

Pakistan to send high-level delegation to US for tariff, trade talks

Islamabad(News Desk) The government is set to send a high-level delegation to the United States to promote trade relations and discuss a 29 per cent tariff that has been imposed on goods the US imports from Pakistan, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Wednesday.As the US imposed heavy levies on dozens of allies and rivals alike on April 2, Pakistan was hit by a 29pc tariff on goods it exports to the US, which economists say could bring immediate hurdles but also long-term opportunities.According to a press release issued by the PMO, the decision to send

a delegation was made during a meeting chaired by PM Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad today to discuss the trade tariff imposed by the US."On the directives of the prime minister, the delegation will also include renowned business persons and exporters," the statement said, without specifying which government officials would be part of the team."The delegation has been tasked by the prime minister to work out a mutually beneficial course of action for the future after negotiations on the new tariffs imposed by the US on imports," the PMO said."Trade relations between Pakistan and

America span decades," PM Shehbaz was quoted as saying in the statement."The government is keen to further strengthen trade partnership with the US," the premier added. During the meeting, the prime minister was presented with a report by the Steering Committee and Working Group on the tariff imposed by the US and the proposed future course of action, the PMO statement said.Various alternative courses of action were also presented during the meeting.The meeting was told that Pakistan's Embassy in the US was in "constant" contact with the Trump admin-

istration.Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi, among others, were present during the meeting, according to the statement.The development comes as the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) earlier today declined by over 2,600 points, as additional US tariffs on Chinese imports reached 104pc.This followed Monday's bloodbath at the PSX when shares plunged by 3,882 points amid rising fears of a global recession after US President Donald Trump imposed "reciprocal" tariffs on dozens of rivals and allies alike.



PM Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting in Islamabad to discuss the trade tariff imposed by the US, on April 9, 2025.

Army will secure investors invited to tap resources

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited foreign investors and entrepreneurs to explore Pakistan's mineral sector, offering investment-friendly policies, technology partnerships and research collaboration and stressing that the country's mineral wealth has the potential to deliver shared prosperity. Meanwhile, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir said Pakistan would provide robust security to protect the interests of investors and partners amid heightened unrest in the mineral-rich Balochistan. Addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 at the Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad, the premier said the country is blessed with immense natural wealth — from the rugged terrain of Balochistan to the snow-covered peaks of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the pristine landscapes of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Clash outside Adiala after Imran's sisters denied meeting



RAWALPINDI: (News Desk) A handful of PTI supporters clashed with police outside the Adiala jail on Tuesday, after the prison administration did not allow the sisters of PTI founder Imran Khan to meet him, prompting the police to baton-charge the crowd to disperse them.

The police also took into custody Mr Khan's sisters Aleema and Uzma Khan, as well as others, ostensibly to prevent a law and order situation and relocated them to a nearby marriage hall before sending them back to Lahore under police protection via motorway. Prior to this, a hide-and-seek of sorts between PTI supporters and the police continued for some time, as protesters pelted police officials with stones and the latter responded with baton-charge.

The police took some workers, as well as the sisters of the PTI founder, into custody from near the Gorakhpur checkpoint.

Police take Aleema, others into custody; PTI flays jail administration for denying audience with ex-PM

The sisters and cousins of Imran Khan were taken to a private marquee, where the women sat on the ground in protest.

A group of PTI supporters also gathered outside the marriage hall and shouted slogans in favour of their leader and demanded his release from the jail.

Impasse at Lakpass as BNP-M sit-in enters 12th day

QUETTA: (News Desk) Despite efforts to end the Balochistan National Party's (BNP) sit-in at Lakpass in Mastung district, the protest entered 12th day on Tuesday with no breakthrough in negotiations. Former Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani visited the protest camp and held a one-on-one meeting with BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal. However, party sources said the discussion did not yield any progress towards resolving the impasse."Mr Sanjrani met Sardar Mengal at the camp, but no decision was reached," a BNP offi-

cial confirmed. No formal statement was issued by Mr Sanjrani following the meeting. Talking to media by phone later in the evening, Mr Mengal clarified that Mr Sanjrani had visited in his personal capacity. "We did not discuss calling off the sit-in," he said, reiterating that the protest would continue as no meaningful response had come from the government. Mr Mengal criticised the government's handling of negotiations, stating that ministers who had previously met BNP leaders

lacked the authority to make commitments. "In three rounds of talks, there has been no concrete development. Our core demand remains the release of Dr Mahrang and other detained women. Yet there has been no movement on this," he added. He further alleged that the government had caused hardship to the public by blocking roads around the sit-in site. "This is the first time a government has taken such measures — punishing people instead of resolving the issue," he said. He said National Assem-

bly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq had contacted him and assured that the issue would be resolved but after that no progress was made so far from the PML-N leadership and the federal government.Meanwhile, a delegation of the National Party, led by party president Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, has reached Lahore for talks with PML-N President Nawaz Sharif. The NP team is scheduled to meet Mr Sharif and senior PML-N leaders today (Wednesday) to brief them on the situation in Balochistan, including recent arrests and ongoing protests.



