



2026

SHAHID LEGAL GROUP

SLD NEWS UPDATES

Monday, April 13, 2026

Address: Office # 403, 4th Executive floor, Sadiq Plaza, The Mall Road Lahore

Cell: 0321-4726801 || Cell: 0300-8198529

Email: Shahid193@ymail.com | info@sldsystempk.com

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

IN NEWS

Business & Finance » Taxes

Jul-Mar Sales Tax on services in KP posts 21pc growth YoY

FBR reports 42% drop in tax collection from builders, developers

Markets » Cotton & Textile

Weekly Review: Stability in cotton prices observed

Business & Finance » Money & Banking

Punjab to offer tax relief for real estate in budget 2026-27, governor says

Markets » Stocks

Not just a peacemaker, Pakistan helped make the world over \$3tn richer: Atif Mian

Gold rises Rs6,600 per tola in weekly surge, silver also gains

Business & Finance » Industry

ICCI calls for ease in business hours in Islamabad

Made in Gujranwala Expo: Smeda facilitates microenterprises

HSATI slams decision to suspend gas to industries for 24 hours

Sindh governor meets FCCI delegation

‘Sustainable industrial growth needs inclusive policymaking’

HCSTSI concerned at ‘unbalanced’ policymaking in Sindh

KCCI, FCCI agree to strengthen collaboration

ICCI describes US-Iran talks as turning point for regional economic stability

Technology

Updated Prices of Apple iPhone 17 Pro Max from April 12, 2026

YouTube Explains 90-Second Unskippable TV Ads Caused by Bug

Business & Finance » Companies

Lufthansa union calls 2-day pilots’ strike

Mobilink Bank, JazzCash inaugurate Chaklala Scheme-III Cashless Bazaar in Rawalpindi

Markets » Financial

Gold price drops by Rs700 per tola in Pakistan

Fuel & Energy

South Korea close to securing oil supplies from Kazakhstan, minister says

Vietnam extends fuel tax suspension until end of June

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Lesco detects power theft worth millions

US natgas hits 17-month low on mild weather, ample stockpiles

Oil surges past \$100 as US-Iran tensions escalate after failed talks

Did you know? Levies and commissions make up 29% of Rs366/litre petrol price

OPEN MARKET FOREX RATES

INTER BANK RATES

Gold Rate

Business & Finance » Taxes

JUL-MAR SALES TAX ON SERVICES IN KP POSTS 21PC GROWTH YOY

Recorder Report Published April 13, 2026 Updated about an hour ago

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) has achieved a 21 percent growth in Sales Tax on Services during the first three quarters of the fiscal year 2025–26, collecting Rs. 34.60 billion during July–March, compared to Rs. 28.60 billion in the corresponding period of last year.

This increase of Rs. 6 billion reflects a strong and sustained improvement in tax compliance, enhanced enforcement, and continued expansion of the service sector tax base across the province.

According to figures released by KPRA’s media wing, the Authority generated a total revenue of Rs. 38.80 billion during the first nine months of the ongoing financial year. This includes Rs. 34.60 billion from Sales Tax on Services and Rs. 4.20 billion from Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC).

The overall revenue collection performance of Authority remained stable, with strong gains in Sales Tax on Services effectively reinforcing KPRA’s revenue stream during the ongoing financial year.

Director General (DG) KPRA, Miss Irum Naz, appreciated the performance of the Authority’s officers and staff, attributing the growth in Sales Tax on Services to effective planning, sustained enforcement, and institutional commitment.

“The consistent growth in Sales Tax on Services during the first nine months of the financial year reflects our strategic focus, improved compliance, and the dedicated efforts of KPRA’s workforce,” she said.

“We are confident that with continued focus and a data-driven approach, the Authority will achieve its annual revenue targets.”

The Director General also expressed gratitude to taxpayers for their trust and cooperation, terming it essential for sustained growth.

She further acknowledged the support and guidance of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Sohail Afridi and the Provincial Minister for Finance, Mr. Muzzammil Aslam noting that their leadership has played a key role in strengthening revenue mobilization efforts in the province.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

FBR REPORTS 42% DROP IN TAX COLLECTION FROM BUILDERS, DEVELOPERS

Written by

Shahnawaz Akhter

Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) reported a 42% decline in income tax collection from builders and developers during fiscal year 2025, reflecting weaker activity in the construction sector, according to official data.

Total withholding income tax collected from builders and developers fell to Rs177 million in FY25, compared with Rs305 million in the previous year, the FBR said in its annual report.

The tax is collected under Section 7 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, which covers advance income tax on construction and development businesses.

Breakdown of the data showed that collections under Section 7C, which applies to builders engaged in the sale of residential, commercial and other buildings, declined sharply to Rs44.64 million in FY25 from Rs82.61 million a year earlier.

Similarly, revenue from Section 7D, applicable to developers involved in the sale of residential, commercial and other plots, dropped to Rs132.71 million from Rs222.55 million in the previous fiscal year.

Tax officials attributed the decline to subdued activity in the construction sector, which has been under pressure from elevated input costs, including high prices of raw materials and overall economic slowdown.

Industry stakeholders have also pointed to rising financing costs and reduced private-sector investment as key factors weighing on new housing and commercial projects, further dampening tax flows from the sector.

The construction industry is considered a key driver of Pakistan's economic growth, with strong linkages to employment and allied industries such as cement, steel and services.

Analysts say sustained weakness in the sector could have broader implications for economic recovery unless construction activity picks up through policy support, lower interest rates or improved business confidence.

The FBR data highlights ongoing challenges in widening the tax base while maintaining growth in key revenue-generating sectors.

Markets » Cotton & Textile

WEEKLY REVIEW: STABILITY IN COTTON PRICES OBSERVED

Naseem Usman Published April 13, 2026 Updated about an hour ago

KARACHI: Overall stability was observed in cotton prices during the latest trading session, though market activity remained limited. An upward trend continued in New York cotton futures, reflecting positive sentiments in international markets. For the upcoming 2026-27 crop season, forward contracts for seed cotton and ginned cotton were settled at Rs10,000 per kilogram and Rs21,700 per maund respectively, with deliveries agreed upon between May 20 and May 30.

According to sources, there are indications that the ongoing dispute between Pakistan and Afghanistan may be resolved through Chinese mediation. If diplomatic matters progress in the right direction, the import of cotton from Afghanistan into Pakistan could resume. Sources further revealed that Afghanistan currently holds a stock of approximately 500,000 cotton bales, which could significantly ease supply pressures in the Pakistani market once trade relations are restored.

