

Friday, August 25, 2017 / 03 Zul Hijj 1438 Hijri

Market Today (August 24, 2017)

Opening	PSX	Gold Per 10 gm	KCA Spot Rate	Crude Oil USD /bbl.
	42,268.62	39,757.00	6,835.00	47.43

(Source: Express Tribune)

Exchange rates issued by the Treasury Management Division of National Bank of Pakistan. August 24, 2017

Country	Currency	Selling TT & OD	Buying TT Clear
USA	USD	105.5	105.3
UK	GBP	134.86	134.6
Euro	EUR	124.48	124.25
Canada	CAD	84.1	83.94
Switzerland	CHF	109.18	108.98
Australia	AUD	83.32	83.17
Sweden	SEK	13.22	13.19
Japan	JPY	0.966	0.9642
Norway	NOK	13.41	13.38
Singapore	SGD	77.51	77.37
Denmark	DKK	16.74	16.71
Saudi Arabia	SAR	28.13	28.08
Hong Kong	HKD	13.62	13.6
China	CNY	16.21	16.18
Kuwait	KWD	349.46	348.8
Malaysia	MYR	24.66	24.61
New Zealand	NZD	76.23	76.08
Qatar	QAR	28.97	28.92
UAE	AED	28.72	28.67

(Source: Business Recorder)

Sectoral Share in GDP %

Sectors/Sub-Sectors	2014-15	2015-16 (p)
Commodity Producing Sector (Agriculture + Industrial Sector)	41.4	40.8
Agriculture	20.80	19.82
Crops	8.2	7.4
Livestock	11.7	11.6
Fishing	0.4	0.4
Forestry	0.4	0.4
Industrial Sector	20.6	21.0
Mining & Quarrying	2.9	2.9
Manufacturing	13.6	13.6
Construction	2.4	2.6
Electricity & Gas Distribution	1.7	1.9
Services Sector	58.6	59.2
Transport, Storage & communication	13.4	13.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	18.3	18.3
Finance & Insurance	3.2	3.3
Ownership of Dwellings	6.7	6.7
General Government Services	7.1	7.6
Other Services	9.9	10.1

(Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2015-16)

Traffic Police determined to resolve traffic issues

Traffic Police is committed to resolve the traffic issues and suggestion from the business community in this regard will be welcomed. While talking to the LCCI Vice President Muhammad Nasir Hameed Khan and Executive Committee Members, Chief Traffic Officer Rai Ejaz Ahmed said that only one of its kind modern E-testing lab and online learning and E-licensing systems are being established and developed for the masses. He invited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry to take part in the public awareness campaign of traffic department to create awareness about the traffic rules and regulations. *(Pakistan Observer)*

Authorities lift ban on import of animals from Afghanistan

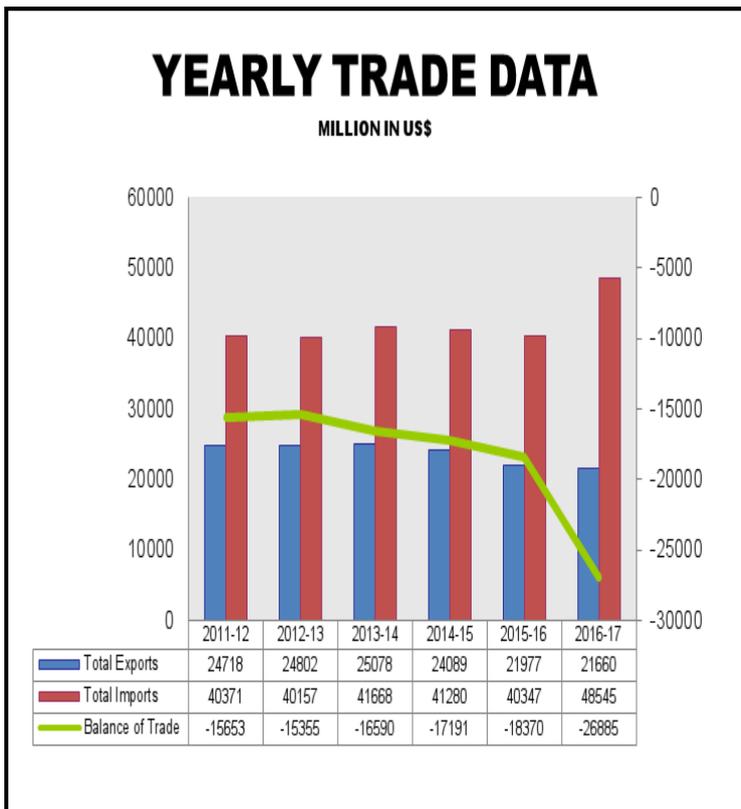
The authorities on Thursday lifted ban on import of sheep and goats from Afghanistan and imposed a token tax on entry of every animal to Pakistan via Torkham border. Officials said that political administration would collect Rs500 as agency tax on every sheep and goat as their entry to Pakistan would be legalised through the main border crossing. They said that sale and purchase of all the animals imported from Afghanistan would only be allowed within the territorial jurisdiction of Khyber Agency. The transportation of such animals to other parts of the country would not be allowed. "The activity is now legalised with imposition of agency tax as livestock dealers were not paying any tax prior to imposition of ban few days ago," officials said. They added that the decision was made in the larger interest of people as Eidul Azha was round the corner while local cattle markets wearing a deserted look due to imposition of ban. *(Dawn)*

