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## At least 14 killed in Quetta shuttle train blast: Balochistan govt



**PEAK POINT**  
QUETTA: At least 14 people were killed and several others were injured after a blast tore through a shuttle train in Quetta on Sunday morning, the Balochistan government said.

State-run APP, citing railway authorities, said the shuttle train was heading from Quetta

Cantonment to the railway station when it was targeted near Chaman Phatak shortly after 8am. In a statement, Shahid Rind, an aide to the chief minister on media and political affairs, said the "number of martyrs" in the blast has reached 16. These included three personnel of the Frontier Corps, he added. "Multiple people" were injured in the blast, including women and children, who were taken to a hospital, Rind said. "Terrorists targeted innocent civilians," he said, adding that security forces have cordoned off the area. Rind said the targeting of public places was a "proof of the terrorists' confusion". The nature of the explosion could not be immediately ascertained. It is feared that casualties could be much higher.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being received by Mr. Huang Runqu, Minister of Environment & Ecology of China at Beijing capital International Airport.

## 16 militants killed, 2 policemen martyred in Bannu joint operation



**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: At least 16 terrorists, including two key commanders, were killed while two policemen were martyred during a joint operation conducted by the Pakistan Army,

police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district on Sunday.

According to security sources, security forces, police and other law enforcement agencies are continuing intensive operations against militants belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij, a term used by the state for terrorists associated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.

The operation was carried out in the Miryan area of Bannu following intelligence reports regarding the presence of militants in the area.

Security sources said 16 terrorists were killed during the operation, including two important commanders identified as Znari Noor and Afghan militant commander Abdullah Saeed.

Several militant hideouts were also destroyed during the operation jointly conducted by the Pakistan Army, police and CTD, the sources added.

## Trump tempers expectations of a Middle East deal with Iran



**MAHPARA ZAMAN**  
NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump tempered expectations of a Middle East deal by saying he had told his negotiators not to "rush", hours after his top diplomat said the US and Iran could strike a bargain to end the regional war as early as Sunday.

Washington and Tehran have observed a ceasefire since April 8 while mediators push for a negotiated settlement, although Iran has imposed controls on Gulf shipping and the US has blockaded Iran's ports.

On Sunday, during a visit to India, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters: "I do think perhaps there is the possibility that in the next few hours the world will get some good news."

Trump, however, later said in a social media post: "I have informed my representatives not to rush into a deal at this time is on our side". "The Blockade will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified and signed," he added. Earlier, Trump had posted on social media that the deal "has been largely negotiated, subject to finalisation between the United States of America, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the various other Countries". Rubio said the agreement would start a "process that can ultimately leave us where the president wants us to be, and that is a world that no longer has to fear or worry about an Iranian nuclear weapon".

## PM Shehbaz lands in Beijing, will hold 'high-level' meetings with Chinese leadership

**PEAK POINT**  
CHINA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reached Beijing on Sunday, where he would have "high-level engagements" with the Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping and his counterpart, Li Qiang.

PM Shehbaz landed in Hangzhou on Saturday, kicking off his four-day official visit to China. He addressed the Pakistan-China Business-to-Business Investment Conference in Hangzhou earlier today, following which he reached Beijing, where he was received by Chinese Minister of Environment and Ecology Huang Runqu.

"During his stay in Beijing, the prime minister will hold high-level engagements, including meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Qiang, to further strengthen Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and advance cooperation under CPEC Phase-II, particularly in trade, investment, industry, agriculture, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges," a statement by the PM's Office (PMO) said.

It added that in Hangzhou, the PM chaired the opening ceremony of the third Pakistan-China B2B Investment Conference, which was focused on "charging infrastructure, battery energy storage and solar technologies, and pharmaceuticals".

## Gunman killed by US Secret Service after opening fire near White House

**PEAK POINT**  
WASHINGTON: A gunman opened fire near the White House on Saturday evening, with US Secret Service agents killing the assailant in a shoot-out during which a bystander was also struck, authorities said. President Donald Trump was in the White House at the time — on a day when he was working to negotiate a deal with Iran — but was not impacted by the incident, Secret Service communications chief Anthony Guglielmi said in a statement.