The Karachi Cotton Exchange building has remained sealed since December 12, 2025, following an operation carried out by the Evacuee Trust Property Board with the assistance of the Federal Investigation Agency. As a direct consequence of this closure, the daily cotton spot rate, which holds critical importance for market participants and industry stakeholders, has not been officially issued, creating uncertainty in the trading community.

Despite the prevailing regional tensions, Pakistan's textile exports recorded a month-on-month increase in March, which has been widely regarded as an encouraging and positive development for the country's export-driven economy.

Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, Chairman of Kisan Ittehad, strongly urged the government to focus on the revival of cotton cultivation in Pakistan, stressing that the national economy cannot sustain itself without this vital crop. He expressed serious concern that while White Poison, referring to sugar, is being actively promoted and encouraged, White Gold, meaning cotton, is being neglected and its cultivation systematically destroyed, warning that this misaligned agricultural policy poses a grave threat to the country's economic future.

The local cotton market witnessed overall price stability during the past week. Although the two-week ceasefire amid escalating tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States in the Middle East caused a decline in the prices of several commodities globally, this development also prevented cotton prices from rising significantly. In contrast, international cotton prices saw a relative increase during the same period. The limited domestic cotton stock contributed to relative price stability within the country. Meanwhile, a reduction in energy prices is expected to boost industrial production in the coming period.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

On the trading front, future contracts for new cotton and Phutti have been settled for delivery between May 20 and May 30.

In a notable development, the Punjab Agriculture Department is actively pursuing efforts to rehabilitate cotton cultivation across the province. In this connection, a seminar was held in Bahawalpur last week to promote awareness and coordinate revival strategies.

In Sindh and Punjab, cotton prices ranged between Rs 18,500 and Rs 20,000 per maund, varying according to quality and payment conditions.

Trade activity in Banola, Khal, and Oil remained sluggish throughout the week.

The Karachi Cotton Exchange building has been sealed by the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) with the assistance of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) since December 12, due to which the critically important Daily Cotton Spot Rate has not been able to be issued.

Naseem Usman, Chairman of the Karachi Cotton Brokers Forum, stated that international cotton prices continued to rise during the period. New York cotton futures were traded between 73 and 76 US cents per pound.

According to the weekly export and sales report released by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), a total of 319,600 bales were sold for the marketing year 2025-26. Vietnam led all buyers by purchasing 132,500 bales, followed by Turkey in second place with 67,800 bales, while Pakistan ranked third by purchasing 36,000 bales.

For the 2026-27 marketing year, total sales stood at 14,100 bales. Costa Rica topped the list with purchases of 13,200 bales, Indonesia came in second with 9,300 bales, and South Korea ranked third with 6,500 bales.

On the export shipments front, a total of 342,700 bales were exported during the reported period. Vietnam remained the leading importer by receiving 126,200 bales, followed by China in second place with 39,000 bales. India ranked third with imports of 37,100 bales, while Pakistan came in fourth position by importing 32,900 bales.

Despite regional tensions, Pakistan's textile exports registered a month-on-month increase in March 2026. According to sources, textile exports rose by 1.5 percent compared to February, reaching 1.35 billion dollars. However, on a year-on-year basis, textile exports recorded a decline of 6.25 percent in March. During the first nine months of the current fiscal year, textile exports witnessed a marginal decrease of 0.15 percent.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), Shaam Lal Manglani, participated in a Zoom meeting organized by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, where key issues related to cotton were discussed with stakeholders. Manglani actively engaged in the discussion, highlighting the concerns of the ginning sector and proposing practical solutions.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Expressing serious concern, the PCGA Chairman noted that despite surplus sugar production in the country, new sugar mills are still being established, particularly in Rahim Yar Khan, which is one of Pakistan's most important cotton belt regions. He described this as a direct blow to cotton cultivation and a grave threat to the national textile economy, stressing that such policies must be immediately halted in order to protect the cotton sector and safeguard the country's economic interests.

Kissan Ittehad Chairman Khalid Mahmood Khokhar also voiced his concern, stating that he wants to see the revival of cotton in the country, as the national economy cannot function without it. He lamented that while "White Poison" — referring to sugar — is being promoted, "White Gold," which is cotton, is being systematically destroyed.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

Business & Finance » Money & Banking

PUNJAB TO OFFER TAX RELIEF FOR REAL ESTATE IN BUDGET 2026-27, GOVERNOR SAYS

Written by

Mrs. Anjum Shahnawaz

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said on Sunday that additional tax relief for the real estate sector is expected in the upcoming budget as part of broader efforts to revive economic activity and support industrial growth.

Speaking to a delegation from the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) at Governor House, the governor said the government was implementing measures to address long-standing challenges faced by the real estate and industrial sectors.

He stressed that sustainable economic growth depends on inclusive policymaking, noting that past policies often fell short due to a lack of consultation with key stakeholders. "Decisions must reflect ground realities to ensure long-term success," he said.

The governor praised the business community for continuing investments despite economic challenges, describing it as a sign of resilience and commitment to the country. He assured participants that the government remains committed to addressing their concerns and facilitating business-friendly policies.

LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol highlighted challenges faced by industries in key areas including Saggian, Ferozepur Road, Multan Road and Raiwind Road, where more than 1,400 industrial units operate. He said high commercialization fees and administrative hurdles were threatening the survival of these businesses and called for their formal recognition as industrial zones.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Saigol also emphasised the importance of involving the private sector in policy decisions, particularly regarding industrial relocation plans. He said meaningful consultation with stakeholders is essential for effective implementation.

Highlighting the role of real estate, he noted that the sector is linked to over 40 allied industries and plays a critical role in economic growth. He urged the government to introduce incentives to boost investment and restore momentum.

The governor acknowledged the complexity of relocating industries from urban areas, calling for a gradual and consultative approach. He suggested providing alternative land, infrastructure and financial support to ensure a smooth transition.

He added that recent improvements in the real estate sector indicate early signs of recovery, with further supportive measures expected to be announced in the upcoming budget.

Markets » Stocks

NOT JUST A PEACEMAKER, PAKISTAN HELPED MAKE THE WORLD OVER \$3TN RICHER: ATIF MIAN

BR Web Desk Published April 11, 2026 Updated 2 days ago

Pakistan's recent rise as a mediator in the Iran-US conflict is being seen as one of its most significant diplomatic successes in years, indicating a mix of strategic positioning and opportunistic diplomacy.

