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SHAHID LEGAL GROUP

SLD NEWS UPDATES

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Business & Finance » Taxes

REINSTATEMENT OF 25PC TAX REBATE FOR TEACHERS, RESEARCHERS ADVOCATED

Recorder Report Published 11 minutes ago

LAHORE: Under the banner of the Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Associations (FAPUASA), the university community has been actively advocating for the reinstatement of a 25 percent tax rebate for teachers and researchers.

This initiative aims to support the academic and research community, recognizing their critical role in national development.

In a significant development, Vice-Chancellors' Committee has endorsed FAPUASA's demand and formally written to the Federal Finance Minister, urging the restoration of the tax rebate. The committee's support has been widely appreciated, with FAPUASA commending their deep concern and proactive efforts to resolve this crucial issue.

Dr. Amjad Abbas Khan Magsi, President of FAPUASA, expressed gratitude for the committee's backing and emphasized the importance of addressing this matter promptly. "We are thankful to the Vice-Chancellors' Committee for their support and for taking this issue to the highest levels. We now urge the Federal Finance Minister to act swiftly and issue a justifiable notification to restore the tax rebate," stated Dr. Magsi.

FAPUASA has called on the Federal Finance Minister to prioritize this issue, highlighting its significance for the academic and research community. The association remains hopeful that the government will take immediate action to resolve the matter and provide much-needed relief to teachers and researchers across the country.

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PCDMA SLAMS NEW CONDITIONS IN FBR'S SRO 55

Recorder Report Published 12 minutes ago

KARACHI: The new conditions introduced by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) through SRO 55 (i)/2025, which require the filing of monthly stock statements, consumption data, complex purchase, sales, and stock reports, have become a significant challenge for traders due to a lack of awareness. These conditions are especially difficult for small-scale traders to comply with.

Salim Valimuhammad, Chairman of the Pakistan Chemicals and Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA), said that the business community supports economic stability and does not oppose the FBR's initiatives.

However, it is crucial to raise awareness and understanding about any new measures or policies before their implementation so that the business community does not perceive them as a burden and can cooperate with the FBR in ensuring compliance.

“The lack of awareness regarding the complex requirements for submitting stock details under SRO 55 (i)/2025 makes it difficult for small-scale businesses and traders to file monthly sales tax returns on time. This is especially true for importers, traders, and wholesalers who, due to low profit margins, cannot afford the expenses of professional accountants or tax consultants,” he said.

Therefore, the FBR should recognize the challenges faced by the business community and, instead of immediate implementation of the said SRO, grant some time for compliance. Awareness sessions should also be organized to help traders meet the requirements more easily.

Salim Valimuhammad addressed the Chairman of FBR, stating that instead of abruptly implementing complex conditions, the FBR should consult with stakeholders, including the business community, and develop a feasible approach through mutual consultation to ensure easy compliance.

PCDMA Chairman was of the view that the business community and government institutions are the wheels of the economic vehicle that drives the country toward progress.

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CENTRE ASKED TO REDUCE PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX RATES LIKE KP GOVT

Recorder Report Published 12 minutes ago

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the KP Chief Minister on Finance and Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Muzammil Aslam said on Monday that the provincial government has reduced property transfer tax from 6 percent to 3 percent in the previous budget.

The KP government also requested the federal government to lower the tax rate. Aslam stated that high taxes on property transfers pose a significant hurdle for low-income individuals.

However, he noted that the KP government’s stance has been vindicated, as the federal government is now considering reducing property tax rates. Muzammil Aslam stated that he was scheduled to meet Imran Khan, the founder of PTI, at Adiala Jail on January 30, but was made to wait for four hours and then turned back without any reason.

Aslam added that a writ petition has been filed in the Islamabad High Court on Monday, to ensure the meeting takes place.

KP Advisor on Finance has issued a statement on inflation, stating that the government is hiding the true picture of inflation. According to Aslam, the current inflation statistics reveal a 2.4% inflation rate, which is almost the lowest in 10-15 years.

However, Aslam pointed out that the core inflation data tells a different story, with rural inflation at 10.4% and urban inflation at 7.8%. He emphasised that this is the type of inflation that destroy the purchasing power.

Aslam also noted that the constant inflation will not be hidden from the public, especially in the age of social media.

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MILLAT TRACTORS TO CHALLENGE FBR'S RS18BN SALES TAX DEMAND

BR Web Desk Published February 3, 2025

One of Pakistan's leading tractor manufacturers, Millat Tractors Limited, on Monday rebuked the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) over a Rs18 billion sales tax demand, terming it "unrealistic and illegal".

In a notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), Millat said it shall avail all appellate forums to contest the FBR's order.

"This refers to the news published in BUSINESS RECORDER regarding the order of Rs18 billion in respect of Sales Tax liabilities and penalties by FBR.

"The said order is related to the disclosure made on June 24, 2024," it said.

BUSINESS RECORDER on Monday reported that FBR has raised a huge sales tax demand of Rs18 billion against a leading tractor manufacturing company in line with the implementation order of President Asif Ali Zardari.

"The FBR has timely implemented an order of the President and completed an audit of the said company, resulting in sales tax demand of Rs18 billion," stated the report.

The FBR has also confirmed to the President of Pakistan that the quasi-judicial /adjudication proceedings have been finalized against the said Lahore-based company. In this regard, Large Taxpayer Office (LTO), Lahore has submitted an implementation report dated January 25, 2025 to the President of Pakistan through the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO).

President Zardari has directed the FTO to submit the final compliance report and explanation of the queries raised by the President in the said audit case of the Lahore-based company.

Meanwhile, Millat Tractors, in its notice on Monday, rebuked the federal tax collecting authority, saying that the FBR "in an endeavour to meet unrealistic tax targets has instead of broadening the tax base, relied on raising unrealistic and illegal demands from existing taxpayers".

It further warned that such actions would hurt businesses and the current investment climate.

“The company shall avail all appellate forums to contest the order and is confident that justice will prevail,” the company concluded.

TAXATION MEASURE: RELUCTANT SINDH APPROVES AGRICULTURAL INCOME TAX BILL 2025

- Livestock sector, however, remains excluded from agri income tax

BR Web Desk Published February 3, 2025

In a major development on the taxation front, the Sindh cabinet on Monday approved the Agricultural Income Tax Bill 2025.

The bill will come into effect from January 2025, said Chief Minister (CM) Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, according to a statement from CM House.

“The Sindh cabinet is approving the agricultural tax in the national interest,” stated CM Murad.

The provincial government has excluded the livestock sector from agricultural income tax, Murad clarified. He added that the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB) will collect agricultural income tax instead of the Board of Revenue (BOR).

Adjustments will be made to the tax in case of natural disasters, while fines will be imposed for concealing cultivated land, the provincial government warned.

PCDMA HIGHLIGHTS COMPLEXITIES IN SRO 55 ISSUED BY FBR

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The Pakistan Chemical and Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA) has expressed concerns over the complexities arising from SRO 55(I)/2025, issued by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and its potential impact on traders.

The PCDMA highlighted that the newly introduced conditions under SRO 55(I)/2025, which mandate the submission of detailed monthly stock statements, consumption data, and intricate purchase, sales, and stock reports, pose significant challenges for traders. Many in the business community, particularly small-scale traders, are struggling to comply due to a lack of awareness and the complexity of the requirements.

Salim Valimuhammad, Chairman of PCDMA, emphasized that while the business community supports economic stability and does not oppose the FBR’s efforts, the implementation of such measures without adequate awareness creates difficulties. He stressed the importance of educating traders on the requirements before enforcing them to ensure smoother compliance.

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“The lack of clarity surrounding the submission of stock details under SRO 55(I)/2025 makes it exceedingly difficult for small and medium-sized businesses to file their monthly sales tax returns on time. Many traders, especially importers and wholesalers operating on thin profit margins, cannot afford professional tax consultants to navigate these complex requirements,” he stated.

PCDMA urged the FBR to acknowledge the difficulties faced by traders and grant them an adjustment period before full enforcement of SRO 55(I)/2025. The association also called for organizing awareness sessions to educate businesses and streamline compliance procedures.

Addressing the FBR Chairman, Salim Valimuhammad suggested that instead of implementing such regulations abruptly, the FBR should engage in meaningful discussions with stakeholders, including PCDMA and other business associations. He proposed that policy decisions should be based on mutual consultation to ensure a more practical and business-friendly approach.

PCDMA believes that collaboration between the business community and government institutions is essential for sustaining economic growth. The association reiterated that both entities must work together to keep the economic engine running efficiently. If regulatory challenges persist without proper resolution, the country risks stalling economic activity and missing out on valuable revenue generation opportunities.

The PCDMA remains committed to working alongside the government to create an environment conducive to business growth while ensuring compliance with regulations in a practical and feasible manner.

APCAA WARNS OF COUNTRYWIDE HALT IN CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The All Pakistan Customs Agents Association (APCAA) has issued a stern warning to halt all customs clearance operations across the country in response to the suspension of its members’ licenses.

The association has strongly condemned the move, calling it an unjust action that threatens to paralyze trade and commerce nationwide.

APCAA Chairman Saifullah Khan stated that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has revoked the licenses of 45 customs agents as part of an investigation into alleged irregularities in the newly introduced faceless customs assessment system. “This decision is unacceptable. Our members have been unfairly targeted, and we will take all necessary steps, including legal action, to challenge this order,” he asserted.

The APCAA has accused customs appraisers of blackmailing its agents and deliberately creating obstacles in clearance procedures. “Our agents have faced undue pressure and exploitation. If our grievances are not addressed, we will be left with no choice but to suspend all import and export activities across Pakistan,” said Khan.

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In light of these developments, APCAA has scheduled an emergency meeting at 4 PM today to strategize its next course of action. The association has also been engaged in discussions with the Chief Collector of Customs, but so far, no significant progress has been made. Instead, the Chief Collector has demanded detailed profiles of the affected agents, a move APCAA considers an attempt to intimidate its members.

In a counter-demand, APCAA has urged the authorities to provide profiles of customs officers living in extravagant homes and owning high-end vehicles. “We want transparency. How can customs officials, earning a modest government salary, afford luxury properties and expensive cars? The Chief Collector should also disclose his own financial details,” the association stated.

APCAA insists that it has always supported the implementation of the faceless system to improve efficiency and curb corruption. However, it argues that internal mismanagement and flawed execution have caused the system to collapse. Despite an increase in imports leading to higher revenue collection, APCAA alleges that the Customs Department has misled Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif by presenting inflated revenue figures to exaggerate the system’s success.

The association has vowed to escalate its protests if corrective measures are not taken immediately, warning that an indefinite suspension of customs clearance operations could have dire consequences for Pakistan’s trade and economy.

FBR UPDATES SALES TAX EXEMPTION PROCEDURE

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has revised and clarified the procedure for obtaining a sales tax exemption on imports, ensuring a streamlined process for entitled organizations and agencies.

According to the FBR, the procedure for availing a sales tax exemption is outlined in Rule 57B of the Sales Tax Rules, 2006. This rule provides a step-by-step framework to facilitate eligible entities in securing an exemption.

Procedure for Availing Sales Tax Exemption

1. Application for Exemption Certificate

Any organization or agency eligible for a sales tax exemption must submit a formal application to the relevant Inland Revenue officer. This application must include an original exemption order issued by the Economic Affairs Division, following the format specified by the Board. The exemption order should detail:

- o A precise description of the goods, including specifications and intended use.
- o The quantity and total value of the goods.

o Reference details, including the Board's consent under Rule 57A.

2. Verification and Authorization Process

The Inland Revenue officer will retain the original exemption order for official records. Upon verification that the purchase request is genuine, the officer will issue an Authorization for Exempt Supply within 15 days. This authorization, granted to either an importer or a registered supplier, explicitly states that only the sales tax on the final transaction shall be exempt. However, the officer may deny the exemption if there are valid reasons to believe that the purchase does not qualify under grant-in-aid provisions.

3. Processing of Exempt Imports and Supplies

Once the Authorization for Exempt Supply is issued, the concerned Collector of Customs or registered supplier will facilitate the tax-exempt import or supply, maintaining appropriate records for verification by the Inland Revenue Department.

4. Refund Claims for Unauthorized Exemptions

If an eligible organization or agency completes an import or purchase without securing the required authorization, the Economic Affairs Division may submit a refund claim for the paid sales tax. The claim will be processed in accordance with the relevant legal provisions, provided it meets the stipulated exemption conditions.

This updated procedure reinforces transparency and efficiency in availing a sales tax exemption, benefiting organizations that qualify under the established criteria.

SINDH APPROVES LANDMARK AGRICULTURAL INCOME TAX LAW

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – In a historic move, the Sindh government has officially approved the imposition of an agricultural income tax, marking a significant policy shift aimed at enhancing fiscal discipline and revenue generation.

This landmark decision will come into force following its passage in the Sindh Provincial Assembly.

According to a statement released by the Sindh Revenue Board (SRB), the approval of the Sindh Agricultural Income Tax Law aligns with the commitments set forth in the National Fiscal Pact between the federal and provincial governments. The proposed law is designed to streamline tax collection mechanisms, enhance financial accountability, and ensure a fair contribution from the agriculture sector, which remains a cornerstone of Sindh's economy.

