



**Pakistan's first National Women Entrepreneurship Policy on cards: SAPM Haroon**



**Minister for investment inaugurates Pakistan energy, exhibition Conference (PEEC-2025)**



**Over 40% of children under five are stunted in Pakistan: Sherry Rehman**

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## PM directs early preparedness for next monsoon, implementation of short-term plan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed authorities concerned to begin early preparations to prevent any loss of life or property during next year's monsoon season and ordered immediate implementation of the short-term plan presented by the Ministry of Climate Change.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review measures to prevent monsoon-related damages, approved the ministry's short-term plan on the subject and stressed its urgent execution. He asked the Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Planning, and National Disaster Management Authority to work in close coordination with provincial governments for integrated planning on climate

change. He also called for preparations to convene a meeting of the National Water Council to carry out national-level planning on water management. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that, as a developing country, a substantial portion of its GDP was repeatedly diverted to counter the adverse effects of climate change — resources that could otherwise be utilised for development projects. He said that unfortunately, Pakistan continued to bear severe consequences of climate change despite contributing almost negligibly to global carbon emissions. The meeting was briefed on international forecasts and indicators regarding next year's monsoon. The Ministry of Climate Change also briefed on short, medium.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding climate change induced losses and mitigation plan for the next year's Monsoon.

## Pakistan, SA to sign agreement next week on long-standing issue of rohingya muslims' legal status

PEAK POINT



Nawaf bin Saad Al-Malki.

During the meeting, Interior Minister Naqvi and Ambassador Al-Malki discussed Pakistan-Saudi relations, with a focus on expanding bilateral cooperation and enhancing coordination on security matters.

The Saudi ambassador strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in Islamabad and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives.

A key development highlighted in the meeting was the resolution of the long-standing issue regarding the legal status of Rohingya Muslims living between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The ambassador thanked the Government of Pakistan for its positive role in moving the matter toward a solution. A formal agreement on the issue is scheduled to be signed in Saudi Arabia next week.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Embassy of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, where he was warmly received by Saudi Ambassador

## US, Saudi Arabia clinch defining nuclear, F-35 deals in major strategic push

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: The United States and Saudi Arabia signed agreements on civil nuclear energy and the sale of advanced US-made F-35 fighter jets during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit to Washington on Tuesday, the White House said.

The two countries ratified a "joint declaration" on civil nuclear energy that "builds the legal foundation for a decades-long, multi-billion-dollar nuclear energy partnership" in line with "strong nonproliferation standards," the White House said in a statement.

In addition, President Donald Trump approved a "major defence sale

package," which includes future deliveries of F-35 advanced American fighter jets.



The sale of the stealth fighter jets to the kingdom, which has requested to buy 48 of the advanced aircraft, would mark the first US sale of the advanced fighter jets to Riyadh, a significant policy shift.

The deal could alter the military balance in the Middle East and test Washington's definition

of maintaining what the Saudis have resisted a US stipulation that would rule out enriching uranium or reprocessing spent fuel - both potential paths to a bomb.

Trump said earlier that he could see a deal on civilian nuclear power happening, but added, "It's not urgent."

During a formal black-tie dinner at the White House later on Tuesday, Trump also announced he was designating Saudi Arabia as a major non-Nato ally, as he hosted Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for a gala dinner at the White House.

"Tonight, I'm pleased to announce that we're taking our military cooperation to even greater heights.

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"Tonight, I'm pleased to announce that we're taking our military cooperation to even greater heights.

## Azad Jammu and Kashmir's new 20-member cabinet sworn in

PEAK POINT

MUZAFFARABAD: The newly formed 20-member cabinet of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has officially taken its oath of office at a ceremony held at the Presidential House in Muzaffarabad on Wednesday.

The oath was administered by Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, with newly-elected Prime Minister of AJK, Sardar Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, also attending the event. The new cabinet consists of 18 ministers and two advisors.

## ISPR DG briefs QAU students on national security, social media propaganda

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Wednesday visited Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, where he was warmly received by faculty members and students. During a special session, the ISPR DG discussed in detail the country's internal situation, defense matters, and the professional role of the Pakistan Army. He also informed students about the difference between social media propaganda and factual informa.