The South Asian nation, however, not only saved the globe from a geopolitical catastrophe but has also made the world richer by over \$3 trillion.

This was stated by Atif Mian, a noted Pakistani-American economist and currently a professor of economics at Princeton University.

“On April 7, the world edged toward [US President] Trump’s 8pm ultimatum that ‘a whole civilisation will die tonight.’ By mid-afternoon, Polymarket gave less than a 5% chance for a ceasefire. But then in a flurry of last-minute diplomacy led by Pakistan’s PM Shehbaz Sharif, ceasefire odds shifted from near-impossibility to 100%, as both US and Iranian leadership publicly acknowledged the important role played by Pakistan,” said Atif in a post.

The economist noted that the sharp shift in probability of ceasefire from near-zero to certainty, “allows us to estimate cleanly the market value of Pakistan’s successful diplomacy”.

Atif shared that the S&P 500 rose by 2.9% around the ceasefire announcement, with a similar reaction from other global markets.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

“Global markets represent about \$125 trillion, so a 2.9% jump represents a gain of \$3.6 trillion for the world. Pakistan helped create TEN times its own GDP for the world!” said Atif.

Trump says Iranians ‘willing to suffer’ for freedom

The assessment comes after Trump announced a two-week ceasefire in the six-week war on Tuesday, just hours before a deadline after which Trump had threatened to destroy Iran’s civilisation.

The ceasefire has halted US and Israeli air strikes on Iran. But it has not ended Iran’s blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which has caused the biggest-ever disruption to global energy supplies, or calmed a parallel war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Islamabad is hosting high-level US–Iran talks, including senior figures like the US Vice President JD Vance and Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi.

These are being described as the most significant US–Iran diplomatic engagement in decades.

“For me, the best part is not the trillions of dollars, but seeing Pakistan on the world stage as a peacemaker.

“I hope Pakistan runs with this new identity by promoting peace not only abroad, but also at home,” concluded Atif.

GOLD RISES RS6,600 PER TOLA IN WEEKLY SURGE, SILVER ALSO GAINS

Written by

Hamza Shahnawaz

Gold and silver prices in Pakistan recorded notable gains during the week ended April 11, 2026, driven by an upward trend in international markets, according to data released by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Gold prices surged by Rs6,600 per tola on a weekly basis, reflecting strong global demand and continued economic uncertainty that has supported safe-haven assets. Silver prices also followed the upward trend, increasing by Rs270 per tola during the same period.

Market participants said the rise in domestic bullion rates largely mirrored international price movements, where gold and silver posted steady gains amid investor caution over global economic and geopolitical developments.

Below is a comparison of weekly price movements:

Precious Metal	April 11	April 4	Change
----------------	----------	---------	--------

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Gold 24-karat per tola Rs496,962 Rs490,362 + Rs6,600

Gold 24-karat per 10 grams Rs426,064 Rs420,406 + Rs5,658

Gold 22-karat per 10 grams Rs390,572 Rs385,386 + Rs5,186

Gold per ounce (global) \$4,746 \$4,680 + \$66

Silver 24-karat per tola Rs8,064 Rs7,794 + Rs270

Silver 24-karat per 10 grams Rs6,913 Rs6,682 + Rs231

Silver per ounce (global) \$75.80 \$73.10 + \$2.70

Analysts said the persistent increase in precious metal prices reflects ongoing inflation concerns and currency fluctuations, which continue to drive investors towards bullion as a hedge.

They added that domestic prices remain sensitive to both international market trends and exchange rate movements, suggesting that volatility could persist in the near term.

Business & Finance » Industry

ICCI CALLS FOR EASE IN BUSINESS HOURS IN ISLAMABAD

APP Published April 13, 2026 Updated about 2 hours ago

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has urged the district administration Islamabad to allow markets and shopping centres to remain open till 9:00 pm and restaurants till 11:30 pm.

It would help for bringing the capital's business hours in line with the Government of Sindh's notification issued on April 10 under its austerity policy.

In a statement President ICCI Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that the Government of Sindh's timings for markets, restaurants, and marriage halls present a balanced model that ensures energy conservation without compromising economic activity.

He urged for adopting a similar, business-friendly approach to facilitate traders and maintain commercial momentum in the capital.

Enforcing different business regulations in various parts of the same country sends a negative signal to the business and investment community.

"Policy uniformity is vital for economic consistency and investor confidence," he said, adding that a fragmented regulatory environment only creates uncertainty and operational challenges for businesses.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

He reiterated that Islamabad's business community has consistently stood by the government in implementing national policies and austerity measures, and will continue to do so in the future.

However, he underscored the need for policies that were practical, inclusive, and developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

He concluded by reaffirming ICCI's commitment to constructive engagement with the government for promoting sustainable economic growth and a conducive business environment in Islamabad.

MADE IN GUJRANWALA EXPO: SMEDA FACILITATES MICROENTERPRISES

Recorder Report Published April 13, 2026 Updated about 2 hours ago

LAHORE: Following the successful execution of the inaugural Made in Pakistan SME Expo Showcase 2026 in Lahore, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (Smeda) facilitated the participation of women and microenterprises in the Made in Gujranwala Exhibition 2026, held at the Karachi Expo Centre.

The three-day event, organised by the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), was inaugurated by Sindh's Minister for Local Government, Housing and Town Planning, Nasir Hussain Shah. It brought together more than 100 companies showcasing a diverse range of locally manufactured products, reflecting the industrial strength and innovation of Gujranwala.

CEO Smeda Nadia Jahangir Seth said that the authority's participation reflects its broader mandate to strengthen Pakistan's SME ecosystem, with special focus on women-led and microenterprises. She added that with support from the Ministry of Industries and Production, Smeda aims to translate Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of inclusive economic growth into reality by supporting new businesses and women entrepreneurs.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

HSATI SLAMS DECISION TO SUSPEND GAS TO INDUSTRIES FOR 24 HOURS

Recorder Report Published April 13, 2026 Updated about 2 hours ago

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad SITE Association of Trade and Industry (HSATI) Chairman Zubair Ghangra has expressed strong reservations over the decision to suspend gas supply to industries across Sindh for 24 hours from April 12 to April 13, saying that this step has been taken at a time when industries are already forced to continue their production with limited gas pressure and uncertain supply.

