

Thursday, April 27, 2017 | 29 Rajab ul Murajab 1438 Hijri

Market Today (April 26, 2017)

Opening	PSX	Gold Per 10 gm	KCA Spot Rate	Crude Oil USD /bbl.
	50111.67	39,923.00	6,600.00	49.36

(Source: Business Recorder)

Exchange rates issued by the Treasury Management Division of National Bank of Pakistan. April 26, 2017

Country	Currency	Selling TT & OD	Buying TT Clear
USA	USD	104.7	104.5
UK	GBP	134.4	134.14
Euro	EUR	114.51	114.29
Canada	CAD	77.17	77.02
Switzerland	CHF	105.48	105.27
Australia	AUD	78.68	78.53
Sweden	SEK	11.94	11.92
Japan	JPY	0.9415	0.9397
Norway	NOK	12.24	12.22
Singapore	SGD	75.18	75.03
Saudi Arabia	SAR	27.92	27.86
Hong Kong	HKD	13.61	13.58
China	CNY	15.56	15.53
Kuwait	KWD	343.96	343.3
Malaysia	MYR	24.04	23.99
New Zealand	NZD	72.56	72.42
Qatar	QAR	28.75	28.7
UAE	AED	28.51	28.45
USA	USD	104.7	104.5

(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)

Punjab to ban loose food stuff

Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Director General (DG) Noorul Amin Mengal has said that necessary legal amendments have been taken under which loose food stuff would be banned within the span of year and a half. Mengal said that move was aimed at curbing adulteration and consequent diseases. He expressed these views during a seminar in Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). "PFA is currently operating in five districts but its jurisdiction will be expanded across Punjab till 31st December-2017. It has been ensured that no representative of PFA can misuse his authority", pronounced Mengal. Speaking at the occasion, LCCI President Abdul Basit demanded representation of LCCI in PFA's board of directors. Basit asked not to rebrand PFA's routine checking as raids. (*Dunya News*)

Govt agrees to allow private sector to market LNG

The government has agreed to allow the private sector to market imported gas under the energy sector reforms in a bid to break monopoly of state-run gas utilities, a senior official in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources said. According to the official, a high-level meeting was held in Islamabad on Wednesday, chaired by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, where the participants agreed on the World Bank's proposed plan. The ministry has already been engaged in efforts to design reforms for the downstream gas sector with key stakeholders. The reforms entail a two-tier gas market, non-discriminatory access to gas networks (including third-party access) and restructuring of transmission and distribution systems along with a new tariff and subsidy methodology. "The meeting was held to seek the input of stakeholders and discuss the detailed preparatory work on the reforms," the official told. (*Express Tribune*)

Pakistan to set up \$1b infrastructure bank

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has announced that the government will set up Pakistan Infrastructure Bank with a paid-up capital of \$1 billion, which will give financing to private investors for development projects. Pakistan government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would have 20% shares each in the bank and the rest would be held by global organisations such as the International Finance Corporation, he said. He was speaking at a briefing held for the Pakistani media towards the end of his visit to Washington DC during which he attended spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. Dar also revealed that the government would soon be launching Pakistan Development Fund (PDF) and its shares worth Rs100 billion would be offered to Pakistani diaspora in order to channelise their remittances effectively. Later, these shares will be listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange. "After the success of Sukuk (Islamic bonds), the PDF will be another attractive investment for overseas Pakistanis," he remarked. Giving a detailed round-up on the plenary sessions with the IMF and World Bank, the minister said there was positive sentiment about the tremendous economic rebound experienced by Pakistan over the last four years. "Pakistan was on the verge of bankruptcy in 2014 and today it is likely to achieve approximately 5% growth during the current financial year," he said. "Both IMF and World Bank are on the same page with the Pakistani government in these projections." (*Express Tribune*)

CPEC generation capacity to be kept at 11,000MW

In order to address a major bottleneck to sustainable economic growth, Pakistan and China have retained electricity generation capacity at 11,000MW in the revised priority list of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Energy Expert Group (EEG) has agreed upon a readjusted list of the projects, which ensures that the power generation is not less than 11,000MW, said the Chinese embassy officials in a background briefing on the CPEC. The officials also claimed that successful implementation of the CPEC would generate 700,000 local

Economic Indicators

Annual (2015/16)

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

Monthly (Feb. 2017)

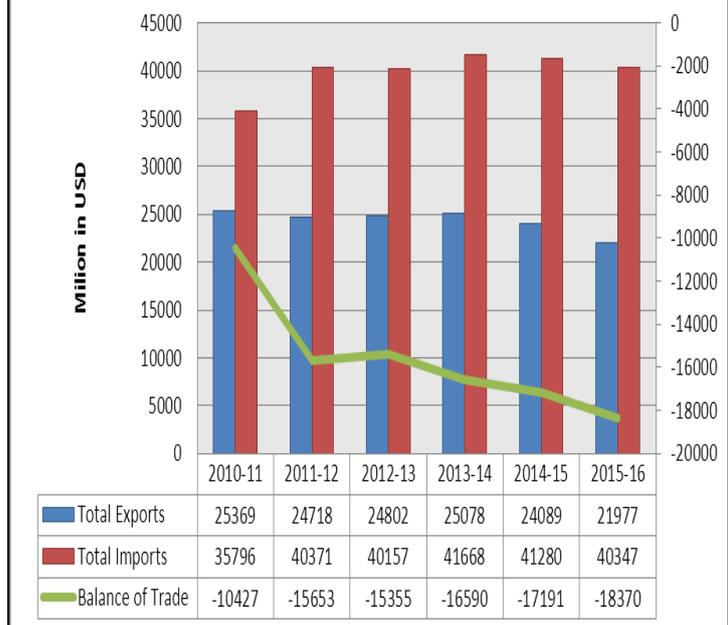
Trade Balance	-\$1,852 mln
Exports	\$1,742mln
Imports	\$3,594mln

