

Market Today (March 31, 2017)

Opening	PSX	Gold Per 10 gm	KCA Spot Rate	Crude Oil USD /bbl.
	49,963.77	42,600.00	6,600.00	48.42

(Source: Business Recorder)

Exchange rates issued by the Treasury Management Division of National Bank of Pakistan. March 31, 2017

Country	Currency	Selling TT & OD	Buying TT Clear
USA	USD	104.85	104.65
UK	GBP	130.9	130.65
Euro	EUR	111.94	111.73
Canada	CAD	78.6	78.45
Switzerland	CHF	104.72	104.52
Australia	AUD	80.15	80
Sweden	SEK	11.72	11.7
Japan	JPY	0.9353	0.9335
Norway	NOK	12.22	12.2
Singapore	SGD	75.01	74.87
Denmark	DKK	15.05	15.02
Saudi Arabia	SAR	27.96	27.91
Hong Kong	HKD	13.49	13.47
China	CNY	15.38	15.35
Kuwait	KWD	344.11	343.45
Malaysia	MYR	23.69	23.64
New Zealand	NZD	73.24	73.1
Qatar	QAR	28.8	28.74
UAE	AED	28.55	28.49

(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)

Abdul Basit
President

Amjad Ali Jawa
Senior Vice President

M. Nasir Hameed Khan
Vice President



Mediation Centre resolves business dispute

The Mediation Centre, set up at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) in 2012, resolved one of the three business dispute cases referred to it by the Lahore High Court (LHC) in the past two weeks. "One case has been resolved amicably in only two hours while the other two are under process. This is a big step and would help reduce the burden of non-traditional cases from the judiciary besides saving precision time and capital of the business community," LCCI President Abdul Basit said during a press conference. LCCI Senior Vice President Amjad Ali Jawa, Vice President Muhammad Nasir Hameed Khan, former president Engineer Sohail Lashari and Barrister Zafar Kalanori spoke on the occasion. The LCCI president threw light on the initiative taken during the recent visit of Chief Justice Lahore High Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to the LCCI a couple of weeks ago. Mr Basit said the cases were referred for mediation by Justice Anwar ul Haq and Justice Kazim. He said the chamber is also planning to provide case assessment facility which would enable businessmen to decide whether their cases are acceptable for the court or not. He said the chamber established the Mediation Centre for out-of-court settlements of the business disputes. This centre has the services of over 40 experienced mediators. *(The News)*

Govt takes concrete steps for eliminating terrorism: Khurram

Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastagir said that the present government had taken concrete steps for eliminating terrorism. Pakistan was playing important role in war against terrorism, he stated while talking to a private news channel. "We will have to resolve the issues of extremism and terrorism for permanent peace," he stated. He condemned the killing of innocent people in bomb blast in Parachinar. He said it had become difficult for anti-Pakistan elements to digest the growing economic ties with China besides Russia. Khurram Dastagir said that the government had taken steps to bring Federally Administered Tribal Areas into mainstream. Pakistan cannot separate from the strategic changes being reported around the world, he stated. *(Business Recorder)*

Economic environment continues to remain conducive for growth: SBP

The overall economic environment remains conducive for growth, says a report of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The SBP released its Second Quarterly Report for the fiscal year 2017 (FY17) on the State of Pakistan's Economy. The Report says that the overall economic environment remains conducive for growth, on the back of accommodative monetary policy, increase in development spending, and CPEC-inspired activities. It has also noted the improvements in investors' confidence as reflected in an uptick in private sector credit, especially for fixed investment purposes; foreign interests in Pakistani companies; and increased production of consumer durables. Similarly, a surge in import of machinery and raw materials also points to a robust industrial activity and buildup of future productive capacity. The growth in Large-scale Manufacturing (LSM) recovered in the Quarter two-Q2-FY17 with increase in production of food, cement, steel, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and electronic industries. The growth in agricultural sector is also expected to rebound on account of higher production of cotton, sugarcane, and maize and increased prospects for wheat harvest close to last year after rains in early February 2017. The Report highlights that current account deficit has almost doubled compared to the last year. This was due to a surge in growth-inducing imports along with non-realization of CSF and decline in exports and remittances. On an encouraging note, the Report acknowledges that the foreign inflows- FDI, loans, and Sukuk issuance, were little more than sufficient to finance higher current account deficit. The Report, nevertheless, highlights the need to contain current account deficit to manageable levels to sustain external sector