The confrontation took place just after 6pm (3am PKT).

## Defence minister hints at 'positive outcome' in Pakistan-mediated US-Iran talks

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan's efforts in ongoing US-Iran mediation were gradually moving towards a "positive outcome", expressing hope for peace across the region and beyond.

"We have slowly moved closer to a positive result in the US-Iran mediation," the defence czar told Sialkot.

According to Asif, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Asim Munir and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's presence in Iran itself "signalled the matter was nearing" a resolution. Field Marshal Munir landed in Tehran on Friday as Islamabad stepped up its diplomatic

efforts to help end the US-Israel war.

key mediator between Washington and Tehran

on Iran. During the visit — accompanied by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who was already in Tehran — Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Munir met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. President Masoud Pezeshkian and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf to discuss regional de-escalation and ongoing mediation efforts.

Pakistan emerged as a

after six weeks of fighting that began on February 28, with Islamabad playing a central role in ceasefire negotiations and backchannel diplomacy.

The Middle East war erupted after the US and Israel launched coordinated strikes on Iran, prompting Tehran to retaliate with attacks on US bases across the region and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Hostilities ended on

April 8 when Pakistan facilitated a two-week ceasefire, followed by direct negotiations between the US and Iran in its capital between April 11 and 12. The talks, however, concluded without an agreement for a permanent end to the conflict as both sides disagreed on a number of issues, including Tehran's blockade of Hormuz and its missile and nuclear programmes.

Despite the stalemate, Islamabad continued its push for mediation between Tehran and Washington, and also helped extend the ceasefire. Meanwhile, the defence minister said that Pakistan was helping prevent a major global crisis and expressed optimism that the country's diplomatic efforts would succeed.

## China rescuers search for missing after mine blast kills 82



**PEAK POINT**  
CHINA: Rescuers in northern China on Sunday searched for two people still missing after a gas explosion killed 82 in a mine that authorities said was beset by serious safety violations.

The blast at the Liushenyu shaft in Shanxi province on Friday was the country's worst mining disaster in nearly two decades, with 247 workers underground at the time, authorities said. AFP journalists saw relatives anxiously waiting by a checkpoint blocking the road leading to the mine on Sunday, hoping for news of their loved ones.

One man, smoking nervously on a curb, told AFP calls to his brother — a father of three — "wouldn't go through" since the blast.



# SPORTS



## Fatima Sana sets semifinal ambition for T20 World Cup 2026



**PEAK POINT**  
LAHORE: Pakistan women's cricket team captain Fatima Sana has set her sights on guiding the national side to a historic semifinal appearance at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, expressing confidence in the team's ability to challenge stronger opponents despite being drawn in a difficult group. The tournament, scheduled to be held in England and Wales from June 12 to July 5, will see Pakistan compete in Group 1 alongside India, Australia, South Africa, Bangladesh and the Netherlands. Speaking during a media inter-

action at the team's training camp in Lahore on Saturday, Fatima said her primary ambition is to lead Pakistan into the final four for the first time in the tournament's history. "I desire that we finish in the top four, and I want to lead my team there with impactful performances," Fatima said. Pakistan head into the World Cup on the back of encouraging recent performances, including a dominant 3-0 home series sweep against Zimbabwe, while preparations for the global event will continue with an upcoming tri-series in Ireland featuring hosts Ireland and West Indies. The tri-series,

scheduled from May 28 to June 4 in Dublin, will serve as Pakistan's final international assignment before the World Cup. Fatima expressed satisfaction with the team's recent progress and said the players are entering the crucial phase of preparations with growing confidence. "The past two to three months have been really good for us," she said. "We are preparing well for both the Ireland series and the World Cup, and the team is hopeful of delivering strong results." Pakistan will begin their World Cup campaign with a high-profile clash against India on June

14. However, Fatima insisted her side is focused on the tournament as a whole rather than any single match. "In a World Cup, every match is important," she said. "T20 cricket can change very quickly, so we are not focusing on one specific game." While acknowledging the significance of the India encounter, the Pakistan captain maintained that her team would approach every match with the same mindset. "As everybody knows, the Pakistan-India encounter is always a big match, and God willing, we will try to play well," she added.