Key Provisions of the Agricultural Income Tax Bill

Under the new framework, the SRB will be entrusted with the collection and enforcement of the agricultural income tax, ensuring a more efficient and structured approach. The Sindh Agricultural Income Tax Bill, 2025, is set to take effect from January 1, 2025, introducing a progressive tax regime for agricultural earnings.

- Tax Exemptions and Rates:

- o Agricultural income up to Rs. 600,000 annually will remain exempt from taxation.
- o Income exceeding Rs. 5.6 million annually will be subject to a maximum tax rate of 45%.
- o A progressive super tax has been introduced:
 - No super tax for annual agricultural income up to Rs. 150 million.
 - A maximum super tax of 10% will apply to income exceeding Rs. 500 million annually.

- Corporate Farming and Digitalization:

- o The law extends taxation to corporate farming, bringing small agricultural companies under a 20% tax rate, while larger corporations will be taxed at 29%.
- o Livestock has been excluded from the agricultural tax net.
- o The advance agricultural income tax, previously linked to land cultivation, will no longer be imposed.
- o The tax payment, collection, and filing process will be fully automated, enhancing efficiency and minimizing tax evasion.

A Major Policy Shift in Agriculture Taxation

The delegation of agricultural income tax administration to the SRB underscores a major policy transformation, leveraging the board's proven expertise in tax collection and its advanced business processes. This bold reform is expected to:

- Broaden the tax base, ensuring that the agriculture sector contributes equitably to provincial revenue.
- Improve transparency in agricultural income assessments.
- Bolster Sindh's fiscal health while reinforcing tax compliance within one of Pakistan's most crucial economic sectors.

With agriculture forming the backbone of Sindh's economy, this new taxation framework is a pivotal step toward ensuring sustainable revenue generation and economic resilience.

FBR LIKELY TO ABOLISH SECTION 7E ON DEEMED PROPERTY INCOME

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is expected to eliminate Section 7E of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, which pertains to the taxation of deemed property income.

This potential repeal follows recommendations from a task force established by the Prime Minister, aimed at promoting real estate transactions and easing compliance burdens for taxpayers.

According to sources, the FBR is actively working towards the removal of this section, pending final approval from the government. The imposition of tax under Section 7E, which was introduced through the Finance Act, 2022, has been a subject of significant controversy among taxpayers, particularly regarding its impact on filing income tax returns. Many stakeholders, including real estate investors and tax professionals, have expressed concerns over the complexities and ambiguities surrounding its implementation.

Section 7E mandates that a tax be levied on a deemed income, calculated as 5% of the fair market value of capital assets situated in Pakistan, excluding specific exemptions. The provision applies to resident individuals and has led to disputes regarding its interpretation and enforcement. The tax rate under this section has been set at 20% on the deemed income, further complicating property-related tax obligations.

The FBR has been under pressure from various business and real estate associations to reconsider the tax due to its impact on property investments. Critics argue that Section 7E discourages investment in real estate, as it imposes additional financial liabilities on property owners, regardless of whether the property generates actual income. Additionally, the regulation has resulted in legal challenges, with taxpayers disputing its constitutionality and scope.

The FBR's anticipated decision to abolish Section 7E aligns with broader government efforts to streamline tax policies and encourage economic growth. By removing this section, the FBR aims to create a more favorable environment for property transactions and improve compliance rates among taxpayers.

Furthermore, the FBR has been evaluating alternative measures to ensure revenue generation without imposing undue financial stress on taxpayers. The organization is committed to refining tax laws to balance revenue collection with economic incentives, ensuring that the tax system remains equitable and efficient.

As discussions progress, stakeholders await an official announcement from the FBR regarding the fate of Section 7E. If the repeal is finalized, it would mark a significant shift in Pakistan's tax policy, potentially revitalizing the real estate sector while simplifying tax compliance for property owners across the country.

Markets » Cotton & Textile

COTTON SPOT RATES

Recorder Report Published 15 minutes ago

KARACHI: official KCA spot rates for local dealings in Pakistan rupees on Monday, (February 03, 2025)

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The kca official spot rate for local dealings in Pakistan rupees

For base grade 3 staple length 1-1/16"
Micronaire value between 3.8 to 4.9 ncl

Rate	Ex-gin for	Upcountry price	Spot rate Ex-Karachi	Spot rate ex. Khi. as on 01-02-2025	Difference Ex-karachi
37.324 KG Equivalent	18,000	285	18,285	18,285	NIL
40 KGS	19,291	305	19,596	19,596	NIL

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NO VISIBLE CHANGE SEEN ON COTTON MARKET

LAHORE: The local cotton market on Monday remained easy and the trading volume remained low.
Cotton Analyst Naseem...

Recorder Report Published 15 minutes ago

LAHORE: The local cotton market on Monday remained easy and the trading volume remained low.

Cotton Analyst Naseem Usman told Business Recorder that Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 5.5 million bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till January 31, registering a decrease of 34.00 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year.

According to a fortnightly report of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Monday, over 5.4 million bales have undergone the ginning process. Cotton bales arrival in Punjab were recorded 27,04,464 registering a decrease of 36.19 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 42,38,434 bales.

Sindh generated 28,06,277 bales registering a decrease of 31.74 per cent as compared to corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 41,11,119 bales. Arrivals in Balochistan were recorded at 1,56,500 bales. Exporters/traders bought 46,700 cotton bales while

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textile sector bought total 49,77,697 bales. Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) didn't procure cotton in 2024,25, says the report. As many as 4,86,344 unsold bales stock was present. Total 75 ginning factories were operational in the country.

He also told that the rate of cotton in Sindh is in between Rs 17,600 to Rs 19,000 per maund. The rate of Phutti in Sindh is in between Rs 7,500 to Rs 9,000 per 40 kg.

The rate of cotton in Punjab is in between Rs 17,075 to Rs 19,000 per maund. The rate of Phutti in Punjab is in between Rs 7,500 to Rs 9,400 per 40 kg.

The rate of cotton in Balochistan is in between Rs 17,500 to Rs 19,400 per maund. The rate of Phutti in Balochistan is in between Rs 7,400 to Rs 9,500 per 40 kg. The rate of Balochi Cotton is in between Rs 18,800 to Rs 19,000 per maund. The rate of Primark cotton is Rs 19,300 to Rs 19,500 per maund.

The Spot Rate remained unchanged at Rs 18,000 per maund. Polyester Fiber was available at Rs 354 per kg.

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Stock & Commodity

WALL ST OFF LOWS AFTER TRUMP SAYS TARIFFS ON MEXICO TO BE PAUSED

Reuters Published 16 minutes ago

NEW YORK: Wall Street's main indexes pared losses on Monday, as US President Donald Trump paused new tariffs on Mexico for one month after his orders to levy steep tariffs on key trading partners sparked a global scramble to safe-haven assets earlier in the session.

Over the weekend, Trump imposed hefty new tariffs of 25% on imports from Mexico and Canada, and 10% on China - which he said may cause "short-term" pain for Americans.

Trump's announcement on Mexico came after the country agreed on Monday to reinforce its northern border with 10,000 National Guard members to stem the flow of illegal drugs, particularly fentanyl.

Talking about the negotiations with Mexico, Steve Sosnick, chief market analyst at Interactive Brokers, said this "raises the possibility that there's some negotiating room with either Canada, China or both."

"It's much more encouraging to the markets there's this pause and that is that is exactly why the market shot higher."

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At 11:18 a.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 59.33 points, or 0.13%, to 44,485.33, the S&P 500 lost 36.31 points, or 0.60%, to 6,004.22 and the Nasdaq Composite lost 191.91 points, or 0.98%, to 19,435.53.

Most S&P sectors turned higher, with defensive ones such as health care and consumer staples leading gains.

Other megacap and growth stocks were also off session lows, with Nvidia now down 2.3%, while a gauge of semiconductor stocks was now only down 1%.

Legacy automakers - who had been roiled by the impending tariffs - also recouped most of their losses with both Ford and General Motors down over 1% each.

The economically sensitive Russell 2000 smallcaps index recovered from its three-week low, now down 0.9% on the day.

Treasury yields edged down as investors fled to safer assets such as bonds and gold. Spot gold scaled an all-time high.

The Cboe Volatility Index, known as Wall Street's "fear gauge", dropped back from its highest level in a week, last at 17.72 points.

EUROPE'S STOXX 600 LOGS BIGGEST DAILY DROP IN 2025

Reuters Published 16 minutes ago

FRANKFURT: European shares logged their biggest one-day drop in more than one month on Monday, with automakers leading declines as investors priced-in that US President Donald Trump's latest tariffs could escalate into a broader trade war.

Over the weekend, Trump announced 25% trade duties on Canada and Mexico, along with a 10% levy on China. However, following preliminary negotiations, the US president said on Monday new tariffs on Mexico would be paused for a month.

The tariffs, set to take effect at 0501 GMT on Tuesday, would affect \$1.3 trillion of goods, or more than 40% of all US imports.

Canada and Mexico announced immediate retaliatory levies, while China also announced countermeasures.

Trump also warned that tariffs on Europe will "definitely happen", but did not offer any clarity.

The export-heavy STOXX 600 index fell 0.9%, receding from Friday's record close, with Germany's DAX leading declines among regional markets.

“Germany is already in contraction at the end of last year and it’s got some sort of political uncertainty as well. So when you combine those factors, together with potential tariffs from the US, it leaves Germany in the worst position,” said Fiona Cincotta, senior market analyst at City Index.

Despite a slowing domestic economy, the STOXX 600 outperformed the US S&P 500 at the start of the year on expectations that a weaker euro could benefit European companies that are dependent on export revenues.

Automakers sank 2.4% and led sectoral declines, with Porsche AG , BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Stellantis in the red.

Analysts fear tariffs on Mexico could be more damaging for European carmakers and their suppliers than any direct tariffs on EU goods.

China-exposed luxury goods makers also fell following the tariff announcement, with LVMH and Kering down 1.9% and 3.8%, respectively.

Basic Resources fell 1% as most metal prices slipped following Trump’s 10% tariff on imports from top metals consumer China.

Spirits makers such as Heineken, Pernod Ricard SA and UK’s Diageo lost between 1.3% and 2.2%.

Meanwhile, euro zone bonds rose, as investors rushed to safer assets.

Swiss lender Julius Baer dropped 12.7% to log its steepest one-day decline in a decade after announcing plans to cut its workforce by about 5%, raising concerns about its outlook.

SRI LANKA SHARES END LOWER

Reuters Published 16 minutes ago

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan shares closed lower on Monday, dragged by information technology and materials stocks.

The CSE All-Share index settled 0.97% lower at 16,956.49.

Tess Agro Plc and Carson Cumberbatch Plc were the top losers on the index, down 8.3% and 6.7%, respectively.

Trading volume on the index fell to 121.9 million shares from 197.7 million shares in the previous session.

The equity market’s turnover fell to 3.04 billion Sri Lankan rupees (\$10.15 million) from 5.16 billion rupees in the previous session, according to exchange data.

Foreign investors were net sellers, offloading stocks worth 221.6 million rupees, while domestic investors were net buyers, purchasing shares worth 2.99 billion rupees, the data showed.

MOST GULF MARKETS IN RED ON TRADE WAR FEARS

Reuters Published 17 minutes ago

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets fell in line with global shares on Monday, as US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China sparked fears of an escalating trade war and its potential impact on global economic growth.

President Trump said on Sunday the sweeping tariffs that he has imposed may cause "short-term" pain for Americans, as global markets reflected concerns the levies could undermine growth and reignite inflation.

Critics say the Republican president's plan to impose 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico and 10% tariffs on China will slow global growth and drive prices higher for Americans.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index dropped 0.3%, hit by a 2.2% fall in ACWA Power Company and a 2.5% decrease in Saudi Awwal Bank, despite reporting a rise in annual profit.

NIKKEI TUMBLE AS US TARIFFS CLOUD GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Reuters Published 17 minutes ago

TOKYO: Japanese shares fell more than 2% on Monday, with automakers leading the decline, as concerns over the global economy mounted following US President Donald Trump's tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China.

The Nikkei was down 2.42% at 38,612.96 at the midday break, while the broader Topix dropped 2.25% to 2,725.91.

The White House said the United States would impose 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico, and China with a 10% levy. Canada and Mexico immediately vowed retaliatory measures, and China said it would challenge Trump's levies at the World Trade Organization.

"Japanese stocks fell amid uncertainties about the global economic outlook, which includes worries that Japanese exports may be a target of Trump's tariff policy in the future," said Kentaro Hayashi, senior strategist at Daiwa Securities.

"Also, if prices rise in the US and the dollar strengthens, yields will rise. That may affect Japan's monetary policy."

Automakers slumped, with Toyota Motor losing 5.53% to drag the Topix the most. Honda Motor fell 7.1% and Nissan Motor lost 5.28%, with strategists saying their auto production in Mexico is bigger than their Japanese peers.

In contrast, Suzuki Motor, which pulled out of the United States, posted only a marginal loss of 0.27%.

“If automakers face higher tariffs, they would have to raise prices and their competitiveness might be hurt,” said Fumio Matsumoto, chief strategist at Okasan Securities.

