can also provide a platform for discussing regional developments and opportunities for institutional cooperation. The available statement focuses on the reception and does not provide details of specific agreements, defence deals or decisions reached during the visit. Further information regarding the minister's meetings and agenda may be released through official channels.



NATIONAL

M-1, M-14 motorways reopen as roadblock removal continues

M-1 and other major routes see phased restoration after days of closures and traffic disruption.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter) : Authorities have started removing roadblocks from the M-1 Islamabad–Peshawar Motorway and other major routes as traffic restoration begins following several days of closures. The clearance operation is being carried out in phases, with teams working to remove barriers and restore normal movement. According to current reports, the GT Road at Khairabad has been reopened, while removal of obstacles from parts of the M-1 motorway is still continuing. Motorway police-linked updates indicate that sandbags, metal sheets and containers placed on affected routes are being removed gradually.



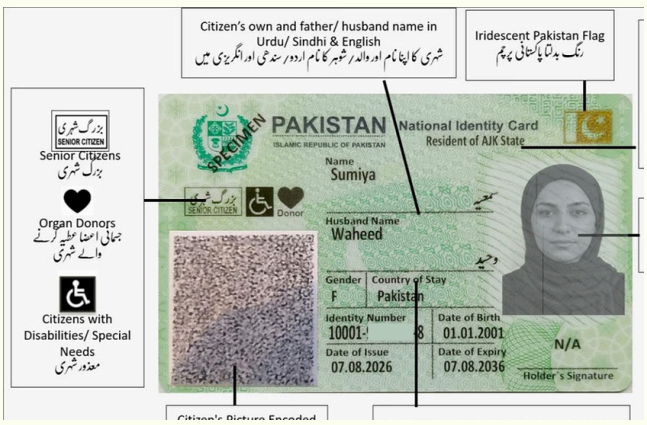
The M-1 had earlier remained closed between Islamabad Toll Plaza and Chhachh Interchange, while the M-14 Islamabad–Dera Ismail Khan Motorway was closed between Hakla and Kundal. The closures had affected traffic movement on important routes connecting different regions. The National Highways and Motorway Police had announced that the M-1, M-14 and E-35 would reopen from 6:00am on September 27. However, reports later in the day showed that physical barriers were still being cleared at some locations, indicating that reopening was taking place in stages rather than simultaneously across all points. Officials said some obstacles required additional time for removal due to their placement and structure.

NADRA adds family digital IDs, new verification tools to PakID

Version 5.8.0 adds family digital IDs, QR verification and mobile biometric vaccination services.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has introduced Pak Identity version 5.8.0, adding new digital identity and verification features for citizens. The update was released on September 24, while NADRA highlighted the newly added services on September 26. Under the updated application, users can now obtain, view, securely store and share the digital IDs of their spouse and eligible children along with their own digital identity. The expansion is part of NADRA's wider Digital ID system, which supports digital document management, QR-based sharing and verification services.

The latest version also introduces QR verification facilities for Child Registration Certificates (B-Forms) and ID Cancellation Certificates. Users can scan the digital QR codes through the PakID app to access verified information and confirm the authenticity of relevant documents. The update further includes mobile biometric verification for influenza and meningitis vaccinations linked to Hajj and Umrah requirements. The feature is aimed at facilitating digital verification processes for citizens requiring vaccination-related confirmation.



NADRA has advised users to update their PakID application to access the newly introduced services. The authority continues to expand digital identity solutions as part of efforts to improve access to documentation and verification services through online platforms. The authority said the updated application is designed to make identity-related services more accessible through digital channels. Users can now manage multiple identity services without visiting offices for every process. NADRA has encouraged citizens to keep their applications updated to benefit from the latest verification and digital identity features. The new services are part of the ongoing expansion of Pakistan's digital identity infrastructure.

IG Islamabad takes action on police officers' issues

IGP directs relevant officers to resolve legitimate service and welfare matters under applicable rules.



Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): Inspector General of Police Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry held an Orderly Room at the Central Police Office, where police officers and officials presented their personal and service-related issues. The session provided personnel with an opportunity to directly raise their concerns before the police chief. During the session, the IGP listened to the issues presented by the officers and directed relevant officials to take timely action in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. The directions focused on ensuring that legitimate concerns raised by police personnel are addressed through the proper departmental process. The IGP said resolving genuine welfare and departmental matters was important for maintaining the morale and effectiveness of police personnel. He emphasised that officers and officials should receive appropriate attention regarding legitimate service-related issues so they can perform their duties more effectively.