## Coach Hesson begins Pakistan's ODI rebuild with WC 2027 in focus



**PEAK POINT**  
LAHORE: Pakistan men's white-ball head coach Mike Hesson has outlined an extensive rebuilding plan for the national ODI side, stressing the need for greater squad depth, improved consistency and long-term preparation ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027. With the World Cup scheduled to be held across South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in less than two years, Hesson said Pakistan can no longer rely on a fixed group of players and must instead develop a wider, more adaptable squad capable of performing in varying conditions. Speaking ahead of Pakistan's upcoming three-match home ODI series against Australia, Hesson said: "We have to widen the group. Rather than selecting the same players all the time, the ODI squad remains a work in progress. We need to identify the best squad possible over the next year and a half." Pakistan's preparations for the World Cup will begin with the Australia series, scheduled from May 31 to June 4, with the coaching staff already using training camps and domestic assessments to evaluate both emerging and established players. Hesson revealed that the recently concluded white-ball camp at the National Cricket Academy provided management with a valuable opportunity to assess new talent and measure their readiness for international cricket.

## Pakistan wins 5 medals in Asian Jr Squash C'ships



**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has brought home five medals in the recently concluded 33rd Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships 2026. According to details, a total of 8 players represented Pakistan in different age categories, and they earned the following medals: Nauman Khan (U-17), Ahmad Rayyan Khalil (U-15); Silver Medal: Mahnoor Ali (Girls U-15); Bronze Medals: Muhammad Umair (U-17), 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze (5 Medals).

Adnan (U-15) Final Match Results: Nauman Khan beat SHIVEN AGARWAL (IND) Boys U-17 3-1 (10-12, 11-7, 11-2, 11-5) 46m; Ahmad Rayyan Khalil beat PNG Vidhurran Ruthiran (MAL) Boys U-15 3-0 (11-7, 11-3, 11-4) 29m; Mahnoor Ali lost to Ziyuan Yin (CHN) 0-3 (10-12, 9-11, 10-12) 23m. Good job Abdullah Nawaz and Mustafa Khan for reaching the quarterfinals, and Sherrish Ali for making it to the 3rd round and lost to her sister Mahnoor Ali. Final Medal Tally: Pakistan: 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze (5 Medals).

## More than 1,500 runners participate in Global One Run Half Marathon in Karachi



## Masood Khan achieves world record after 800-kilometre non-stop run

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Young Pakistani athlete Masood Khan has claimed a world record after completing an extraordinary long-distance run from Peshawar to Skardu, covering nearly 800 kilometres through some of the country's most challenging terrain. Masood Khan successfully completed the demanding journey without interruption, traversing the rugged mountain routes of the Karakoram Highway, the scenic stretches along the Indus River and the valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan. The TV channel reported that the endurance challenge is being described as a remarkable achievement in the field of ultra-distance running. Speaking after completing the feat, the athlete said he had brought pride to Pakistan through an accomplishment that he described as unique and unprecedented. He noted that the journey

from Peshawar to Skardu represented a challenge unlike any he had previously undertaken. Masood Khan said the record-breaking run, which covered approximately 810 kilometres, was completed over nine days despite difficult conditions. He acknowledged that continuous running had tested his physical limits but said his determination to represent Pakistan on the world stage kept him moving forward. "Despite immense difficulties, I never lost courage because I was running for my country and my people," he said, adding that reaching the 800-kilometre milestone was a source of pride not only for him but for the entire nation. The athlete has previously represented Pakistan in competitions involving runners from countries including Russia, Japan and China, winning numerous medals during his sporting career. Sports observers have described the achievement as an important milestone that highlights the talent and determination of Pakistan's young athletes while promoting a positive image of the country internationally.