He said that when the industrial wheel is already being run with limited gas supply for six days a week, a complete shutdown for another 24 hours will prove to be the worst for industries, which is in no way tolerable. He said that due to this sudden shutdown, not only industrial production

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

will be severely affected but also timely fulfilment of export orders will be at risk, which may damage Pakistan's reputation in the global market.

Zubair Ghangra said that the livelihood of workers working in factories will also be directly affected while the increase in production costs will become another major challenge for industries. He stressed that gas shortage is a reality that cannot be denied, however, its solution should not be unilateral closure of industries but rather a comprehensive and balanced strategy must be adopted for it. Such measures may provide temporary relief, but in the long run, they paralyze industrial activities.

He demanded that the government and relevant institutions issue a prior and workable gas schedule for industries, ensure gas supply to export industries on priority basis, avoid such decisions without consulting stakeholders, and take immediate steps to promote alternative energy sources such as LNG, RLNG and solar.

Hyderabad SITE Association Chairman Zubair Ghangra demanded that this decision be reviewed immediately and steps be taken on an emergency basis to provide relief to industries so that the wheel of economic activities can continue uninterrupted.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

SINDH GOVERNOR MEETS FCCI DELEGATION

Recorder Report Published April 13, 2026 Updated about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nihal Hashmi met a delegation from the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Sunday, where both sides discussed Pakistan's economic outlook and measures to boost trade and industrial growth.

The delegation, led by FCCI President Farooq Yousaf Sheikh, congratulated the Governor on assuming office and acknowledged his public service efforts.

During the meeting, the participants exchanged views on challenges faced by the business community and emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation at the federal level to promote industry and trade.

Hashmi described Faisalabad as one of Pakistan's key industrial hubs, highlighting the central role of the business community in driving the national economy. "Traders and industrialists are the backbone of the country's economy," he said, adding that products from Faisalabad serve as global ambassadors for Pakistan.

He particularly noted the international recognition of Faisalabad's textile sector, including cotton yarn, fabric, bed linen, towels and hosiery.

FCCI President briefed the Governor on issues confronting industries and proposed measures to increase exports. He also urged federal authorities to address concerns related to the relocation of industries to designated industrial zones. He invited the Governor to attend the upcoming Faisalabad Expo in Lahore as chief guest later this month.

Hashmi accepted the invitation and thanked the delegation for their engagement.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

‘SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH NEEDS INCLUSIVE POLICYMAKING’

Recorder Report Published April 13, 2026 Updated about 2 hours ago

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has underscored that sustainable industrial growth can only be achieved when the government actively engages all stakeholders in the policymaking process.

He stressed that decisions made without a thorough understanding of ground realities consistently fail to produce long-term results, adding that many past economic challenges stemmed from this very gap. He made it clear that the current government is now firmly committed to inclusive and consultative policymaking.

The Governor expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation from the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), led by President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol, at the Governor House.

The Governor commended the business community for sustaining investments despite prevailing economic difficulties, describing it as a genuine expression of patriotism. He assured the delegation that the government remains fully committed to resolving the concerns of industrialists and pledged to convey their grievances to the relevant higher authorities without delay.

LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol thanked the Governor for the prompt response from the Governor House, stating that it reflects the government’s seriousness in addressing business community issues. He highlighted that over 1,400 industries operating in areas such as Saggian, Ferozepur Road, Multan Road, and Raiwind Road are currently at serious risk due to high commercialization fees and administrative hurdles. He urged the government to formally declare these localities as industrial zones and substantially reduce the associated fees to ensure the survival of business activities and safeguard hundreds of thousands of jobs.

On the industrial relocation plan, the LCCI President stressed that private sector participation is indispensable and that no policy can succeed without the confidence and input of industrialists. He also drew attention to the real estate sector, describing it as a driving force connected to more than 40 allied industries, and called for special incentives to revive investment in this area.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Responding to concerns about industrial relocation from within the city, the Governor acknowledged that while the process is challenging, it must be carried out gradually and through consultation rather than coercion. He recommended that the government provide alternative land, infrastructure, and financial incentives to facilitate a smooth and disruption-free transition. He concluded by expressing confidence that the real estate sector is already showing positive signs of recovery and that further supportive measures are expected in the upcoming budget.

The delegation comprised Senior Vice President Tanveer Iqbal Ahmad Sheikh, Vice President Khurram Lodhi, SAARC Chamber Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar, and several Executive Committee Members, including Waqas Aslam, Aamir Saeed Mian, Firdous Nisar, Ahsan Shahid, Amna Randhawa, Shouban Akhtar, Iftikhar Ahmad, Karamat Ali Awan, Umar Sarfaraz, Irfan Qureshi, Ali Imran, Zain Elahi, Mohsin Bashir, Abdul Majeed, and Syed Hassan Raza.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

HCSTSI CONCERNED AT 'UNBALANCED' POLICYMAKING IN SINDH

Recorder Report Published April 13, 2026 Updated about 2 hours ago

HYDERABAD: Muhammad Saleem Memon, President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI), has expressed concern over the growing unbalanced trend of economic policymaking in Sindh, calling it an alarm bell for the internal economic structure of the province.

He has drawn the attention of the federal and provincial leadership to this, saying that the business community is the backbone of the development of any country or province; however, the recent policy trends in Sindh are continuously ignoring the economic centers of Sindh, which is very regrettable.

Giving reference of a recent meeting held at Chief Minister office regarding the smart lockdown across Sindh, he said that whenever important economic decisions or consultation process is initiated at the provincial level, it is practically limited to Karachi, while important economic centers like Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad divisions are kept out of the consultation process, which is an unfair practice.

He also expressed regret that although the provincial cabinet ministers, including the Chief Minister of Sindh, visit Hyderabad, formal meetings with the local business community are not given priority. He said that no formal response has been received yet to the invitations sent by the Hyderabad business community on several occasions, which indicates the lack of effective communication with the business community and reflects the imbalance and lack of seriousness at the government level.

In his protest letter, Saleem Memon has appealed to President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah to take immediate notice of this situation and ensure the permanent and formal participation of business organizations from Sindh in all economic consultative forums.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

He demanded that all representative business organisations from Sindh, including the Hyderabad Chamber, be given a permanent seat in all future provincial economic, trade and policy advisory committees so that policy-making becomes more comprehensive, effective and in line with the real ground realities.