The Orderly Room is part of the department's mechanism for hearing personnel concerns and facilitating communication between police officials and senior command. Such sessions also allow the leadership to review individual matters and direct concerned departments for necessary follow-up. However, the official update does not disclose the total number of applications heard during the session or provide the final outcome of individual requests. Further details regarding specific cases or decisions were not included in the available information. The police leadership said officers' welfare and legitimate departmental concerns would continue to receive attention through established procedures. Relevant officers were instructed to ensure timely follow-up on the matters raised. Further outcomes will depend on departmental review and decisions under the applicable rules.

Islamabad faces 72-hour deadline to release goods vehicles

Transporters claim more than 3,000 vehicles were stopped during security measures linked to planned political protests.

Islamabad: (Staff Reporter): The All Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance has given the Islamabad administration and police 72 hours to release more than 3,000 loaded and empty vehicles that it claims were stopped or detained during security arrangements for political protests. Alliance President Malik Shahzad Awan said the restrictions had disrupted cargo movement in Islamabad and several parts of Punjab.According to the alliance, the stoppage of vehicles has caused financial losses for transporters and affected the movement of goods. The group said authorities should release the vehicles within the given three-day period, warning that it would announce its next course of action if the demand was not met.

Authorities had placed shipping containers and imposed road restrictions at several locations in and around Islamabad ahead of a planned PTI march. The political gathering was later postponed to October 4, while security arrangements and restrictions had already affected movement on some routes. The transport alliance said the situation was creating difficulties for the goods transport sector and disrupting normal cargo operations. It called for the immediate removal of restrictions affecting transporters and the release of vehicles being held.



However, the alliance's claim that more than 3,000 vehicles were affected, as well as its estimates of financial losses, could not be independently verified. Further action by the transporters will depend on the response from the Islamabad administration and police.

SIFC intervention reopens Chinese factory in Dhabeji after seven months

Hunan Resources restarts industrial facility after SIFC intervention and coordination over investor concerns.

Dhabeji: (Badar Butt): Chinese investor Hunan Resources SMC (Private) Limited has resumed operations at its industrial facility in Dhabeji, District Thatta, after remaining closed for around seven months. Published reports said the facility had been shut since February 2026 before operations were restored. In a September 15 letter, the company thanked Pakistan's Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for its intervention and coordination during the period of closure. The company said the support helped protect its investment and renewed its confidence in continuing business operations in Pakistan. The specific issue that led to the shutdown has not been publicly disclosed by the company. SIFC said coordinated facilitation was used to address the investor's concerns and help resolve the matter, allowing the company to resume its activities.



The reopening is being viewed as a positive development for Pakistan's investment environment, particularly as the government continues efforts to facilitate foreign investors and address issues affecting industrial operations. The company's return to operations also signals continued interest in maintaining its investment in the country. However, no details have been made public regarding any financial settlement or the specific terms under which the dispute was resolved. Information about the facility's production capacity, workforce and potential employment impact following the reopening has also not been disclosed.



KP CM Sohail Afridi, Junaid Akbar head to Gandi Chowk in Lakki Marwat

PTI's planned march begins from Gandi Chowk as participants from several districts prepare to join the convoy.

Lakki Marwat: (Staff Reporter): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi and PTI KP President Junaid Akbar have set out for Gandi Chowk in Lakki Marwat as the party begins the first phase of its planned march. The gathering point has been designated for participants joining the procession from different districts of the province. According to the announced schedule, the first phase is set to begin from Gandi Chowk at 1pm on October 4. Participants from Tank, Dera Ismail Khan, South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Bannu and Lakki Marwat are expected to join the convoy before it moves towards Karak. The announced route includes Karak and Kohat before the convoy moves towards Peshawar. Further participants from Kohat, Hangu, Kurram and Orakzai are scheduled to join the procession on October 6, followed by gatherings in Peshawar and other areas of the province.

The development comes after government-opposition talks over the planned march ended without a final agreement. The march is being organised by PTI amid ongoing political differences, while authorities have also announced security and traffic measures around affected routes. The next course of action is expected to be announced after the provincial caravans converge at the designated points.

The march is expected to bring together participants from several districts before moving towards other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Authorities are also monitoring security and traffic arrangements along the announced route. Further developments will depend on the movement of the caravans and the next decisions of the organisers.

GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Punjab's pink salt hub targets 10,000 jobs across 110 acres

Rs5 billion financing scheme aims to support value addition, processing and export of Pakistani pink salt.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): Punjab is developing a specialised Pink Salt Mineral Processing Zone on 110 acres near Quaidabad as part of efforts to process, package and market Pakistani pink salt as value-added products instead of relying mainly on exports of raw material. According to the latest government briefing, the Quaidabad industrial cluster is planned to accommodate around 200 value-addition units and could create more than 10,000 employment opportunities. These figures represent programme targets and should not be treated as evidence that all 200 units are already operational or that the projected jobs have already been created. Punjab has allocated Rs5 billion for interest-free financing under the Chief Minister Pink Salt Value Addition Financing Scheme. Eligible businesses can receive financing of up to Rs50 million for activities including salt processing, refining, grinding, cleaning, packaging and related technology. The chief minister distributed financing cheques to 10 businesses on October 1.

The government says the broader initiative is aimed at strengthening Pakistani branding, increasing domestic processing and improving the export value of pink salt. Officials have projected that greater value addition could eventually increase annual pink-salt exports by up to $300 million. However, the projected $300 million increase represents a government estimate rather than an achieved export gain. The processing zone and financing programme are therefore part of a broader future-oriented industrial strategy rather than evidence of completed export growth.



Maryam Nawaz launches two electric bus routes in Gujranwala

CM sets March deadline for Mass Transit Project and directs early construction of 268-bed cardiac facility.

Gujranwala: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited Gujranwala and launched two electric bus routes as part of efforts to improve public transport in the city. During the visit, she reviewed ongoing development initiatives and inspected the proposed site of the Gujranwala Institute of Cardiology. The chief minister directed officials to begin construction of the cardiology institute at the earliest. The planned facility will have a capacity of 268 beds and will be developed on 50 kanals. It is designed to provide specialised cardiac healthcare services to residents of Gujranwala and surrounding areas. According to the project details, the institute will include emergency services, a coronary care unit (CCU), intensive care unit (ICU), modern operation theatres and angiography catheterisation laboratories. The facility will also include diagnostic services such as CT scans, ultrasound and gamma camera facilities.

During the visit, Maryam Nawaz also reviewed progress on the Gujranwala Mass Transit Project and set March as the deadline for its completion. She stressed that further delays in the project would not be acceptable and directed relevant officials to ensure timely completion. The launch of the electric bus routes and planned development of the cardiology institute are part of wider efforts to improve public transport and healthcare infrastructure in Gujranwala. Further details regarding the exact completion date of the cardiac facility were not provided.



Punjab, World Bank discuss high-speed internet and Rs300bn industrial push



Maryam Aurangzeb reviews broadband expansion, STEP financing, agriculture reforms and Nawaz Sharif IT City.

Lahore:(Badar Butt): Senior Punjab Minister Maryam Aurangzeb met a World Bank delegation on October 2 to discuss Punjab's digital transformation, agriculture, industrial development, technology and investment agenda. The meeting covered high-speed internet expansion, private-sector fibre networks, Kisan Card, modern agricultural machinery, irrigation improvements, STEP financing, e-commerce and Nawaz Sharif IT City. On digital connectivity, the meeting was informed that the Punjab Information Technology Board is working with the World Bank to improve internet access. The Connected Punjab Programme, approved with $70 million in World Bank financing in June 2026, aims to expand broadband through private investment, improve digital public services and support AI-enabled government systems. The initiative should not be described as a confirmed province-wide 5G mobile-network rollout.

The meeting also discussed the Sanati Taraqi & Export Promotion (STEP) programme. The scheme involves around Rs193 billion in financing and support designed to mobilise approximately Rs300 billion in private-sector investment. Agriculture-related discussions included Kisan Card, super seeders, modern machinery and improved canal-water delivery to tail-end farmers. Maryam Aurangzeb said the provincial government is targeting up to a 30 percent increase in major crop production over three to five years. This remains a government target rather than an achieved result.

Punjab completes 96 underground water tanks across 51 cities

96 water-storage tanks and 106 drains completed as authorities accelerate drainage projects ahead of monsoon.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique chaired a review of the Punjab Development Programme (PDP) at the Programme Management Unit in Garden Town, where officials reviewed municipal infrastructure projects being implemented across 51 cities. Local Government Secretary Zaid Bin Maqsood and Project Director Shahid Zaman Lak were among the officials attending the meeting. Officials reported that 96 of 110 underground water-storage tanks and 106 of 124 drains under the programme have been completed. Work has also started on 25 disposal stations, which the department wants completed on priority before the next monsoon season. The PDP is focused on improving urban drainage and basic municipal infrastructure by connecting underground storage tanks, drainage systems and disposal facilities. The programme is intended to strengthen cities' capacity to manage rainwater and reduce the risk of water accumulation during heavy rainfall.