## PTF Chief Waseem Janjua Highlights Pakistan's Global Sports Role at Mongolia Moot



**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) and member of the Asian Taekwondo Union, Colonel (R) Waseem Ahmad Janjua represented Pakistan at the General Council meeting of 35 countries held in Mongolia, where he highlighted Pakistan's growing role in promoting sports and youth development at the international level. PTF Chief Waseem Janjua Highlights Pakistan's

Global Sports Role at the final phase, adding that the event would further project Pakistan's positive image in the international sports community. PTF Chief Waseem Janjua while providing international exposure and opportunities to Mongolia Moot young athletes. The PTF chairman said Pakistan would continue playing an active and constructive role in the promotion of sports worldwide and stressed the importance of international cooperation to strengthen sporting ties among different countries. He informed that preparations for the President Cup, scheduled to be held in Lahore from August 13 to 20, had entered



# India using judicial terrorism against Yasin Malik: Mushaal Mulick

**PEAK POINT**  
ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organisation and wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, Mushaal Hussein Mulick, on Saturday said her "Save Yasin Malik" public outreach campaign would continue from Karachi to Islamabad to mobilize nationwide support for the release of Kashmiri prisoners and expose India's "judicial terrorism" against Kashmiri leadership. Addressing traders and members of civil society, she warned that failure to

resolve the longstanding Kashmir dispute could push the region towards a dangerous and unstable situation, while alleging that Indian authorities had intensified atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam incident.

Mushaal Hussein Mulick said the business community had played a historic role in supporting the Kashmir cause and thanked traders and public representatives for extending full support to the "Save Yasin Malik" campaign. She emphasized that a



strong public movement is urgently needed to save Yasin Malik's life and secure the release of detained Kashmiri prisoners.

She claimed that Yasin Malik was being denied

she said, adding that India could "go to any extent" ahead of the July 22 hearing of Yasin Malik's case.

Mushaal further alleged that India is using "judicial terrorism" against Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders by implicating them in fabricated cases in an attempt to politically silence or eliminate them.

She accused the Modi led government of shedding the blood of Kashmiri youth and intensifying crackdowns in occupied Kashmir after the Pahalgam incident.

Referring to the killing of a Kashmiri leader in

Muzaffarabad, she alleged the involvement of India's intelligence agency RAW in cross border terrorism and targeted killings.

She also criticized sections of the Indian media, accusing them of celebrating violence against Kashmiris.

She reiterated that the unresolved Kashmir dispute remained a serious threat to regional peace and stability and urged the international community to take notice of the deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

## Over 3,212 vehicles and 3,650 motorbikes tagged in Islamabad amid oversight concerns

**NADEEM TANOLI**  
ISLAMABAD: The nationwide M Tag system in Islamabad, intended to enhance road safety and integrate with Safe City surveillance, has come under scrutiny after National Assembly officials revealed that while tens of thousands of vehicles and motorbikes have been registered, concerns remain over outsourcing, accountability, and effective functioning. During a National Assembly question and answer session, Ms. Ailya

Kamran asked the Interior and Narcotics Control Ministry to provide detailed figures for the M-Tag system, including revenue collection, outsourcing arrangements, and safety measures for motorcycleists. Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi disclosed that the system operates in collaboration with the Frontier Works Organization (FWO), a government entity responsible for issuing M Tags to two and four wheeled vehicles, installing RFID readers at e Naka points, and integrating Safe