All of the Tokyo Stock Exchange’s 33 industry sub-indexes fell, with automaker shedding 5.25% to become the worst performer.

INDIAN SHARES TUMBLE AS TRADE WAR SHOCKWAVES REACH MUMBAI

Reuters Published 17 minutes ago

MUMBAI: Indian shares dropped on Monday after US President Donald Trump imposed sweeping tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, spurring concerns of a broader trade war.

The Nifty 50 was down 0.52% at 23,361.05, while the BSE Sensex shed 0.41% to 77,186.74.

Asian and European stock markets slumped as Trump’s tariffs triggered fears of a hit to global growth.

Ten of the 13 major domestic equity sectors declined on the day, while the domestically focussed smallcaps and midcaps lost 2.1% and 0.9%, respectively.

The Indian rupee weakened past 87 per US dollar for the first time as other regional currencies slumped.

“The Trump tariffs could severely disrupt global trade, slowing economic growth worldwide, which is spooking markets,” said Anirudh Garg, partner and fund manager at Invasset Portfolio Management Services.

“Indian markets are at a critical crossroads; the capex-driven sectors are now taking a backseat as their growth momentum has subsided while consumption-linked segments are set to gain,” Garg said.

State-owned companies declined 3.2%, taking their two-session loss to 6.2% and erasing all gains made in the pre-budget rally last week.

US STOCKS OPEN SHARPLY LOWER ON TRUMP TARIFFS

AFP Published February 3, 2025

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks opened sharply lower Monday, joining most international equity bourses in falling after US President Donald Trump launched trade wars against Canada, Mexico and China.

The tariffs, if maintained, are expected to prolong or worsen inflationary pressures, hitting growth.

About 25 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones industrial Average was down 1.4 percent at 43,904.26.

The broad-based S&P 500 fell 1.7 percent to 5,935.92, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index slumped 2.1 percent to 19,224.64.

Wall Street Week Ahead: Tech sell-off jolts investors as jobs data looms

“The quandary for the capital markets is figuring out if these tariff actions are a temporary negotiating tactic or a permanent feature,” said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O’Hare.

Trump’s tariff announcement has “ramped up a feeling of uncertainty that is weighing on market sentiment,” O’Hare added.

Markets this week will be monitoring talks between Washington and counterparts in the three targeted countries.

Other key events include quarterly earnings from Google parent Alphabet, Ford and others, as well January US jobs data.

MAJOR GULF MARKETS FALL AS TRUMP TARIFFS STOKE BROADER TRADE WAR FEARS

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

Major stock markets in the Gulf fell in early trade on Monday in line with Asian shares, after U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China triggered fears of a broader trade war and a hit to global growth.

President Donald Trump said on Sunday the sweeping tariffs that he has imposed on Mexico, Canada and China may cause “short-term” pain for Americans, as global markets reflected concerns the levies could undermine growth and reignite inflation.

Critics say the Republican president’s plan to impose 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico and 10% tariffs on China will slow global growth and drive prices higher for Americans.

Back in the region, Saudi Arabia’s benchmark index dropped 0.5% on Tuesday, hit by a 1% fall in ACWA Power Company and a 3% drop in Elm Company.

On the other hand, Basma Adeem Medical - which is into dentistry and dermatology services - surged 30% in its market debut on Saudi Exchange's parallel market, Nomu.

Gulf markets end mixed as investors eye earnings

During the first three days of trade, the Saudi Exchange allows 30% fluctuation limits.

Dubai's main share index lost 0.7%, with blue-chip developer Emaar Properties declining 1.1% and top lender Emirates NBD retreating 1.2%.

In Abu Dhabi, the index was down 0.5%.

The Qatari benchmark fell 0.9%, weighed down by a 3.4% slide in petrochemical maker Industries Qatar on lower fourth-quarter profit.

The company reported a 32% plunge in its fourth-quarter profit to 1 billion riyals (\$274.33 million), and slashed its annual dividend by 5%.

EUROPEAN SHARES DROP AS TRUMP'S TARIFFS RATTLE MARKETS

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

European shares retreated on Monday, joining a global selloff amid fears that U.S. President Donald Trump's latest tariffs could escalate into a broader trade war.

Global financial markets came under pressure after Trump issued 25% trade duties on Canada and Mexico, along with a 10% levy on China over the weekend.

Trump also warned that tariffs on Europe will "definitely happen", but did not offer any clarity over his plans.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index was down 1.4% as of 0810 GMT. Futures for Wall Street's S&P 500 also fell 1.3%.

Automakers, which are vulnerable to trade duties, sank 3.5%. Porsche AG, BMW, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and Stellantis fell in the range of 3.7% to 6.5%.

Tech stocks lift Europe's STOXX 600 to record high

Technology also was among major losers, falling 2.5%. ASML Holding declined 2.8%, weighing heavily on the index.

All local bourses fell significantly, with Germany benchmark leading the losses with a nearly 2% drop. UK's benchmark FTSE 100 fell 1.1%, despite Trump indication that Britain may be able to avoid tariffs.

Euro zone bond yields fell, with Germany's rate-sensitive two-year yield down 6 basis points at 2.056%.

TRUMP TARIFFS SPARK AUSTRALIAN MARKET MAYHEM

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

Australian equities suffered their worst day in five months on Monday, caught up in the global stocks sell-off as U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on imports from China fuelled fears of a global trade war.

The S&P/ASX 200 index fell 1.8%, its steepest one-day drop since Sept. 4, to end at 8,379.4, recovering slightly after hitting a two-week low earlier in the session.

On Saturday, Trump imposed 10% tariffs on China, Australia's top trading partner. He also slapped 25% on Mexico and Canada, both of which have announced retaliatory tariffs of their own.

The S&P/ASX 200 volatility index, which provides traders with an insight into investor mood and expected levels of volatility, has risen over 22% to 13.07.

Mining stocks, which have a roughly 25% weightage on the benchmark and are heavily exposed to China, sank 1.9%.

Australian shares scale new high as commodity stocks gain

"Trump's tariffs play a role in deepening investor scepticism of investing in the mining space due to higher levels of uncertainty on an outlook front," said Grady Wulff, a market analyst with Bell Direct.

"The ASX will likely continue its sell-off until we know the clarity around the full impact of Trump's tariffs and until trade stability is established between the world's largest economies in the U.S. and China."

BHP Group, the world's largest listed miner, lost 1.7%, while Rio Tinto declined 1.8%.

Financials declined 1.9%, with the "Big Four" banks down between 1.4% and 2.3%.

Health stocks shed 2.3%, while tech stocks lost 1.9%. Energy stocks fell 0.5%.

New Zealand's benchmark S&P/NZX 50 index retreated 1.4% points to finish the session at 12,810.32 points.

KSE-100 LOSES OVER 1,500 POINTS IN LINE WITH GLOBAL MARKETS

BR Web Desk Published February 3, 2025

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed some selling pressure on Monday as its benchmark KSE-100 Index closed lower by over 1,500 points, following a worldwide sell-off sparked after US President Donald Trump announced tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China.

The KSE-100 started the week's first session with some buying, hitting an intra-day high of 114,620.79.

However, the latter hours witnessed strong selling that pushed the index to an intra-day low of 112,681.34.

At close, the benchmark index settled at 112,745.01, down by 1,510.72 points or 1.32%.

"The KSE-100 Index mirrored the trend in global markets today, reacting negatively to the news that US President Donald Trump had ordered sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada, and China," said brokerage house Topline Securities in its post-market report.

"This announcement created a ripple effect in international markets, and the local market followed suit."

Canada's Trudeau announces tariffs on US in retaliation for Trump's tariffs

Key contributors to the index's negative performance included ENGROH, MARI, FFC, SYS, and PPL, which collectively accounted for a loss of 769 points, Topline report stated.

Meanwhile, another brokerage house Intermarket Securities said the market would be watchful of Pakistan politics, especially the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) calling for a rally by February 8.

"Global markets are under pressure, but that will have no impact on the Pakistan market, which has been driven mostly by domestic liquidity. We advise profit taking on higher levels; however, energy stocks have been under pressure lately and could be offering attractive levels," it said.

Last week, the PSX remained under pressure as the investors opted to offload their holdings on available margins. The benchmark KSE-100 index declined by 624.76 points on week-on-week basis and closed at 114,255.73 points.

Internationally, Chinese stocks listed in Hong Kong slid on Monday and the yuan sank to a record low in offshore trade on their return from the Lunar New Year holidays, as fears of a trade war heightened after US President Donald Trump imposed sweeping tariffs.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index lost 1.8% in early trade, and the Hang Seng Tech Index tumbled 2.5%, the biggest drop in more than two months.

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Hong Kong's benchmark index lost 2.1% to a one-week low.

Hong Kong's markets reopened on Monday while those on the Chinese mainland resume trade on Wednesday.

The offshore yuan weakened to 7.3512 against the dollar, having earlier pushed to a record low of 7.3765 yuan.

Trump slapped China with a 10% levy at the weekend as he had threatened last month, calling the measures necessary to combat illegal immigration and the drug trade.

Meanwhile, major stock markets in the Gulf also fell in early trade on Monday in line with Asian shares.

Saudi Arabia's benchmark index dropped 0.5% on Monday, hit by a 1% fall in ACWA Power Company and a 3% drop in Elm Company.

Dubai's main share index lost 0.7%, with blue-chip developer Emaar Properties declining 1.1% and top lender Emirates NBD retreating 1.2%.

In Abu Dhabi, the index was down 0.5%.

The Qatari benchmark fell 0.9%, weighed down by a 3.4% slide in petrochemical maker Industries Qatar on lower fourth-quarter profit.

The Pakistani rupee registered a marginal decline against the US dollar, depreciating 0.03% in the inter-bank market on Monday. At close, the currency settled at 279.04 for a loss of Re0.09 against the greenback, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Volume on the all-share index decreased to 401.46 million from 543.12 million on Monday.

The value of shares declined to Rs20.35 billion from Rs27.97 billion in the previous session.

WorldCall Telecom was the volume leader with 26.26 million shares, followed by B.O.Punjab with 24.69 million shares, and Ghani Chemical with 22 million shares.

Shares of 450 companies were traded on Monday, of which 137 registered an increase, 262 recorded a fall, while 51 remained unchanged.

SEOUL: ROUND-UP OF SOUTH KOREAN FINANCIAL MARKETS:

- KOSPI closed down 63.42 points, or 2.52%, at 2,453.95

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

South Korean shares closed down on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump announced tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico and China, sparking fears of a hit to global trade demand. The won weakened, while the benchmark bond yield fell.

The benchmark KOSPI closed down 63.42 points, or 2.52%, at 2,453.95.

Among index heavyweights, chipmaker Samsung Electronics fell 2.67% and peer SK Hynix lost 4.17%, while battery maker LG Energy Solution slid 4.40%.

Hyundai Motor shed 1.94% and sister automaker Kia Corp lost 5.78%, while search engine Naver and instant messenger Kakao were up 0.23% and up 9.00%, respectively.

South Korean exports fell in January, declining for the first time in 16 months and at the sharpest pace in 1-1/2 years due to U.S. tariff uncertainty and unfavourable calendar effects, preliminary data released on Saturday showed.

South Korean shares fall on weaker-than-expected GDP data

OpenAI Founder Altman will be visiting South Korea for an artificial intelligence event and meet with business leaders, local Yonhap News reported.

Of the total 942 traded issues, 96 shares advanced, while 825 declined.

Foreigners were net sellers of shares worth 870.6 billion won (\$593.93 million).

The won was quoted at 1,467.2 per dollar on the onshore settlement platform, 0.93% lower than its previous close.

In offshore trading, the won was quoted at 1,465.5 per dollar, down 0.7%, while in non-deliverable forward trading its one-month contract was quoted at 1,463.5.

The won has gained 0.3% against the dollar so far this year.

In money and debt markets, March futures on three-year treasury bonds rose 0.02 point to 106.90.

The most liquid three-year Korean treasury bond yield fell 0.3 basis point to 2.577%, while the benchmark 10-year yield slipped 1.5 bps to 2.840%.

OFFSHORE CHINESE STOCKS, YUAN PARE US TARIFF LOSSES ON AI, STIMULUS BETS

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

HONG KONG: Chinese stocks in Hong Kong and the offshore yuan pared losses as markets reopened after the Lunar New Year holidays, with shock at U.S. President

Donald Trump's tariffs outweighed by optimism over domestic AI firms and possible stimulus measures.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index was up by less than 0.1% at its Monday close, and the Hang Seng Tech Index rose 0.3%, both recovering from steep morning losses.

Hong Kong's benchmark index was flat, after dropping as much as 1.7% to a one-week low during the morning session.

Trump slapped China with a 10% levy over the weekend as threatened last month, and called the measures necessary to combat illegal immigration and the drug trade. Beijing said it would challenge the move at the World Trade Organization and take other countermeasures.

"Sentiment was pressured, but there's relief that the uncertainty over whether there would be tariffs or not has been resolved," said Kenny Ng, market strategist at Everbright Securities International in Hong Kong.

"The market could now shift its focus to China's stimulus and look for more supportive measures from the legislative meeting in March," he added.