Economic Indicators

Annual (2015/16)

Foreign Debt	\$62.649bn
Per Capita Income	\$1,512
GDP Growth	4.24%
Average CPI	8.6%

Monthly (Oct. 2016)

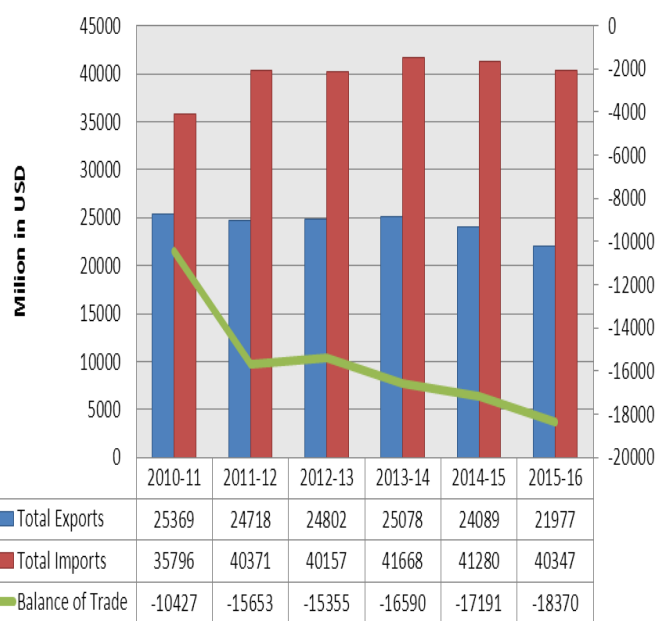
Trade Balance	-\$1.852 mln
Exports	\$1.742 mln
Imports	\$3.594 mln

Weekly (January 23, 2017)

Reserves	\$23,191.5 mln
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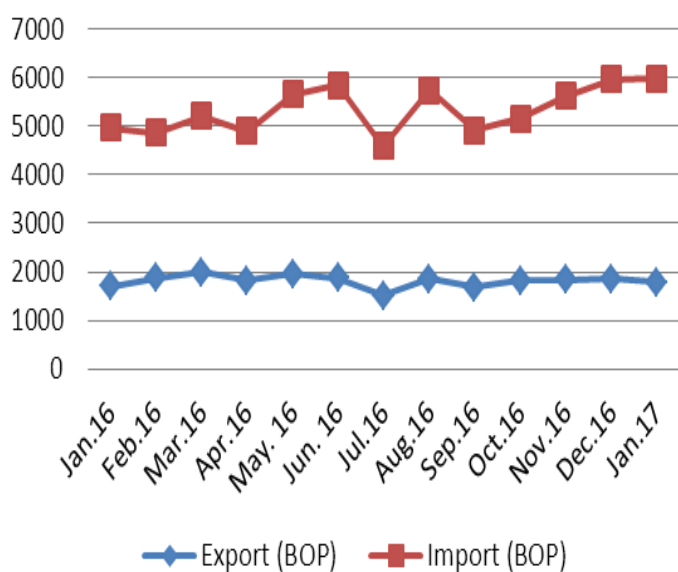
(Source: Business Recorder)

Yearly Trade Data



(Source: SBP)