The government has also provided suction machines and desilting units to participating cities to improve drainage operations and support maintenance activities. Officials reviewed the progress of ongoing schemes and discussed measures to accelerate work on remaining components. However, the reported progress figures should not be presented as a fresh increase recorded specifically on October 3. The same figures were officially reported by APP on September 25 and were repeated in the October 3 review coverage. The minister directed officials to maintain construction quality and speed up work on the remaining drainage facilities. Authorities said continued progress would help strengthen municipal services and improve preparedness for future monsoon rainfall.

REAL ESTATE

Lahore DC reviews reconstruction work at Islamia Park Girls School

Officials directed to ensure quality standards and timely completion of educational facility project.



Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Ali Ijaz visited Government Girls Elementary School Islamia Park and reviewed the ongoing reconstruction work at the site. The visit was aimed at assessing the progress of the project and ensuring that development activities are being carried out according to required standards. Chief Officer Metropolitan Corporation Lahore Kaleem Yousaf, Assistant Commissioner City Rana Aamir Liaquat, CEO Education Tariq Mahmood and other officials were also present during the visit. The CEO Education briefed the deputy commissioner about the ongoing construction activities and the current progress of the reconstruction work.

During the inspection, Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Ali Ijaz directed officials to maintain quality standards and complete the project within the given timeline. He emphasised that educational facilities should be developed according to modern requirements to provide students with a better learning environment. The deputy commissioner stated that improving school infrastructure and providing better educational facilities for students remain among the administration's priorities. He instructed relevant departments to ensure proper monitoring of construction work and maintain quality throughout the project. The available information does not provide details regarding the total project cost, completion percentage or expected completion date. Further updates regarding the reconstruction progress are expected from the relevant authorities.

New Lahore City Phase 2 extension sees rapid transformation as development work accelerates

Earthwork, road construction and infrastructure activities underway as project progresses.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Development work at New Lahore City Phase 2 Extension is progressing with construction activities continuing across different sections of the project. The ongoing work includes earthwork, road construction, drainage development, street infrastructure and asphalt activities. According to the latest project update, teams are actively working on ground to develop the extension as a planned residential area with improved connectivity and essential infrastructure facilities. The development activities are focused on establishing road networks and supporting infrastructure required for future growth. The ongoing construction reflects continued progress at the project site, with multiple infrastructure components being developed simultaneously. Road and drainage works are considered key stages in preparing a housing development for future residential activity.

The project is being developed as an extension area aimed at enhancing planned urban growth and providing improved facilities for future residents. Current updates highlight construction progress, while additional details regarding project phases and upcoming development milestones have not been provided. However, information regarding the expected completion timeline, approval details and infrastructure handover schedule remains unavailable in the latest update. Further progress details are expected through future project announcements.



Etihad Town Sialkot reports development progress across four residential blocks



Residential plot possession announced as development activity continues on Main Sialkot–Daska Road.

Sialkot: (Staff Reporter): Development work at Etihad Town is continuing across Blocks A, B, C and the Executive Block of the housing project located on Main Sialkot–Daska Road. The project is being developed as a planned residential and commercial community, with infrastructure and development activities progressing across different areas. According to the project's official information, Etihad Town is designed to provide residential and commercial spaces along with planned community infrastructure. However, the available project material does not provide a dated overall completion percentage or a block-wise schedule confirming when each section will be fully completed. A developer press release published on September 28, 2026, also reported the commencement of residential plot possession. This followed the announcement of commercial possession in January, marking another development milestone for the project.