He expressed the hope that the relevant authorities will seriously review the situation and provide effective representation to the business community in the consultative process so that policy-making becomes more comprehensive and workable. He said that the Hyderabad Chamber always believes in constructive dialogue and positive collaboration and will continue to highlight its position effectively in the future under the same spirit.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

KCCI, FCCI AGREE TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION

Recorder Report Published April 12, 2026 Updated a day ago

KARACHI: In a significant step towards strengthening inter-chamber collaboration and presenting a unified voice on critical economic challenges, the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Saturday agreed to maintain frequent interaction and structured engagements between the two chambers to effectively highlight and resolve pressing issues faced by the business community.

The understanding was reached during a high-level meeting held at KCCI, where the visiting delegation of FCCI, led by President FCCI Farooq Yousuf Sheikh, along with Senior Vice President Naveed Akram Sheikh and Vice President Engr. Asim Munir, held detailed discussions with KCCI Office Bearers including President Muhammad Rehan Hanif, Senior Vice President Muhammad Raza, Vice President Arif Lakhani and Executive Committee Members.

At the outset, both sides emphasised that the prevailing economic environment necessitates closer coordination, regular engagement, and continuous exchange of views among chambers of commerce to ensure that the concerns of the business community are effectively articulated in a strong and unified manner.

It was mutually agreed that instead of limiting engagement to occasional events, both chambers would remain in constant contact through frequent meetings, reciprocal visits, and ongoing consultations. This approach would enable timely identification of emerging issues, development of consensus-based recommendations, and coordinated efforts to engage with policymakers for prompt resolution of challenges affecting trade and industry.

The leadership of both chambers underscored that enhanced interaction at regular intervals would help maintain momentum, strengthen institutional linkages, and ensure that a consistent and powerful voice of the business community is raised at all relevant forums.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

During the meeting, both Presidents held an in-depth exchange of views on the most pressing economic challenges currently impacting Pakistan's business landscape. Particular concern was expressed over the persistently high cost of energy, especially electricity and gas tariffs, which continue to undermine industrial competitiveness and export performance.

The participants also highlighted various budgetary anomalies that require urgent attention in the forthcoming federal budget, stressing the need for rationalization of taxes, simplification of procedures, and introduction of business-friendly policies to revive economic activity and restore investor confidence.

President KCCI Muhammad Rehan Hanif stated that the business community across Pakistan is facing common challenges, which demand a collective and coordinated response. He emphasised that stronger engagement between major chambers would significantly enhance the effectiveness of advocacy efforts at the national level.

President FCCI Farooq Yousuf Sheikh concurred and reiterated the importance of sustained interaction and institutional collaboration.

He also extended a formal invitation to President KCCI to visit Faisalabad Chamber, which was graciously accepted, further strengthening ties between the two chambers.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continue working closely in the larger national interest and to ensure that the issues confronting the business community are addressed through practical, timely, and result-oriented policy measures.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

ICCI DESCRIBES US-IRAN TALKS AS TURNING POINT FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC STABILITY

APP Published April 12, 2026 Updated a day ago

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Sardar Tahir Mehmood has welcomed the commencement of high-level talks between the United States and Iran in Islamabad, terming them a historic and decisive step toward restoring regional economic stability and global confidence.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that Pakistan's successful facilitation of these crucial negotiations reflects its growing stature as a responsible and peace-oriented nation on the global stage, said a release issued here on Saturday.

He noted that the talks come at a critical juncture when the world economy is facing severe uncertainty due to prolonged tensions in the Middle East.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

He observed that the ongoing dialogue between the two countries aims to transform a fragile ceasefire into a sustainable peace framework after weeks of conflict that disrupted global energy supplies and trade routes.

The ICCI President emphasized that stability in the Middle East is directly linked with global economic health, particularly due to the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for international oil shipments. He said that any positive outcome from these talks would help ease pressure on energy markets, reduce inflationary trends, and revive investor confidence across the region.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood further stated that Pakistan's role as a mediator in bringing both sides to the negotiating table demonstrates its commitment to peace, dialogue, and constructive diplomacy. He added that hosting such high-profile engagements enhances Pakistan's global image and opens new avenues for economic cooperation and regional connectivity.

He remarked that the business community of Pakistan views these talks with optimism, as peace in the Gulf and broader Middle East region would have a direct positive impact on Pakistan's economy by ensuring stable energy supplies, improving trade flows, and encouraging foreign investment.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood stressed that sustainable peace can only be achieved through continuous engagement and mutual understanding, urging all stakeholders to remain committed to dialogue and avoid escalation.

He concluded that the Islamabad talks have the potential to mark a turning point not only in regional geopolitics but also in revitalizing global economic stability, which is essential for sustainable growth and prosperity.

Technology

UPDATED PRICES OF APPLE IPHONE 17 PRO MAX FROM APRIL 12, 2026

Written by

Hamza Shahnawaz

The latest price of the Apple iPhone 17 Pro Max in Pakistan has been revealed, confirming the official retail rates for all storage variants currently available in the local market.

Apple's flagship smartphone continues to rank among the most premium and expensive devices in Pakistan. The high price reflects the device's advanced technology, premium build quality, powerful chipset, and large storage options designed for professional users.

iPhone 17 Pro Max Price in Pakistan

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

According to the latest market information, the iPhone 17 Pro Max is currently available in four storage variants in Pakistan. Each model carries a different price depending on the storage capacity offered.

The official prices are:

256GB – Rs. 565,000

512GB – Rs. 648,500

1TB – Rs. 732,000

2TB – Rs. 898,500

The 2TB variant stands out as one of the most expensive smartphones currently available in Pakistan. This model is primarily targeted at professionals, content creators, and power users who require large storage capacity for 4K videos, high-resolution photography, and heavy applications.

Premium Titanium Build and Design

The iPhone 17 Pro Max features a premium titanium frame, which enhances durability while maintaining a sleek and lightweight design. Titanium improves structural strength and provides a refined feel that aligns with Apple's premium design philosophy.

Apple has also introduced several sophisticated color options for the device, including:

Refined Silver

Deep Blue

Cosmic Orange

These finishes highlight Apple's signature minimalist style while giving the smartphone a modern and elegant appearance.

Powerful A19 Bionic Performance

At the core of the iPhone 17 Pro Max is Apple's A19 Bionic chip, which delivers faster performance and improved power efficiency. The processor enhances multitasking, gaming performance, and AI-powered features.

The upgraded chipset also helps optimize battery consumption, ensuring smoother daily performance even during demanding tasks.

Advanced Camera and Display

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Apple has equipped the iPhone 17 Pro Max with an advanced quad-camera system designed for professional-level photography and videography. The camera setup offers improved low-light performance, better image processing, and enhanced video stabilization.