Monthly Trade Data



(Source: SBP)

stability. The Report also notes that fiscal deficit has increased due to low revenue generation amid higher development and security related spending. While the Report terms sustained increase in development spending commendable, it also underscores the need to enhance revenue collection. The Report shows that average CPI inflation has risen from 2.1 percent in H1-FY16 to 3.9 percent as in H1-FY17 which reflects higher domestic demand and an increase in global commodity prices. However, it highlights that on year-on-year basis, the CPI inflation has fluctuated in a narrow range during this period. **(Business Recorder)**

Pakistan strengthening relations with other countries: Fatemi

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi said that Pakistan was strengthening relations with other countries. Talking to PTV, he said that India was trying to isolate Pakistan but on the other hand, Pakistan's relations with other countries increasing. He said that Prime Minister, Muhammed Nawaz Sharif desired to have good relations with regional and neighboring countries. He said that India was involved in the barbaric activities and killing of innocent Kashmiris in the occupied Kashmir valley. Pakistan had caught the Indian officer involved in the terrorism activities here. He said that terrorism was a primary challenge for the whole world. Pakistan was playing an important role in war against terrorism, he added. To a question regarding Command for Islamic Coalition Force, he said that Pakistan held historical and friendly relations with Iran. He said that Pakistan would not take part or play any role against neighboring or friendly countries. **(Express Tribune)**

Index snaps six-session losing streak, ends 207 points higher

After almost a week of suffering due to investor caution amid rising political noise, the benchmark KSE-100 Index finally ended with a rise of 206.6 points or 0.43% – its first positive finish in seven sessions. The day began with the market carrying forward its negative momentum with the index dipping close to the 47,680-point level before bulls returned to take it beyond 48,000. The KSE-100 eventually finished at 48,155.93. The sudden northward hike can mainly be attributed to reports suggesting that the verdict of the Panama case is expected by mid-April. Investors who remained mainly on the sidelines took centre stage and fueled the bullish sentiment. At close, the Pakistan Stock Exchange's benchmark KSE 100-share Index recorded a rise of 206.60 points or 0.43% to end at 48,155.93. **(Express Tribune)**

Litre price of petrol, diesel up by Rs1; kerosene unchanged

The government increased the prices of petrol and high speed diesel (HSD) by Rs1 per litre with immediate effect. "The prices of light diesel and kerosene will remain unchanged to provide relief to consumers," Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said while talking to the media in Dubai. "The government will provide a subsidy of Rs3 billion on petroleum products," Dar added. The government had absorbed the impact of oil prices by making adjustment in taxes which were imposed on consumers following a dip in oil prices in international markets. The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) had suggested an increase of up to Rs13 per litre in line with the fluctuation in global oil prices. Both petrol and diesel are used by the majority of people in the country as diesel is used in the agriculture and transport sectors. Therefore, high prices of diesel directly hit farmers and cause inflation due to increase in the cost of transportation. In a summary moved to the petroleum ministry on Thursday, the regulatory body had proposed an increase of Rs2.28 per litre for petrol (MS), Rs2.04 for high speed diesel (HSD), Rs13 per litre for kerosene (superior KO) and Rs7.75 per litre for light diesel oil (LDO). However, the government had decided to make partial increase in the prices of petrol and high speed diesel by Rs1 per litre. The prices of light diesel oil and kerosene were kept unchanged. **(Express Tribune)**

Chinese-backed Port City in Sri Lanka to attract \$13bn in investment from 2018

A Chinese-backed real estate project near Sri Lanka's main port is expected to attract \$13 billion worth of investment from next year, the developer said. The \$1.4bn Port City project by China Communication Construction Company (CCCC) started late last year as part of Beijing's ambitious plans to create a modern-day "Silk Road" across Asia. Liang Thow Ming, chief sales and marketing officer of CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd, the local company that handles the project for CCCC, said a third of the 269-hectare (665-acre) site had been reclaimed from the sea. "We are hoping to deliver the first site for construction by the end of 2018," Liang told Reuters in an interview in Colombo. **(Dawn)**