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SHAHID LEGAL GROUP

SLD NEWS UPDATES

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FBR ENACTS AMENDMENTS TO VEHICLE IMPORT RULES FOR TOURISTS

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has announced significant amendments to regulations governing the temporary import of vehicles by tourists, aimed at enhancing compliance and ensuring that imported vehicles are utilized solely for travel purposes.

These draft amendments, outlined in SRO 1650(I)/2024, were released today to address the evolving challenges associated with cross-border vehicle movement and to prevent misuse of the current import facilities.

The proposed regulations permit tourists to import vehicles temporarily under a “carnet de passage” or a valid bank guarantee, without incurring customs duties, for a maximum period of three months. However, the importers must declare at the customs entry point that they will neither transfer nor sell the vehicle during their stay in Pakistan. This measure underscores the FBR’s commitment to limiting the misuse of temporary imports for commercial or local usage.

If circumstances prevent the vehicle from being exported within the specified three-month timeframe, tourists can apply for an extension, subject to approval by the local customs collector. However, extensions are capped at an additional three months, contingent upon the submission of a renewed carnet de passage or bank guarantee, ensuring the FBR maintains strict control over the vehicle’s temporary status.

In a bid to counteract repeated short-term imports, the FBR has stipulated that vehicles re-entering Pakistan within a year after their exit will not be granted an extended temporary release. Such vehicles, whether brought in by the same tourist or another non-Pakistani visitor, will only be eligible for a maximum of 14 days. Exceptions exist only for vehicles operated by registered foreign tour agencies, which are allowed to re-enter for a duration of up to three months within a year, ensuring that recognized tourism facilitators retain operational flexibility without compromising regulatory oversight.

The amendments also make provisions for exceptional cases, such as health issues, accidents, or other unforeseen circumstances that might prevent the export of a vehicle. Under these conditions, the FBR may grant a further extension of up to six months, but only if the existing bank guarantee or carnet de passage is extended to cover the prolonged period. Failing this, tourists will be required to surrender the vehicle to the relevant customs authorities.

For tourists seeking to retain their vehicles in Pakistan beyond the authorized period, an import permit from the Ministry of Commerce is mandatory. In such cases, full customs duties and taxes become payable, ensuring adherence to Pakistan’s import regulations and fiscal policies.

The amendments also address transit vehicles, permitting tourists to bring vehicles through Pakistan en route to other destinations without customs duties. However, if these vehicles lack a carnet de passage or bank guarantee, they will need to be escorted from the entry to the exit customs point, with the escort fees determined by the customs authorities. This directive, designed to streamline transit vehicle management, includes stamping the vehicle's passage in the tourist's passport to document the import and exit process formally.

Through these amendments, the FBR aims to bolster transparency and accountability in the temporary import of vehicles, safeguarding Pakistan's economic interests while supporting legitimate tourism. Once ratified, these regulations are expected to reinforce compliance, deter misuse, and ensure that temporary imports align with national economic and security considerations.

FBR REVISES BAGGAGE RULES TO SEIZE COMMERCIAL QUANTITY GOODS

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has proposed amendments to the Baggage Rules, 2006, introducing provisions for the confiscation of goods brought into Pakistan in commercial quantities. The draft amendments, published through SRO 1649(I)/2024, signal FBR's intent to intensify regulatory scrutiny over items entering the country under personal baggage exemptions.

Currently, travelers arriving in Pakistan who bring goods in commercial quantities face a penalty amounting to 30% of the goods' declared value in addition to any applicable customs duties and taxes. However, under the newly proposed amendments, such goods will now be subject to outright confiscation, pending evaluation by an adjudicating authority. This development marks a significant shift in policy, with the FBR aiming to dissuade individuals from bypassing formal import channels by importing goods under the guise of personal baggage.

The FBR has extended an invitation to stakeholders for feedback on the draft changes, allowing a 15-day window from the date of publication to submit input. This consultative approach underscores FBR's commitment to transparency and its efforts to engage with the public on regulatory changes that may affect Pakistani travelers and citizens residing abroad.

Historically, the Baggage Rules facilitated duty-free entry of items for Pakistani nationals, including those with dual citizenship, foreign nationals of Pakistani origin, and expatriates. This concession enabled travelers to import goods for personal or household use without incurring additional financial burdens. However, due to rising concerns over the misuse of these privileges for commercial gains, the FBR has acted to reinforce the original intent of the baggage exemptions, ensuring they are not exploited for business purposes.

The FBR also clarified that restricted goods under the Baggage Rules remain subject to additional regulations, including specific licenses, permissions, and potential conditions on import and export. This means that items subject to legal controls or restrictions cannot bypass the formal channels even under baggage provisions, as they will face strict confiscation procedures if improperly declared.

With these amendments, the FBR aims to strike a balance between facilitating genuine travelers and ensuring that commercial imports are regulated within formal structures. This step reflects the government's broader commitment to curbing illicit trade practices and enhancing revenue collection through regulated import channels. Once ratified, the revised rules are expected to bolster enforcement, ensuring that import activities align with Pakistan's economic policies and contribute to the country's fiscal integrity.

FBR IMPOSES MAJOR PENALTY ON CUSTOMS OFFICER IN CORRUPTION CASE

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has imposed a severe disciplinary penalty, removing customs officer Shahid Naseem Joiya from service due to corruption and serious misconduct.

Joiya, a suspended Superintendent (BS-16) of the Customs Enforcement division in Sargodha, faced allegations of involvement in the illicit removal of high-value goods from the Customs Warehouse in Dera Ghazi Khan. The incident, which reportedly took place on the night of February 1, 2024, was marked by the unauthorized removal and substitution of goods worth Rs 76 million in alleged collusion with smugglers.

The FBR's disciplinary process began promptly after the incident, with Joiya being suspended from service. An Order of Inquiry was issued alongside a charge sheet and statement of allegations on April 16, 2024, detailing accusations of "inefficiency," "misconduct," and "corruption" under Rule-3(a)(b)&(c) of the Civil Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules, 2020. Syed Ali Akbar Zaidi (PCS/BS-19) was appointed as the Inquiry Officer to conduct a thorough investigation into the officer's alleged malfeasance.

The inquiry's findings, submitted in a report on June 14, 2024, revealed substantial violations that had incurred significant financial losses for the government, with only a portion of the pilfered goods recovered. The report concluded Joiya was culpable of "inefficiency," "misconduct," and "corruption" and recommended the stringent penalty of "Removal from Service" under Rule-4(3)(d) of the Civil Servants (E&D) Rules, 2020.

Subsequent to the inquiry, a Show Cause Notice dated June 28, 2024, was served to the accused, offering him an opportunity to defend against the charges. Joiya responded by denying all allegations and requested a personal hearing. As per Rule-17 of the Civil Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules, 2020, he was granted a hearing on August 20, 2024. At this hearing, Joiya claimed he had not been provided with relevant evidence by the Collectorate. The FBR directed the Departmental Representative (DR) to furnish all pertinent documents within a month, ensuring a transparent process.