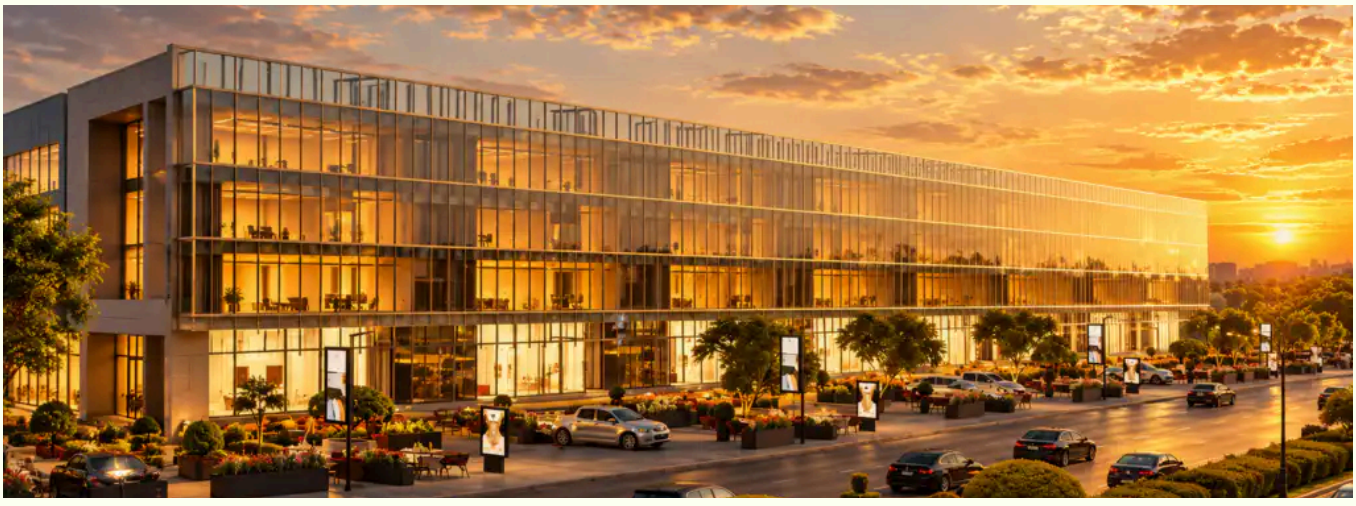
The possession announcements indicate progress in the handover process, but they should not be interpreted as confirmation that every block, utility service or advertised facility across the entire project has been completed and made operational. The latest update reflects continued development and phased handover activity at Etihad Town Sialkot. Further details regarding block-wise completion, remaining infrastructure works and the delivery schedule have not been provided.

Lake City Lahore launches Downtown Premiere commercial buildings

Limited commercial buildings offered on a two-year payment plan along Lake City Main Boulevard.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Lake City Lahore has introduced Downtown Premiere, a new commercial offering comprising a limited number of buildings with approximately 14,000 square feet of covered area. According to the developer, the project is located on the 150-foot Lake City Main Boulevard, which connects with Pine Avenue and provides access toward major parts of Lahore. Lake City says the commercial buildings are being offered on a two-year payment plan and are intended for a range of business activities, including retail outlets, restaurants, cafés and corporate offices. The developer is currently marketing the project and inviting inquiries from potential buyers and businesses. The location is being promoted for its visibility and connectivity through Pine Avenue and the Lake City Ring Road Interchange. The developer says the positioning is intended to provide businesses with convenient access and exposure along a major commercial corridor.

Downtown Premiere is being marketed as a premium commercial destination, with the developer highlighting its location and potential investment appeal. However, claims such as "The Most Premium Commercial Address" are promotional statements and should not be treated as independently verified indicators of commercial performance. No independent evidence identified during the available research establishes guaranteed rental returns, capital gains or future price appreciation for Downtown Premiere. Potential buyers should therefore review the project's official documentation, payment plan, approvals and commercial terms before making any investment decision.



Aureum Mall & Residences set to begin excavation in October

Mixed-use project schedules digging work for October 1 at Bahria Town Ring Road Interchange.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): Aureum Mall & Residences is scheduled to begin digging and excavation on October 1, 2026, marking the next development stage of the mixed-use project located near the Bahria Town Ring Road Interchange in Lahore. Developer-linked updates published ahead of the date repeatedly identified October 1 as the planned start of excavation. The project is being marketed as a mixed-use development combining residential apartments, commercial shops, offices and hospitality-related spaces. According to the project's official website, Aureum Mall & Residences is located in Bahria Town Lahore and provides access to the Lahore Ring Road SL-3 corridor. The scheduled excavation represents an important early construction milestone for the development. The project's promotional material has been highlighting the start of physical construction activity as it moves forward from the planning and marketing stage.

However, the "1 Day Left" update circulated ahead of the scheduled date should be treated as a developer-issued construction milestone announcement. It does not establish that excavation had already started on September 30. The key verified status is that digging and excavation were scheduled to begin on October 1, 2026. Further details regarding the project's construction timeline, completion date and individual development phases have not been established through the supplied information.