A rally in AI-related stocks following DeepSeek's disruptive release of a model also helped shore up the market.

China's AI drive hammers tech stocks

Chip maker SMIC surged 10.3%, its biggest single-day gain since October, while Alibaba rallied 6.5% to a three-month high.

The offshore yuan trimmed losses to trade at 7.3477 against the dollar, having earlier hit a record low of 7.3765.

Stimulus eyed

China's benchmark blue chip index fell 3% in January, surrendering nearly half of September's 40% rally, as investors fretted over the increasingly volatile macro outlook and Beijing's tepid policy response.

Weakening economic growth in the world's second-largest economy could put pressure on policymakers to roll out more forceful support measures.

China's factory activity grew at a slower pace in January, while staffing levels fell at the quickest pace in nearly five years as trade uncertainties increased, a private-sector business survey showed on Monday.

"China's stimulus measures have remained rather measured in the last few months as they awaited tariff news to be able to respond better, and there could be an expectation that authorities

could come out with stronger stimulus measures now,” said Charu Chanana, chief investment strategist at Saxo.

JAPAN’S NIKKEI LOGS WORST DAY IN 4 MONTHS ON US TARIFF WORRIES; AUTOMAKERS SLUMP

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

TOKYO: Japan’s Nikkei fell more than 2% on Monday in its worst session in four months as concerns over the global economy mounted after U.S. President Donald Trump levied tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, with automakers leading the decline.

The Nikkei slipped 2.66% to 38,520.09, its lowest close since Jan. 17. The index also posted its biggest daily percentage drop since Sept. 30. The broader Topix fell 2.45% to 2,720.39.

Trump imposed 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports and 10% on goods from China starting Feb. 4. Canada and Mexico immediately vowed retaliatory measures, and China said it would challenge Trump’s levies at the World Trade Organization.

“Japanese stocks fell amid uncertainties about the global economic outlook, which includes worries that Japanese exports may be a target of Trump’s tariff policy in the future,” said Kentaro Hayashi, senior strategist at Daiwa Securities.

“Also, if prices rise in the U.S. and the dollar strengthens, yields will rise. That may affect Japan’s monetary policy.”

Tech stocks help Nikkei eke out small gain

Automakers slumped, with Toyota Motor losing 5% to drag the Topix the most. Honda Motor fell 7.2% and Nissan Motor lost 5.63%, with strategists saying their auto production in Mexico is bigger than their Japanese peers.

In contrast, Suzuki Motor, which is not present in the United States, posted a marginal loss of 0.05%.

“If automakers face higher tariffs, they would have to raise prices and their competitiveness might be hurt,” said Fumio Matsumoto, chief strategist at Okasan Securities.

Mexican operations of Japanese automakers are largely dependent on U.S. demand and that is a big factor for them, said Tomo Kinoshita, global market strategist at Invesco Asset Management in Japan.

One but all of the Tokyo Stock Exchange’s 33 industry sub-indexes fell, with automaker shedding 5% to become the worst performer.

The Nikkei volatility index rose 20% to its highest level since mid-December.

Shares of video game developer Konami Group jumped 14% to become the biggest support for the Nikkei.

KSE-100 PLUNGES 1.32% AMID CONCERNS OVER PROPERTY TAX PACKAGE

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The benchmark KSE-100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a sharp decline on Monday, shedding 1,511 points, or 1.32%, as investors reacted negatively to concerns surrounding a potential tax package for the property sector.

The KSE-100 index closed at 112,745 points, down from Friday's closing of 114,256 points, reflecting the prevailing uncertainty among investors. Market analysts highlighted that apprehensions over the anticipated tax measures aimed at stimulating the construction sector weighed heavily on investor sentiment.

Furthermore, the KSE-100 index was also influenced by global market developments, particularly the recent tariff policy changes announced by the U.S. government. According to analysts at Topline Securities Limited, the index mirrored trends in global equity markets, which faced turbulence after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed extensive tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada, and China. This move created widespread volatility, affecting investor confidence worldwide, including at the PSX.

At the opening bell, the KSE-100 index came under immediate selling pressure, witnessing a steep decline and reaching an intraday low of 1,574 points. Although a mild recovery attempt was observed later in the session, the market struggled to regain momentum and ultimately closed at 112,745 points, reflecting a net loss of 1,510 points or 1.32%.

Investor sentiment remained fragile, driven by rising concerns over global trade dynamics and their potential economic implications. The KSE-100 index continued its downward trajectory as investors weighed the broader impact of these developments on key sectors.

Despite the overall market downturn, a slight positive note emerged as Pakistan's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for January 2025 recorded a historic low of 2.41%, the lowest inflation rate in 111 months. This marked a significant drop from December 2024's inflation rate of 4.1%, offering some respite amid the bearish trend.

Key stocks contributing to the decline in the KSE-100 index included ENGROH, MARI, FFC, SYS, and PPL, collectively dragging the index down by 769 points.

Overall trading activity remained subdued, with a total volume of 399 million shares and a market turnover of Rs 20.3 billion. WTL led the volume charts with 26 million shares exchanging hands, indicating selective investor interest despite the broader market downturn.

Business & Finance » Money & Banking

ASIAN CURRENCIES SLUMP

Reuters Published 21 minutes ago

BENGALURU: Emerging Asian currencies and shares tumbled on Monday after US President Donald Trump slapped tariffs on imports from the country's three biggest trade partners, stoking fears of a trade war and its impact on export-focused economies in the region.

Markets were downbeat in Asia, with stocks reliant on exports getting hit the most, ranging from Japanese automakers to chipmakers in Taiwan, South Korea, to Chinese e-commerce firms.

As Trump had promised last month, the United States hit Canada and Mexico with duties of 25% and China with a 10% levy, with retaliatory moves immediately promised by Canada and Mexico, the top two US trading partners. China said it would challenge Trump's levies at the World Trade Organization.

The reality of a trade war sent the Mexican peso to its lowest in nearly three years, the Canadian dollar to a 22-year low and offshore yuan to a record low.

All currencies in Asia slumped, with the Thai baht and Indonesian rupiah among the top losers.

"In the weeks ahead, tariffs are likely to represent an overhang on markets and contribute to volatility, at least until investors gain greater clarity on the path and destination of US trade policy," UBS analysts said.

Markets in Taipei fell 3.5% while Seoul was 2.5% lower, weighed down by exporters.

Bangkok stocks traded around an over-five-year low.

Shares in Jakarta lost 2.2% in its weakest trading session in six months. Heavyweight coal miner Adaro Andalan and Adaro Minerals fell 4.5% and 8% each, dragging the local benchmark.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, reported annual inflation below the central bank's target range, a sign that a surprise policy easing last month boosted spending and bolstered the case for another rate cut. The rupiah was trading 0.9% lower against the greenback.

INDIAN RUPEE SINKS TO LIFETIME LOW

Reuters Published 21 minutes ago

MUMBAI: The Indian rupee fell to a record low on Monday after US President Donald Trump slapped tariffs on imports from the country's three biggest trade partners, stoking fears of a trade war that rattled global financial markets.

The rupee declined to 87.28 per US dollar before closing at 87.1850, down by nearly 0.7%, its biggest single-day percentage loss since Jan 13.

Asian currencies also slumped after the dollar rallied on Trump's sweeping tariffs that impose a 25% levy on Mexican and Canadian imports into the US, while those from China will attract a 10% charge. The tariffs kick in on Tuesday.

Asian and European stocks fell on Monday, while US equity futures pointed sharply lower. The Mexican peso tumbled more than 2% to touch its lowest in nearly three years, while the offshore Chinese yuan fell 0.3%.

While intermittent dollar sales from state-run banks helped limit the rupee's decline, the absence of stern intervention by the central bank was seen by many traders as an affirmation that it is allowing the rupee to move in line with its peers.

The Reserve Bank of India "will allow some more adjustment in alignment with peers," Shubhada Rao, founder of QuantEco Research, told the Reuters' Trading India forum .

The "heavy intervention seen in last 1-2 years is unlikely to be repeated."

Amid persistent headwinds and expectations of the central bank easing its grip, the rupee's 1-month implied volatility has averaged about 3.5% so far in 2025, up from the average of 2% last year.

News on US tariffs is expected to dominate cues for currency markets this week.

"Unless Donald Trump surprises with a very last-minute de-escalation in tariffs (unlikely) expect DXY (dollar index) to stay bid near this year's high," ING Bank said in a note.

The dollar index was last quoted at 109.7, up over 1% on the day.

DOLLAR LOWER AFTER US TARIFFS ON MEXICO PAUSED

Reuters Published 21 minutes ago

NEW YORK: The dollar index was lower on Monday after US President Donald Trump paused new tariffs on Mexico for one month, after the country agreed to reinforce its northern border with 10,000 National Guard members to stem the flow of illegal drugs, Trump said.

Mexico and the US will use the month-long suspension to engage in further negotiations, Trump said.

The delay boosted the Mexican peso. It was last up 0.95% against the dollar at 20.481. Earlier, it fell to its lowest in nearly three years at 21.2882 per US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index was down 0.639% at 108.81. It had touched a three-week high of 109.88 in early trading.

As Trump promised last month, the US over the weekend announced it would hit Canada and Mexico with 25% duties and China with a 10% levy starting on Tuesday, calling them necessary to curb immigration and narcotics trafficking.

Trump said on Monday he had spoken with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and would do so again at 3 p.m. ET (2000 GMT). The tariffs on Canada and China remain poised to take effect on Tuesday, and Canada has announced retaliatory tariffs.

A senior Canadian official told a New York Times reporter that Ottawa is not optimistic that a similar reprieve is in the offing, the reporter said on X.

OVER 9-YEAR LOW: INFLATION IN PAKISTAN CLOCKS IN AT 2.4% IN JANUARY 2025

Pakistan's headline inflation clocked in at 2.4% on a year-on-year basis in January 2025, a reading below that of...

BR Web Desk Published February 3, 2025

Pakistan's headline inflation clocked in at 2.4% on a year-on-year basis in January 2025, a reading below that of December 2024 when it stood at 4.1%, showed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data on Monday.

On a month-on-month basis, CPI increased by 0.2% in January 2025 as compared to 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.8% in January 2024.

This is the "lowest reading in 111 months," said Toplevel Securities.

Experts attributed the decline in inflation to a high base effect and lower food inflation.

CPI inflation average during 7MFY25 stood at 6.5% as compared to 28.73% in 7MFY24.

Inflation in Pakistan has been a significant and persistent economic challenge, particularly in recent years. In May 2023, the CPI inflation rate hit a record high of 38%. However, it has been on a downward trajectory since then.

Days ago, the Finance Division said that policy interventions and administrative actions successfully controlled inflation, leading to a reduction in the prices of essential items.

Last month, in line with expectations, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reduced the key policy rate by 100 basis points (bps), taking it down to 12%.

This was the sixth successive cut in the key interest rate since June 2024 when it stood at 22%.

After the policy rate decision, Governor SBP Jameel Ahmad told a presser that inflation would ease further in January before inching up in the subsequent months.

Meanwhile, the latest CPI reading was even lower than the projections made by several brokerage houses.

JS Global projected inflation reading to clock below 3% in January.

“Ongoing sharp disinflation trend is expected to persist, with Jan-2025 CPI likely to fall to 2.8% (lowest since Nov-2015 owing to a high base affect), despite 0.6% MoM uptick,” the brokerage house said.

A similar reading was given by Ismail Iqbal Securities Limited, another brokerage house.

“Inflation for Jan’25 is projected at 2.9%, sharply down from 28.3% the same period last year, reflecting a significant easing in price pressures,” it said.

Urban, rural inflation

The PBS said CPI inflation urban decreased to 2.7% on year-on-year basis in January 2025 as compared to 4.4% in the previous month and 30.2% in January 2024.

On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.2% in January 2025 as compared to negative change of 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.8% in January 2024.

CPI inflation rural decreased to 1.9% on year-on-year basis in January 2025 as compared to 3.6% in the previous month and 25.7% in January 2024.

On month-on-month basis, it increased by 0.2% in January 2025 as compared to 0.3% in the previous month and an increase of 1.9% in January 2024.

TRUMP’S TARIFFS TO HAVE LIMITED IMPACT ON OIL, GAS PRICES, GOLDMAN SACHS SAYS

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

The new tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China are likely to have a limited near-term impact on global oil and gas prices, Goldman Sachs said in a note on Sunday.

“Potential tariff-driven decline in U.S. natural gas imports from Canada is too small to significantly raise U.S. natural gas prices,” the bank said.

Oil and gas prices jumped on Monday after Trump imposed tariffs over the weekend.

The tariffs, which will take effect on Feb. 4, include a 25% levy on most goods from Mexico and Canada, with a 10% tariff on energy imports from Canada, and a 10% tariff on Chinese imports.

“Canadian oil producers are expected to eventually bear most of the burden of the tariff with a \$3 to \$4 a barrel wider-than-normal discount on Canadian crude given limited alternative export markets, with U.S. consumers of refined products bearing the remaining \$2 to \$3 a barrel burden,” the bank said.

Trump orders sweeping tariffs on Mexico, Canada, China

According to the note, seaborne oil imports from Canada and Mexico will be rerouted to other markets, with the U.S. replacing those supplies with crude from OPEC, Latin America, and refined products from Europe.