## Ali Pervaiz, Jiang Zaidong discuss enhancing cooperation in energy, mineral sectors

PEAK POINT

the mining sector is a priority.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Wednesday reaffirmed the unwavering strength of the Pakistan-China partnership and discussed avenues to enhance cooperation in the energy and mineral sectors.

During their meeting at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, the two sides focused on mutual support, economic collaboration and a shared vision for regional stability and prosperity, said a new release. Ali Pervaiz Malik extended a formal invitation for the upcoming Pakistan Mineral Investment Forum (PMIF) 2026. He emphasised that



ity area for Pakistan and represents a significant opportunity for deepening bilateral cooperation. In response, the Chinese Ambassador warmly welcomed the invitation and gave his assurance, "We will encourage the heads of our relevant institutions to participate in the Pakistan Mineral Investment Forum," the Ambassador

He highlighted that mining is a key area for China-Pakistan collaboration and noted the strong existing presence of Chinese companies in Pakistan's petroleum and mineral sectors. Chinese companies MCC, CNOC are working in this sector in Pakistan, and China hopes to expand this partnership. Saindak and Siadak Mining

projects are key Chinese projects in Pakistan's mineral sector.

The Minister expressed Pakistan's profound appreciation for China's steadfast support during a difficult economic phase.

He reiterated Pakistan's firm and principled stance alongside its Chinese brothers, affirming Pakistan's full support for China's sovereignty and regional stability.

The Chinese Ambassador commended Pakistan's ongoing reform agenda, describing it as a welcome step towards sustainable development. "We are committed to supporting Pakistan's development and will continue to facilitate the economic development of the people of Pakistan through our cooperation.

## ADPM/FM Dar to participate in Pak-EU Dialogue, EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Forum

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Wednesday, arrived in Brussels on an official visit to participate in the 7th Session of Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue and the 4th EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Forum to be held from 20-21 November. "Upon arrival, the DPM/FM was received by Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch, Ambassador of Pakistan.





# SPORTS



## Regular cricket events, evidence of Pakistan's positive image, peace: PM



**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, said that the continuous hosting of international cricket events in Pakistan was evidence of the country's positive image, peace, and stability.

The prime minister hosted a luncheon at the PM's House in the honour of the cricket teams of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, participating in the Tri-Nation Series.

The prime minister observed that the passion, skill, and dedication demonstrated by three teams, participating in the series were commendable, adding the players were representing their respective countries in an exemplary manner.

He urged the players to keep on displaying sportsmanship and mutual respect in the matches, setting a guiding example for the younger generation.

The luncheon was also attended by Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Interior Minister

and PCB Chairman Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar, Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Sri Lankan High Commissioner Rear Admiral Fred Seniviratne and Zimbabwean High Commissioner Titus Abu Basutu.

The prime minister also lauded Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, under whose leadership, he said the PCB was successfully conducting all matches

of the series with excellent arrangements, effective strategy and high professional standards.

The ongoing Tri-Nation Series was providing cricket buffs with top-quality cricket, he further opined.

He expressed the hope that cricket would further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation among the three nations and reiterated that Pakistan would continue to host international teams in the same spirit in future.

## Pakistan to face England in Under-19 World Cup 2026 opener



**PEAK POINT**

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially announced the schedule for the 2026 Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

The tournament is set to run from 15 January to 6 February, with Zimbabwe and Namibia co-hosting the global youth cricket showpiece. Warm-up fixtures will begin on 9 January, giving teams an early chance to adapt to local conditions. According to the confirmed group allocations, Group A features India, Bangladesh, the United States and New Zealand, bringing together a blend of seasoned youth cricket powerhouses and emerging talent. Group B includes Pakistan, Zimbabwe, England and Scotland, promising a competitive clash of styles and cricket heritage on African soil.

Pakistan will begin their World Cup journey on 16 January against England, marking one of the most anticipated fixtures of the early round. The tournament will showcase diverse participation, including Tanzania, who will compete in the Under-19 Cricket World Cup for the first time in history, adding a new chapter to the event's growing global footprint.

