

Saturday, April 15, 2017 | 17 Rajab ul Murajab 1438 Hijri

Market Today (April 14, 2017)

Opening	PSX	Gold Per 10 gm	KCA Spot Rate	Crude Oil USD /bbl.
	49,963.77	42,600.00	6,600.00	53.18

(Source: Business Recorder)

Exchange rates issued by the Treasury Management Division of National Bank of Pakistan. April 14, 2017

Country	Currency	Selling TT & OD	Buying TT Clear
USA	USD	104.7	104.5
UK	GBP	131	130.75
Euro	EUR	111.1	110.88
Canada	CAD	78.56	78.41
Switzerland	CHF	104.12	103.92
Australia	AUD	79.28	79.13
Sweden	SEK	11.58	11.56
Japan	JPY	0.9589	0.9571
Norway	NOK	12.19	12.17
Singapore	SGD	74.94	74.79
Denmark	DKK	14.93	14.91
Saudi Arabia	SAR	27.92	27.86
Hong Kong	HKD	13.63	13.6
China	CNY	15.58	15.55
Kuwait	KWD	343.62	342.96
Malaysia	MYR	23.78	23.74
New Zealand	NZD	73.22	73.08
USA	USD	104.7	104.5
UK	GBP	131	130.75

(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)

Committee formed to address businessmen complaints

A delegation of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Executive Committee on Friday called on Punjab Chief Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the problems being faced by business community. The chief minister assured the chamber members that their problems will be addressed on priority. The chief minister also formed a committee to entertain complaints and difficulties of business community that would be sorted out through the secretaries concerned. The committee will be headed by Provincial Minister Malik Nadeem Kamran. On the occasion, CM Shehbaz highlighted the government initiatives for the development and the prosperity of the country and said that CPEC will play a vital role in making Pakistan strong and prosper. He said that huge opportunities exist for halal foods export and Pakistan can make the best use of it. He said that the Punjab government has framed law to combat counterfeit and substandard medicines in order to save precious human lives. In like manner, manufacturers of standard pharmaceuticals will be profoundly valued. He said that current government has made extraordinary efforts to overcome energy crises. He said that constructions of parking plazas are being given prime consideration in order to solve the issues of traffic. Furthermore, he added that agriculture plays a vital role for boosting up economy that is why concrete initiatives are being taken for the promotion of farming sector. However, with the purpose of increasing yields of rice and cotton more research and development work needs to be done. **(The Nation)**

PM's package for exporters: scope of DLTL expanded

The Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has expanded the scope of Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) of Prime Minister's incentive package for exporters. A meeting of the ECC presided over by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar approved a proposal of the Ministry of Commerce with respect to the Prime Minister's package of incentives for exporters. For export shipments until 31st March 2017 under the package, the ECC approved extension in deadline for submission of claims from 90 days to 120 days after every shipment. The ECC also approved inclusion of certain finished leather projects in the DLTL order under the package. The Ministry of Commerce in the proposal stated that the ECC approved the Prime Minister's package of incentives for exporters, dated 11.01.2017. In this regard various incentives have been extended to textile and non-textile sector, besides tax related concessions for FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 entailing a financial impact of approximately Rs 180 billion. The ministry further stated that in pursuance to the ECC decision, it issued DLTL (Non-Textile) Order, allowing drawback at the rates approved by the ECC on shipments made from 16th January 2017 to 30th June 2017. The support provided to the sectors includes tanned leather. The support, however, was not provided to finished leather which was inadvertently omitted. Pakistan Tanners Association (PTA) approached Ministry of Commerce for inclusion of finished leather under the category of value added products for drawback support already available to tanned leather. The Ministry of Commerce supports the viewpoint for inclusion of finished leather in the DLTL Order and hereby proposes the inclusion of to various PCT headings (4107.1200, 4107.9100, 4107.9200, 4112.0000, 4113.1000 and 4113.9000) in the Prime Minister's package. The ECC also approved Rs 380 million salaries of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) employees for the month of January 2017. The meeting also approved the proposal of Finance Ministry for issuance of Letter of Comfort (LoC) to National Bank of Pakistan or any other financial institution, which will in turn issue a Standby Letter of Credit (SBLC) for the comfort of commercial lenders of the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway project. On a proposal submitted by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, the ECC also approved allocation of 10 mmmcf gas from Tolang Gas Field to SNGPL. **(Business Recorder)**

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)

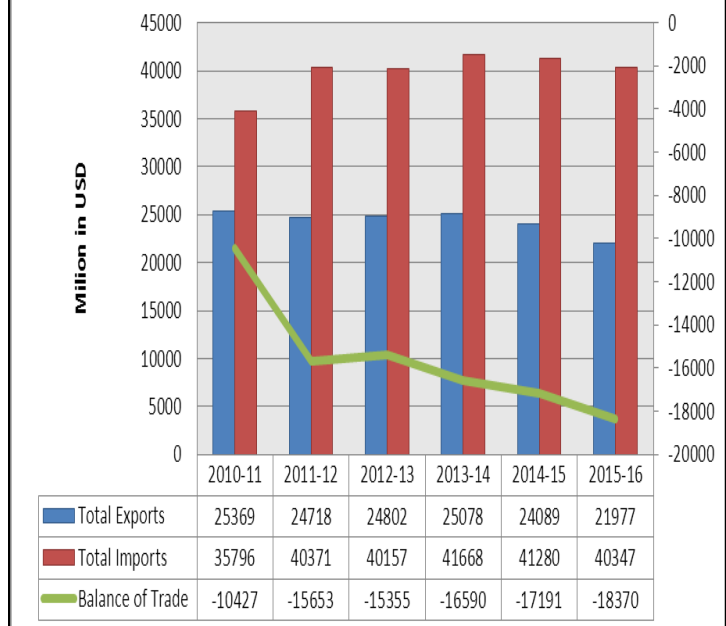
Trade Balance	-\$1.852 mln
Exports	\$1.742 mln
Imports	\$3.594 mln