A US delegation led by US State Dept official Eric Meyer calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on April 9, 2025

SC curious about right to appeal after military trials

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The Supreme Court's constitutional bench has asked the attorney general for Pakistan (AGP) to explain his 2023 statement about granting the right to appeal to those convicted by military courts.The seven-judge bench issued the directive on Tuesday while hearing a set of 38 appeals against the Oct 23, 2023, judgment of the Supreme Court, nullifying the military trial of civil-

ians accused of violence on May 9.The statement made by AGP Mansoor Usman Awan before the SC bench in 2023 came up during the hearing of the appeals. During a hearing on Aug 2, 2023, the AGP had told a five-judge SC bench that the government was working on legislation to give the right of appeal to those convicted of attacking military installations on May 9. He had told the bench that

the government would amend the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) and the Official Secrets Act (OSA) to allow for the convicts' appeal.During the hearing on Tuesday, Justice Musarrat Hilali asked about the status of those amendments. The judge observed that the Constitution protects the rights of civilians and ensures their enforcement. When a convict is sentenced by the military court under

PAA, they don't get the right to appeal the decision before any independent forum, the judge observed.This was unlike the practice in India, where independent forums had been provided for such appeals.Justice Aminuddin Khan, who was heading the constitutional bench, asked Additional Attorney General Chaudhry Amir Rehman to convey to the AGP to appear in person and explain his statement.

Pildat report highlights controversies as Senate completes first year

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) As the Senate completes its first year today (Wednesday), Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (Pildat) has highlighted controversies that will continue to haunt the upper house of the parliament including the continued vacancy of 11 Senate seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and controversial legislation.

A detailed report on the Senate's performance released by Pildat on Tuesday says the deadlock over Senate seats from KP has wider implications for Pakistan's legislative process, as it effectively dilutes the representation of a province from decision-making in the upper house of parliament. The delay in filling the remaining KP seats in the Senate also raises concerns about democratic fairness.

It says the 26th Constitutional Amendment, passed by the Senate in October 2024, marked a significant shift in the country's process of judicial appointments in addition to many other significant changes.

Over 1,000 Pakistani doctors obtain US residency in one year: PMDC

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Around 1,061 Pakistani doctors — the highest ever in a single year — have obtained residency positions in the United States (US), Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) President Professor Rizwan Taj revealed on Tuesday.Notable institutions, from where the maximum number of doctors have achieved residency positions include King Edward Medical University, Allama Iqbal Medical College, Dow Medical College, Shifa College of Medicine, Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) and Khyber Medical University.Mr Taj claimed that the "impressive performance of the doctors exemplified the standards set by the PMDC in overseeing medical education in the country and its strong curricula and training programmes".He reiterated the commitment to develop academic excellence among doctors and described this initiative as the start of a transformative journey aimed at further improvements, the statement said.

Nadra suspends nationality of viral Arshad 'chaiwala'

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court issued notices to the federal government and other respondents after social media personality Arshad Khan, who rose to fame as 'chaiwala', challenged the blocking of his computerised national identity card (CNIC) and passport.

Arshad Khan, who hails from Mardan, rose to fame back in 2016 when a photographer shared a photo of him pouring tea on Instagram, which went viral. Represented by Barrister Umer Ijaz Gilani, the petitioner approached the court under Article 199 of the Constitution, claiming that the blocking of his identity documents by Nadra and the Directorate General of Immigration and Passports was both unlawful and unconstitutional.

During the hearing, Mr Gilani argued that Arshad Khan symbolised the quintessential Pakistani dream — rising from humble beginnings to international fame after a candid photograph of him selling tea in Islamabad went viral. Despite his global recognition, the actions of Nadra and other authorities have jeopardised his future career and tarnished his reputation. LHC seeks response from govt after Arshad's passport, ID card blocked

He further asserted that the demand by Nadra for pre-1978 proof of residency was based on mala fide intent and lacked legal justification, especially when Mr Khan's family had a documented citizenship history. Citing articles 4, 9, 14, and 18 of the Constitution, the lawyer emphasised the violation of Mr Khan's rights to livelihood, dignity, and lawful treatment.

PM to meet Diamer protest leaders today as sit-in enters 53rd day

GILGIT: (News Desk) A federal committee constituted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to address the concerns of people affected by the Diamer Basha Dam on Tuesday vowed to resolve their genuine issues.

The assurance came as the ongoing protest sit-in in Chilas entered its 52nd day.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the protest committee is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif today (Wednesday) to seek a comprehensive and amicable resolution to the standoff.

A crucial meeting of the federal committee, chaired by Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam, was held in Islamabad.

It was attended by Federal Minister for Water Resources Moin Wattoo, Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, Chief Secretary

Abrar Ahmed Mirza, Wapda Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Sajjad Ghani, Secretary for Kashmir Affairs Zafar Hassan, Additional Secretary Kamranur Rehman and Joint Secretary of the GB Council Sudhir Khattak.

The meeting discussed the ongoing protest movement in Chilas, where locals affected by the dam project have continued a sit-in, demanding the implementation of a 31-point charter of de-

mands. The committee expressed commitment to addressing these issues in line with the prime minister's directives.

Mr Muqam said the development of Gilgit-Baltistan and the fair use of its resources for the well-being of its people remained a top priority for the federal government.

The protest, directed primarily at the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), has focused on compensation,



employment opportunities and the regularisation of workers. Protest leaders briefly reopened the Karakoram Highway (KKH) o

n Monday until negotiations with the federal government but warned that they would intensify the demonstration.