Weekly (March 31, 2017)

Reserves	\$21,550.5 mln
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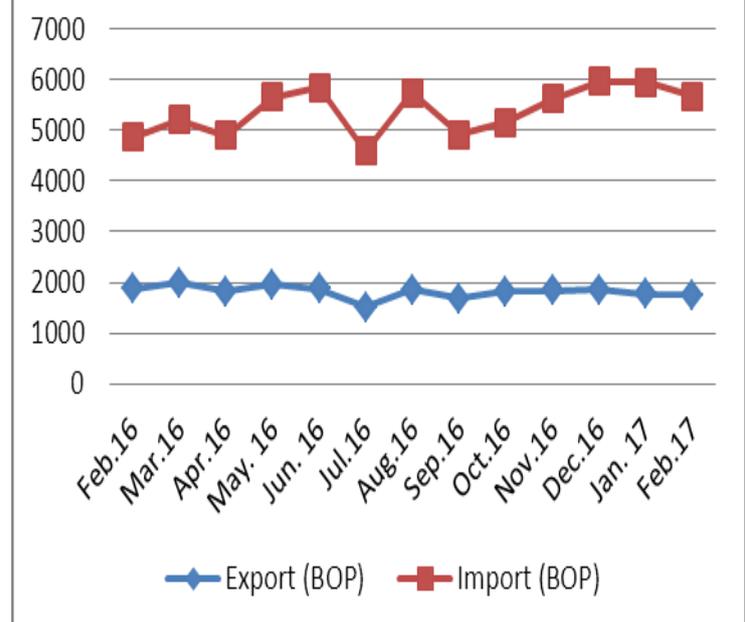
(Source: Business Recorder)

Yearly Trade Data



(Source: SBP)

Monthly Trade Data



(Source: SBP)

jobs in the longer run. So far, 20,000 direct jobs and 60,000 indirect jobs have been created by the projects initiated with help of China, they added. They said during the upcoming One-Belt One-Road summit taking place in Beijing in May, Pakistan and China may sign government-to-government framework agreement for construction of Main Line (ML-I) railways project, estimated at over \$8 billion. The text of the framework agreement has been agreed between both the countries, said the officials. (*Express Tribune*)

Currency: Rupee stable against dollar

The rupee remained stable against the dollar at 104.5/104.7 in the inter-bank market on Wednesday compared to Tuesday's close of 104.5/104.7. The currency market has fluctuated regularly in recent months with hefty rises and falls on some occasions. In the long run, however, the rupee has stood firm after experiencing extensive volatility, when it weakened from around Rs98 to a dollar to above Rs103 in the wake of political impasse over alleged election rigging. Recently, the central bank has imposed 100% cash margin on the import of certain consumer items to restrict the demand for US dollars. The rupee has been one of the best performing currencies in Asia for over three years despite the dollar's sharp appreciation against other currencies. However, the International Monetary Fund has repeatedly said that Pakistan's rupee is overvalued by 5-20%. According to analysts, the artificial support for the rupee has adversely affected Pakistan's exports. (*Express Tribune*)

Ministry may take NEPRA to court for tariff revision

The Ministry of Water and Power is mulling over the option of taking the power-sector regulator – National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Neptra) – to court if it refuses to burden honest consumers with the annual cost of power theft amounting to Rs82 billion. A senior ministry official revealed that they would take up with Neptra the proposal of quarterly tariff adjustment in line with actual line losses and bill recoveries. "The ministry is also considering moving court in case Neptra does not come up with a positive response," he said. The development comes after a recent decision taken by the government to secretly penalise honest consumers, who pay their bills regularly, by recovering the entire Rs82 billion cost of power theft every year. Earlier, the government did not pass on the full relief of the plunge in crude oil prices to power consumers with the imposition of financial and tariff rationalisation surcharges amounting to over Rs100 billion per year. In addition to these, the consumers are paying a debt surcharge to help inefficient power distribution companies to retire their debt. In a high-level meeting held in the second week of April, the prime minister was informed that Neptra determined tariff for state-owned power distribution companies on the basis of two main assumptions – 100% bill recoveries and average 15.3% line losses. (*Express Tribune*)

Dar asks overseas Pakistanis to invest in infrastructure fund

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has invited the Pakistani diaspora to invest in a development fund that the government is setting up to channel investment in major infrastructure development projects in the country. Briefing the Pakistani media on his five-day visit to Washington, the minister said that international financial institutions had also acknowledged "the impressive headway" the nation had made under the current government. Mr Dar was in Washington to attend spring meetings of the World Bank group but also held bilateral talks with US officials. The minister said that the proposed Pakistan Development Fund will be set up in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and under this scheme the government will offer \$1.3 billion of shares to overseas Pakistanis. These will be non-convertible dollar shares and will be invested in commercially viable projects in the public sector. "Since the currency is stable, we hope a positive response," said Mr Dar while pointing out that the rupee only registered five per cent devaluation in the last five years. "So, if you invest in a good development fund, you can get a good return," he said. The government is also negotiating with the International Finance Corporation for setting up a proposed fund called the Pakistan Infrastructure Bank. (*Dawn*)