Weekly (January 23, 2017)

Reserves	\$23,191.5 mln
----------	----------------

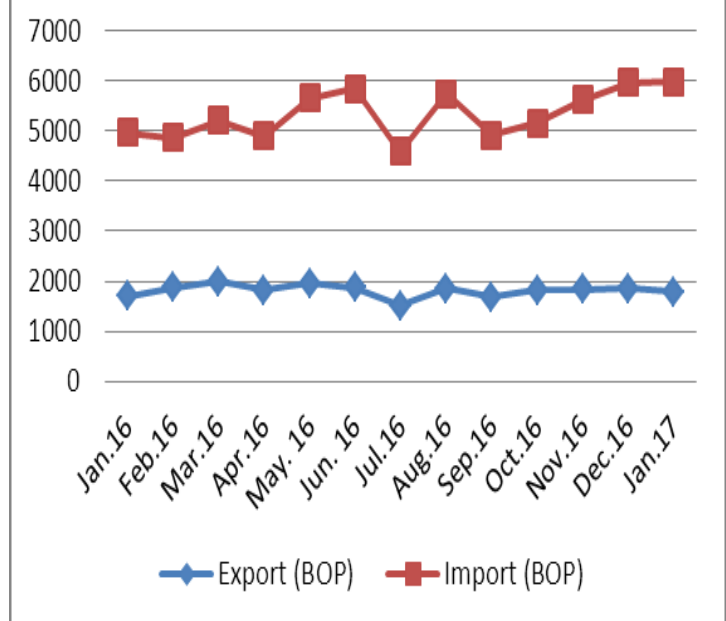
(Source: Business Recorder)

Yearly Trade Data



(Source: SBP)

Monthly Trade Data



(Source: SBP)

Pakistan, Iran central banks sign agreement to facilitate trade

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) signed a Banking and Payment Arrangement (BPA) with Iran's central bank, Bank Markazi Jomhuri Islami Iran (BMJII), on Friday in Tehran. Deputy Governor SBP Riaz Riazuddin and Vice Governor BMJII signed the agreement on behalf of their central banks, said a statement released by SBP. "The objective of this BPA is to provide a trade settlement mechanism to promote trade between Pakistan and Iran," said the statement. The agreement will be used for payment of trade conducted via letter of credit in accordance with international law and regulations. "In the next step, both the central banks will invite banks in their respective jurisdiction to act as Authorised Banks for undertaking trade transactions under this BPA, added the statement. The statement further added that details of the agreement will be issued by SBP. "The State Bank of Pakistan expects that this agreement will help in strengthening trade links between the two countries." (Dawn)

Govt eases environment criteria for Chinese firm

The government has eased the condition of adopting super-critical technology, which is environment-friendly and increases plant efficiency, for a Chinese company that is setting up a coal-fired power plant in Gwadar, Balochistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This is no less than an about-turn over the policy proposed by the Ministry of Water and Power, which asked the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) not to set tariff for the coal-based power projects that had lower specifications than the super-critical technology. For the coal-based power projects of 300-megawatt generation capacity being built in Gwadar, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), in a meeting held on March 30, eased the technology criteria. The ECC took the decision following constitution of a committee on March 28 comprising the law minister, finance secretary and water and power secretary tasked with examining the issue historically including the status of the project and the award of contract without bidding. Consequently, the law minister presented a report for consideration of the ECC. He said the committee held threadbare discussions on the environmental impact of the project in its meeting on March 29 in the light of environmental laws and the power generation policy of 2015. The super-critical technology would not be used in the project as it was not economical for power generating units of less than 350MW capacity, he said. (Express Tribune)

Market watch:Thin participation keeps KSE-100 under pressure

The KSE-100 Index tumbled once again, losing 0.78% Friday to close near the 47,500 level amid political uncertainty, thin participation and concerns over geopolitics after the US strike in Afghanistan. Carrying over the negative sentiment from Thursday, stocks remained under pressure with the added factor of international markets being absent due to Easter holidays. At close on Friday, the Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark index recorded a fall of 373.52 points or 0.78% to end at 47,577.06. Elixir Securities analyst Ali Raza said equities extended losses on Friday with activity remaining on the lower side. "As expected, activity recorded in the wider market was lower due to limited institutional participation primarily from foreign investors as most markets around the world were closed for holidays," said Raza. "Moreover, concerns on domestic politics due to impending Panama verdict and on geopolitics due to the latest strike by United States on terrorists hideouts in the neighboring country, Afghanistan, kept most participants on the sidelines." (Express Tribune)

Govt approves \$1 billion road projects under CPEC

The federal government approved three new road infrastructure projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Wednesday, which will be built at a cost of \$1 billion, with the aim of completing the missing links to connect the Gwadar port with Kashgar. The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) – the body empowered with the highest economic decision-making authority – sanctioned these projects, which will assist in finalising loan agreements with the Chinese authorities. The projects include a 280km road from Raikot to Thakot at a cost of Rs8 billion, a 210km dual carriageway from Yarik to Zhob worth Rs76.5 billion and a 110km road from Basima to Khuzdar which will cost Rs19.2 billion. The Joint Cooperation Committee – the CPEC's decision-making body – has already cleared these projects in its sixth meeting held in Beijing. Subsequently, Pakistan submitted a loan request to China for financing of these projects. (Express Tribune)