City cameras to monitor tagged vehicles. Controversy arose over the pace and transparency of implementation. Over five days in April 2026, a total of 731 vehicles and 858 motorcycles were registered at major checkpoints, including 26 No. Checkpoint (248 vehicles, 20 bikes), Faizabad CP (55 vehicles, 246 bikes), Jinnah Park F-9 (27 vehicles, 44 bikes), and Gulberg Green (92 vehicles, 130 bikes). Across Islamabad, the grand total reached 3,212 vehicles and 3,650 motorcycles, reflecting

the rapid scale of the campaign but raising questions about verification, enforcement, and oversight. Critics warned that the reliance on FWO, a government construction and engineering agency, to manage the registration and monitoring of vehicles could compromise transparency. Lawmakers highlighted the need for strict checks on revenue collection and real time tracking, especially for motorcycleists, who form a large portion of registered users. The Minister clarified that the Excise and

Taxation Department of ICT does not handle M Tag fee collection, and that Safe City and police continuously monitor system performance and coordinate with stakeholders. The National Assembly session also revealed that despite extensive registration, public awareness campaigns remain insufficient, and some commuters reported confusion regarding tag issuance and tracking features. The Ministry emphasized that the M Tag is designed as an alternative to ANPR-RFID and is

intended to enhance commuter safety, facilitate law enforcement, and integrate with Islamabad's Safe City network. Officials assured members that identification and live tracking systems for motorcycleists are operational, and e Nakas have been established to read M Tags. Coordination between police, FWO, and Safe City authorities aims to ensure compliance, with regular system updates and public awareness initiatives planned for coming months.

# Opinion & Editorial

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## Quantifying organised crime

**Tariq Parvez**  
THE world is increasingly beginning to view organised crime (OC) as a serious global threat. It is not simply a law-and-order problem, but a cancer that is rapidly metastasising to vital parts of the state, including the economy, governance and national security.

Many countries, such as the UK and Australia, have quantified the cost of OC, which is an essential step towards understanding and combating it. For instance, the UK has estimated that the cost of OC it had to bear was £37 billion in 2025. In Australia, it was estimated to be \$82bn annually. It has been generally accepted that a consolidated cost estimate of the harm caused by all manner of OC is not merely an academic exercise but an essential tool for designing, prioritising and implementing national strategies. Sadly, Pakistan, which, according to the Global Organised Crime Index 2025, is among the countries most vulnerable to such crime, lacks this tool without which it cannot formulate a holistic national strategy against OC. There is a need to remedy matters. The existing system in Pakistan for evaluating the cost of harm caused by OC suffers from two main shortcomings. One, all the relevant departments dealing with OC, whether at the federal or provincial level, work in silos. These departments often have their own national risk assessment estimates, limited to crimes within their respective

purview. There is no cross-departmental, integrated, national estimate of harm from all types of OC. Thus, we don't have the broader picture of OC's dominance in Pakistan. Second, LEAs dealing with OCs in Pakistan often view these crimes through a narrow law-enforcement lens and therefore measure them using law-and-order metrics, such as the number of criminal cases registered, raids conducted, and arrests and seizures made. This approach, though important, overlooks the quantification of a much graver and wider harm caused by a variety of OC to our economy, governance and national security. For instance, in the case of narcotics trafficking, our assessment is confined to arrests, seizures, etc, while the more harmful costs like impact on the economy, health, infiltration into legitimate business, terrorist financing, etc, are not counted. Thus, our existing assessment system provides only a partial picture of the actual harm caused by OC and fails to identify all beneficiaries of the crimes. The cumulative effect of these two major gaps is that we don't have an accurate total cost estimate of the harm caused by OC or knowledge of facilitating factors. Basing our national anti-OC strategy on an incomplete risk assessment is likely to adversely affect its efficacy. There are three main areas of concern. One, it leads to the reduced importance of OC at the policymaking level.