Combined with Apple's high-quality display technology, the device delivers an immersive viewing experience for streaming, gaming, and content creation.

Feature	Details
SIM Support	Nano-SIM + eSIM
Phone Dimensions	163.4 x 78 x 8.8 mm
Phone Weight	233g
Operating System	iOS 26
Display	
Screen Size	6.9 inches
Screen Resolution	1320 x 2868 pixels
Screen Type	LTPO Super Retina XDR OLED, 120Hz
Screen Protection	Ceramic Shield 2, Mohs level 5
Memory	
Internal Memory	256GB, 512GB, 1TB, 2TB
RAM	12GB
Card Slot	No
Performance	
Processor	Apple A19 Pro
GPU	Apple GPU (6-core graphics)
Battery	
Type	4832 mAh
Camera	
Front Camera	18 MP

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Front Flash Light	No
Front Video Recording	4K@24/25/30/60fps
Back Flash Light	Yes
Back Camera	48 + 48 + 48 MP
Back Video Recording	4K@24/25/30/60/100/120fps
Connectivity	
Bluetooth	Yes
3G	Yes
4G/LTE	Yes
5G	Yes
Radio	No
WiFi	Yes
NFC	Yes

YOUTUBE EXPLAINS 90-SECOND UNSKIPPABLE TV ADS CAUSED BY BUG

Written by

Hamza Shahnawaz

YouTube has clarified that recent reports about 90-second unskippable advertisements appearing on television apps were caused by a technical glitch rather than a new advertising format

Earlier this week, several viewers using smart TVs reported unusually long advertisement breaks while watching videos on the platform. According to screenshots shared online, the on-screen timers indicated that users would have to wait more than 90 seconds before being allowed to skip the ads. The reports quickly spread across social media platforms, including Reddit and X, raising concerns that the video platform might be testing significantly longer non-skippable ads for connected TV devices.

However, YouTube has denied these claims and stated that the issue was the result of a bug in the system that mistakenly displayed longer countdown timers. The company explained that the ads themselves were not actually 90 seconds long, but the timer incorrectly showed an inflated duration before the skip option appeared.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

The confusion emerged because multiple users posted nearly identical screenshots showing the interface message “skip after 90+ seconds.” This appeared to be a major change compared with the platform’s current policy, which typically limits non-skippable ads on TV apps to around 30 seconds.

Following the widespread reports, YouTube initially acknowledged the issue and confirmed it was investigating the matter. On April 10, the company officially confirmed that the problem was caused by a technical bug rather than a planned experiment with longer ad formats.

YouTube emphasized that it does not test or deploy a 90-second unskippable ad format on its platform. Instead, the glitch only affected how the advertisement timer was displayed on certain connected TV devices.

The company has now started rolling out a fix to correct the timer error. As the update reaches more devices, viewers who previously experienced the extended ad countdown should notice the ad experience returning to normal.

The clarification is expected to reassure users who feared that significantly longer advertisements might become standard on YouTube’s television apps.

Business & Finance » Companies

LUFTHANSA UNION CALLS 2-DAY PILOTS’ STRIKE

AFP Published April 12, 2026 Updated a day ago

BERLIN: The pilots’ union for Lufthansa, Europe’s biggest air transport group, on Saturday called for a two-day strike in Germany from Monday over a salary and pensions dispute.

The airline has already been hit by four strikes this year, the last one on Friday by another union.

This latest two-day action will hit flights run by the main airline Lufthansa and its subsidiaries CityLine and Eurowings, said a statement from the Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) union. It will also affect Lufthansa Cargo.

But the union said that given the situation in the Middle East, flights to certain destinations — Azerbaijan, Egypt, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Yemen, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates — would not be affected.

The last pilots’ strike affecting the airlines was in March.

The UFO union, which organised Friday’s strike, said it had forced the cancellation of 90 percent of flights at the two airlines targeted, Lufthansa and Cityline.

MOBILINK BANK, JAZZCASH INAUGURATE CHAKLALA SCHEME-III CASHLESS BAZAAR IN RAWALPINDI

Press Release Published April 12, 2026 Updated a day ago

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, Pakistan’s leading digital microfinance bank in collaboration with JazzCash, Pakistan’s leading digital financial services platform, has inaugurated the Chaklala Scheme-III Cashless Bazaar in Rawalpindi, covering 900 shops & carts, accelerating the push towards realizing the Prime Minister’s vision of a cashless economy led by State Bank of Pakistan. This step extends digital financial infrastructure into everyday marketplaces, making transactions simpler while empowering communities.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Brigadier Syed Ali Anjum, Station Commander Rawalpindi, as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by Rizwan Khaleel Shamsi, Joint Director at the State Bank of Pakistan, Atta Ur Rehman, Chief Business Officer at Mobilink Bank, as well as senior leadership from JazzCash and Mobilink Bank, along with local merchants and community members.

A core component of this transformation is the deployment of Raast-enabled QR codes across the bazaar. This allows merchants to accept instant, secure payments directly from mobile wallets, significantly reducing the hassle of handling physical cash. For the customers, it offers a seamless checkout experience with real-time fund transfers, making everyday shopping faster and more secure. Mobilink Bank will open Business Plus accounts for participating retailers and offer a suite of solutions, including health and fire insurance, SME loans, and solar and EV financing.

Commenting on the initiative, President and CEO of Mobilink Bank, Haaris M. Chaudhary emphasised, “With our digital-first approach at Mobilink Bank, we believe a cashless economy must start where everyday commerce happens - in our local bazaars. This initiative will bring small merchants into a more secure, inclusive financial system. With on-ground enablement through fintech platforms like JazzCash, we are making transactions simpler and advancing digital financial inclusion at scale,”

Murtaza Ali, CEO of JazzCash, said, “The realization of the Prime Minister’s vision for a cashless economy depends on the effective digitization of high-frequency commerce. Bazaars represent the highest concentration of daily transactions in Pakistan, and JazzCash is at the center of this shift, supported by a nationwide network of over 1 million Raast-enabled QR merchants. By bringing seamless digital payments into these spaces, we are helping merchants transition into a formal, connected financial system. This evolution improves everyday lives by making financial services more accessible, reliable, and inclusive for millions of citizens.”