The investment bank kept its 2025/2026 oil price forecasts unchanged, expecting minimal near-term price impact due to stable global oil production and demand, as well as the Canadian oil tariff already being priced in.

Last week, Goldman Sachs raised Brent oil price forecast for this year and 2026 to \$78 (versus \$76 previously) and \$73 (from \$71), respectively.

Trump said he would talk with leaders of Canada and Mexico, which have announced retaliatory tariffs of their own, but downplayed expectations that they would change his mind.

In a separate note, Goldman Sachs analysts said that U.S. tariffs on Mexico and Canada will be short-lived.

SBP UPDATES PM YOUTH LOAN SCHEME FOR LAPTOP FINANCING

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has introduced significant updates to the Prime Minister’s Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme to enable students from Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized institutions to acquire laptops through financing.

The new measures aim to enhance access to digital tools, especially for students and young entrepreneurs, ensuring better educational and professional opportunities.

According to the SBP, the Government of Pakistan has expanded the scope of the scheme by introducing a new financing category termed ‘Tier-4.’ This new tier specifically focuses on

providing financial support for students, freelancers, and young entrepreneurs seeking to purchase laptops, as well as for prospective overseas workers requiring funds for training, travel, and settlement expenses. The initiative is designed to support the digital and economic empowerment of the youth by facilitating technology access and aiding overseas employment opportunities.

Laptop Financing Under Tier-4

Under the revised scheme, students aged between 18 and 30 years who are enrolled in HEC-recognized institutions will be eligible to apply for laptop financing. Universities will collaborate with participating banks through the PM Youth Program (PMYP) portal, referring eligible students for financing. The process ensures that students can acquire laptops with convenient repayment plans, making digital learning more accessible.

The SBP has stated that under this financing structure, universities will integrate loan repayment installments into students' tuition fees. These payments will be collected exclusively through the banks providing the loans. The participating banks will deduct their due amounts before remitting the remaining funds to the respective universities. This structured mechanism ensures financial security for lending institutions while simplifying the process for students.

Additionally, freelancers and young entrepreneurs who require laptops for professional use can also apply for financing. However, they must submit a business plan to demonstrate how the laptop will contribute to their productivity and repayment capacity. The SBP has also noted that banks may consider the joint income of primary and secondary borrowers when assessing repayment feasibility.

Financing Details

The scheme offers three financing tiers for laptops:

- Basic Laptops – Up to Rs. 150,000 or actual cost, whichever is lower.
- Medium Laptops – Up to Rs. 300,000 or actual cost, whichever is lower.
- Advanced Laptops – Up to Rs. 450,000 or actual cost, whichever is lower.

The loan will be provided as term finance with a repayment period of up to four years. Notably, the end-user rate for students has been set at 0%, ensuring that financing remains affordable.

Support for Prospective Overseas Workers

The SBP has also facilitated a loan program under Tier-4 for prospective overseas workers. Eligible applicants must be between 21 and 45 years old and hold a valid job offer or recruitment confirmation through an Overseas Employment Promoter (OEP). The financing can be utilized for training, travel, visa-related expenses, and initial settlement abroad.

Loans of up to Rs. 1,000,000 will be available for overseas employment purposes, with a five-year repayment period. Similar to the laptop financing initiative, these loans will be provided at an end-user rate of 0%, making them highly accessible.

Risk Mitigation & Security Measures

To mitigate financial risks, the SBP has introduced a 25% Guarantee on First Loss Basis for disbursed portfolios. For students availing of laptop financing, universities will be required to hold degrees as collateral until the final settlement of the loan. In contrast, prospective overseas workers must provide a personal guarantee from a family member. Banks may also issue joint loans in the names of both the applicant and their family member residing in Pakistan to enhance credit security.

Implementation and Execution

Participating commercial and Islamic banks will execute the scheme under SBP supervision. All loans will be recorded in the Electronic Credit Information Bureau (E-CIB) for transparency. Other terms and conditions of the PM Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme remain unchanged.

The SBP emphasized that this initiative aligns with the government's vision of promoting digital learning, youth entrepreneurship, and overseas employment. By providing students with easy access to laptops and financial support for young professionals, the SBP aims to drive socio-economic progress and digital inclusion across Pakistan.

The banking regulator encouraged students, freelancers, and overseas workers to take full advantage of the updated loan scheme and apply through the designated banks. Further details and application processes will be available through university portals and the PMYP platform.

RUPEE WEAKENS TO PKR 279.04 AGAINST DOLLAR IN INTERBANK

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The Pakistani rupee continued its downward trend in the interbank foreign exchange market, depreciating to PKR 279.04 against the US dollar on Monday.

The local currency lost 9 paisa compared to last Friday's closing rate of PKR 278.95, reflecting heightened demand for foreign currency due to mounting payment obligations.

Market analysts attributed the rupee's weakness to increased dollar demand for import settlements and corporate transactions. The beginning of the week typically sees a rise in foreign payment requirements, exerting pressure on the exchange rate. Throughout the trading session, the rupee remained under stress as concerns over declining foreign exchange reserves and rising external debt repayments weighed on investor sentiment.

Recent data from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) revealed that the country's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$137 million in the week ending January 24, 2025. The decline, primarily driven by external debt repayments and other foreign liabilities, brought total reserves down to \$16.052 billion from \$16.189 billion recorded a week earlier. The persistent reduction in reserves continues to challenge the rupee's stability in the interbank market.

Despite short-term currency depreciation, some economic indicators suggest potential stability in the long run. A key positive development has been Pakistan's improving balance of payments. During the first half of the fiscal year 2024-25 (July-December 2024), the country posted a current account surplus of \$1.21 billion. This marks a significant turnaround from the \$1.40 billion deficit recorded during the same period last year, underscoring ongoing economic adjustments that may eventually support the rupee's strength.

Additionally, remittances from overseas Pakistanis continue to play a crucial role in stabilizing the rupee. In the first six months of FY 2024-25, remittance inflows surged by 38%, reaching \$17.85 billion compared to \$13.44 billion in the previous year. These inflows not only bolster Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves but also provide a cushion against external financial pressures, potentially mitigating further depreciation of the rupee.

While challenges persist, analysts and policymakers remain optimistic that sustained remittance growth, economic reforms, and disciplined fiscal management will contribute to stabilizing the rupee in the months ahead. Strengthening investor confidence and prudent policy measures will be key to ensuring a more resilient currency market.

Business & Finance » Industry

GOVERNOR FOR BOOSTING REAL ESTATE SECTOR

Recorder Report Published 24 minutes ago

LAHORE: The Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that the real estate industry is a major industry of the country, which provides employment to millions of people.

“A robust real estate sector will lead to increased revenue, which in turn will bolster the overall economy,” the governor said, while talking to a delegation of Lahore Dealers and Builders led by vice-president Pakistan People's Party, Chaudhry M Riaz called on him, here at Governor House.

Speaking on the occasion, the governor emphasized that the strength of the real estate industry is crucial for economic growth. “The country has suffered losses by imposing unnecessary taxes on the real estate industry,” he said. He added that there is a need to run real estate again the way it was running before. He applauded the significant strides made in the housing sector, which has led to the provision of affordable, quality housing for the public, a development he termed as ‘very welcome’.

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The delegation members informed the governor about the issues related to the FBR and LDA. They said that many people were rendered jobless due to the downfall of the real estate sector. They said that the government should pay attention to this important industry.

The governor announced the formation of a committee comprising a focal person from the Governor House and representatives of real estate sector, to resolve the problems of the sector.

HOUSING & REAL ESTATE SECTORS: FPCCI PROPOSES CUT IN TAXES TO SINGLE DIGITS

Recorder Report Published 24 minutes ago

KARACHI: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has proposed that taxes on housing and real estate sectors should be reduced to single digits; the government should provide all possible incentives for acquiring low cost and affordable houses and complete tax exemption should be given for building or buying a house for the first time by all Pakistani across the board.

However he appreciated the proposed tax measures to facilitate investments into real estate and construction sectors by the general public as 4 percent tax rate on sale and purchase of property has been a major obstacle in the development and commercial activities.

He added that the real estate sector has been stagnant for the past few years; and, the government should present a comprehensive plan for its revival and rejuvenation – so that, buying houses becomes affordable and viable for the masses.

Atif Ikram Sheikh maintained that commercial banks should be encouraged to facilitate housing finance on a priority; the housing package must also include exempting overseas Pakistanis from Withholding Tax (WHT) and three floors of residential houses should be allowed in view housing needs of a population of 250 million.

President FPCCI stressed that the government should move towards vertical development and high-rise buildings to provide decent housing to the masses with decent civic amenities in an efficient time-frame.

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CHINA READY TO SHARE EXPERIENCE ON ORGANIC FOOD: PCJCCI

Recorder Report Published 24 minutes ago

LAHORE: In Pakistan, organic farming is still in its infancy stage with a very limited number of established organic farms stated by Nazir Hussain, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) during a meeting held at PCJCCI Secretariat today.

He added that China is prepared to share its rich experience with Pakistan and other countries for producing organic food because China is the second largest producer of organic products in Asia. Organic products are often regarded as a high-end rich market in Pakistan, only few are organic farmers.

The main reason lays in their premium price driven up by small, scattered production, which is a major factor constraining the popularity of organic food products.

President PCJCCI said that amid the ubiquitous challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic, organic food sector in Pakistan is presented with rare opportunities.

Data show that 70% of consumers choose to increase spending on nutrition products after the pandemic, and nearly 90% of consumers' expenditure on nutrition products has increased by 10% – 20% compared with that in the past. Pakistan also has natural endowments and resources, so it is very compatible with the development of health industry.

Brig. Mansoor Saeed Sheikh (retd) Senior Vice President PCJCCI stressed that Pakistani enterprises can participate in various international exhibitions to have more information exchange. I believe healthcare products will have great market potential along the Belt and Road in the future.

In particular, if small-scale farmers are equipped with sufficient expertise, the potential of the small plots of land will be further unleashed, overcoming the bottleneck of conventional dispersed farming and packing. With the initiative of agricultural cooperation including the recently established China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform, Pak-China cooperation in agriculture is yet to make a big headway.

Zafar Iqbal, Vice President PCJCCI added that for more organic products to be recognized and welcomed in domestic, regional and international market, a home-grown certification organization that meets international standards should also be put in place to assess and label these natural products.

According to experts, it will not only augment producers' credibility and consumers' confidence, but also hold the entire community accountable for environmental implication and food security.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI said that in Pakistan, a growing number of sellers are turning to online stores for direct marketing. The ongoing digital transformation accelerated will provide more solutions to organic practices and businesses, benefiting the entire agriculture sector.

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PIA SELL-OFF: PRIVATISATION COMMISSION SAYS 'FULLY PREPARED' FOR SECOND ATTEMPT

BR Web Desk Published February 3, 2025

The Privatisation Commission (PC) has said that it is “fully prepared” for the second attempt at the Pakistan International Airlines’ (PIA) sell-off, with “several returning bidders and parties participating in the process”.

The commission informed this in the 6th meeting of the National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Privatisation, chaired by Farooq Sattar on Monday.

“The committee was briefed on various aspects of PIA’s privatisation, and informed by the Privatisation Commission’s chairman that the second attempt for PIA’s privatisation is fully prepared, with several returning bidders and parties participating in the process,” a statement from the National Assembly Secretariat read.

PIA apologises for controversial Eiffel Tower advert

In October last year, the government’s plan for privatisation of the national carrier fell flat after the only bidder, Blue World City consortium refused to match the minimum expectation of the PC of Rs85.03 billion and stuck to an offer of Rs10 billion for a 60% stake in the PIA.

The government now plans to start a fresh process for PIA sell-off.

In the Monday’s meeting, it was informed that bidders had recommended waiving 18% GST (Goods and Services Tax) imposed by the government on the induction of new planes and fleet expansion.

Removing the tax would facilitate new aircraft acquisitions and support the growth of the aviation industry, it was explained to the committee.

“The liabilities of PIA amount to Rs45 billion, including; Rs26 billion in taxation dues to the Federal Board of Revenue, Rs10 billion owed to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the remaining amount consists of pension liabilities.

“The government presented these concerns to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the IMF agreed that if PIA is privatised the 18% GST could be removed to encourage private sector investment in new aircraft.”

A mechanism would be devised to address outstanding liabilities, ensuring that financial burdens did not become a hindrance for potential investors, the statement said.

Govt set to start fresh round of its PIA privatisation pursuit

The committee was further informed that non-core assets were not part of the PIA bidding process.

“The government is formulating a separate policy for these assets, for which a consultant has already been hired. The consultant has proposed two to three options to the Cabinet Committee

on Privatisation. The Cabinet Committee will adopt one of these options and issue a policy regarding non-core assets.”

In the 5th meeting of the Standing Committee on Privatisation the previous month, it was informed that the IMF had agreed for cleaning of Rs45 billion negative equity of the Pakistan International Airlines Company Limited (PIACL).

The Privatisation Commission (Amendment) Bill

During the meeting, the committee also discussed the Privatisation Commission (Amendment) Bill 2024 (Government Bill) in detail.