Pakistan is a resource-constrained country, and many national challenges vie for a share of the funds and priority. We need data to support the claim that OC is a more serious threat to getting a seat at the table. Since we don't have a figure indicating the total cost of the harm caused by OC, combating it doesn't receive the importance it deserves at the policymaking level. A consolidated cost estimate of the harm caused by organised crime is essential for designing national strategies. Two, the political economy of organised crime is one of its main drivers. It needs to be borne in mind that, like elsewhere, OC in Pakistan survives, not because of weak laws but political patronage, bureaucratic collusion, an ineffective judiciary, widespread corruption and powerful criminal networks. Having an across-the-board, independent, holistic total cost of OC in the country would help uncover the political economy of OC by identifying the entire network of crime, its real beneficiaries and its nexus with political and economic systems, without exception. It will also improve the transparency of measures taken by the government. In the existing system of partial risk assessment, these important enablers of OC in Pakistan remain hidden in the shadows, confining government efforts to tackle OC to the arrest of the latter's foot soldiers and minor seizures.

Courtesy Dawn

## Marka-e-Haq- implications and insights

Majid Ehsan

Following an attack that killed 26 tourists in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025, India on the night of 6 May 2025 launched unprovoked strikes against civilian infrastructure at six locations across Pakistan, naming it Operation Sindoor. It was a deeply reckless act by a nuclear armed state against another nuclear neighbour resulting in the martyrdom of 36 innocent Pakistanis, including women and children. India's actions were a clear violation of Pakistan's sovereignty, international law and the UN Charter. Pakistan responded under UN Charter Article 51 in a calibrated manner with precision and lethality. On 7 May, PAF downed four Rafales, one SU-30, one MiG-29, one Mirage 2000 and one UAV. This was followed by Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos on 10 May 2025 in which 26 high-value targets were struck across Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Mainland India. Indian S-400 missile systems were destroyed, exposing critical gaps in their air defences. India having suffered grievous military and economic losses estimated at over \$84 billion, ultimately sought US mediation to end the conflict in an embarrassing retreat from its politico-military ambitions.

This conflict saw several notable firsts. For instance, it marked the first time that India violated the sanctity of International Border while accusing Pakistan of an act of terrorism across the Line of Control. It was also the first time India used cruise missiles on Pakistan, both the BrahMos cruise missiles (co-developed with Russia) as well as the European SCALP-EG (Storm Shadow). More significantly, it was the first time in the history of air warfare that a classic multidomain, network centric excellence was displayed by PAF with hundred percent success and no losses.

It was also the first time Pakistan used conventionally armed short-range ballistic missiles, Fatah-I and Fatah-II on targets in India.

Courtesy Tribune

## Dog culling ban

When it comes to stray dogs in Pakistan, people often have two different responses. On one hand, there are those who treat them like pets and put out food and water. While on the other hand, an entirely different fear-laden reaction grips those who are wary of ever-increasing attacks by an unmanaged population of strays. Both parties have reasonable responses in their own right. But instead of aiming for a middle ground between compassion and safety, our local authorities have long opted for deeply inhumane methods including poisoning, shooting and killing stray dogs as an unseemly attempt at reducing their population. The Islamabad High Court's permanent ban on these outdated methods in the capital will now hopefully bring an end to a 'solution' that never even managed to control the population of stray dogs in the first place. Dog culling is touted as a public safety measure but not only is it ineffective, it also causes the animals prolonged pain and suffering. In place, the High Court has encouraged the "catch, neuter and release" programme which is a globally accepted and much more merciful approach towards population control. Although, it is also imperative that the endeavour does not merely end there.

## Pakistan, SA to establish World-Class digital corridor for Hajj operations



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The National Information Technology Board (NITB) has assumed complete control of the digitalisation of Pakistan's Hajj operations, with a key focus on establishing a historic, world-class "digital corridor" between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The initiative is being launched under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for a "Digital Pakistan" and on his special directives to modernise Hajj management through advanced technology and integrated digital systems. Confirming the development from

Makkah, NITB Program Manager Muhammad Awaiz said the landmark digital corridor would enable real-time sharing of pilgrims' data with Saudi Arabia's central Hajj systems, including the Nusuk and Masar platforms. He described the initiative as a major technological breakthrough aimed at seamlessly connecting Pakistan's Hajj management system with Saudi Arabia's digital infrastructure to improve coordination, efficiency, and services for pilgrims.