After the requisite documents were provided, Joiya was given a second opportunity for a personal hearing on October 23, 2024, attended by Deputy Collector Muhammad Zohaib, Assistant Collector Naeem Raza, and Joiya himself. During this session, the DR presented a detailed narrative of the case and played authenticated audio recordings of conversations implicating Joiya in collusion with smugglers and subordinate officials. Verified by forensic analysis, these recordings, along with extensive documentation, provided incontrovertible evidence of his involvement.

After reviewing the inquiry findings, evidence, and arguments presented during the hearing, the FBR's Member (Admn/HR) concluded that Joiya had failed to substantiate his innocence. Based on the gravity of the offense, the Authority imposed the major penalty of "Removal from Service" under Rule-4(3)(d) of the Civil Servants (E&D) Rules, 2020. Additionally, the period of Joiya's suspension, effective from February 6, 2024, will be treated as Extraordinary Leave Without Pay (EOL) under the Revised Leave Rules, 1980.

The officer retains the right to appeal this decision within 30 days as per the Civil Servants (Appeals) Rules, 1977. This decisive action by the FBR underscores its commitment to maintaining integrity and accountability within its ranks, as it continues to enforce strict measures against corruption within public service.

FBR ENFORCES INCOME TAX ON PROVINCIAL SALES TAX REGISTRANTS

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has implemented a significant measure to collect advance income tax from individuals and businesses registered for provincial sales tax.

Under the authority granted by Section 147A of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, this advance tax targets individuals registered with provincial revenue authorities, aligning with FBR's broader strategy to increase compliance and broaden the tax base.

As outlined by the FBR, provincial sales tax registrants are now required to pay a monthly adjustable advance income tax at a rate of three percent of their declared turnover. This advance tax is intended to coincide with the monthly sales tax return filings, ensuring streamlined compliance across both tax obligations. Those fulfilling these requirements will later be able to utilize the paid amount as a tax credit to offset their income tax liabilities, potentially minimizing their final tax dues.

The FBR has clarified that this advance tax payment will be integrated into the overall advance tax calculation process, as specified under Section 147 of the Income Tax Ordinance. This means that all provisions applicable to advance tax payments under regular assessment procedures will similarly apply to this new tax on provincial sales tax registrants.

One of the advantageous aspects of this provision is the tax credit mechanism for the taxpayers. Taxpayers who have paid the advance income tax will be granted tax credits against their taxable income for the year. If any portion of this credit remains unused after being applied to the taxpayer's liability, it will be eligible for a refund under Section 170 of the Ordinance, effectively allowing taxpayers to reclaim excess payments, thereby alleviating potential financial strain.

Additionally, the FBR has issued a safeguard to avoid duplicate taxation efforts. Taxpayers whose names appear on the Active Taxpayers' List (ATL) as of June 30 of the preceding tax year are exempt from this advance tax. This condition aims to reward compliance and prevent redundancies within the tax system, incentivizing taxpayers to maintain active compliance to secure future exemptions.

The introduction of this tax marks a notable shift in FBR's approach to advance tax collection, leveraging provincial registration as a gateway to income tax compliance. By capturing a larger spectrum of sales tax registrants, the FBR hopes to strengthen its revenue base while incentivizing taxpayers to proactively manage their tax obligations. As compliance continues to expand, the FBR anticipates a bolstered fiscal environment with smoother interprovincial tax integration.

FBR AMENDS TRANSSHIPMENT RULES FOR IRANIAN TRANSPORT OPERATORS

October 25, 2024

Islamabad, October 25, 2024 – The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has revised the transshipment rules for Iranian transport operators involved in the movement of goods across Pakistan's borders. The new rules are part of the efforts to strengthen regulatory frameworks governing international trade and transportation, especially under the Bilateral Road Transportation of Goods agreement between Pakistan and Iran.

To implement these changes, the FBR issued SRO 1446(1)/2024, introducing further amendments to the Customs Rules, 2001. Under the new guidelines, Iranian transport operators and bonded carriers are now required to submit bank guarantees to cover duties and taxes applicable on goods being transshipped through Pakistan. These changes aim to ensure that imported goods destined for other countries, but transiting through Pakistan, comply with customs duties and regulations.

The FBR has outlined specific conditions for Iranian operators to qualify as bonded carriers, detailing their operational responsibilities under this new framework. The notification issued on Thursday clarifies that a "carrier" refers to entities such as Pakistan Railways, National Logistic Cell (NLC), Sambrial Dry Port Trust, Faisalabad Dry Port Trust, Multan Dry Port Trust, and Iranian transport operators. These carriers must be licensed under Chapter VIII of the Customs Rules, 2001, and must adhere to the standards set forth by the FBR.

One of the key updates in the rules pertains to transshipment from Taftan to the NLC Dry Port in Quetta. According to the notification, Iranian carriers transporting goods along this route must provide a bank guarantee equivalent to the customs duties and taxes levied on the goods. This amount will be determined by the Collectorate of Customs Appraisement in Taftan, in accordance with Article 7 of the 1987 Bilateral Road Transportation Agreement between Pakistan and Iran.

The bank guarantee serves as a safeguard to prevent misuse of the transshipment facility. If an Iranian carrier is found to be misusing the system, the FBR has stated that the guarantee will be forfeited, and additional penalties may be imposed under the relevant customs laws and regulations. This step is part of the broader strategy to curb illegal trade practices and ensure that transit goods comply with Pakistani customs requirements.

The FBR's amendments reflect Pakistan's commitment to regulating cross-border transportation and facilitating smoother trade operations while minimizing revenue losses from the potential misuse of transshipment processes. These updates will also help promote more transparent trade relations between Pakistan and Iran.

FBR CURTAILS CUSTOMS INTELLIGENCE POWERS TO FACILITATE TAXPAYERS

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – In a significant move to streamline operations and ease taxpayer concerns, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has reduced the powers of the Directorate General of Intelligence and Investigation (I&I) Customs.

The FBR has formally abolished several enforcement functions of I&I Customs, including its authority to conduct anti-smuggling operations. This change is part of a broader initiative to reorganize customs intelligence and improve efficiencies across the department.

The FBR has officially communicated these changes to the Directorate General, directing them to cease all anti-smuggling activities and halt their ability to block or de-block shipments through the WeBOC customs clearance system. Additionally, the FBR has explicitly prohibited I&I Customs from carrying out 'sting operations.' These directives are aimed at preventing overreach by customs authorities and reducing the operational burden on taxpayers.

To ensure proper governance, the FBR announced it would soon release a new Charter of Functions, along with a Customs General Order (CGO) that will define the jurisdictions of the Directorate of I&I and lay out detailed procedures for any future sting operations. These operations, if necessary, will require prior approval from the Member Customs (Operations). This new framework is intended to create a more transparent and regulated approach to enforcement.

In light of these changes, the FBR has also initiated a broader reorganization of I&I Customs. A committee was formed to review its structure, leading to the closure of certain regional directorates, including those in Rawalpindi, Multan, Hyderabad, and Gawadar. Concurrently, the FBR will establish a new office under the Director General (Enforcement), which will take over many of the functions previously held by I&I Customs.

Key functions such as management of customs warehouses and some human resources will be transferred to this new enforcement office. To facilitate this transition, the FBR has tasked the Directorate General of I&I Customs with completing a series of tasks, including taking stock of all existing warehouses, reviewing office space, vehicles, and budgetary status, and reporting on ongoing inquiries and human resource allocations. The deadline for this report is November 12, 2024.