The Chaklala Scheme-III Cashless Bazaar serves as a scalable blueprint for how localized interventions can drive national transformation. By combining government vision with robust digital infrastructure and effective on-ground execution, JazzCash and Mobilink Bank are accelerating Pakistan’s journey toward a truly cashless economy.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

Markets » Financial

GOLD PRICE DROPS BY RS700 PER TOLA IN PAKISTAN

- International rate of gold declines by \$7 to reach \$4,746

BR Web Desk Published April 11, 2026 Updated a day ago

Gold prices in Pakistan decreased on Saturday in line with their loss in the international market. In the local market, gold price per tola reached Rs496,962 after a decline of Rs700 during the day.

Similarly, 10-gram gold was sold at Rs426,064 after it fell by Rs600, according to rates shared by the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGJSA).

On Friday, gold price per tola reached Rs497,662 after a gain of Rs3,000 during the day.

The international rate of gold declined by \$7 to reach \$4,746 per ounce (with a premium of \$20).

Meanwhile, the price of silver increased by Rs50 to reach Rs8,064 per tola.

Fuel & Energy

SOUTH KOREA CLOSE TO SECURING OIL SUPPLIES FROM KAZAKHSTAN, MINISTER SAYS

- "There has been quite (some) progress, so we should be able to announce specific amounts and details early next week"

Reuters Published April 12, 2026 Updated about 21 hours ago

SEOUL: South Korea is close to securing crude oil supplies from Kazakhstan, the industry minister said on Sunday, as the country looks for alternative energy sources amid the war in the Middle East.

"There has been quite (some) progress, so we should be able to announce specific amounts and details early next week," Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan said in an interview with local broadcaster KBS.

Earlier this month, presidential chief of staff Kang Hoon-sik travelled with Kim to Kazakhstan, Oman and Saudi Arabia to secure supplies of crude oil and naphtha amid disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Zardari congratulates Kazak President

“Kazakhstan might sound very far, but it actually takes about the same time with shipments from the US About 50 to 60 days,” Kim said, adding that the recent visit to the central Asian country was aimed at diversifying oil supplies in the long run.

South Korea, which is almost entirely dependent on imports for its energy with 70% of oil purchases coming from the Middle East, also secured a pledge last month from the United Arab Emirates to supply 24 million barrels of crude oil.

VIETNAM EXTENDS FUEL TAX SUSPENSION UNTIL END OF JUNE

- Vietnam has decided to extend the suspension of taxes on fuels until the end of June from April 15 to stabilise the domestic market

Reuters Published April 12, 2026 Updated about 21 hours ago

HANOI: Vietnam has decided to extend the suspension of taxes on fuels until the end of June from April 15 to stabilise the domestic market, the country’s parliamentary office said on Sunday, as the Iran war continues to disrupt supplies.

The National Assembly, the country’s lawmaking body, has passed a resolution on the suspension of environmental protection and special consumption taxes on fuels, the parliament office said in a statement.

The tax suspension has been in place since late March.

The finance ministry last month said the suspension of the taxes would reduce revenue going into state coffers by 7.2 trillion dong (\$273.40 million) a month.

Vietnam raises \$42.5mn in govt bond auction, lowest since March 26

Fuel prices in Vietnam have surged since the US-Israeli war on Iran began at the end of February, with gasoline prices up 17% and diesel prices rising 70%, according to data from fuel trader Petrolimex.

Vietnam’s consumer prices in March rose 4.65% from a year earlier, driven by a surge in transport costs, putting pressure on the country’s goal to keep inflation at 4.5% for this year.

LESCO DETECTS POWER THEFT WORTH MILLIONS

Recorder Report Published April 12, 2026 Updated a day ago

LAHORE: The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has unearthed electricity theft amounting to millions of rupees during joint operations in its Eastern and South circles.

Officials said the raids were carried out with the assistance of Rangers and police in areas where power was being illegally consumed through direct connections.

In the Eastern Circle, a team led by Superintending Engineer Umar Bilal raided Saggian Wasao village in the Mahmood Booti subdivision in the city. The inspection revealed widespread use of illegal electricity connections across the locality. The consumers were also defaulters of around Rs12.2 million.

According to the LESCO, despite repeated warnings, neither the theft was curtailed nor was the outstanding dues cleared. Consequently, Lesco authorities removed two 200kVA transformers and disconnected power supply to the village.

Separately, in the South Circle, a team headed by Superintending Engineer Muhammad Hussain, along with XEN Amjad Hussain Nagra and SDO Muhammad Waheed, conducted a raid at Chaudhry Shadi Hall in Nishtar Colony with the support of law enforcement personnel.

The team found electricity being stolen through direct connections at the premises. A 100kVA transformer, cables and three meters were seized. A case has been registered against the consumer, who has also been charged for 170,000 units of electricity.

Preliminary estimates suggest the theft caused losses exceeding Rs 12 million. The Lesco authorities said the crackdown on power theft would continue, adding that no one would be allowed to inflict losses on the national exchequer.

Copyright Business Recorder, 2026

US NATGAS HITS 17-MONTH LOW ON MILD WEATHER, AMPLE STOCKPILES

Reuters Published April 12, 2026 Updated a day ago

NEW YORK: US natural gas futures eased to a fresh 17-month low on Friday on forecasts for milder weather and lower heating demand next week than previously expected, allowing utilities to keep adding more gas to stockpiles than usual for at least a few more weeks.

Front-month gas futures for May delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 1.3 cents, or 0.5percent, to USD2.657 per million British thermal units, putting the contract on track for its lowest close since October 29, 2024.

That kept the front-month in technically oversold territory for a second day in a row, for the first time since December 2025.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

For the week, the contract was on track to decline about 5percent after losing about 10percent last week. In the cash market, average prices at the Waha Hub in West Texas remained in negative territory for a record 45 straight days as pipeline constraints continued to trap gas in the Permian region, the nation's biggest oil-producing shale basin.

Daily Waha prices first averaged below zero in 2019. They did so 17 times in 2019, six times in 2020, once in 2023, 49 times in 2024, 39 times in 2025, and a record 54 times so far this year.

Waha prices have averaged a negative USD1.41 per mmBtu so far in 2026, compared with a positive USD1.15 in 2025 and a positive USD2.88 over the past five years (2021-2025).

Financial firm LSEG said average gas output in the US Lower 48 states rose to 111.0 billion cubic feet per day so far in April, up from 110.4 bcfd in March. That compares with a monthly record high of 110.7 bcfd in December 2025.

OIL SURGES PAST \$100 AS US-IRAN TENSIONS ESCALATE AFTER FAILED TALKS

Written by

Mrs. Anjum Shahnawaz

Oil prices surged above \$100 a barrel on Sunday after diplomatic efforts between the United States and Iran broke down, raising fears of a major disruption to global energy supplies.

