

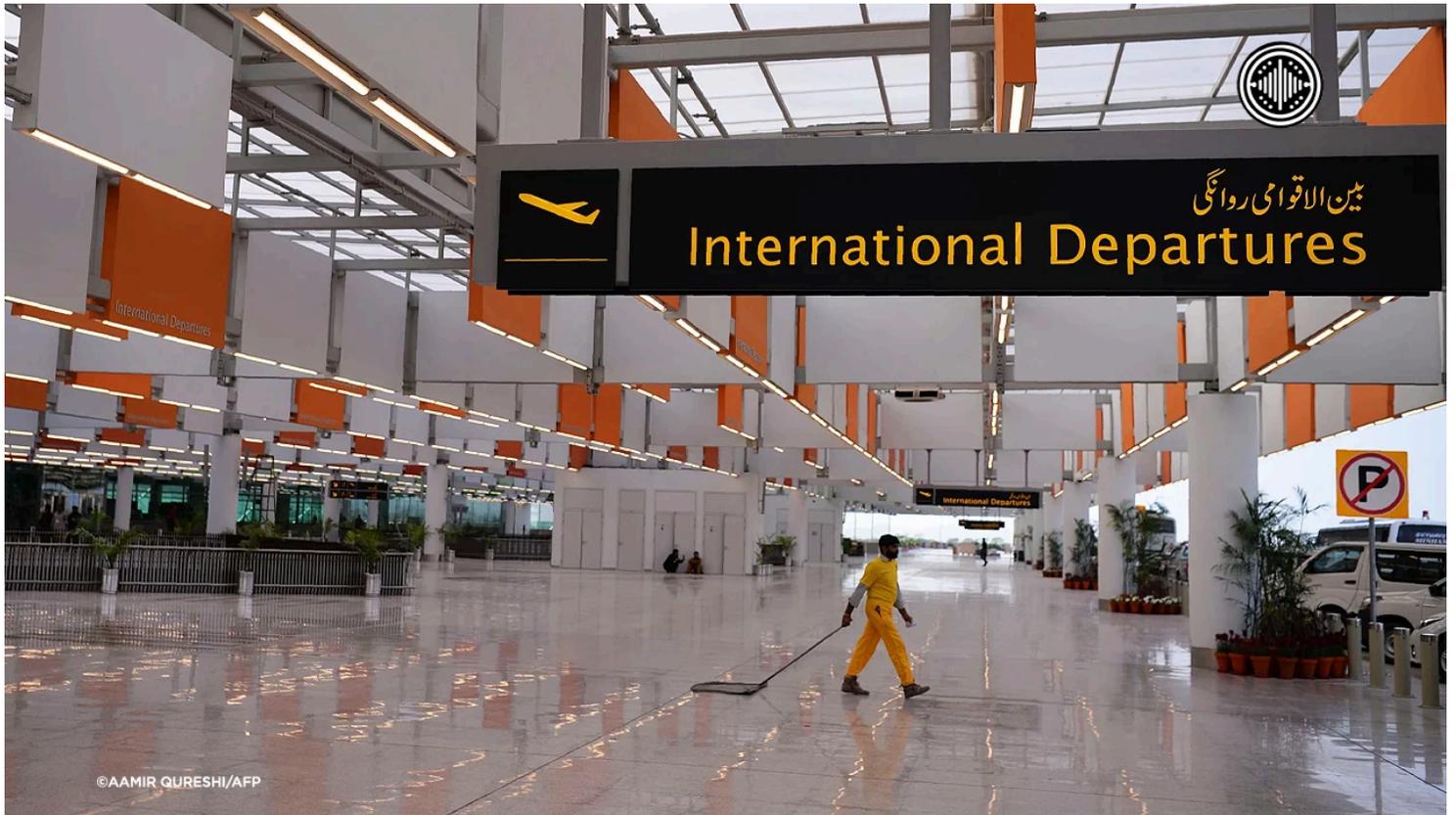
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Islamabad Airport to Suspend Flights for Independence Day Rehearsals

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Flight operations at Islamabad International Airport will be temporarily suspended during selected hours in early August as part of preparations for Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations, according to a notice issued by the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA).

The Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) confirms that both arrivals and departures will be halted from August 6 to 9 and again from August 11 to 14. These measures are being implemented to facilitate rehearsals for the Independence Day parade.

During the specified period, the airport will be closed to all air traffic daily from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Airlines have been directed to avoid scheduling flights during these hours. Passengers are advised to check with their respective carriers for any changes to their travel plans.

A PCAA official explained that the closures are essential for ensuring the safety and smooth conduct of the parade rehearsals. “These preparations require controlled airspace for security and operational reasons,” the official said.

Independence Day, celebrated annually on August 14, marks the anniversary of Pakistan’s formation in 1947. The event is observed with flag-hoisting ceremonies, military parades, and various cultural activities across the country. Islamabad, as the capital city, hosts one of the largest official celebrations, often attended by senior government officials, military leaders, and foreign dignitaries.

The flight suspensions are expected to impact domestic and international routes, with airlines already adjusting schedules to accommodate the restrictions. Passengers traveling to or from Islamabad during the affected dates are urged to plan ahead to avoid disruptions.

Airport authorities have assured that normal flight operations will resume outside the designated closure hours, and ground services will remain operational for passengers inside the terminal.

The Civil Aviation Authority has also coordinated with security agencies, air traffic control, and parade organizers to minimize inconvenience for travelers while maintaining strict adherence to safety protocols.

These pre-Independence Day rehearsals are a routine annual occurrence, though they can cause temporary disruptions to regular travel schedules. Officials say the temporary inconvenience is outweighed by the importance of ensuring a secure and well-organized national celebration.

With heightened national pride and anticipation building for August 14, authorities are encouraging the public to stay informed of any schedule changes and to support the preparations that contribute to the successful observance of Pakistan’s Independence Day.