These reforms are part of the FBR’s strategy to enhance operational efficiency, eliminate duplicative efforts, and safeguard national trade security and economic interests. By curtailing certain powers of customs intelligence, the FBR aims to simplify procedures, facilitate trade, and reduce the administrative burden on taxpayers while maintaining effective enforcement where necessary.

Markets » Cotton & Textile

HANDSOME BUSINESS ON COTTON MARKET

Recorder Report Published about an hour ago

LAHORE: The local cotton market on Friday remained steady and the trading volume remained satisfactory. Cotton Analyst Naseem Usman told BUSINESS RECORDER that the rate of cotton in Sindh is in between Rs 17,500 to Rs 18,100 per maund. The rate of Phutti in Sindh is in between Rs 7,000 to Rs 8,300 per 40 kg.

The rate of cotton in Punjab is in between Rs 17,500 to Rs 18,100 per maund. The rate of Phutti in Punjab is in between Rs 7,800 to Rs 8,400 per 40 kg.

The rate of cotton in Balochistan is in between Rs 17,200 to Rs 17,500 per maund. The rate of Phutti in Balochistan is in between Rs 7,700 to Rs 8,700 per 40 kg. The rate of Balochi Cotton is in between Rs 18,800 to Rs 19,000 per maund.

Approximately, 2000 bales of Dherki, 2000 bales of Ghotki, 800 bales of Pano Aqil, 800 bales of Mir Pur Mathelo were sold in between Rs 17,900 to Rs 17,950 per maund, 1,000 bales of Saleh Pat were sold in between Rs 17,200 to Rs 17,800 per maund, 1000 bales of Khair Pur were sold in between Rs 17,350 to Rs 17,400 per maund, 600 bales of Mando Dero, 600 bales of Dera Ghazi Khan were sold at Rs 18,000 per maund, 600 bales of Marrot were sold at Rs 18,100 per maund, 1600 bales of Rahim Yar Khan were sold in between Rs 18,000 to Rs 18,050 per maund, 3400 bales of Yazman Mandi, 1600 bales of Fort Abbas, 1000 bales of Nur Pur Noranga, 800 bales of Mianwali, 400 bales of Mian Channu, 400 bales of Ahmed Pur East, 400 bales of Khanpur were sold at Rs 18,000 per maund, 400 bales of Chowk Mundi were sold at Rs 17,900 per maund, 800 bales of Chishtian were sold in between Rs 17,700 to Rs 17,800 per maund,600 bales of Layyah were sold in between Rs 17,500 to Rs 17,800 per maund, 1800 bales of

Haroonabad were sold in between Rs 17,500 to Rs 17,600 per maund and 200 bales of Tounsa Shareef were sold at Rs 17,400 per maund.

The Spot Rate remained unchanged at Rs 17,800 per maund. Polyester Fiber was available at Rs 357 per kg.

Business & Finance » Money & Banking

US DOLLAR EDGES LOWER

Reuters Published about 2 hours ago

NEW YORK: The dollar slipped for a second straight session, as a recent ascent lost steam, but the greenback was still on track for a fourth straight week of gains after data this week kept interest rate expectations for the Federal Reserve in check.

The Commerce Department said non-defense capital goods orders excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, jumped 0.5% last month after an unrevised 0.3% gain in August and above the 0.1% rise estimated by economists polled by Reuters.

A separate report by the University of Michigan showed October consumer sentiment rose to 70.5 from 70.1, topping the 69.0 estimate, while the one-year inflation outlook fell to 2.7% from the preliminary reading of 2.9% but in line with September's final result.

The dollar was poised for its fourth straight week of gains, as a run of positive economic data has quieted expectations about the size and speed of the Fed's rate cuts, which has also lifted US Treasury yields. Investors are now focusing on a key government payrolls report next week.

"We had a massive recalibration in economic expectations for the US and that process seems to have largely run its course, the Fed's policy trajectory looks much more reasonable and interest rate differentials between the US and other major economies are stabilizing here," said Karl Schamotta, chief market strategist at Corpay in Toronto.

"The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of currencies, shed 0.02% to 104.03, with the euro up 0.02% at $1.083.

In Europe, a survey on Friday of German business sentiment showed confidence improved more than expected this month, snapping four straight months of declines, offering hope for some respite towards the end of the year in the economy's battle with industrial woes and soft global demand.

European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde said the euro zone's inflation is "well on track" to hit the European Central Bank's 2% target next year, reiterating the bank's most recent guidance.

The dollar has also benefited from a rise in market expectations for a victory next month by Republican candidate and former US President Donald Trump, which would likely bring about inflationary policies such as tariffs.

Schamotta said that while those policies should support the dollar, that could be already priced in and their negative effects such as inflation could dampen consumer sentiment and weaken the dollar more than markets had expected two weeks ago.

Markets are pricing in a 95.6% chance for a cut of 25 basis points at the Fed's November meeting, with a 4.4% chance of the US central bank holding rates steady, according to CME's FedWatch Tool. The market was completely pricing in a cut of at least 25 bps a month ago, with a 57.4% chance of a 50 bps cut.

Against the Japanese yen, the dollar strengthened 0.13% to 152.02. Sterling strengthened 0.13% to $1.2989.

Japanese voters were set to head to the polls on Sunday for a general election with opinion surveys showing the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) could lose its dominance that has lasted for more than a decade, possibly complicating monetary policy plans for the Bank of Japan (BOJ).

ASIAN CURRENCIES: SOUTH KOREAN WON HITS 3-MONTH LOW

Reuters Published about 2 hours ago

BENGALURU: The Philippine peso and Indonesian rupiah led declines among Asian currencies on Friday, extending recent losses on bets the US Federal Reserve will slow rate cuts, while regional stocks were mixed on uncertainty about the US election outcome.

The peso fell 0.7% to 57.92 per US dollar, a level last seen on Aug. 2, while the rupiah was down 0.4%, as of 0646 GMT.

The Malaysian ringgit reversed course to trade 0.2% higher, after edging down 0.1% earlier and on track for fourth straight week of declines, its longest such run in a year.

The dollar index was largely unchanged at 104.04, after reaching a three-month high of 104.57 earlier this week. The index is on track for a 3.6% gain since the week ended Sept. 23, and poised to record its strongest weekly performance since Sept. 30.

The greenback strengthened as investors revised interest rate cut expectations and factored in a potential second Trump presidency, which could bring inflationary policies, slower rate cuts, and pressure on trading partners' currencies.

The market was completely pricing in a cut of at least 25 basis points a month ago, with a 58.2% chance of a 50-bp cut, according to CME's FedWatch Tool.

"As the US elections approach and Trump trades are being implemented, the dollar is likely to remain on the front foot and the US rates are likely to remain elevated, creating a somewhat painful backdrop for EM assets," analysts at Barclays said.

The rupiah has fallen 1.1% this week, set for its worst week since Sept. 30.

However, the reappointment of Sri Mulyani Indrawati as the finance minister in the newly sworn-in President Prabowo Subianto's cabinet - signals policy continuity to investors.