## Babar, Rizwan advance in latest ICC ODI rankings



**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's star batsman Babar Azam and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan have risen in the latest ICC ODI rankings following their impressive displays in the team's commanding 3-0 series triumph over Sri Lanka.

In the latest batting rankings for the 50-over format,

Babar moved up one spot to sixth place with 722 rating points. Meanwhile, Salman Ali Agha retained his 16th position, showing consistency despite the reshuffle.

Rizwan enjoyed a significant rise, jumping five places to 22nd. Opener Fakhar Zaman has also benefited from the series, moving up five spots to 26th

rankings. Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed

Meanwhile, other Pakistani batters saw a decline. Opener Saim Ayub dropped three places to 38th, while left-handed batter Imam-ul-Haq slipped seven spots to 54th with 516 points. In a major shake-up at the top, former Indian captain Rohit Sharma has been dethroned as number one ODI batter, with New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell claiming the top spot.

Sharma now sits second, while Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran

dropped to third, and the Indian duo of Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli hold the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

In the bowlers' rankings, Pakistan's Keshav Maharaj slipped seven places to 71st.

Afghanistan's Rashid Khan continues to dominate as the number one ODI bowler, followed by England's Jofra Archer in second and South Africa's Keshav Maharaj in third.

## PCB grants NOCs to national cricketers for international leagues



## No regrets on swapping UAE for Pakistan, says Usman Khan after crucial knock against Zimbabwe

**PEAK POINT**

ISLAMABAD: Usman Khan knew he had to grab the chance on offer with both hands. He did, and with an unbeaten 37 against Zimbabwe, he saw Pakistan through to victory in the Twenty20 tri-nation series opener at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday night.

The wicket-keeper/batter, who had chosen to represent United Arab Emirates in international cricket back in 2021 before switching allegiance back to his homeland last year after catching the eye in the Pakistan Super League, hadn't made much of an impression on his return to the team for the series against South Africa at the end of last month.

In the first match — the only game of the series he got a chance to show the work he'd done on himself during his time away —

Usman, who had been away from the national team since April, made 12 as Pakistan suffered a heavy defeat.

Pakistan would eventually bounce back to claim the series but as the team continued to fight back, Usman

was in the thick of it, scoring 54-4 in their pursuit of 148 when Usman joined Fakhar Zaman (44) at the crease and provided the ideal foil in a 61-run partnership that set

Pakistan on their way.

Shunted out of Pakistan's central contracts list for this year, Usman was asked about whether he regretted swapping UAE for Pakistan when he appeared for the post-match press conference.

"No, I don't think it was a mistake because it's everyone's dream to play for their home country, so if I'm getting the chance to play [for Pakistan] then naturally I will accept it," Usman, who would've qualified to represent UAE this year had he stuck to his initial decision, told reporters.

## Pakistan Navy playing vital role in promoting sports: Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmed





# CPEC: USD 759m in Projects still ongoing, 43 completed, Govt confirms

**NADEEM TANOLI**  
ISLAMABAD: The federal government acknowledged in Parliament that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's commitment to provide 150 buses for Karachi's public transport system remains completely stalled not because of federal delays, but due to the Sindh government's failure to submit a formal project proposal required to initiate procurement. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry told lawmakers that while the Prime Minister issued clear directions during his visit to

Karachi on April 25, 2024, the Planning Commission has not received a PC-I for the promised 150 buses, making it impossible to set a delivery timeline. He revealed that Sindh's Planning & Development Department submitted a separate PC-I for 300 diesel-hybrid buses, but it was returned twice because it was classified as a provincial project, not a federal one. "As no PC-I has been received for the 150 buses, a delivery schedule cannot be provided," the Minister said, effectively placing the responsibility back on the Sindh gov-

ernment. The disclosure fueled criticism over bureaucratic delays and the lack of coordination between provincial and federal authorities, despite Karachi's desperate need for a functional mass transit system. In a separate exchange, the Planning Minister briefed Parliament on the status of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, confirming that eight CPEC projects worth approximately USD 759.56 million are currently under implementation across various provinces. He said that 43 projects valued at around USD 24.7 billion have already been completed