OZ Developers offers Bahria Sky 2 food court units from Rs40,000 per sq ft

OZ Developers markets fourth-floor food court spaces as construction progresses at Bahria Orchard Phase 4.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): OZ Developers is marketing food court units at Bahria Sky 2, a mixed-use development located in Bahria Orchard Phase 4, Lahore. According to the developer's official project information, the food court is planned on the fourth floor of the building as part of the project's commercial offering. The supplied offer states that booking for food court units starts from Rs40,000 per square foot. Recent third-party project listings also show a price of around Rs40,000 per square foot for fourth-floor food court units. However, current discounts, available unit sizes, payment terms and inventory should be reconfirmed directly with the developer before booking.

Bahria Sky 2 is being marketed as a mixed-use project offering commercial and other facilities within the development. The food court component is intended to provide dedicated space for food and dining businesses, adding to the project's commercial activity. OZ Developers' official project updates indicate that excavation and several early construction milestones have already been completed. This places Bahria Sky 2 in the construction stage rather than at only a launch or promotional phase.



However, the supplied information does not establish a guaranteed completion date, rental return or future capital appreciation for the food court units. Prospective buyers should independently verify approvals, unit details, payment schedules, construction progress and applicable charges before making an investment decision. The project's location in Bahria Orchard Phase 4 is being promoted as an important factor for commercial activity. Buyers should confirm the latest availability and pricing directly from the developer before proceeding with any booking.

METRO POLITAN

LWMC chief reviews cleanliness work across Lahore's old streets

CEO Shahryar Arif Khan inspects narrow streets and reviews door-to-door waste collection services.



Lahore: (Badar Butt): CEO Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) Shahryar Arif Khan visited the inner streets of Gujjarpura to review cleanliness arrangements and assess waste management services under the Suthra Punjab cleanliness programme. Deputy CEO Operations Mubeen Ahsan and Senior Manager Fleet Muneeb-ur-Rehman were also present during the visit. According to LWMC, Shahryar Arif Khan toured residential areas and narrow streets using an environment-friendly bike of the anti-littering squad to observe sanitation activities closely. During the field visit, the LWMC chief reviewed waste collection operations and gathered feedback from residents regarding door-to-door waste collection services. The inspection focused on evaluating cleanliness standards and understanding public response to ongoing sanitation efforts.

LWMC stated that residents expressed satisfaction with the performance of Suthra Punjab cleanliness teams working in the area. The company said such field visits are part of continuous monitoring to improve waste management services and ensure better sanitation facilities for citizens.Shahryar Arif Khan urged residents to cooperate with sanitation teams visiting homes for waste collection and play their role in maintaining a cleaner environment. He emphasised public participation as an important part of improving cleanliness across Lahore.

Major decisions taken in Lahore meeting to strengthen peace and security

Officials appreciate coordination between administration, police and community representatives during religious events.

Lahore: (Badar Butt): Lahore: A meeting of the District Peace Committee was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (retd) Muhammad Ali Ijaz, DIG Operations Faisal Kamran and CTO Lahore Syed Abdul Rahim Shirazi. Members of the District Peace Committee, including Chairman Mufti Intikhab Alam, also attended the session. During the meeting, officials appreciated the committee's role in maintaining peace and coordination during religious occasions, including Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ and Ashura. Members of the committee were also presented certificates of appreciation in recognition of their efforts in supporting peaceful arrangements. The officials highlighted the importance of cooperation between the district administration, police department and community representatives for maintaining law and order. They said the District Peace Committee has remained actively involved during major religious events and challenging situations.



The meeting also reviewed the importance of continued coordination among stakeholders to ensure effective arrangements and promote a peaceful environment across the district. Officials emphasised that community participation plays an important role in preventing misunderstandings and strengthening social harmony.

Lahore completes polio drive, vaccinates over 2.2 million children

Health teams exceed vaccination target as administration reviews campaign performance.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): The seven-day anti-polio campaign in Lahore has been successfully completed, with health teams vaccinating more children than the set target. A polio review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (retd) Muhammad Ali Ijaz, where officials reviewed the overall progress and performance of the campaign. According to the briefing by CEO Health Dr Asif Arbab Khan, the target was to vaccinate 2,285,477 children during the campaign. Health teams administered polio drops to 2,288,978 children within seven days, exceeding the assigned target.



The administration also stated that all 711 reported refusal cases were covered during the campaign. Officials said teams continued field efforts to reach children and ensure maximum vaccination coverage across different areas of Lahore. The review meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Municipal Services Abdullah Khan, assistant commissioners, additional assistant commissioners, DDHOs and international observers. Officials discussed campaign progress and appreciated the coordination between health teams and district administration. Deputy Commissioner Lahore appreciated the efforts of polio workers, health officials and administrative teams for completing the campaign successfully. Authorities said continued vaccination activities and public cooperation remain important for maintaining protection against polio. The administration said monitoring activities will continue to ensure vaccination coverage remains effective across the city. Health teams will continue awareness efforts to encourage parents to cooperate in future polio drives. Officials also highlighted public participation as a key factor in preventing the spread of the disease.