The Thai baht has fallen nearly 1.5% this week and slipped as much as 0.5% earlier in the day, before recouping some losses to trade 0.3% lower.

Bank of Thailand Deputy Governor Piti Disyatat told Reuters in an interview that the country's low and well-anchored inflation poses no risk of deflation.

The Korean won declined up to 0.6% to its lowest level since July 19. Local media reported South Korea's finance minister had flagged risks to growth forecasts.

Stocks in Bangkok were up 0.2% but were on track for their worst week since early June, down nearly 1.8%. Singapore equities fell 0.5% and were set for their biggest weekly loss since early August.

WORLD BANK IN TALKS TO INCREASE $35BN TURKIYE EXPOSURE

ISTANBUL: The World Bank is holding talks with Turkiye to increase financing to Ankara beyond the $35 billion it has...

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

ISTANBUL: The World Bank is holding talks with Turkiye to increase financing to Ankara beyond the $35 billion it has already provided through 2028, a source with knowledge of the matter said.

A "further increase" on the $35 billion is expected, the person told Reuters, declining to be named as the discussions are confidential.

The World Bank and Turkiye's treasury and finance ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

The World Bank last year increased its financing to Turkiye to $35 billion from $17 billion.

Humberto Lopez, the World Bank's Turkiye director, told Reuters last year that the $35 billion package was in response to the "strong commitment" by Ankara to re-establish macroeconomic stability and to support steps in that direction.

World Bank unlocks another $30bn by tweaking balance sheet

Turkiye and the World Bank also signed a financing deal of $1.9 billion for four projects this week.

Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek was in Washington this week for the G20 and World Bank meetings.

World Bank financing to Turkiye mostly focuses on renewable energy, flood management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and support for the export sector.

RUPEE GAINS 20 PAISAS AGAINST DOLLAR AMID IMPROVED INFLOWS

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – The Pakistani rupee appreciated by 20 paisas against the US dollar on Friday, settling at PKR 277.64 in the interbank foreign exchange market compared to the previous day's rate of PKR 277.84.

Analysts attribute this modest gain to improved foreign inflows and increased investor confidence amid positive economic indicators.

A small uptick in the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) foreign exchange reserves has contributed to the rupee's upward momentum. The SBP reported an increase of $18 million in reserves, with the total standing at $11.014 billion as of October 18, 2024. Although slight, this gain in reserves has helped mitigate the effects of a decline in reserves held by commercial banks, providing support for the rupee amid ongoing market fluctuations.

Currency analysts highlighted several favorable economic trends bolstering the rupee's stability, including a narrowing trade balance and current account deficit. These shifts have decreased the demand for foreign currency, easing pressures to cover international payments. The improvement in trade balance, along with a healthier current account, signals enhanced financial resilience for the country, positively impacting investor sentiment in the rupee.

Additionally, steady inflows of remittances from overseas Pakistanis and a rise in exports have added to the rupee's stability. Remittances remain a vital source of foreign exchange for Pakistan, and combined with an uptick in export revenues, these inflows support a more favorable economic environment. This stability not only boosts the rupee's position but also strengthens overall market confidence.

"The combination of stronger reserves, reduced demand for foreign currency, and consistent remittance inflows has created a supportive environment for the rupee," noted a currency analyst. "While we expect minor fluctuations due to external payment pressures, the overall outlook for the rupee remains resilient."

Short-term variations are anticipated due to external factors, including the global economic climate and inflationary pressures. However, experts suggest that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, coupled with improved trade dynamics, offer a promising foundation for the rupee's continued strength against the dollar.

Overall, recent economic developments are fostering optimism among investors and stakeholders, as Pakistan's financial outlook appears increasingly stable. The favorable conditions in recent weeks are expected to continue supporting the rupee, which could further strengthen if positive trends in trade, reserves, and remittances persist.

Business & Finance » Industry

APTMA URGES GOVT TO URGENTLY RESTORE EFS TO PRE-FINANCE ACT 2024 STATUS

Recorder Report Published 25 minutes ago

ISLAMABAD: All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has urged the government to urgently restore Export Facilitation Scheme (FFS) to its pre-Finance Act 2024 status, reinstating the zero-rating/sales tax exemption for local supplies meant for export manufacturing.

According to the Association, the Export Facilitation Scheme allows duty-free and sales tax-free import of inputs for export manufacturing. However, since the enactment of the Finance Act 2024, domestically sourced inputs for export manufacturing are subject to an 18 percent sales tax, which exporters can only claim back after a prolonged and resource-draining delay of over 6 months.

This policy has disrupted the entire textile value chain, forcing widespread closures, layoffs, and a shift away from domestic materials to imported inputs, jeopardizing the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of workers.

"Domestic production, already burdened by high energy and operational costs, has become further uncompetitive against regional peers. Electricity and gas rates in Pakistan—at 14 cents/kWh and $12/MMBtu—are nearly double those in competing textile hubs such as Uzbekistan and China, where electricity is as low as 7-9 cents/kWh and gas is priced between $3.8-5/MMBtu," said Kamran Arshad, Chairman APTMA.

He further contended that the policy shift has eliminated all incentives for exporters to procure from local suppliers, evident in the up to 700 percent surge in monthly yarn imports. At least 40 percent of the domestic spinning industry has been forced to close, leading to rampant job loss and insecurity in an industry that sustains millions of jobs.

He stated that the current policy threatens $10 billion in investments and endangers approximately one million jobs across the textile supply chain, including yarn, fabric, and value-added sectors. No country's domestic industry can withstand and survive such fiscal discrimination in its own market.

APTMA has called on the government to urgently restore the Export Facilitation Scheme to its pre-Finance Act 2024 status, reinstating the zero-rating/sales tax exemption for local supplies meant for export manufacturing. This will provide a level playing field for domestic manufacturers, stimulate industrial growth, protect national employment, and promote domestic value addition in exports.

"We urge the government to act decisively to avert further industry setbacks and restore the textile sector's vital role in Pakistan's economic stability and growth," APTMA Chief added.

BYD BOOKINGS OPEN: ELECTRIC VEHICLES PRICED BETWEEN RS8,990,000, RS16,990,000,

- Mega Motors begins pre-orders for BYD ATTO 3, BYD SEAL

Bilal Hussain Published October 25, 2024

BYD, a major player in the global New Energy Vehicle (NEV) sector, displayed its electric vehicle lineup in Pakistan through local partner Mega Motor Company (MMC) at the Pakistan Auto Show 2024 in Lahore.

At the event, BYD opened bookings for its ATTO 3 and SEAL models, expanding its reach into the Pakistani market.

MMC, backed by Hub Power Holdings Limited, a subsidiary of The Hub Power Company Limited (HUBC), also outlined its plans to assemble and distribute BYD vehicles locally, aiming to foster wider EV adoption in the country.

Hub Power Holdings Limited, BYD partnership

Hub Power Holdings Limited, which holds full ownership of Mega Motor Company, has diversified its investment strategy by entering Pakistan's electric vehicle (EV) market. According to research analyst Abrar Polani from AHL, HUBC's EV venture represents a strategic alignment with global trends favoring sustainable energy solutions. Polani explained that HUBC plans to launch local manufacturing of EVs and plug-in hybrids under a $200 million project slated for completion in 2026, with funding sourced through a mix of debt and equity.