As per the details, the committee raised an objection to Clause 4, Section 7(4), stating that the Ministry of Law should clarify whether there was any precedent where the prime minister had been given the authority to make privatisation decisions instead of the cabinet.

“The committee directed the Ministry of Law to present relevant details in the next meeting. Thereafter, the committee deferred the Privatisation Commission (Amendment) Bill 2024 (Government Bill) till its next meeting,” the statement said.

PAKISTAN SIGNS \$1.2BN SAUDI OIL FACILITY ON DEFERRED PAYMENT

- Deal expected to help Islamabad with stable petroleum products supply, reduced immediate fiscal burdens

BR Web Desk Published February 3, 2025

Pakistan has signed an agreement with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), which will allow the country to import Saudi oil on deferred payment for one year totalling \$1.2 billion, a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) said on Monday.

A delegation, led by SFD CEO Sultan Bin Abdul Rehman Al Marshad, called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

PM Shehbaz witnessed signing of the Oil Import Financing Facility as well as loan agreement for the Gravity Flow Water Supply Scheme at Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to PMO.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia reaffirm commitment to strengthen beneficial ties

Secretary Economic Affairs Division Dr Kazim Niaz and CEO SDF H.E. Sultan Bin Abdul Rehman Al Marshad signed the agreements on behalf of their respective governments.

“The prime minister welcomed the signing of Oil Import Financing Facility according to which Pakistan will receive oil on deferred payment for one year totalling \$1.20 billion,” PMO statement read.

The deal is expected to help strengthen Pakistan's economic resilience by securing a stable supply of petroleum products while reducing immediate fiscal burdens.

Meanwhile, the SFD will provide an amount of \$41 million for Gravity Flow Water Supply Scheme at Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which will help enhance access to clean drinking water for 150,000 local people of Mansehra, improving overall public health and quality of life, the PMO said.

On the occasion, PM Shehbaz hailed the SFD for providing financing to Pakistan in the fields of health, energy, infrastructure, and education. He also appreciated the Fund's efforts for helping reconstruction in Pakistan areas hit by 2022 devastating floods.

The SFD CEO shared updates with PM Shehbaz about ongoing projects including Mohmand Multi-purpose Hydropower Project, Golan Gol Hydropower Project, Malakand Regional Development Project, and other projects funded through Saudi grants, the PMO stated.

Saudi oil facility: POL worth \$300m imported on deferred payment

PM Shehbaz highlighted the need to expedite the processing of new projects, shared with the SFD, in the field of green energy and infrastructure, which once implemented would "go a long way in the economic revival of the country, besides serving the needs of the local communities".

The SFD CEO assured early processing of the shared projects and also reiterated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would extend all possible assistance and continued support to Pakistan, the PMO said.

FM Muhammad Aurangzeb meets SFD CEO

During the day, the SFD CEO also met Pakistan Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and discussed various aspects of Pakistan-Saudi economic relations, according to a statement from the Finance Division.

Aurangzeb shared updates on Pakistan's macroeconomic stability, highlighting improvements in key economic indicators. He emphasised the importance of Saudi Arabia's continued support in funding and investment, which has significantly contributed to Pakistan's economic growth, the statement added.

Aurangzeb also recalled his recent meeting with Saudi Minister of Finance, Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan, in Davos, and his extending an invitation to Pakistan to attend the first edition of the high-level annual conference on challenges and opportunities facing emerging market economies, which is being jointly organised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia, on February 16-17, 2025.

FM Aurangzeb expressed his anticipation for the conference, noting the valuable insights he hoped to gain from the event and the leadership of Saudi Arabia in implementing Vision 2030.

“H.E. Sultan Abdulrahman A. Al Marshad lauded the progress Pakistan has made in terms of macroeconomic stability and growth, which has opened up numerous multi-purpose investment opportunities across various sectors,” the Finance Division said.

He particularly noted the potential for further collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, inviting investors from the Kingdom to explore these emerging opportunities, the statement added.

Additionally, H.E. Al Marshad acknowledged the valuable contributions of Pakistanis in the development of Saudi Arabia, recognising them as the largest foreign workforce in the Kingdom.

He expressed Saudi Arabia’s need for a skilled workforce to meet the demands of its growing market.

“To address this, he [SFD CEO] proposed a partnership with relevant government ministries and departments in Pakistan to offer training programs for young Pakistanis in modern and relevant skill sets to meet the labor market demands in Saudi Arabia.”

The meeting underscored the strong ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and set the stage for further economic collaboration, with a focus on investment, workforce development, and expanding bilateral cooperation, the Finance Division said.

CEMENT OFFTAKE SURGES 14.08% YEAR-ON-YEAR IN JANUARY 2025

February 3, 2025

February 3, 2025 – The cement industry in Pakistan experienced significant growth in January 2025, with total cement despatches increasing by 14.08% compared to the same month last year, according to data released by the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA).

This surge was driven by robust domestic demand as well as a sharp increase in export volumes.

During January 2025, local cement despatches rose to 3.313 million tons, up 11.64% from 2.967 million tons in January 2024. Export despatches saw an even more pronounced growth of 30.25%, reaching 581,691 tons compared to 446,595 tons in the previous year. Overall, total cement despatches for the month amounted to 3.894 million tons, surpassing the 3.414 million tons recorded in January 2024.

Regional Performance

The regional breakdown of despatches shows a steady upward trend across both North and South zones. Cement mills in the North dispatched 2.728 million tons in January 2025, reflecting a 12.08% increase over the 2.434 million tons dispatched in the same month last year. Meanwhile, South-based mills dispatched 1.166 million tons, marking a substantial 19.04% rise from 0.980 million tons in January 2024.

In domestic markets, North-based mills recorded an 11.89% increase in sales, dispatching 2.669 million tons in January 2025 compared to 2.385 million tons the previous year. Similarly, South-based mills delivered 644,173 tons to local markets, a 10.63% improvement from the 582,258 tons dispatched in January 2024.

On the export front, North-based mills saw a 21.42% increase in shipments, rising from 48,883 tons in January 2024 to 59,355 tons in January 2025. Exports from the South experienced an even stronger boost, climbing by 31.34% to 522,336 tons from 397,712 tons in the same period last year.

Cumulative Performance: July 2024 – January 2025

Despite the January surge, overall cement despatches during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (July 2024 to January 2025) declined by 1.71% year-on-year, totaling 26.827 million tons compared to 27.295 million tons in the corresponding period last year. Domestic despatches for this period fell by 7.59% to 21.435 million tons, compared to 23.196 million tons in the previous year. However, this decline was offset by a sharp increase in exports, which rose 31.54% to 5.392 million tons from 4.099 million tons during the same period last fiscal year.

North-based mills dispatched 17.854 million tons domestically in the first seven months of the current fiscal year, down 6.80% from 19.157 million tons in the previous year. However, exports from the North surged by 28.37%, rising to 1.051 million tons from 819,353 tons in the same period last year. Consequently, total despatches from North-based mills fell by 5.36% to 18.905 million tons from 19.976 million tons in the previous year.

In contrast, South-based mills reported an 11.32% decline in domestic despatches, which dropped to 3.582 million tons from 4.039 million tons. Nevertheless, exports from the South skyrocketed by 32.33% to 4.340 million tons from 3.280 million tons. As a result, total despatches from South-based mills increased by 8.24% to 7.922 million tons compared to 7.319 million tons in the corresponding period last fiscal year.

Industry Challenges and Future Outlook

Despite the overall positive performance, the cement industry continues to face challenges, particularly in the form of taxation and duties that restrict domestic growth. A spokesman for APCMA expressed concerns regarding the current tax structure, which he described as a major bottleneck for demand in the local market.

“Cement is a fundamental component in construction and should not be treated as a luxury item. The government must reconsider its tax policies to make cement more affordable for consumers, which in turn would stimulate construction activity and job creation in the sector,” the spokesman stated.

Moving forward, industry experts anticipate that the ongoing increase in exports, coupled with potential policy adjustments, could help sustain the growth momentum in the cement sector.

However, local demand will heavily depend on the government's willingness to create a favorable regulatory environment, particularly in terms of taxation and infrastructure investment.

PAKISTAN'S EXPORTS SURGE 10% TO \$19.55 BILLION 7MFY25

February 3, 2025

Islamabad, February 3, 2025 – Pakistan's exports have experienced a significant boost, rising by 10% to reach \$19.55 billion during the first seven months (July – January) of fiscal year 2024-25, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Monday.

This marks a notable improvement from the \$17.78 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Alongside the growth in exports, the country's import bill also saw an increase of 7%, reaching \$33.04 billion during the first seven months of the current fiscal year, compared to \$30.89 billion in the same period last year. This increase in both exports and imports resulted in a trade deficit of \$13.49 billion for July – January 2024-25, reflecting a 2.84% increase from the \$13.12 billion deficit recorded during the same period in the previous fiscal year.

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, exports in January 2025 rose by 4.59% to \$2.92 billion, up from \$2.79 billion in the same month last year. Meanwhile, imports surged by 10% YoY, reaching \$5.23 billion in January 2025, compared to \$4.76 billion in January 2024. Consequently, the trade deficit widened by 17.78% YoY to \$2.31 billion, compared to \$1.96 billion in the same month of the previous year.

On a month-on-month (MoM) basis, exports in January 2025 recorded a modest increase of 0.31%, rising to \$2.92 billion from \$2.91 billion in December 2024. This steady growth reflects the resilience of Pakistan's export sector despite global economic challenges.

Analysts attribute the increase in exports to higher demand for textile, rice, and IT services, alongside government initiatives aimed at promoting trade and reducing export barriers. The depreciation of the Pakistani rupee has also played a role in making exports more competitive in international markets, further contributing to the sector's growth.

With sustained policy support and continued diversification of export-oriented industries, Pakistan's exports are expected to maintain an upward trajectory in the coming months, helping to stabilize the country's trade balance and boost economic growth.

FPCCI SUPPORTS PROPOSED TAX PACKAGE FOR PROPERTY SECTOR

February 3, 2025

Karachi, February 3, 2025 – The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has extended its full support to the proposed tax package for the property sector, emphasizing its potential to stimulate housing and construction activities across the country.

In an official statement, FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh on Monday lauded the government's tax measures aimed at encouraging investment in real estate and construction. He noted that the existing 4 percent tax on property transactions had long been a significant barrier to development and commercial activities. The proposed reforms, he added, would create a more conducive environment for economic growth in the sector.

The FPCCI chief further highlighted that the real estate sector has remained stagnant for the past few years, necessitating urgent government intervention. He urged policymakers to introduce a comprehensive revival plan that would make homeownership more accessible and affordable for the general public.

To ensure the sector's sustainable growth, FPCCI proposed that taxes on housing and real estate should be reduced to single-digit figures. Additionally, the government should introduce incentives to facilitate the acquisition of low-cost and affordable housing. Sheikh also recommended a complete tax exemption for first-time homebuyers, ensuring that every Pakistani has an opportunity to own a home without excessive financial burdens.

Sheikh emphasized the need for commercial banks to be actively encouraged to provide housing finance as a priority. He further suggested that the proposed housing package should include the exemption of overseas Pakistanis from withholding tax (WHT) to promote foreign investment in the sector. Additionally, he recommended allowing the construction of three-story residential buildings to accommodate the growing housing demand in a country with a population exceeding 250 million.

The FPCCI president stressed that the government must shift towards vertical development, encouraging high-rise residential projects equipped with modern civic amenities. He noted that well-planned vertical expansion would not only address housing shortages but also improve urban infrastructure efficiency, ensuring better living standards for the masses.

In conclusion, the FPCCI reaffirmed its commitment to working with the government to implement policies that foster real estate growth, generate employment opportunities, and contribute to the overall economic stability of Pakistan.

Business & Finance » Companies

JAZZCASH JOINS HANDS WITH FAST TO INTRODUCE 'FINTECH ECOSYSTEMS'

Recorder Report Published 26 minutes ago

ISLAMABAD: JazzCash has partnered with FAST National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences to introduce an elective, “Fintech Ecosystems”, for the FAST School of Management students.

The 16-week course will be taught by JazzCash’s future leadership team members.

Designed to strengthen academia and industry, the course will provide students with hands-on insights from fintech professionals, ensuring they stay ahead in an evolving digital financial landscape.

Murtaza Ali, president of JazzCash, said, “This collaboration allows us to inspire and nurture the next generation of fintech leaders by integrating industry expertise into the classroom. We want to empower students with the tools and knowledge so that students can contribute towards the digital financial services industry”.

Dr Sadia Nadeem, Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences, FAST NUCES, added, “Partnering with JazzCash strengthens our commitment to providing market-driven education. This course will offer students a real-world understanding of the fintech sector, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to the global financial ecosystem”.

The curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including the local and regional fintech landscape, product lifecycles and regulatory frameworks. The course will also explore global fintech trends and their implications for Pakistan.

The company recently partnered with the Suleman Dawood School of Business (SDSB) at LUMS, which developed a case study for its academic and executive programmes on JazzCash’s successful turnaround. This case study highlights the power of disruption and innovation. These initiatives align with JazzCash’s broader mission of strengthening industry-academia collaboration through the development of knowledge-sharing platforms.