Major cleanup operation in Gulberg as over 1,000 workers deployed

Over 1,000 workers and 134 vehicles deployed for sanitation and waste collection activities.

Peshawar: (Badar Butt): Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) CEO Shahryar Arif Khan visited Gulberg Town to review cleanliness arrangements and door-to-door waste collection services. During the field visit, he inspected sanitation activities in different areas and collected direct feedback from residents regarding waste management services. According to LWMC, more than 1,000 workers and 134 operational vehicles are engaged in a special cleanliness operation across Gulberg Town. The company has also deployed 170 loader rickshaws to strengthen door-to-door waste collection services in the area. During the inspection, Shahryar Arif Khan monitored mechanical sweeping and washing activities on MM Alam Road, Kalma Chowk and Noor Jahan Road. He also reviewed sanitation arrangements at key commercial locations including Ali Zeb Road, Main Market, Liberty and Barkat Market.

The LWMC CEO said Suthra Punjab teams are continuing container clearance and door-to-door waste collection operations across Lahore. He directed teams to maintain cleanliness standards and ensure effective waste management services in residential and commercial areas. Citizens were requested to cooperate with sanitation teams by handing over waste through designated collection systems and avoiding littering. LWMC officials said regular field monitoring will continue to improve cleanliness arrangements across the city. The company said special cleanliness operations are being carried out to improve sanitation standards in busy commercial and residential areas. LWMC teams are also focusing on timely waste lifting and maintaining cleanliness around major roads and markets. The administration has urged residents and traders to support cleanliness efforts for a healthier urban environment. Further monitoring of sanitation activities will continue across different areas of Lahore.





Omer Farooq Park development nears completion in Sohrab Goth

KMC Parks Department completes final work as new public recreational space prepares for opening.

Karachi: (Staff Reporter): Development and construction work on Omer Farooq Park in the Sohrab Goth area is nearing completion by the Parks Department of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). According to the available information, the park will be opened for public use soon after completion of the remaining works. The project is aimed at improving recreational facilities and providing residents of the area with a dedicated public space for outdoor activities and community engagement. The development is part of wider efforts to enhance parks and improve public amenities across Karachi. The KMC Parks Department has been working on the development of the facility to create a better environment for local residents. Public parks play an important role in providing open spaces for families, children and communities in densely populated urban areas.

The completion of Omer Farooq Park is expected to add another recreational facility in the Sohrab Goth area and support efforts to improve the availability of community spaces in the city. However, the available information does not provide details regarding the total project cost, park area, facilities being added or the official opening date. Further details about the park's features and inauguration schedule are expected through official announcements. The project is expected to provide residents with improved access to recreational facilities and a better outdoor environment. Further updates regarding the park's opening and available amenities will be shared by the relevant authorities.

Peshawar speeds up construction of Rs2.28bn Jameel Chowk underpass

Rs2.283 billion project targets improved traffic flow, with government seeking faster completion.

Peshawar: (Staff Reporter): Construction work on the Jameel Chowk Underpass is progressing under the Peshawar Revitalisation Plan after Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi laid its foundation stone on August 28, 2026. The project is being constructed on Peshawar Ring Road to improve traffic movement at the busy Jameel Chowk intersection. Official Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) tender documents list the project as Package IV under the Ring Road traffic-hotspot programme. The estimated construction cost is around Rs2.283 billion, while the original contract provides a construction period of 90 days. At the groundbreaking ceremony, the chief minister said the government wanted the project completed within 60 days. However, the 60-day period should be treated as an accelerated government target, while the original contractual completion period remains 90 days.

The underpass is part of the wider Peshawar Revitalisation Plan, which includes multiple road, flyover and underpass projects aimed at reducing traffic congestion and improving connectivity across major city corridors. The latest supplied update describes construction activity as having picked up pace. However, no fresh official PDA progress percentage specifically for the Jameel Chowk Underpass was identified in the latest publicly available project information. Further updates are expected as construction advances and authorities continue monitoring the project against its targeted completion schedule.



LDA City land acquisition and development work accelerated

Tahir Farooq directs faster acquisition, transparent compensation and improved development operations.