Pakistan's Mega Motor secures key partnership with global EV giant BYD

This venture's core agreements involve a Master Supply & Manufacture Agreement and a Technical License Agreement between MMC and BYD Auto Industry Company Limited. These agreements allow MMC to manufacture, market, and distribute BYD-branded passenger EVs within Pakistan.

BYD ATTO 3 and SEAL models: features and price points

At the show, BYD introduced two flagship models aimed at addressing different consumer needs in Pakistan's EV market. The ATTO 3 is an electric crossover SUV equipped with BYD's proprietary Blade Battery technology, providing a range of approximately 410 kilometers per charge. Priced at Rs. 8,990,000, the ATTO 3 falls within the mid-to-high SUV segment, targeting buyers interested in EVs but seeking a competitive price point.

The SEAL model, a high-performance electric sedan, offers a driving range of 650 kilometers on a single charge and features an acceleration rate of 0 to 100 km/h in 5.9 seconds. It is available in two variants: the Dynamic, priced at Rs14,790,000, and the Premium at Rs16,990,000. Although these price points target upper-income segments, the SEAL's specifications reflect its positioning as a high-end electric sedan within BYD's offerings.

Usman Ansari, an automotive expert and founder of the industry news platform Carspirit.pk, remarked that BYD's entry, particularly with the competitively priced ATTO 3, could attract consumer interest within its segment. However, he expressed reservations regarding the SEAL's market potential, citing that the demand for vehicles at that price range may be limited in Pakistan, given the overall economic conditions and lower purchasing power.

China's BYD partners with Mega Motor to launch 'NEV'

In addition to introducing new EV models, MMC has initiated plans to address essential infrastructure requirements that would support the broader EV adoption process in Pakistan.

In the coming weeks, MMC will offer test drives and facilitate bookings for both the SEAL and ATTO 3 through temporary showcase facilities in Karachi and Lahore. This follows the commencement of online bookings through MMC's official website.

MMC aims to establish three BYD flagship showrooms in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad by year-end to support sales and services, marking a gradual expansion strategy aligned with building market confidence.

Local production and cost challenges

Dr Aazir Anwar Khan, Director at the Integrated Engineering Centre of Excellence at the University of Lahore, in a previous interview over the subject underlined the importance of affordable EV options in Pakistan, noting that high prices limit EV accessibility to wealthier consumers.

He explained that significant differences in import duties between completely built-up (CBU) and completely knocked down (CKD) units create an opportunity for cost reduction. While importing CBUs incurs approximately 35% in duties and taxes, CKD imports for local assembly are taxed at around 5%, offering a cost-effective pathway to make EVs accessible to a wider audience.

Dr Khan suggested an ideal price range for EVs in Pakistan to be between Rs2.5 million and Rs6 million, a level more in line with the budgets of the majority of Pakistani car buyers. Without affordability, he argued, EV adoption would remain limited to a small segment, thus undermining broader goals of reducing fossil fuel reliance and carbon emissions.

Aurangzeb wants BYD to export from Pakistan as Chinese automotive giant launches in country

Khan also contrasted BYD's approach to that of other automakers, noting BYD's exclusive focus on EVs as opposed to Toyota's recent launch of a petrol variant of its Hybrid Corolla Cross. He emphasized that for EV companies like BYD, the priority should be on establishing affordable options to help achieve national environmental objectives, such as reducing fuel import bills and lowering emissions.

BYD's global footprint and expansion in the EV sector

Founded in 1995, BYD has grown from a battery manufacturer to a global high-tech company with operations spanning automobiles, new energy, electronics, and rail transit.

The company's international presence includes industrial parks across continents such as North America, Europe, and Asia. BYD's automotive division, BYD Auto, established in 2003, focuses on electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. Its consistent advancements in battery technology, such as the Blade Battery and DM-i Super Hybrid system, have positioned it as a leader in new energy vehicles.

BYD's decision to cease the production of traditional gasoline-powered vehicles in favor of fully electric and plug-in hybrid models underscores its commitment to sustainability. Over the past decade, the company has maintained its status as the leading new energy passenger vehicle seller in China, expanding its market reach to over 95 countries and regions.

Stock & Commodity

NASDAQ HITS RECORD HIGH AS TREASURY YIELDS EASE

Reuters Published 23 minutes ago

NEW YORK: The Nasdaq rallied to a fresh intraday record on Friday, lifted by megacaps as Treasury yields slipped from the week's high while investors looked ahead to quarterly results from some of Wall Street's biggest companies next week.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose slightly on the day to 4.218%, but eased off the 4.26% high touched earlier in the week.

The so-called "Magnificent Seven" group of rate-sensitive stocks leapt. Chip heavyweight Nvidia gained 2.1%, briefly overtaking Apple as the world's most valuable company by stock market value.

Tesla's shares rose 2.6%, adding to a 22% surge in the previous session, Apple gained 0.9% and Microsoft was up 1.3%.

However, a 1.7% loss in Goldman Sachs and a 2.4% fall in McDonald's as the fast-food chain copes with an E. coli outbreak linked to its hamburgers, dragged the Dow.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 81.79 points, or 0.19%, to 42,292.57, the S&P 500 gained 29.68 points, or 0.51%, to 5,839.54 and the Nasdaq Composite rose 224.76 points, or 1.22%, to 18,640.24.

The Nasdaq's gains took it into positive territory for the week, though the benchmark S&P 500 and the blue-chip Dow looked set to snap six-week winning streaks. The Nasdaq was on track to rise 1.2%, the S&P 500 to fall 0.4%, and the Dow set to lose 2.3%.

Equities have been unsettled this week by a rapid rise in yields as Fed rate-cut bets unraveled on expectations of a stronger economic outlook.

"The Fed perhaps got a little too dovish ahead of the data ... the growth and inflation numbers don't necessarily justify easing behavior," said Arnim Holzer, global macro strategist at EAB Investment Group.

Investors are still pricing in another 25-basis-point rate cut at the US Federal Reserve's November meeting and about two rate cuts by the end of the year, according to LSEG data.

The week starting Oct. 28, the final stretch before the Nov. 5 US presidential election, promises to be crucial for Wall Street. This is when results from megacap technology firms including Alphabet, Apple and Microsoft are also due, along with the nonfarm payrolls report for October.

"With such high valuations ... at this point, these high growth tech companies need to confirm both AI (artificial intelligence) growth and execution - they need to show and deliver," Holzer said.

Meanwhile, Capri Holdings slumped 47.3% after a US judge blocked a pending merger between the company and handbag maker Tapestry. Shares of Tapestry rose 14.3%.

Regional lender New York Community Bancorp dropped 6.9% after reporting its fourth straight quarter of loss, primarily due to its commercial real estate loans.

Continued uncertainty around the US election has also made investors cautious, though markets have started pricing in a second Donald Trump administration in recent weeks.

The information technology sector led gains, while financials were the biggest decliner.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 1.24-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and by a 1.5-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P 500 posted 30 new 52-week highs and one new low, while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 70 new highs and 61 new lows.