Experts term tax pay facilitation as key reforms agenda

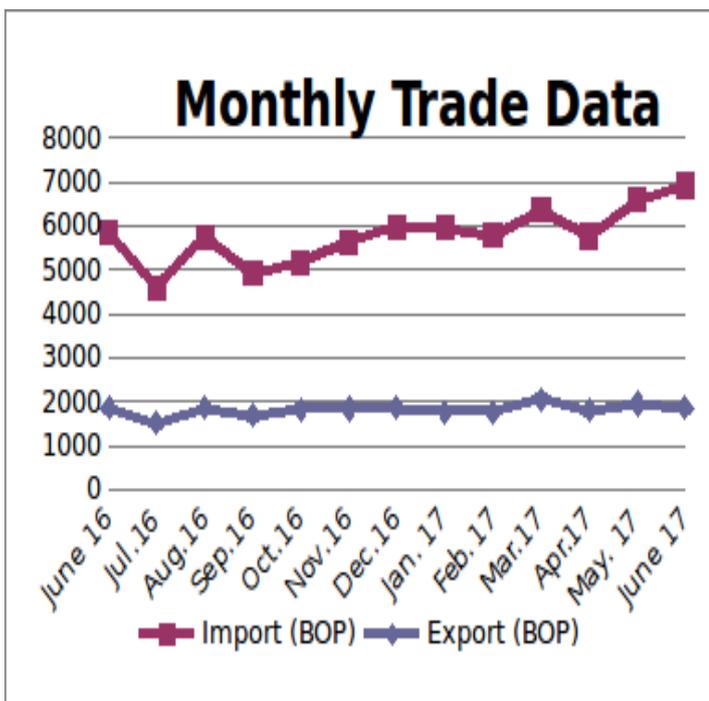
Facilitating the tax payers should be key reforms agenda for taxation system in Pakistan that could enable tax buyers to perform their national duty with ease rather than confronting with challenges at multi levels. The issues regarding taxation at federal to provinces and within the provinces were a reality and hence, must be addressed to eliminate unwarranted impediments in doing business. The representatives from federal and provincial tax authorities and experts in financial sectors said this while sharing their views with the participants of 'High Level Meeting on Designing Better Federal & Provincial Tax Reforms in Pakistan' held by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in collaboration with The Asia Foundation here on Thursday. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, Spokesman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), said that tax payers should be more important for any revenue administration. He said that the compulsions like filing tax returns both to federal as well as provincial authorities have hurt the ease of doing business. This issue required urgent attention to get resolved so that tax payers could pay revenues to government without any hassle. Therefore, we need to define strategies for tax payer facilitation, he added. Dr. Vaqar Ahmad, Deputy Executive Director SDPI, earlier said that the report of the Tax Reform Commission has suggested that the tax coordination issues between federation and provinces could prevent any relief to the people and it could lead towards enhanced cost of doing business. He said that SDPI research also suggested that all provinces have different tax rates and most try to tax the same shrinking sources of income and wealth – thus leading to additional burden on already taxed sectors. He said that in order to harmonize the taxation system across provinces, all provincial governments should take measures to consolidate the large number of sub-national taxes, reduce compliance costs through merger of provincial revenue authorities and introduce a unified tax return and central deposit of payments. Besides, he said, inter-governmental tax committee for dispute resolution and to integrate audit capacities of provincial tax authorities. *(Pakistan Observer)*