Lahore: (Staff Reporter): LDA Director General Tahir Farooq visited LDA City on October 3 and reviewed ongoing land acquisition and development activities. Officials briefed him on progress in Mouza Toor Warraich, where the acquisition process is continuing, and the DG directed teams to accelerate the remaining work. Tahir Farooq ordered officials to ensure transparency in land acquisition and compensation payments and directed that all acquisition records be computerised. He also instructed authorities to address complaints strictly according to the relevant procedures and maintain proper documentation throughout the acquisition process. The LDA DG further directed teams to clear encroachments from acquired land and install LDA ownership boards, particularly on acquired properties located around Canal Road and Ring Road. Officials also briefed him about progress in Mouza Haloki, while additional machinery was ordered to accelerate development works across different parts of LDA City.



The visit comes as LDA City remains a major focus of the authority's ongoing development programme. The LDA's FY2026-27 budget includes Rs12.5 billion for LDA City development works, reflecting continued investment in infrastructure and related development activities. Separately, a new Pine Sector and solar lighting facilities in different blocks have also been approved as part of the development programme. The latest visit highlights the authority's focus on accelerating land acquisition, improving development activity and strengthening management of acquired land.

Karachi's new road linking Johar to Shahrah-e-Faisal nears completion

KMC reviews final works on new road connections aimed at improving access to Shahrah-e-Faisal.

Karachi: (Badar Butt): Construction of a major new link-road system connecting Natha Khan, Shahrah-e-Faisal and Gulistan-e-Johar has entered its final stage, according to a latest KMC project briefing reported on October 3. Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab visited the site and reviewed the remaining development works.The project includes two key road components. One section runs along Chakor Nala for approximately 2.4 kilometres and is around 38 to 40 feet wide. The work includes retaining structures, lighting, an RCC wall and a small bridge-type structure. Another section running parallel to Natha Khan Bridge is around 800 metres long and 36 feet wide, featuring a box culvert, retaining wall and an approximately 150-foot bridge. The broader project is aimed at creating an alternative connection between Gulistan-e-Johar and Shahrah-e-Faisal, helping reduce reliance on existing congested routes. Different reports have cited varying lengths for the connection, with ARY News describing the main direct link as around 2.25 kilometres.



KMC had earlier approved an alternative road near Natha Khan Bridge to ease traffic pressure in the area. Previous APP and Dawn reports also linked the wider Natha Khan–Pehlwan Goth connection with an estimated cost of around Rs8 billion. The latest site inspection indicates that major construction is nearing completion, although a specific final opening date has not been announced.

WEATHER

Heavy rain puts Rawalpindi, Islamabad on flood alert

Field teams deployed as authorities monitor water levels and urban flooding risks in twin cities.

Rawalpindi: (Staff Reporter): The Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi declared a rain emergency on September 28 after heavy rainfall affected Rawalpindi and Islamabad, leading to water accumulation in several low-lying areas. The agency mobilised field teams and deployed staff along with heavy machinery at vulnerable locations to manage the situation. WASA Managing Director directed officers to remain active in the field and monitor drainage operations during the rainfall spell. Teams were assigned to respond to water accumulation complaints and ensure timely drainage from affected areas.



Authorities are also continuously monitoring Nullah Lai, a major water channel in Rawalpindi. At the latest reported check, water levels remained within normal limits, recorded at around 5 feet at Katarian and 2 feet at Gawalmandi Bridge. The levels had not reached flood thresholds at the time of the update. The rain emergency was announced during an NDMA weather alert covering September 25 to 30. The National Emergency Operations Centre warned of heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and possible flash or urban flooding in vulnerable areas, including Rawalpindi, Islamabad and other parts of Punjab and northern Pakistan.

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

Rain lashes Islamabad, Rawalpindi, causing difficulties for citizens

Islamabad and Rawalpindi experience rainfall disruption as authorities monitor affected areas.



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/Rawalpindi: (Staff Reporter): Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorm activity affected the twin cities, causing water accumulation in several low-lying areas. The rainfall disrupted routine movement in some parts of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as drainage issues emerged following the downpour. According to the latest weather update, the Meteorological Department has forecast further rain, strong winds and thunderstorms in different parts of the country. Citizens have been advised to remain cautious during severe weather conditions and avoid unnecessary travel during intense rainfall. The changing weather conditions have increased the risk of temporary water accumulation in vulnerable areas, particularly where drainage capacity is affected. Residents have been advised to stay updated with official weather advisories and take necessary precautions. Authorities usually activate monitoring arrangements during heavy rainfall to review drainage systems, water flow and conditions in low-lying areas. Relevant teams remain prepared to respond to public complaints and reduce inconvenience for residents.