TSX OPENS HIGHER ON STRENGTH IN ENERGY STOCKS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Canada's main stock index opened higher on Friday due to gains in energy and real estate shares, while investors assessed domestic economic data.

TSX gains on cooling wages, energy stocks rally

At 9:31 a.m. ET (13:31 GMT), the Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX composite index was up 42.3 points, or 0.17%, at 24,593.85.

EUROPEAN SHARES END WEEK IN THE RED AS EARNINGS DISAPPOINT

Reuters Published about 2 hours ago

PARIS: Europe's main stock index closed Friday's choppy session flat and notched weekly losses, as a handful of weak corporate earnings from auto-related companies such as Mercedes-Benz and Valeo and appliances-maker Electrolux dented investor sentiment.

The pan-European STOXX 600 closed flat for the second straight day and logged its first weekly loss in three, with real estate stocks among the worst-hit sectors for the week.

Auto stocks also ended the session on a muted note, with Germany's Mercedes-Benz dropping 1% after third-quarter earnings in core car division missed estimates by a wide margin.

Valeo added to the sector's woes, tanking 9.5% as the automotive supplier cut its annual sales guidance for the second time this year.

Electrolux slumped 14.6% to the bottom of the main index after missing third-quarter earnings expectations on continuing US losses and rising competition from China.

Of the STOXX 600 companies that have reported third-quarter earnings, 35.3% beat estimates versus the typical beat rate of 54%, LSEG data showed earlier this week.

Equities have struggled of late, with the STOXX 600 losing momentum after hitting record highs multiple times this year, as investors navigate corporate earnings, the global rate-cut trajectory and the upcoming US election.

Aiding some relief on the day, a survey showed German business morale improved more than expected in October, offering hope for some respite towards the year-end. Traders now brace for third-quarter gross domestic product data due next week.

“Even if growth this year turns out to be slightly negative, we believe the current state of the economy would be better described as stagnation than a recession. The big picture is that Germany’s economy has not grown for another year and remains stuck at pre-pandemic levels,” Robin Winkler, chief economist at Deutsche Bank, wrote.

In bright spots, lights-maker Signify jumped 10% and topped the STOXX as a largely in-line quarterly report and expectations of cost-cutting measures provided relief.

Sanofi added 2.5% and topped the French CAC 40 index after the drugmaker posted stronger earnings growth than analysts had expected in the third quarter, boosted by an earlier-than-anticipated start to the vaccination season.

Hexagon was up 3.8% after the Swedish industrial technology group said it is mulling a spin-off of its Asset Lifecycle Intelligence business.

British lender NatWest climbed 3.8% after raising its income forecast for 2024.

CHINA AND HK STOCKS RISE, US ELECTION UNCERTAINTY TEMPER GAINS

Reuters Published about 2 hours ago

SHANGHAI: China stocks rose on Friday, gaining for the second week in a row, though investors were reluctant to place big bets as they awaited details of Beijing’s fiscal stimulus and next month’s US presidential election.

Hong Kong stocks also gained, but registered a third consecutive weekly loss, as the late-September euphoria dissipated.

China’s blue-chip CSI300 Index and the Shanghai Composite Index both edged up roughly 1%, and were up 0.1% and 0.6% respectively, for the week.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index rose 0.5%, but was down 1% for the week.

China and Hong Kong stocks surged last month after Beijing kicked off its biggest stimulus since the pandemic, but the heavy outflows this month appear to have put the brakes on that sweeping rally.

Global hedge funds have clawed back nearly 80% of the peak cumulative buying in Chinese equities as of Oct. 23, Goldman Sachs' prime brokers team estimates.

China stock market turnover, which hit record levels on Oct. 8, has been shrinking since, suggesting growing caution from investors looking for direction, Founder Securities investor advisor Luo Xuhong said in a note to clients.

"The market is getting uneasy about fiscal stimulus", the details of which have not yet been announced, Luo said.

The Nov. 5 US election is also keeping investors on edge.

A win for Republican Donald Trump, particularly if accompanied by a Republican sweep of Congress, is expected to squeeze the yuan and shares in the export sector.

A victory for Democrat Kamala Harris is likely to result in the opposite trades.

"If Trump wins, the US is expected to levy fresh tariff on Chinese goods," Haitong Securities said in a report.

China's small-caps outperformed blue-chips on Friday, with the CSI 2000 Index jumping 2.4%, compared with a gain of 0.6% in the CSI Mega-cap Index.

Winners included photovoltaic, media and electronics stocks, while losers included utilities, banking and telecom services shares.

In Hong Kong, most sectors rose, with industrials, biotech and information technology shares leading the gains.

NIKKEI POSTS WEEKLY FALL AMID ELECTION JITTERS

Reuters Published about 2 hours ago

TOKYO: Japan's Nikkei share average marked a second week of declines on Friday as investors weighed the risk outlooks ahead of a domestic election that could see the ruling party lose its majority.

The Nikkei closed 0.6% lower at 37,913.92, posting a 2.7% loss for the week.

The broader Topix finished down 0.7% at 2,618.32.

The markets have been on edge as recent opinion polls suggest voters could end the Liberal Democratic Party's over decade-long dominance on Sunday, forcing the ruling party into power-sharing deals that may undermine the country's leadership.

“That’s basically the scenario for ‘sell Japan’,” with investors considering various scenarios on how such an outcome could impact the fiscal and monetary policy outlook, said Naka Matsuzawa, chief macro strategist at Nomura Securities.

The losses were widespread as investors adjusted positions on Friday, the last day of trading before votes are counted on Oct. 27. Of the Nikkei’s 225 constituents, 176 declined, while only 48 advanced. One was untraded.

All 33 industry sectors were in the red, led by the shipping sector’s 3.6% decline.

Wei Li, a multi-asset quant solutions portfolio manager at BNP Paribas Asset Management, expects Japanese markets could react positively if the LDP-Komeito coalition secured a simple majority. Failing to do so, however, could heighten volatility

WALL STREETS OPENS HIGHER AS YIELDS EASE

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Wall Street’s main indexes opened higher on Friday, as Treasury yields eased and investors looked ahead to quarterly results from some of the biggest companies.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 103.2 points, or 0.24%, at the open to 42,477.51.

Wall Street pressured by higher yields, earnings

The S&P 500 rose 16.9 points, or 0.29%, at the open to 5,826.75?, while the Nasdaq Composite rose 97.1 points, or 0.53%, to 18,512.577 at the opening bell.

SRI LANKAN SHARES LOG SIXTH STRAIGHT WEEKLY GAINS

Sri Lankan shares closed higher on Friday, aided by industrials and financial stocks. Sri Lankan shares end little...

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Sri Lankan shares closed higher on Friday, aided by industrials and financial stocks.

Sri Lankan shares end little changed

- The CSE All-Share index settled 0.35% higher at 12,517.58 points. It gained 1.73% for the week, logging the sixth straight weekly rise.
- Nation Lanka Finance and Industrial Asphalts were the top percentage gainers on the index, up 50% and 33.3%, respectively.
- Trading volume on the index rose to 135.1 million shares from 124.7 million shares in the previous session.