Economic Indicators	
Annual (2015/16)	
Foreign Debt	\$62.649bn
Per Capita Income	\$1,512
GDP Growth	4.24%
Average CPI	8.6%
Monthly (June, 2017)	
Trade Balance	\$-3,189 mln
Exports	\$1,865 mln
Imports	\$5,054 mln
Weekly (July 14, 2017)	
Reserves	\$20.830 mln

(Source: SBP)



(Source: SBP)



(Source: SBP)

Foreign exchange: SBP reserves rise 0.45%, but stay below \$15b

After a continuous decline for the past five weeks, the foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) rose 0.45% on a weekly basis, according to data released by the central bank on Thursday. On August 18, the foreign currency reserves held by the central bank were recorded at \$14,375.1 million, up \$64.6 million or 0.45%, compared to \$14,310.5 million in the previous week, according to the central bank. No reason was cited for the increase. Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, including net reserves held by banks other than the SBP, stood at \$20,046.3 million. Net reserves held by banks amounted to \$5,671.2 million. In January, the SBP made a \$500-million loan repayment to the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), China. *(Express Tribune)*

Indonesia agrees to increase fruit import quota for Pakistan

Indonesia has agreed to expand the quota and period for import of fruits from Pakistan under the preferential trade agreement, an official told Dawn on Thursday. Pakistan's exports to Indonesia have dropped by almost \$100 million ever since the implementation of preferential trade agreement (PTA), whereas, Indonesia's exports have almost doubled during the post preferential treaty. Both sides have held three rounds to review the implementation of the PTA. At the conclusion of the third round held recently, Indonesia has agreed to allow imports of Pakistani kinno (mandarin oranges) from December until April. Previously, they were allowed only from January to April. Indonesia will also increase Pakistan's quota in imports of fresh fruits, allowing imports of mangoes from May until October, which makes Pakistan the only country to be given such permission. An official source said Pakistan has already comprehensively conveyed its concerns regarding unfavourable implementation of the PTA in the last two review meetings. "Indonesia acknowledged the concerns raised by Pakistan and agreed to reduce the tariff to zero on two tariff lines of textiles, knitted and woven fabric, which the Pakistani side had demanded in the first review," the official said. According to the official, the Indonesian government agreed to advise the relevant Ministry, and agency to import more broken rice from Pakistan. Indonesia also agreed to co-ordinate with the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, to start the site pre-inspections and certification of halal procedures regarding imports of meat and meat products from Pakistan. Pakistan has requested Indonesia allow inclusion of 20 items in the PTA unilaterally to which it agreed to give positive consideration. *(Dawn)*

FTAs, PTAs need to be revisited

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) recommended the government to revisit and negotiate anew the existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). "The trade agreements should be revisited as they are heavily tilted in the favour of partner countries," said FPCCI President Zubair Tufail in a statement released Thursday. He said that the FPCCI supports the bilateral trade agreements with different countries to enhance Pakistan's trade relations but these should be based on mutual benefit and at the same time protect Pakistan's economic interests. Due to the existing FTAs, Pakistan's imports have jumped by 300% in the last three years, putting an unbearable burden on the foreign exchange reserves. *(Express Tribune)*

Market watch: Profit-taking drags stocks back into negative zone

The stock market comeback proved to be short-lived as the index lost 642.17 points on Thursday, resuming the downtrend after a brief interlude a day earlier. Despite remaining in the green zone and crossing 43,000 points during early hours of the trading session, investors failed to carry the momentum forward with lack of selective buying further eroding the previous day's gains. Selling pressure in the second half further dented prices of notable index names from cement and banking sectors with DG Khan Cement and Allied Bank being the biggest losers. Most index names in the cement sector traded at or close to their lower circuits amid lack of buying interest. At the end of trading, the benchmark KSE 100-share Index recorded a decrease of 642.17 points or 1.50% at 42,268.62 points. *(Express Tribune)*