under the flagship initiative, which remains the centrepiece of Pakistan's long-term infrastructure and energy strategy. The province-wise details of the ongoing projects were laid out in an annex attached to the response. The Minister stressed that a full monitoring mechanism is already in place. The Ministry of Planning operates a dedicated CPEC Secretariat responsible for cross-departmental coordination, while the Minister chairs fortnightly inter-ministerial progress review meetings to track implementation, identify bot-

tlenecks, and ensure that key decisions are taken without delay. Despite this structure, opposition lawmakers highlighted continuing delays, inconsistent progress across sectors, and the need for faster execution to restore investor confidence and accelerate economic growth. The combined disclosures underscored the uneven state of Pakistan's development landscape: a stalled urban transport commitment in the country's largest city, alongside gradual but slow moving CPEC implementation. Experts warn that unless federal and provincial agen-

cies improve coordination, both national infrastructure goals and provincial development priorities may continue to suffer from costly delays. To address the decline, the government cited several initiatives in the Annual Plan 2025-26, including renewed emphasis on free and compulsory education, girls' education, and the expansion of Daanish Schools in underdeveloped districts. Under the broader 5Es Framework, the URAAN Pakistan initiative seeks to align education reforms with economic transformation goals.

## Pakistan Academy of Sciences hosts 24th Science Council of Asia Conference on food security, sustainability and biodiversity

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Science Council of Asia (SCA) jointly organized the 24th SCA Conference at PAS Secretariat, Islamabad, from 16 to 18 November 2025 on the theme of "Food Security, Sustainability, and Biodiversity". The conference was supported by the Science Council of Japan (SCJ). The scientific program of the event included Technical Sessions and Poster Presentations on the theme of the conference, as well as the

Young Researcher's Session, and Future Earth Symposium. In total, 145 physical participants and 48 online participants attended the event. The foreign resource persons of the Conference included those from Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Pakistan Academy of Sciences hosts 24th Science Council of Asia Conference on food security, sustainability and biodiversity. The Conference was inaugurated by the Honourable Prof. Dr. Atta Ur Rahman



FRS, former Coordinator General of COMSTECH followed by welcome address by Prof. Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik (President Pakistan Academy of Sciences), and Prof. Dr. Mamoru Mitsuishi (President Science Council of

Japan), while Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Baig (President Science Council of Asia, and Secretary General PAS), shed light on the need and importance of hosting this conference in Pakistan. During the three-day pro-

gression of the event, eminent foreign and local speakers presented very thought-provoking lectures on a broad range of topics in line with the three sub-themes of the 24th SCA. In total, 35 Technical Lectures, including 5 online lectures, were delivered by 20 local and 16 foreign speakers during the course of the Conference, while 30 short-listed posters were presented by participating young post-graduate researchers attending this Conference. The Young Researchers' Session emphasised that communication among young

researchers must be strengthened to promote knowledge-sharing and collective growth through joint initiatives, exchange programs, and continuous engagement across borders. In the Future Earth Symposium, Prof. Dr. Fumiko Kasuga, Director Future Earth Japan, and the resource persons discussed very stimulating and promising ideas with the participants of the session to resolve issues related to Future Earth and highlighted that the Future Earth-Japan wishes to have closer collaboration with the people of Pakistan in this regard.

# Opinion & Editorial

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## Gaza resolutions

**T**HOUGH the UN Security Council has passed a US-drafted resolution that basically endorses President Donald Trump's 'peace plan' for Gaza, the document's ambiguities, and Palestinian objections to many of its stated aims, means that it is unlikely to bring long-term peace to the occupied territories. Moreover, those countries — including Pakistan — that are considering contributing troops to the international stabilisation force that the Trumpian scheme envisages, must be clear on its mandate. While the UNSC has approved it, it is very much an American plan. For example, the ISF will not act as a UN peacekeeping force; it will work in 'consultation' with Israel and Egypt. Moreover, the language about a path to Palestinian statehood is ambiguous. On the other hand, the Israeli prime minister has reaffirmed his commitment to blocking a Palestinian state. The framers of this resolution, and the supporters of this plan, must be asked how they expect to reconcile these divergent positions. China and Russia abstained while Pakistan supported the US resolution. Hamas, meanwhile, has been critical of the resolution, while questioning the ISF's neutrality. The resolution calls for the ISF to demilitarise Gaza, while the US ambassador to the UN has said the ISF will "support a region free from Hamas' grip".