U.S. crude futures for May delivery jumped nearly 8% to around \$104.20 per barrel, while international benchmark Brent crude for June rose about 7% to \$101.86, reflecting heightened geopolitical risk in the Middle East.

The sharp rise followed reports that the United States is preparing to enforce maritime restrictions targeting Iranian ports after peace negotiations failed over the weekend. The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said it would begin blocking vessels entering or leaving Iranian ports, a move that could significantly affect regional oil exports.

In a statement, CENTCOM said the measures would apply to all vessels regardless of nationality accessing Iranian ports along the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, while allowing transit to non-Iranian destinations.

U.S. President Donald Trump also warned of broader action, including potential restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route through which roughly one-fifth of global oil supply passes under normal conditions.

Analysts said the threat to the Strait of Hormuz, a critical artery for energy exports from major producers, has sharply increased market volatility. Tanker traffic through the waterway has already declined amid rising security concerns, intensifying fears of supply shortages.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

The latest developments come after weeks of escalating tensions and failed diplomatic efforts aimed at easing the conflict. Market participants are closely watching for further military or economic actions that could impact oil flows.

Energy analysts said any sustained disruption in the region could drive prices higher, particularly if shipping routes remain constrained or if hostilities escalate further.

Oil markets have historically reacted strongly to geopolitical shocks in the Middle East, and the current situation has reinforced concerns about supply stability at a time of fragile global economic recovery.

DID YOU KNOW? LEVIES AND COMMISSIONS MAKE UP 29% OF RS366/LITRE PETROL PRICE

Written by

Mrs. Anjum Shahnawaz

ISLAMABAD- Around 29% of the retail price of petrol in Pakistan consists of taxes, levies and distribution margins, according to industry calculations following the latest fuel price revision announced by the government.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on April 10 approved a Rs12 per litre reduction in petrol prices, setting the new rate at Rs366 per litre effective April 11. Despite the cut, a significant portion of the pump price continues to be driven by government charges and supply chain margins.

According to a working by Arif Habib Limited, the ex-refinery price of petrol stands at Rs258.71 per litre, while the final consumer price is Rs366.58 per litre. This indicates that about Rs107.87 per litre is added beyond the refinery gate through levies, taxes and margins.

The petroleum levy alone accounts for Rs80.61 per litre, while the Carbon Support Levy (CSL) adds Rs2.50. Inland freight equalisation margin (IFEM) stands at Rs8.25, oil marketing companies (OMC) margin at Rs7.87, and dealer margin at Rs8.64 per litre.

The analysis shows that the government is currently not collecting sales tax on petrol, even as other components continue to make up a substantial share of the retail price structure.

Petrol prices have also fluctuated sharply over the past year, rising from Rs254.63 per litre in April 2025 to over Rs378 earlier in April 2026 before the latest adjustment.

In contrast, the government reduced high-speed diesel prices by Rs135 per litre to Rs385.54, down from Rs520.35 earlier in the month. The ex-refinery price of diesel currently stands at Rs361.52 per litre, and authorities have withdrawn the petroleum levy on diesel.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

Energy analysts say Pakistan's fuel pricing structure remains heavily dependent on global oil trends and domestic fiscal requirements, with levies playing a key role in revenue generation despite recent price reductions.

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

OPEN MARKET FOREX RATES

Updated at: 13/4/2026 7:28 AM (PST)

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.89	201.40
Bahrain Dinar	729.05	739.15
Canadian Dollar	200.39	206.05
China Yuan	36.45	37.55
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	327.06	331.05
Hong Kong Dollar	35.20	36.20
Indian Rupee	2.05	2.25
Japanese Yen	1.7375	1.8373
Kuwaiti Dinar	880.50	891.35
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.55
NewZealand \$	157.14	162.25
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	723.70	733.90
Qatari Riyal	71.21	72.50
Saudi Riyal	74.60	75.5
Singapore Dollar	217.70	221.50
Swedish Korona	30.20	30.50
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8	8.15
U.A.E Dirham	76.15	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	375.65	380.74
US Dollar	279	280.10

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

INTER BANK RATES

Updated at: 13/4/2026 7:28 AM (PST)

Currency	Bank Buying TT Clean	Bank Selling TT & OD
Australian Dollar	196.42	196.77
Canadian Dollar	201.77	202.13
China Yuan	40.83	40.90
Danish Krone	43.65	43.73
Euro	326.71	327.30
Hong Kong Dollar	35.61	35.68
Japanese Yen	1.7525	1.7557
Saudi Riyal	74.32	74.46
Singapore Dollar	218.88	219.27
Swedish Korona	29.93	29.98
Swiss Franc	352.87	353.50
Thai Bhat	8.67	8.69
UK Pound Sterling	374.45	375.12
US Dollar	278.90	279.40

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

GOLD RATE

Bullion / Gold Price Today

As on Mon, Apr 13 2026, 01:58 GMT

Metal	Symbol	PKR for 10 Gm	PKR for 1 Tola	PKR for 1 Ounce	
Gold	XAU	426,240	496,639	1,325,777	
Palladium	XPD	137,324	160,005	427,133	
Platinum	XPT	183,848	214,213	571,841	
Silver	XAG	6,819	7,946	21,211	

for local market Gold Rates in Pakistan

Gold Price in Pakistan

As on Mon, Apr 13 2026, 01:58 GMT

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
per Tola Gold	Rs. 496600	Rs. 455213	Rs. 434525	Rs. 372450
per 10 Gram	Rs. 425800	Rs. 390314	Rs. 372575	Rs. 319350
per Gram Gold	Rs. 42580	Rs. 39031	Rs. 37258	Rs. 31935
per Ounce	Rs. 1207100	Rs. 1106500	Rs. 1056213	Rs. 905325

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

SLD E-LAW UPDATING SERVICE

News Updates on Taxation, Business, Corporate, Technology, Fuel & Energy and Much More.

mentioned gold rate.

* 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	10,429	12,151	32,437	
 Euro	EUR	1,302	1,517	4,051	
 Japanese Yen	JPY	243,147	283,306	756,285	
 Saudi Riyal	SAR	5,727	6,673	17,814	
 U.A.E Dirham	AED	5,609	6,535	17,446	
 UK Pound Sterling	GBP	1,135	1,323	3,531	
 US Dollar	USD	1,527	1,780	4,750	