The corridor will also create an integrated domestic network linking key Pakistani institutions, including the National Database and

Registration Authority (NADRA), the Directorate General of Passports and Immigration, designated banks, and airlines.

Muhammad Awaiz said that, on the directives of the prime minister, an NITB team is currently present in Saudi Arabia as observers. Under the guidance of

Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Secretary IT Zarrar Hasham Khan, the project is being implemented under the leadership of NITB CEO Faisal Iqbal Ratalyal to transform all existing Hajj operational procedures into a modern digital framework.

As part of the transformation, a comprehensive monitoring system named the "Khadim-ul-Hujjaj Performance Management System" (KPMS) has been activated. The system, comprising advanced mobile applications and centralised dashboards, enables live monitoring of Hajj welfare staff, seasonal duty staff, and local support personnel serving.

## Federal Minister Sardar Yousaf attends high-level session in Jeddah

PEAK POINT

JEDDAH: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf accompanied by a high-level Pakistani delegation, attended a special session of the prestigious "Grand Hajj Symposium" held in Makkah.

The Pakistani delegation, led by Federal Minister Sardar Yousaf, included Secretary of Religious Affairs Abar Ahmed Mirza and Director General of Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro. The premier global academic and organizational platform drew a distinguished gathering of religious affairs ministers, heads of international Hajj missions, and key stakeholders from across the Islamic world.

Delivering the keynote address, the Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, extended a warm welcome to the Guests of Allah (Guests of Ar-Rahman). He reaffirmed the Saudi government's unwavering commitment to prioritizing the highest standards of services for pilgrims across the holy sites of Makkah Mukarramah, Madinah Munawwarah, and the Mashair (Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah). Dr. Al-Rabiah elaborately

highlighted the latest Hajj arrangements, newly launched pilgrim awareness campaigns, and critical preventive measures deployed to mitigate the challenges of extreme weather conditions. During the symposium's various working sessions and panel discussions, senior officials from the Saudi Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Hajj and Umrah briefed the participants. The sessions extensively reviewed digital transformation initiatives aimed at optimizing pilgrim crowd management and mass mobility within the holy sites. Furthermore, attendees were briefed on enhancing structural coordination with global Hajj offices, strengthening international awareness networks, and implementing modernized operational models, including the streamlined distribution of ritual sacrificial meat. The symposium's agenda also features specialized strategic meetings between the heads of international Hajj affairs offices and global Hajj operators. Speakers at the concluding session emphasized that the Grand Hajj Symposium, now in its historic 50th edition, continues to institutionalize scientific research and academic insight into the core framework of pilgrim services.

Ayaz strongly condemns explosion near Chaman Railway crossing

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has strongly condemned the tragic explosion near the Chaman Railway crossing, which resulted in the loss of innocent lives.

He expressed profound grief and sorrow over the incident and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The Speaker conveyed his deepest sympathies to the families of the victims and reaffirmed his solidarity with them in this hour of immense grief, saying that the entire nation stands united with those affected by this heartbreaking tragedy.

Ayaz Sadiq said that targeting innocent civilians is a shameful and cowardly act that stands in complete contradiction to the principles of humanity and the teachings of all religions.

He reiterated that such heinous acts of terrorism cannot undermine the resolve of the nation, which remains firmly committed to peace, stability and the complete eradication.

## Pakistan expands agricultural machinery cooperation with China through High-Level engagements in Changzhou

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, visited major Chinese agricultural equipment manufacturers and technology firms in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, as part of Pakistan's ongoing engagement with China to promote agricultural mechanisation and modern farming practices.

During the visit, the delegation held detailed meetings with the management of Changfa Group, a leading Chinese manufacturer of tractors, harvesters, diesel engines, and agricultural machinery.

Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in farm



mechanisation, introduction of advanced agricultural equipment in Pakistan, and opportunities for joint ventures and local assembly of machinery to support Pakistani farmers and improve agricultural productivity.