## What are the main Points of "Iqrar Ul Hassan" Tehreek for the Youth of Pakistan

**BY WAJiha TAMSEEL MIRZA**



**J**ournalist Iqrar ul Hassan has announced a political movement (often referred to as a "tehrak" in Urdu language) with a focus on empowering youth and establishing a system based on merit and integrity, rather than traditional personality-based politics. The initiative is currently a movement, not yet a formally named political party. The main objectives and points of his movement, based on his public statements, include, Youth Empowerment The movement is designed to encourage and enable young people and ordinary citizens to enter politics and rise to leadership positions. Merit based

Leadership He aims to replace dynastic and personality-based politics with a system where leaders are chosen based on their capabilities and integrity. Internal Democracy: Leadership roles within the movement will be determined through open and democratic voting processes, moving away from individual influence. Opportunity for the Common Man: Iqrar ul Hassan has emphasized that

ordinary citizens should have the same opportunities to become leaders as established political figures like Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, or Imran Khan. Restructuring the Political System: The initiative intends to build a sustainable democratic platform for future generations, one that ensures leadership changes after specific terms, as is common in mature democracies worldwide. movement stresses the importance of integrity in politics, aiming to bring in new faces who can bring positive change to the country's political landscape. Hopefully this movement will definitely bring a revolution for the youth.

## Fix the water system

**MOHSIN LEGHARI**

**P**akistan speaks often of agricultural transformation, new seeds, climate-smart technologies, value chains, mechanisation and digital extension. But every plan rests on a fragile assumption: that water will simply continue to arrive. It will not. The water system on which Pakistan built its agricultural economy is deteriorating faster than any agricultural roadmap can compensate for. Until that system is rebuilt — governed, managed, regulated and made predictable — agriculture cannot improve. The Indus Basin

Irrigation System feeds more than 90 per cent of Pakistan's crops, yet a large share of the water released at canal heads never reaches the crop. Recent empirical work on the Pakistani part of the Indus Basin shows losses of about half across canals, distributaries, watercourses and fields. There are structural failures. Farmers cannot adopt improved seed when water rotations are unpredictable. A value chain cannot function when tail-end supplies collapse. In Pakistan, yields do not fall because of farmers' negligence; they fall because water does not show up. Groundwater has long served as the country's silent sta-

biliser, compensating for unreliable canals. It now sustains more than half of irrigated agriculture, pumped from about 1.4 million private tubewells. Peer-reviewed groundwater research shows that lifting 1,000 cubic metres from a shallow tubewell costs about Rs4,225. For smallholders, this threefold cost difference over the years wipes out profitability. Case-study modelling in Rechna Doab shows how sensitive agriculture is to depth: when groundwater levels drop from around six metres to over twenty metres, pumping costs rise more than threefold. Courtesy The News

## GB's rare earth potential

**Afzal Ali Shigri**

**I**N the mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan lies a treasure that could transform Pakistan's technological and economic future. Beneath its glaciers and granite are traces of rare earth elements. At a time when nations are racing to secure supplies of lithium, cobalt and rare earths, the northern frontier could emerge as a regional hub for high-value mineral processing. With its road link to China, developing internal network, new international airport, hydropower generation potential and a growing pool of educated, enterprising youth, GB is well-positioned for investment. Processing rare earth elements, however, is capital intensive. Challenges ranging from technology to environmental management can only be overcome via extensive investment, expertise and regulation. But opaque governance hinders the attempt and GB continues to exist under a colonial-style legal order that denies investors protection and local communities their rights — made worse due to the region's unsettled status. GB does not enjoy constitutional status in Pakistan and is governed through executive orders that can be changed through bureaucratic rules of business. The current law, the Gilgit-Baltistan Governance Order 2018, was notified and proclaimed as a step towards empowerment, but in reality, as noted by the Supreme Court, it was designed to roll back the limited powers that were granted through 2009 Order to enhance federal control. The 2018 Order concentrates decision-making in a single office, the Pakistani prime minister who chairs the Gilgit-Baltistan Council. Article 60 of the Order gives the PM exclusive power to legislate on all major subjects, including specific minerals, industries, electricity and investment policy. He can appoint and remove judges of the superior judiciary. For minerals like rare earths — linked directly to defence and high-technology supply chains — clarity of law and jurisdiction is vital. Courtesy Dawn