- The equity market's turnover fell to 4.75 billion Sri Lankan rupees ($16.2 million) from 4.79 billion rupees in the previous session, according to exchange data.
- Foreign investors were net sellers, offloading stocks worth 239.7 million rupees, while domestic investors were net buyers, purchasing shares worth 4.70 billion rupees, the data showed.

UAE MARKETS GAIN ON RESUMPTION OF GAZA CEASEFIRE TALKS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Stock exchanges in United Arab Emirates rose on Friday as the planned resumption of Gaza ceasefire talks in the coming days eased market sentiments.

The head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency will travel to Doha on Sunday to try to restart talks for a deal to release Israeli hostages being held in the Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Thursday.

Mossad head David Barnea will meet with CIA director William Burns and the Qatari prime minister, Netanyahu's office said.

Dubai's main index settled 0.3% higher, led by gains in industrial and utilities sector stocks.

Toll gate operator Salik Company jumped 1.1% and Parkin Company increased 3%.

Market heavyweight Emirates NBD Bank and state-run utility firm Dubai Electricity And Water Authority climbed 0.3% and 0.4%, respectively.

Dubai's outlook remains optimistic as more Q3 earnings releases are expected to support further upside, maintaining its bullish trend compared to regional peers, said Ahmed Negm Head of Market Research MENA at XS.com.

Abu Dhabi's benchmark index edged 0.1% higher, snapping a four session losing streak, with UAE's third largest lender Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank rising 1.1% and Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries surging 14.4%.

Gulf bourses end mixed on regional tensions, Q3 earnings

Among the gainers, Easy Lease Motorcycle Rental jumped 6.4% as the firm's third quarter net profit increased 69% quarter-on-quarter to 7.6 million dirhams ($2.07 million).

Oil prices - a key contributor to Gulf's economy - rose 0.8% to $74.98 a barrel by 1130 GMT.

Dubai index extended gains to a third week, finishing the week 0.2% higher, while Abu Dhabi logged 0.9% weekly losses, according to data compiled by LSEG.

FTSE 100 SET FOR WEEKLY LOSSES ON MIXED EARNINGS, BUDGET ANTICIPATION

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

London's blue-chip stock index slipped on Friday and was on track for weekly losses, as investors assessed a mixed bag of corporate earnings ahead of the highly awaited first budget from the country's new Governmentt next week.

The FTSE 100 was 0.1% down as of 0930 GMT, while the domestically focused mid-cap FTSE 250 edged up 0.1%, with both the indexes poised for weekly declines.

Medical equipments was the worst-hit sector on the day, down 2%, and even for the week.

Airtel Africa slumped 6% to its lowest level since early September, after the telecommunications services provider reported a double-digit fall in half-yearly operating profit.

On the flip side, NatWest jumped 4% to its highest levels since 2011 after raising its income forecast for 2024, boosting the banks index.

FTSE 100 dips but logs weekly gain on rate cut bets

With the budget scheduled for Oct. 30, UK's finance minister Rachel Reeves faces a tough task to raise the tax revenues needed to invest more in public services and new infrastructure. Further, a fresh report showed Reeves was also seeking to change fiscal rules.

A survey showed British consumer confidence fell to the lowest level since March amid concerns about possible tax hikes.

Among other movers, Intertek Group lost nearly 3% after HSBC initiated coverage on the British product testing firm's stock with a "reduce" rating.

Abrdn shares fell for the second day, down nearly 3% on Friday, after deeper-than-expected outflows of client funds in the third quarter.

EUROPEAN SHARES SLIP ON AUTO PRESSURE, SET FOR WEEKLY LOSS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Europe's main stock index ticked lower on Friday as bleak earnings from automobile firms Valeo and Mercedes dragged down the sector, and was set for a weekly decline.

The pan-European STOXX 600 was down 0.3% as of 0718 GMT, on track for its first weekly loss in three as investors navigated corporate earnings, the global rate-cut trajectory and the upcoming U.S. elections.

Auto stocks fell 0.9% while NatWest's positive results underpinned bank stocks, up 0.4%.

Europe's STOXX 600 rises in broad-based advance on earnings impetus

German automaker Mercedes-Benz fell 3.7% after third-quarter earnings in core car division massively missed estimates, while Valeo shed 7.5% as the automotive supplier cut its annual sales guidance for the second time this year.

French spirits-maker Remy Contreau shed 3% at open after dropping its forecast that its full-year sales would gradually recover after quarterly sales fell more than expected, and was last down 0.3%.

ASIA MARKETS SPLIT AFTER TESLA BOOSTS WALL STREET

AFP Published October 25, 2024

HONG KONG: Japanese shares fell but Chinese markets gained in a disjointed start to Asian trade on Friday, after Wall Street cheered strong results from electric car giant Tesla.

Elon Musk's company surged nearly 22 percent after higher earnings ended a streak of disappointing results and helped lift the Nasdaq and S&P 500, while the Dow was pulled lower by disappointing results from IBM and Honeywell.

European indices rose overnight, with investors anticipating interest rate cuts, while oil prices climbed then fell in more volatile trade for the crude market.

"US shares are somewhat mixed at the close" and "for a change, the US dollar has actually lost value", said Phil Dobbie on National Australia Bank's Morning Call podcast.

US Treasury yields have pushed higher in recent days, although they retreated on Thursday. Uncertainty on trading floors is also heightened less than two weeks ahead of US elections, with the outcome still far from clear.

Observers say some dealers are eyeing a win for Donald Trump and policies such as tax cuts that could stoke inflation.

That, along with a strong run of US economic data and remarks from Federal Reserve officials backing a cautious approach to easing monetary policy, has seen expectations for rate cuts whittled back.

In Asian trade on Friday morning, Tokyo stocks fell one percent, while Hong Kong rose 0.5 percent and Shanghai was up 0.2 percent.

Taipei and Seoul were also higher, but Singapore, Bangkok and Jakarta lost ground. Sydney rose 0.2 percent while Wellington was flat.

Inflation for Tokyo city slowed in October, data showed ahead of a national election on Sunday and a central bank policy decision on October 31.

Asian markets mixed as rate cut bets are trimmed; US vote in focus

"The Bank of Japan meets next week, and we've been saying almost ad nauseam that the case for further normalisation of policy has been made," National Australia Bank's Ray Attrill said.

The Tokyo inflation data means that "the Bank of Japan – its nose might be growing while it says it – could say, 'look, there's reason for us to be sitting on our hands a little bit longer', irrespective of the view that the proximity to the elections has pretty much ruled out any move out at the October meeting", Attrill added.

Key figures around 0200 GMT

Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 1.0 percent at 37,770.93 Hong Kong - Hang Seng Index: UP 0.5 percent at 20,595.30 Shanghai - Composite: UP 0.2 percent at 3,285.44 Euro/dollar: DOWN at $1.0823 from $1.0832 on Thursday Pound/dollar: DOWN at $1.2968 from $1.2972 Dollar/yen: UP at 151.88 yen from 151.83 yen Euro/pound: DOWN at 83.46 pence from 83.47 pence West Texas Intermediate: UP 0.3 percent at $70.40 per barrel Brent North Sea Crude: UP 0.3 percent at $74.60 per barrel New York - Dow: DOWN 0.3 percent at 42,374.36 (close) London - FTSE 100: UP 0.1 percent at 8,269.38 (close)

SOUTH KOREAN SHARES RISE AS CHIPMAKER SK HYNIX EXTENDS GAINS; SET FOR WEEKLY LOSS

- KOSPI was up 5.75 points, or 0.22%, at 2,586.78

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

SEOUL: Round-up of South Korean financial markets:

South Korean shares rose on Friday as chipmaker SK Hynix extended gains on upbeat earnings, while most other index heavyweights declined.