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ASMA CHISHTY, FOUNDER/CEO OF DESTINATIONS MEDIA, APPOINTED OFFICIAL
ADVISOR TO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM FORUM

Asma Chishty, Founder and CEO of Destinations Media, has been appointed as the official advisor to the Sustainable Tourism Forum (STF) organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD)—an affiliate of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) representing the private sector of 57 member countries.

Destinations Media was also honored with the prestigious title of “Strategic Partner” alongside Green Tourism and TDCP, reinforcing its commitment to promoting sustainable tourism. The forum, held on January 30-31, 2025, at the Marriott Hotel, Karachi, served as a platform for global industry leaders, policymakers, and investors to discuss the future of sustainable tourism in the region.

The event opened with welcoming remarks from H.E. Mr. Yousef Hasan Khalawi, Secretary General of ICCD, followed by key addresses from H.E. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of FPCCI, and a message was also delivered on behalf of the OIC General Secretariat. The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Gholam Hussain Mozaffari, Governor of Khorasan Razavi, Iran, setting the stage for insightful discussions.

The first day featured two pivotal panel discussions. The CEO Insights panel explored opportunities for private-sector investment in sustainable tourism, with esteemed speakers including Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Former Turkish Minister of Family & Social Services, and CEOs from Azerbaijan Tourism Board, Hashoo Group, PTDC, and Turkish Cyprus Chamber of Commerce. The Green Features panel focused on sustainable financing, featuring experts from SBP, Al Baraka Bank, Borobudur Tourism Authority (Indonesia), and UAE-based hospitality leaders.

One of the day's key highlights was the official launch of the Destinations App by Asma Chishty, CEO of Destinations Media. She provided attendees with an in-depth walkthrough of this innovative platform, designed to serve as a digital tour guide for both locals and international visitors. As the first of its kind in Pakistan, the app promises to revolutionize the way people explore the country.

Towards the end was a workshop on the Benefits of Sustainable Tourism for Local Communities, led by Dr. Nisha Abu Bakar (World Women Tourism, Singapore) and Ms. Marina LeGree (Ascend USA). The day concluded with a roundtable discussion on investment opportunities, featuring government officials from Turkey, Pakistan's Balochistan & KPK provinces, and Gwadar Development Authority. A grand dinner was organised at the Frere Hall for all the international delegates followed by a performance by Mai Dhari.

The second day explored the role of airlines in promoting sustainable tourism, with Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), FPCCI, and Aero Engine Craft contributing to the discussion. Another key session focused on role models and successful ventures in tourism, featuring insights from Iran's Cultural Heritage Department, the Walled City of Lahore Authority, Green Tourism Pakistan, and various provincial tourism bodies.

Global tourism standards and sustainability were further addressed through expert-led discussions on Halal Tourism, Carbon Trading in the Forestry Sector, and Sustainable Education. A final digital transformation workshop was led by Asma Chishty engaging with Mohammad Ali Ibrahim (Hashoo Group).

The conference concluded with an engaging roundtable on Business Tourism as a Tool for Promoting Sustainable Tourism, featuring industry leaders from the World Bank, Karachi Chamber of Commerce, and leading private-sector investors.

The STF 2025 was a landmark event in positioning sustainable tourism at the forefront of economic development, fostering regional collaborations, and setting the stage for a greener, more inclusive future for the industry.

GHANI CHEMICAL SECURES GAS SUPPLY DEAL WITH MARI ENERGIES & OGDCL

BR Web Desk Published February 3, 2025

Ghani Chemical Industries Limited (GCIL), a manufacturer of medical and industrial gases and chemicals, has entered into a Gas Sales & Purchase Agreement (GSPA) with Pakistani E&Ps i.e. Mari Energies Limited and Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), for the supply of natural gas.

The listed company shared the development in its notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday.

“Ghani Chemical Industries Limited (GCIL), Mari Energies Limited (formerly Mari Petroleum Company Limited) and OGDC have entered into a GSPA for supply of 3 mmscfd natural gas during EWT (extended well testing) period from Maiwand-X1 discovery made in Block-28 which is located in District Kohlu, Baluchistan,” read the notice.

The said gas supply will allow GCIL, not only to achieve significant efficiencies in its energy costs but enable it to market and sell gas to industrial units all over Pakistan, it said.

“GCIL plans to set up its own gas processing facility in the area to process gas before selling it to potential customers. The revenues from gas sales will further increase the company’s topline by more than Rs3.5 billion per annum,” the company added.

In February last year, Mari Energies discovered gas at the Maiwand X-I ST-1 exploration well in Block-28, Kohlu. Mari Energies operates Block-28 with a 95% working interest, while OGDCL holds a 5% carried working interest as a joint venture partner.

[Markets » Energy](#)

US NATURAL GAS PRICES JUMP ON COLDER FORECAST, SANCTIONS WORRIES

Reuters Published 28 minutes ago

NEW YORK: US natural gas futures jumped about 9% on Monday on forecasts for colder weather and higher heating demand next week and worries about supplies from Canada related to US President Donald Trump’s sanctions.

In 2024, about 9%, or roughly 8.4 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) of the gas consumed in the US came from Canada, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). That compares with average US imports from Canada of around 7.6 bcfd during the prior five years (2019-2023).

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Front-month gas futures for March delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose 26.8 cents, or 8.8%, to \$3.312 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) at 6:34 a.m. EST (1134 GMT). On Friday, the contract closed at its lowest since Dec. 4 for a second day in a row.

That futures price jump pushed the front-month out of technically oversold territory. Financial firm LSEG said average gas output in the Lower 48 US states rose to 105.7 bcf/d so far in February, up from 102.5 in January when freezing oil and gas wells and pipes, known as freeze-offs, cut production. That compares with a monthly record of 104.6 bcf/d in December 2023.

Freeze-offs from Jan. 18-21 cut output by 6.9 bcf/d to a one-year low of 96.9 bcf/d on Jan. 21. All of the curtailed output was back in service by Jan. 28.

OIL PRICES EASE

Reuters Published 28 minutes ago

HOUSTON: Oil prices edged lower on Monday after rising more than \$1 earlier in the session after the United States and Mexico announced a month-long pause on tariffs the US had slapped on its southern neighbour. US President Donald Trump had imposed tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China to take effect from Tuesday, raising fears of supply disruption.

Brent crude futures were down 14 cents, or 0.2%, at \$75.49 a barrel by 10:57 a.m. ET (1557 GMT), having earlier touched a peak of \$77.34. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down 4 cents, or 0.01%, at \$72.49 after climbing as much as 3.7% earlier in the session to reach their highest since Jan. 24 at \$75.18.

US President Donald Trump on Monday said he would pause tariffs planned for Mexico and that negotiations would continue to reach a “deal” between the two countries.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said US and Mexico teams have started to work on Monday on security and business, adding that she proposed the pause in tariffs to Trump. Trump’s sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada and China had threatened to kick off a trade war that could dent global growth and reignite inflation. The tariffs announced at the weekend included a 25% levy on most goods from Mexico and Canada, with a 10% tariff on energy imports from Canada and a 10% tariff on Chinese imports.

“Tariffs on Canadian energy imports would likely be more disruptive for domestic energy markets than those on Mexican imports and might even be counterproductive to one of the president’s key objectives - lowering energy costs,” Barclays analyst Amarpreet Singh said in a note. Canada and Mexico are the top sources of US crude imports, together accounting for about a quarter of the oil US refiners process into fuels such as gasoline and heating oil, according to the US Department of Energy. Tariffs will raise costs for the heavier crude grades that US refineries need for optimum production, industry sources said.

Gasoline pump prices in the US are certainly expected to rise with the loss of crude for refineries and the loss of imported products, said Mukesh Sahdev at Rystad Energy. Trump has already warned that the tariffs could cause “short-term” pain for Americans. US gasoline futures were 1.5% higher at \$2.09 a gallon after touching their highest level since Jan. 16 at \$2.169. OPEC+ agreed to stick to its policy of gradually raising oil output from April on Monday and removed the US government’s Energy Information Administration from the sources used to monitor its production and adherence to supply pacts.

OPEC+ LIKELY TO STICK TO OIL OUTPUT HIKE PLAN: SOURCES

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

LONDON: OPEC+ is likely to adhere to current plans to raise output gradually from April when a panel of top ministers meets on Monday, delegates from the producer group told Reuters, despite U.S. President Donald Trump urging OPEC to lower prices.

Four OPEC+ sources said Monday’s meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, set to begin at 1300 GMT, was unlikely to recommend that OPEC+ increases output more than already planned. All sources declined to be identified by name.

The meeting comes after U.S. President Donald Trump announced sweeping tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China, America’s top trading partners, in a move that has roiled financial markets and on Monday, given oil prices some support.

“We think the intention remains to stay the course,” said RBC Capital Markets analyst Helima Croft in a note.

Oil prices climb after US tariffs spark supply disruption fears

“We do suspect there will be a delicate diplomatic dance to ensure that the organization and various member states are not on the receiving end of retaliatory ire,” she added.

Concern about the impact of U.S. sanctions on Russia pushed oil prices to \$83 a barrel on Jan. 15, the highest since August. Prices have since slipped below \$77, although they were up on Monday as the tariffs raised concerns over supply disruption.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, or OPEC+, is cutting output by 5.85 million barrels per day (bpd), equal to about 5.7% of global supply, agreed in a series of steps since 2022.

In December, OPEC+ extended its latest layer of cuts through the first quarter of 2025, pushing back a plan to begin raising output to April. The extension was the latest of several delays due to weak demand and rising supply outside the group.

Based on that plan, the unwinding of 2.2 million bpd of cuts - the most recent layer - and the start of an increase for the United Arab Emirates, begins in April with a monthly rise of 138,000 bpd, according to Reuters calculations. The hikes will last until September 2026.

OIL PRICES GAIN AS TRUMP TARIFFS STOKE SUPPLY WORRIES

Reuters Published February 3, 2025

Oil prices rose on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, raising fears of supply disruption, though gains were capped by concern over what could be an economically damaging trade war.

Brent crude futures rose \$1.28, or 1.7%, to \$76.95 a barrel by 1232 GMT after touching a high of \$77.34.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures were up \$1.89, or 2.6%, at \$74.42 after touching their highest since Jan. 24 at \$75.18.

Trump's sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada and China kicked off a trade war that could dent global growth and reignite inflation.

The tariffs, which will take effect on Feb. 4, include a 25% levy on most goods from Mexico and Canada, with a 10% tariff on energy imports from Canada and a 10% tariff on Chinese imports.

Oil posts weekly losses

"The relatively soft stance on Canadian energy imports is likely rooted in caution," Barclays analyst Amarpreet Singh said in a note.

"Tariffs on Canadian energy imports would likely be more disruptive for domestic energy markets than those on Mexican imports and might even be counterproductive to one of the president's key objectives - lowering energy costs."

Goldman Sachs analysts expect the tariffs to have limited near-term impact on global oil and gas prices.

Canada and Mexico are the top sources of U.S. crude imports, together accounting for about a quarter of the oil U.S. refiners process into fuels such as gasoline and heating oil, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The tariffs will raise costs for the heavier crude grades that U.S. refineries need for optimum production, industry sources said.

Gasoline pump prices in the U.S. are certainly expected to rise with the loss of crude for refineries and the loss of imported products, said Mukesh Sahdev at Rystad Energy.

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Trump has already warned that the tariffs could cause “short-term” pain for Americans.

U.S. gasoline futures jumped 2.5% to \$2.11 a gallon after touching the highest level since Jan. 16 at \$2.162.

“It is clear that the tariffs will have a negative effect on the global economy, with physical markets set to get tighter in near term, pushing crude prices higher,” said Panmure Liberum analyst Ashley Kelty.

Investors will also be watching for news from an OPEC+ meeting on Monday, with expectations that the oil producer group will stick to its current plan of gradual increases to output.

Rystad’s Sahdev added that tariffs, if kept for long, have the potential to cause production losses in Canada and Mexico, which could help OPEC+ to unwind output curbs.

Markets – Rates

BRINDEX100 AND BR SECTORAL INDICES

KARACHI: BRIndex100 and BR Sectoral Indices on Monday (February 03, 2025).

===== BR...

Recorder Report Published 30 minutes ago

KARACHI: BRIndex100 and BR Sectoral Indices on Monday (February 03, 2025).

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BR INDICASE AT A GLANCE

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BRINDEX100

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Day Close:	112,745.01
High:	114,620.79
Low:	112,681.34
Net Change:	1510.72
Volume (000):	165,869
Value (000):	13,070,341
Makt Cap (000)	3,477,980,000

BR AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLER

Day Close:	21,700.82
NET CH	(-) 202.24

BR CEMENT

Day Close:	11,199.64
NET CH	(+) 51.40

BR COMMERCIAL BANKS

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Day Close: 30,791.28
NET CH (-) 22.12

BR POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Day Close: 18,105.15
NET CH (-) 262.38

BR OIL AND GAS

Day Close: 11,397.33
NET CH (-) 239.04

BR TECH & COMM

Day Close: 5,341.40
NET CH (-) 133.14

As on: 03-February-2025
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These indices are available Live on Aaj TV, www.brecorder.com and www.khistocks.com.

