

Torkham reopens after 27 days following successful jirga negotiations

Islamabad(News Desk) The Torkham border crossing reopened on Wednesday after 27 days following much-awaited parleys between jirga members of Pakistan and Afghanistan, according to a jirga leader from the Pakistani side. The cross-border movement of people via the Torkham border crossing was abruptly suspended on February 21 after Pakistani and Afghan security forces developed differences over construction activities on both sides of

the border. The situation worsened this month when eight people, including six troops, were injured as Pakistan and Afghan Taliban forces traded fire at the border. A number of houses, a mosque and some offices of clearing agents were hit by artillery shells, and cross-border firing continued for three days. Since then, tribal elders on both sides of the border have been engaged in talks to end the stalemate. Around 5,000 commercial

trucks had been stuck on both sides, causing millions of dollars worth of losses to traders on both sides, according to the vice president of the Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi. The decision to reopen the border was taken at a flag meeting at Torkham on the Afghan side on Wednesday, head of the Pakistani jirga Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi. Kazmi said that the border has now opened for cargo vehicles and will open for

pedestrians and patients on Friday after the repair of Pakistani customs infrastructure damaged due to firing from the Afghan side. Additionally, an immediate ceasefire has been agreed upon till April 15. Both sides agreed to stop construction of the controversial check posts, Kazmi added. Nangrahar Deputy Governor Molvi Azizullah and Commissioner Molvi Hikmatullah represented the Afghan side in the flag meeting.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addresses the inaugural ceremony of spring tree plantation campaign 2025 on 19 March 2025

Cop martyred, another hurt in KP shootings

PESHAWAR: (News Desk) While a daylong curfew has been imposed in three parts of Upper South Waziristan amid security concerns, a policeman returning home was martyred in Dera Ismail Khan, a Motorway Police official sustained injuries on Swat Motorway, law enforcers foiled an attack on a checkpoint in Charsadda and locals thwarted an abduction attempt by militants in Khyber on Tuesday. Police officials said that a policeman, Mohammad Ali, was martyred when unidentified attackers opened fire on him on Chashma Road near Singhar area of in D.I. Khan district. The martyred cop was on his way back home when he was targeted and the assailants fled the scene after the shooting, the officials said, adding that the slain cop's body was shifted to hospital. Later, police launched a search operation in the area. In Malakand, a Swat Motorway patrol car came under attack, leaving a police cashier, Majid, injured. Officials said the shooters fled when the Motorway Police retaliated.

Constitutional Bench issues order to transfer super tax cases



ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The Constitutional Bench has issued the order to transfer all appeals pending before high courts against the super tax imposed on wealthy individuals. The order was issued after the bench, for the first time, used its authority — under the Constitution — to transfer all intra-court appeals (ICAs) relating to the Super Tax pending in the high courts of Lahore and Islamabad. The CB invoked Article 186(A), which was added to the Constitution after the 26th amendment last year. The provision allows the Supreme Court to transfer cases from high courts “in the interest of justice” The set of petitions, which will now be heard by the CB, challenged the tax initially imposed on wealthy individuals and companies earning above Rs500 million in 2015, with the stated purpose of rebuilding the areas affected during Operation Zarb-i-Azb against terrorists in North Waziristan. The ICAs and petitions challenged Sections 4B and 4C of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 under which the super tax was imposed. Headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan, the five-judge CB ordered the Supreme Court office to send copies of its order to the registrars of Lahore and Islamabad high court (IHC).

Sugar prices should not exceed Rs164 per kg, says Deputy PM Dar

Islamabad(News Desk) Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that retail sugar prices should not exceed Rs164 after the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) warned sugar mills against price manipulation. Contrary to the rates announced by the prime minister as well as several attempts by the government to maintain retail sales at Rs130 per kg, sugar prices in the markets continue to soar above Rs180 per kg in various markets across the country. Sugar consumption is

forecast to increase slightly to 6.7 million tonnes as it has continuously grown due to the population growth and demand from the food processing sector. During the last season, Pakistan produced more than 6.84m tonnes of sugar, which is expected to rise in 2024-25. Speaking to journalists, the deputy prime minister said that according to news reports, there was a spike in sugar prices to Rs178-179, “which is obviously not tolerable” to the prime minister. “So yesterday we had a late night meeting so we

could bring this conclude this matter — so we can together find a viable way in which a common citizen can find relief and he doesn't have to hear talks of [sugar prices] reaching Rs180 to Rs200,” he said. “And we reach a reasonable price where you don't suffer losses either — [so] subcommittee is being made for the numbers which Rana Tanveer sahab [minister for national food security and research] will head.” Dar said the committee will work until April 19 to determine costs and provide feedback on the sugar mills claims — that

they were not responsible for the price hike of the commodity. He also added that they needed to work on a system so that the “common man can have cheaper sugar ... but for that we would need a distribution channel and an implementation mechanism is necessary”. On Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)'s sales tax on sugar, he said that it would be charged at Rs154 to 155 — with the price cap at Rs159. He said that the government will work to gather intelligence reports, along with the CCP, which will also collect data.



Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Haroon Akhtar Khan Held a meeting with Dairy Milk Association, in ministry of industries and production , on March 19 2025

LHC summons AGP to assist with 2015 plea seeking ban on Altaf Hussain's media coverage

Lahore (News Desk) The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday issued notices to respondents on a 2015 petition seeking a ban on the broadcast of images and speeches of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) founder Altaf Hussain across all electronic and print media. In early 2015, a petition

filed by Advocate Aftab Virk, Abdullah Malik and others called for a lifetime ban on the live telecast of Hussain's speeches, citing his “anti-army” remarks. Subsequently, a three-member bench of the LHC had ordered the ban on August 31, 2015 and its compliance. A three-judge LHC bench

headed by Chief Justice Aalia Neelum and including Justices Farooq Haider and Tariq Nadeem took up the plea today. The court summoned Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan and the Punjab advocate general on the next hearing, seeking their assistance in the case.

It also ordered that the MQM founder's lawyer be summoned on that hearing. The petitioners were also given time till the next hearing to appoint their lawyers. At one point during the hearing, Malik said “peace had been established in Karachi” after the LHC ordered the ban in 2015.

34 social media users booked for spreading false news of blasts in Dadu: police

Dadu(News DESK) Police have booked over 34 social media users on charges of spreading false news and rumours of bomb blasts in Dadu, an official said on Wednesday. According to Dadu Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ameer Saud Magi, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against the suspects under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (Peca) Act 2016, a copy of which is available.

The spokesperson for the Dadu police said in a statement on Monday, “Unidentified miscreants are spreading false information with the wrong use of social media”, advising them to verify the information before sharing it. SSP Magi said that the police had only registered the case against 34 people. “Thirty raiding teams have been formed to arrest these suspects tonight,” he added.

IHC constitutes larger bench on PTI founder's jail rights petitions

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has constituted a larger bench to hear all petitions related to the visitation rights and jail conditions of former prime minister Imran Khan, currently incarcerated at Adiala jail. The three-member bench, comprising acting Chief Justice Sardar Mohammad Sarfraz Dogar, Justice Arbab Mohammad Tahir, and Justice Mohammad Azam Khan, will hear all the petitions related to Mr Khan's jail facilities, including his meetings with relatives, party leaders and his entitlements, from now onwards. The IHC administration has transferred all 26 petitions, including contempt of court applications against Adiala Jail Superintendent Abdul Ghafoor Anjum, to the larger bench. The decision to consolidate the cases was made following an application by Mr Anjum, who cited logistical challenges in appearing before multiple benches. Justice Dogar-led bench to hear all 26 pleas, including Imran's contempt plea against jail superintendent. Acting CJ Dogar subsequently ordered that all related petitions be heard by a single bench to ensure uniformity in adjudication.

KP CM orders release of Rs5.5bn to police

PESHAWAR: (News Desk) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has ordered the immediate release of Rs5.5 billion to fulfil the provincial police's needs, declaring it a significant step for the strengthening of the law-enforcement force. He issued the orders while chairing a meeting regarding the police department's affairs at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, according to an official statement issued here on Tuesday. Chief secretary Shahab Ali Shah, inspector general of police Zulfiqar Hameed, additional chief secretary (home) Mohammad Abid Majeed, senior officials from the finance and police departments attended the meeting. According to the statement, the participants agreed about the immediate release of Rs3 billion for the bulletproofing of police vehicles and the purchase of modern equipment. They also decided to provide Rs1.3 billion to establish the Special Weapons and Tactics teams equipped with modern technology at the district level and protect secure police stations and checkpoints. Also, Rs500 million will be released for the remaining projects under the Annual Development Programme related to the construction of police stations and Rs720 million for the purchase of night vision goggles, sniper rifles and other equipment for the police. The chief minister decided in principle to bring the salaries of police officers in the province in line with the salaries of Balochistan's police officers and to match the salaries of police personnel with those of Punjab police officials.

PTI skips security moot over 'lack of contact' with Imran

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) The PTI did not end up attending Tuesday's meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security (PCNS) after its requested meeting with jailed party founder Imran Khan failed to materialise. Instead, the party held a press conference along with its allies, warning that hastily opening new fronts within the country or attempting to resolve relations with neighbouring countries through force would lead to further

deterioration of the situation. Opposition alliance Tehreek Tahaffuz-i-Ayeen Pakistan head Mahmood Khan Achakzai said holding a high-level security meeting without the involvement of Imran Khan was meaningless. He was flanked by PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja, Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen chief Senator Raja Nasir Abbas and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) head Sahibzada Hamid Raza. Mr Achakzai claimed that the leaders of

the PTI and other parties were not allowed to meet Imran Khan. Opposition leaders warn against opening up new fronts; Imran backs party's decision to stay away from parliamentary huddle. PTI's Salman Akram Raja said that the party had decided to skip the meeting, adding that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur attended the meeting. The PTI leader said the opposition party was not in favour of any operation

and suggested the issue be addressed through negotiations. In a statement, the PTI claimed that during a party meeting, it was unanimously agreed that the PTI representatives would not attend the committee meeting until a meeting with Imran Khan was arranged. “The illegal use of violence is a cancer that the state must stop. Combating terrorism is a complex, sensitive, and serious issue that requires seriousness and wisdom. The key to



tackling terrorism lies in achieving complete internal stability. The nation cannot effectively confront a major challenge like terrorism if it is sacrificed to political biases

and divisions,” it stated. It claimed that without public support and backing, achieving any serious objective was impossible.