The Chinese side briefed the delegation on its modern manufacturing systems and technological advancements in the agriculture sector. Various proposals were discussed to facilitate the availability of affordable and efficient machinery for Pakistani farmers and to encourage the adoption of modern farming.

## Governor KP distributes relief cheques among affected families of Khyber, Kurram

PEAK POINT

KHYBER: Relief cheques were distributed among affected families of Khyber and Kurram districts in a ceremony held at the Governor House, Peshawar on Sunday. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi given away the cheques provided by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) among affected families from the two districts. Speaking on the occasion,

the governor said that Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) was playing a vital role in relief operations in Khyber and Kurram districts. Despite the deteriorating law and order situation in the merged districts, relief teams continued to provide services in difficult conditions, he added. He



praised the efforts of PRCS volunteers and field staff, saying they were actively engaged in humanitarian activities despite limited resources and challenging circumstances.

He added that along with financial support, food items and other essential goods were also being distributed among the affected people, while efforts were continuing to assist every deserving family despite limited facilities and resources. It is to be stated here that financial assist.

## Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria agree to enhance health cooperation

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal held important meetings with the health ministers of Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Syria on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, where the parties agreed to strengthen cooperation in the health sector. According to the Ministry of National Health Services on Sunday, detailed discussions were held on ongoing progress in the health sector and matters of mutual interest during the meetings. The participating countries agreed to further strengthen public health systems,



promote joint initiatives, and benefit from each other's experiences in the health sector. Speaking on the occasion, Mustafa Kamal said comprehensive reforms were underway in Pakistan's health sector aimed at providing better medical facilities to the public and modernising the healthcare system. He said Pakistan was rapidly moving towards achieving self-sufficiency.



Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar cutting the anniversary cake during celebrations of 75 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations in Beijing.

## Pakistan expands agricultural machinery cooperation with China through High-Level engagements in Changzhou

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, visited major Chinese agricultural equipment manufacturers and technology firms in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, as part of Pakistan's ongoing engagement with China to promote agricultural mechanisation and modern farming practices.

During the visit, the delegation held detailed meetings with the management of Changfa Group, a leading Chinese manufacturer of tractors, harvesters, diesel engines, and agricultural machinery. Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in farm mechanisation, introduction of advanced agricultural equipment in Pakistan, and opportunities for joint ventures and local assembly of machinery to support Pakistani farmers and improve agricultural productivity. The Chinese side

briefed the delegation on its modern manufacturing systems and technological advancements in the agriculture sector. Various proposals were discussed to facilitate the availability of affordable and efficient machinery for Pakistani farmers and to encourage the adoption of modern farming techniques across the country. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between Kingsbridge Ventures and Changfa Group to explore future cooperation in agricultural machinery produc-

tion, technical collaboration, and phased localisation initiatives in Pakistan. The proposed partnership is expected to contribute towards strengthening farm mechanisation and supporting Pakistan's agricultural growth and food security objectives. The delegation also visited StarCharge Group, where discussions were held on smart energy technologies and their potential applications in agricultural infrastructure, energy-efficient systems, and rural development projects in Pakistan.

## Arrest of culprit & recovery of 42 gallons (approximately 1260 Litres) of alcoholic liquor

Wajiha Tameel Mirza

FAISALABAD: According to initial reporting, Motorway Police officer Inspector Muhammad Usman Shabbir along with his team has recovered a huge quantity of Alcoholic Liquor from Suzuki pickup van at M4 Motorway, Faisalabad Section. Officers, on routine patrolling, stopped a Suzuki pickup for anti-doing. The driver description was suspicious about the luggage loaded on the said vehicle. During investigation, it was revealed that the vehicle was Fully Loaded carry-



ing alcoholic Liquor. District police was called to the spot and 42 gallons (approximately 1260 Litres) of alcoholic Liquor were handed over to the Police Station Nishat Abad (Faisalabad) for further legal proceedings. Experts say it is a great work for the road safety as vehicles carrying Flame able material like this cause terrible accidents and disasters on the roads.