For further information please visit www.khistocks.com

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

Recorder Report Published 30 minutes ago

KARACHI: Karachi Shipping Intelligence report incorporating changes till 7 am on Monday (February 03, 2025).

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ALONGSIDE EAST WHARF

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Berth No.	Ship	Working	Agent	Berthing Date
OP-1	Lady Yasso	Disc Jet Oil	Alphine Marine Services	01-02-2025
OP-2	Fairchem	Disc	Alphine Marine Services	01-02-2025
B-1	Fortitude	Base Oil		
	Mac London	Load	Eastwind Shipping Co	-
B-2	Songa	Ethanol	Gac Pakistan	03-02-2025
	Neptune	Chemical		
B-13/B-14	Jin Yi	Disc	Seahawks	31-01-2025
		General Cargo		
B-14/B-15	Beyond 2	Disc Dap	Bulk Shipping Agencies	30-01-2025

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Nmb-1	Rabani	Load Rice	N.S Shipping	28-01-2025
Nmb-2	Al Fager 1	Load Wheat Strew	Latif Trading Company	16-01-2025

Alongside WEST Wharf

B-26/B-27	Northern Practise	Dis/Load Containers	Oceansea Shipping	02-01-2025
B-28B-29	X-Press Salween	Dis/Load Containers	X-Press Feeders Ship Agency Pak	03-02-2025

Expected Sailing

Name of Vessel	Expected Date	Expected Arrival Cargo	Agent
Northern Practise	03-02-2025	Dis/Load Containers	Oceansea Shipping
Contship Uno	03-02-2025	-	-
Lady Yasso	03-02-2025	Disc. Jet Oil	Alphine Marine Services

Expected Arrivals

Varada	03-02-2025	D/L Container	Eastwind Shipping Company
Lian Hua Song	03-02-2025	L/10000 Mill Scale	Crystal Sea Services
Independent Spirit	04-02-2025	D/L Container	Riazeda
Hyundai Courage	04-02-2025	D/L Container	United Marine Agency
Ever Excel	04-02-2025	D/L Container	Green Shipping Pak
Sinar Sulawesi	04-02-2025	D/L Container	Southern Agencies

Ship Sailed

Name of Vessel	Departure Date	Ships Departures Cargo	Agent
JaruBhum	04-02-2025	Container Ship	-
Mol Presence	04-02-2025	Container Ship	-
Gfs Genesis	04-02-2025	Container Ship	-
CmaCgm			
Thalassa	04-02-2025	Container Ship	-
Mm Madrid	04-02-2025	Container Ship	-

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LME OFFICIAL PRICES

LONDON: The following were Friday official prices. =====
ALUMINIUM...

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Recorder Report Published 30 minutes ago

LONDON: The following were Friday official prices.

=====		
ALUMINIUM		
=====		
CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	2596.00	2598.00
3-month	2597.50	2598.00
=====		
COPPER		
=====		
CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	8949.00	8949.50
3-month	9050.00	9052.00
=====		
ZINC		
=====		
CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	2710.50	2711.00
3-month	2762.00	2763.00
=====		
NICKEL		
=====		
CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	15025.00	15040.00
3-month	15250.00	15260.00
=====		
LEAD		
=====		
CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	1918.00	1920.00
3-month	1958.00	1959.00
=====		

Source: London Metals Exchange.

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ACTIVITIES OF KARACHI PORT TRUST, PORT QASIM

Recorder Report Published 30 minutes ago

KARACHI: The Karachi Port Trust handled 172,112 tonnes of cargo comprising 96,202 tonnes of import cargo and 75,910 tonnes of export cargo during last 48 hours ending at 0700 hours.

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The total import cargo of 96,202 comprised of 64,167 tonnes of Containerized Cargo, 9,972 tonnes of Bulk Cargo, 6,979 tonnes of Dap& 15,084 tonnes of Liquid Cargo.

The total export Cargo of 75,910 comprised of 58,945 tonnes of Containerized Cargo, 392 tonnes of Bulk Cargo & 16,573 tonnes of Liquid Cargo.

Approximately, 03 ships namely, Contship Uno, Xpress Salween & Songa Neptune berthed at the Karachi Port Trust.

Around, 06 ships namely, Jaru Bhum, Mol Presence, Gfs Genesis, Cma Cgm Thalassa & Mm Madrid sailed from the Karachi Port Trust.

PORT QASIM

A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Chemicals carrier Lila Confidence left the port on Monday morning and another ship, MT Torm Diana is expected to sail on Monday afternoon.

A cargo volume of 99,022 comprising 85,644 tonnes imports cargo and 13,378 tonnes export cargo was handled at the Port, including containerized cargo carried in 519 Containers (429 TEUs Imports and 90 TEUs export) during the last 24 hours.

There are 17 ships at outer anchorage of the port, out of them three ships namely OM Shanghai, CL Diyin He and Yun Ding 19 & another ship Seaspan Santos carrying Chemicals, Coal, Palm oil and Containers are expected to take berths at EVTL, LCT, PIBT and QICT respectively on Monday, 3rd February-2025.

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PSX CLOSES IN DEEP RED

Recorder Report Published 31 minutes ago

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange on Monday remained under pressure and closed in deep red with heavy losses as the investors opted to offload their holdings on available margins.

The benchmark KSE-100 Index plunged by 1,510.72 points or 1.32 percent and closed at 112,745.01 points. After opening, the index saw positive trend and hit 114,620.79 points intra-day high, however failed to continue this trend and dropped into negative to hit 112,681.34 points intra-day low level due to selling pressure.

Trading activity remained low as total daily volumes on ready counter decreased to 401.456 million shares as compared to 543.124 million shares traded on last Friday while total daily traded value on the ready counter declined to Rs 20.351 billion against previous session's Rs 27.973 billion.

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BRIndex100 decreased by 156.0 points or 1.3 percent to close at 11,851.32 points with total daily turnover of 345.353 million shares.

BRIndex30 declined by 653.18 points or 1.83 percent to close at 34,943.07 points with total daily trading volumes of 194.266 million shares.

Foreign investors also remained on the selling side and withdrew \$1.563 million from the local equity market. Total market capitalization declined by Rs 120 billion to Rs 13.933 trillion. Out of total 450 active scrips, 262 closed in negative and 137 in positive while the value of 51 stocks remained unchanged.

WorldCall Telecom was the volume leader with 26.261 million shares and closed at Rs 1.63, down Rs 0.01 followed by Bank of Punjab that gained Rs 0.12 to close at Rs 10.23 with 24.695 million shares. Ghani Chemical lost Rs 0.15 to close at Rs 20.03 with 22.003 million shares.

Unilever Pakistan Foods and Sazgar Engineering Works were the top gainers increasing by Rs 77.83 and Rs 39.19 respectively to close at Rs 22,383.33 and Rs 1,062.95 while Sapphire Fibres Limited and Rafhan Maize Products Company were the top losers declining by Rs 68.45 and Rs 65.30 respectively to close at Rs 1,060.55 and Rs 9,483.33.

An analyst at Topline Securities said that the KSE-100 Index mirrored the trend in global markets, reacting negatively to the news that U.S. President Donald Trump had ordered sweeping tariffs on goods from Mexico, Canada, and China. This announcement created a ripple effect in international markets, and the local market followed suit.

The index opened the day under pressure and quickly descended, hitting an intraday low of minus 1,574 points. Despite a slight recovery, the market could not sustain any positive momentum, ultimately closing at 112,745 points, down by 1,510 points or 1.32 percent.

Investor sentiment was largely influenced by the growing concerns over escalating trade tensions and the potential impact on global economic stability. Consequently, the KSE-100 followed the international market's lead, with significant losses across various sectors.

Key contributors to the index's negative performance included ENGROH, MARI, FFC, SYS, and PPL, which collectively accounted for a loss of 769 points.

BR Automobile Assembler Index decreased by 202.24 points or 0.92 percent to close at 21,700.82 points with total turnover of 13.208 million shares.

BR Cement Index gained 51.4 points or 0.46 percent to close at 11,199.64 points with 45.009 million shares.

BR Commercial Banks Index lost 22.12 points or 0.07 percent to close at 30,791.28 points with 57.781 million shares.

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BR Power Generation and Distribution Index declined by 262.38 points or 1.43 percent to close at 18,105.15 points with 16.946 million shares.

BR Oil and Gas Index plunged by 239.04 points or 2.05 percent to close at 11,397.33 points with 26.933 million shares.

BR Tech. & Comm. Index fell by 133.14 points or 2.43 percent to close at 5,341.40 points with 39.743 million shares.

Ali Najib at Insight Securities said that the PSX commenced the month on a negative note as the KSE-100 index called the day at 112,745 level, reflecting a loss of 1,511 points; declined by 1.32 percent.

During the early trading hours, the benchmark index saw buoyant sentiments and made an intra-day high at 114,621 levels (plus 365 points). However, taking influence from regional markets which were mostly receiving selling headwinds since their opening, PSX too walked into the red zone where it stayed for rest of the trading hours till market close.

The cause behind this trend was US President Donald Trump's tariff announcement to Canada 25 percent, Mexico 25 percent and China 10 percent, formally initiating trade war amongst big global economies.

During the session, Fertilizer, E&P and Tech sector's stocks witnessed major selling as ENGROH, FFC, MARI, SYS and PPL contributed 771 points, negatively. On the other hand, UBL, LUCK, MEBL and SAZEW added 184 points to the index, as they witnessed some value hunting in them.

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OPEN MARKET FOREX RATES

Updated at: 4/2/2025 6:51 AM (PST)

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	172.75	175.00
Bahrain Dinar	739.10	747.10
Canadian Dollar	191.60	194.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	38.31	38.71
Euro	286.25	289.00
Hong Kong Dollar	35.43	35.78
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.81	1.87

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Kuwaiti Dinar	899.20	908.70
Malaysian Ringgit	63.04	63.64
NewZealand \$	155.18	157.18
Norwegians Krone	24.46	24.76
Omani Riyal	723.40	731.90
Qatari Riyal	75.91	76.61
Saudi Riyal	74.20	74.75
Singapore Dollar	205	207.00
Swedish Korona	25.01	25.31
Swiss Franc	304.14	306.89
Thai Bhat	8.09	8.24
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.50
UK Pound Sterling	344.00	347.5
US Dollar	279.60	281.10

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INTER BANK RATES

Updated at: 4/2/2025 6:51 AM (PST)

Currency	Bank Buying TT Clean	Bank Selling TT & OD
Australian Dollar	169.86	170.16
Canadian Dollar	188.25	188.59
China Yuan	37.98	38.05
Danish Krone	38.09	38.16
Euro	284.18	284.69
Hong Kong Dollar	35.64	35.71
Japanese Yen	1.7843	1.7875
Saudi Riyal	74.07	74.20
Singapore Dollar	203.16	203.52
Swedish Korona	24.82	24.86
Swiss Franc	303.14	303.69
Thai Bhat	8.16	8.18
UK Pound Sterling	340.89	341.50
US Dollar	278.85	279.35

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GOLD RATE

Bullion / Gold Price Today

As on Tue, Feb 04 2025, 01:58 GMT

Metal	Symbol	PKR for 10 Gm	PKR for 1 Tola	PKR for 1 Ounce	
Gold	XAU	250,942	292,388	780,530	
Palladium	XPD	86,070	100,285	267,712	
Platinum	XPT	88,179	102,743	274,271	
Silver	XAG	2,811	3,275	8,744	

for local market Gold Rates in Pakistan

Gold Price in Pakistan

As on Tue, Feb 04 2025, 01:58 GMT

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
per Tola Gold	Rs. 292400	Rs. 268031	Rs. 255850	Rs. 219300
per 10 Gram	Rs. 250700	Rs. 229807	Rs. 219363	Rs. 188025
per Gram Gold	Rs. 25070	Rs. 22981	Rs. 21936	Rs. 18803
per Ounce	Rs. 710700	Rs. 651470	Rs. 621863	Rs. 533025

Gold Rate

FOREX.pk offered latest and upto date Gold Rate in Pakistan as per International market for today gold rates in Pakistan you can visit GOLD.pk, We update international market gold rate in every fifteen minutes from authentic sources, Gold rates may be different in every city of Pakistan. Karachi is the main hub of gold market, in Pakistan, Karachi is leading for gold rate, every city follow Karachi Sarafa Bazar Association for gold price, Today gold prices for different cities including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, and Quetta are also available on Gold.pk. FOREX.pk is not liable or responsible to any transactions made on the basis of above mentioned gold rate.

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* Above Gold rate are taken from International Market so there may be some fluctuation from Local Market you can visit GOLD.pk for uptodate today gold price in Pakistan.

Gold Rates in other Major Currencies

Currency	Symbol	10 Gm	1 Tola	1 Ounce	
 China Yuan	CNY	6,525	7,602	20,294	
 Euro	EUR	869	1,012	2,701	
 Japanese Yen	JPY	139,623	162,684	434,284	
 Saudi Riyal	SAR	3,374	3,932	10,496	
 U.A.E Dirham	AED	3,305	3,851	10,279	
 UK Pound Sterling	GBP	726	846	2,258	
 US Dollar	USD	900	1,048	2,799	