## Minister for investment inaugurates Pakistan energy, exhibition Conference (PEEC-2025)



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, inaugurated the Pakistan Energy and Exhibition Conference 2025 (PEEC-2025) on Wednesday, formally opening the exhibition with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

During the event, the Minister addressed the media and empha-

sized the government's commitment to strengthening Pakistan's energy sector and promoting investment, said a release issued here.

In his address, Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh highlighted that modern technology and strategic investment are key to ensuring energy security in Pakistan.

He stated that Pakistan is entering a new era in energy policy, refin-

ing, and exploration, which positions the country as an attractive destination for national and international investors.

The Minister underscored that strong partnerships with global energy companies are central to the government's strategy and that Pakistan possesses immense potential in the energy sector, including opportunities in exploration, refining, and downstream industries.

He described PEEC-2025 as an ideal platform for fostering new partnerships, innovative solutions, and actionable strategies for sustainable energy development.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh also highlighted the broader economic vision under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, stating that the government is taking proactive measures to enhance industrial competitiveness, upgrade refining capacity, improve energy infrastructure,

## Over 40% of children under five are stunted in Pakistan: Sherry Rehman

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: On Universal Children's Day, Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized that the day serves as a reminder of Pakistan's urgent responsibility to safeguard the rights, dignity, and future of every child.

She noted with over 26 million children out of school, limited access to girls' education, and inadequate healthcare, and inadequate healthcare, the challenges confronting Pakistani children are systemic.

"Universal Children's Day is not symbolic—it is a call to action," Senator Rehman stated. "Our children continue to face malnutrition, lack of clean water, and an infant mortality rate."

Citing the UNFPA Annual Report 2024, Senator Rehman added: "Every 50 minutes, a woman in Pakistan dies from complications related to pregnan-



cy or childbirth. A significant portion of these tragedies is linked to underage marriage, where girls have no control over their health, their nutrition, or even the survival of their newborns." "No child should be forced into labour, denied education, or exposed to abuse.

This requires more than legislation—it requires political will, social awareness, and nationwide implementation." On Universal Children's Day, Senator Rehman called for coordinated national action and renewed commitment.

## Govt to integrate early-warning systems at district, tehsil levels within 250 days to cut flood losses: Dr Musadik Malik

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said on Wednesday that the federal government, in collaboration with provincial authorities, will integrate all disaster early-warning systems at the district and tehsil levels under a 250-day short-term plan, enabling the timely evacuation of people and movement of assets ahead of floods.

The unified system will allow local administrations to respond "within a critical window of time" and significantly reduce losses during next year's monsoon, said the minister while addressing a press conference here. Sharing details following a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Dr Malik said the Prime Minister reviewed all categories of climate-related threats — from riverine floods and hill torrents to urban flooding and coastal impacts — and approved a national resilience roadmap covering short, medium

and long-term measures. The minister said Pakistan currently has multiple fragmented early-warning systems scattered across different agencies, resulting in delays and confusion.

The Prime Minister has now directed that all datasets be consolidated and displayed on real-time screens in the offices of assistant commissioners and deputy commissioners. "The first alarm will ring at the tehsil and district levels — not in Islamabad," he said, stressing that rescue officials and communities must get alerts early enough to evacuate before flood water arrives. Under the 250-day short-term phase, all damaged embankments, levees, drainage channels and floodgates will be restored. Urban drainage systems clogged or overwhelmed during recent monsoons will also be repaired ahead of time. He said recent floods displaced millions, washed away entire settlements and deprived around two million children of school.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr Musadik Malik, and Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Mr Inam Haider Malik, address a joint press conference on the Monsoon Action Plan 2026 at the Press Information Department.

## CM Maryam announces allocation of 80 e-buses for Rawalpindi

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday announced the allocation of 80 electric buses for Rawalpindi, aiming to improve public transportation and reduce congestion. The chief minister was scheduled to inaugurate the new transport system in the garrison city on October 15, but the ceremony was cancelled due to the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan protest in Islamabad.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the electric bus initiative in Rawalpindi today, CM Maryam said, "The electric buses are equipped with modern amenities, including air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, and charging ports."

The initiative, the chief minister highlighted, is part of a broader effort to enhance infrastructure and public services in Rawalpindi. Other projects include signal-free corridors, flyovers, and hospitals.

"The government has allocated significant funds for road construction and improvement," she said, adding that the electric buses.

## Pakistan's first National Women Entrepreneurship Policy on cards: SAPM Haroon

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Wednesday said the first-ever National Women Entrepreneurship Policy would soon be introduced, as the government was committed to resolving women's issues, making them self-reliant and enabling them to play a more active role in national development.

He made this announcement while addressing the International Women's Entrepreneurship Day ceremony organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Small and Medium Enterprises



Development Authority (SMEDA). He said the new policy would help transform systems and enable women to move beyond simply finding space in the economy to fully advancing as business leaders.

Haroon said that under the leadership of the prime minister, women had been placed at the centre of economic progress. Pakistani women, he noted, were rising from their homes to the global marketplace and establishing themselves as emerging.

## Pakistan, Germany get big portfolio of bilateral relations: German Ambassador

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan, Ina Lepel has said that Pakistan and Germany enjoy a big portfolio of bilateral relations in terms of economic cooperation, trade relations, cultural exchange programmes, development cooperation, investment, academics, hydro-electricity and people-to-people diplomacy.

In an exclusive interview with APP, the ambassador said, "Just recently at the government to government negotiations, a new commitment of €144 million was made", adding that the number of Pakistani students going to



Germany for higher education has been increased significantly. Replying to a question, she said that Germany and Pakistan had climate and energy partnership going on for some years aimed at enhancing and supporting Pakistan's efforts regarding climate resilience to get social assistance adoptive to climate change and disasters.

## Gezhouba Group chairman calls on Aleem Khan; expresses interest in Pakistan's infrastructure development

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) Liu Huailiang along with a delegation on Wednesday called on Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and discussed collaboration in major road projects under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework. During the meeting, the Federal Minister said China remains one of Pakistan's closest and most trusted partners, noting that today in schools we are educating the new generation on

Pak China friendship.

He said that enhanced business cooperation between the two countries contributes positively to overall bilateral relations, said a press release. Liu Huailiang shared that CGGC has maintained a presence in Pakistan since 2003 and has contributed to several important projects. He conveyed the Group's interest in pursuing the Public-Private Partnership model for the M-9 (Karachi-Hyderabad) Motorway project, adding that CGGC looks forward to expand its operations in Pakistan.



Abdul Aleem Khan acknowledged CGGC's role in the Dasu Hydropower Project, stating that the company is a major contractor and has been performing effectively. He said that infrastructure projects in Pakistan offer promising opportunities for companies like CGGC. The Minister highlighted the significance of the M-6 (Karachi port-Sukkur-Hyderabad)

Motorway and the M-10 (Karachi Northern Bypass). He noted that M-6 serves as a key route for cargo movement across the country and therefore has considerable investment potential. He also pointed out that two sections between Hyderabad and Sukkur are yet to be developed, presenting viable investment prospects. He informed the delegation that the National Highway Authority's revenue had increased from Rs. 66 billion to Rs. 109 billion over the past one year, reflecting improved financial perfor-

mance. He said that investment in projects that offer sustainable returns and long-term value are encouraged.

Discussing demographic and development trends, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan observed that Pakistan's population is growing rapidly, which increases the need for expanded infrastructure as well while population growth in China has slowed.

He suggested that this creates additional opportunities for Chinese Companies to invest in Pakistan's.