The won and the benchmark bond yield were little changed.

The benchmark KOSPI was up 5.75 points, or 0.22%, at 2,586.78, as of 0219 GMT.

For the week, the KOSPI was down 0.2%, set for its second straight weekly loss.

South Korea's finance minister said the downside risk to the government's 2.6% economic growth forecast for this year had expanded, according to a report.

SK Hynix gained 1.41%, after rising 1.12% on Thursday on a record quarterly profit. Rival Samsung Electronics fell 1.06%.

Automakers, e-commerce firms and battery makers fell, while biopharmaceutical manufacturers rose.

Asian currencies fall on US election bets; stocks wobble

Of the total 933 traded issues, 266 shares advanced, while 594 declined.

Foreigners were net sellers of shares worth 209.0 billion won ($151.20 million).

The won was quoted at 1,382.0 per dollar on the onshore settlement platform, 0.02% higher than its previous close at 1,382.3.

In money and debt markets, December futures on three-year treasury bonds rose 0.04 point to 106.02.

The most liquid three-year Korean treasury bond yield fell by 1.0 basis point to 2.882%, while the benchmark 10-year yield fell by 0.7 basis point to 3.061%.

KSE-100 CLOSES SHY OF RECORD 90,000 MARK, CONTINUES WINNING STREAK AMID STRONG BUYING

- Benchmark index hits historic 90,000 level for first time during intra-day trading on Friday

BR Web Desk Published October 25, 2024

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed another bullish session as its benchmark KSE-100 closed near the record 90,000 level after the index surpassed it for the first time during intra-day trading on Friday.

The bulls remained largely dominant in the market on Friday, helping the KSE-100 hit a record intra-day high of 90,593.61, followed by some selling in the final hours that led the index to close below 90,000.

At close, the benchmark index settled at 89,993.97, up by 1,047.98 points or 1.18%.

Earlier, buying was witnessed in index-heavy stocks including automobile assemblers, commercial banks, fertiliser, oil and gas exploration companies and OMCs. Index-heavy stocks including OGDC, PPL, SSGC, NBP and MEBL traded in the green.

The stock market has been on an upward trend in recent weeks on account of improved economic indicators and expectations of a significant policy rate cut by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in its upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, which is scheduled for November 4, 2024.

Analysts anticipate a potential interest rate cut of at least 200 basis points, driven by easing inflationary pressures.

CPI inflation reading clocked in at 6.9% in September 2024 and is anticipated to remain stable in October, within an estimated range of 6.5% to 7%.

On Thursday, bulls dominated the PSX on the back of aggressive buying, mainly by local investors coupled with institutional support. The benchmark index surged by 1,751.45 points or 2.01% and closed at an all-time highest level of 88,945.99 points.

Globally, China stocks opened flat on Friday and were set to rise slightly for the week, as investors await details of Beijing's fiscal stimulus and next month's US election results.

China's blue-chip CSI300 Index and the Shanghai Composite Index were little changed at the open.

Meanwhile, Japan's Nikkei share average was set to mark a second week of declines on Friday as investors weighed the risk outlooks ahead of a domestic election that could see the ruling party lose its majority.

The Nikkei fell nearly 1% to 37,771.79 by the midday break, putting the benchmark index on track for a 3% loss for the week.

The broader Topix was also down 1% at 2,609.83.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani rupee strengthened against the US dollar, appreciating 0.07% in the inter-bank market on Friday. At close, the currency settled at 277.64, a gain of Re0.20 against the greenback.

Volume on the all-share index decreased to 695.54 million from 757.65 million on Thursday.

However, the value of shares rose to Rs37.87 billion from Rs36.05 billion in the previous session.

Fauji Foods Ltd was the volume leader with 57.56 million shares, followed by K-Electric Ltd with 41.40 million shares, and Sui South Gas with 38.04 million shares.

Shares of 457 companies were traded on Friday, of which 181 registered an increase, 222 recorded a fall, while 54 remained unchanged.

AUSTRALIA SHARES END SLIGHTLY HIGHER ON WALL STREET-LED TECH BOOST, AS WISETECH JUMPS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Australian shares closed higher on Friday, underpinned by technology stocks as overnight gains on Wall Street boosted the sub-index, with software developer WiseTech Global surging as its CEO Richard White shifted to a new role.

The S&P/ASX 200 index rose 0.1% to 8,211.3 at the close, but declined 0.9% for the week - its worst weekly drop since early September.

Technology stocks advanced 3.3% to their best day since mid-August, tracking the Nasdaq's overnight rise on EV maker Tesla's positive earnings forecast and a drop in Treasury yields from a three-month high.

Software maker WiseTech Global ended 12.7% higher to log best session since August 25, after the company's billionaire founder and CEO, Richard White, moved to a consultancy position following several damaging accusations about his personal life, which he has denied.

"The tech sector did the heavy lifting on the ASX today, thanks to gains in the Nasdaq overnight and a rebound in the WiseTech Global share price," said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

Australian shares fall as miners offset real estate and healthcare gains

"It's been a rocky week for the WiseTech stock price, but the changes announced by the company seem to have alleviated some concerns about Richard White's role moving forward."

Miners climbed 0.2% on rising iron ore prices.

Sector leaders BHP Group and Rio Tinto added 0.3% each.

Financials added 0.2%, boosted by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's 0.4% gain.

Among individual stocks, Australian flag carrier Qantas Airways surged 1.5% to record its highest close ever, after raising its first-half domestic revenue expectations.

Australia's biggest independent coal miner Whitehaven Coal ended 5% higher in its best session in a month, after reporting quarterly production ahead of market expectations.

New Zealand's benchmark S&P/NZX 50 index dropped 0.3% points to close at 12,771.61.

CHINA AND HK STOCKS RISE, BUT STIMULUS, US ELECTION UNCERTAINTY TEMPER GAINS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

SHANGHAI: China stocks rose on Friday, gaining for the second week in a row, though investors were reluctant to place big bets as they awaited details of Beijing's fiscal stimulus and next month's U.S. presidential election.

Hong Kong stocks also gained, but registered a third consecutive weekly loss, as the late-September euphoria dissipated.

China's blue-chip CSI300 Index and the Shanghai Composite Index both edged up roughly 1%, and were up 0.1% and 0.6% respectively, for the week.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index rose 0.5%, but was down 1% for the week.

China and Hong Kong stocks surged last month after Beijing kicked off its biggest stimulus since the pandemic, but the heavy outflows this month appear to have put the brakes on that sweeping rally.

Global hedge funds have clawed back nearly 80% of the peak cumulative buying in Chinese equities as of Oct. 23, Goldman Sachs' prime brokers team estimates.

China stocks snap four-day winning streak

China stock market turnover, which hit record levels on Oct. 8, has been shrinking since, suggesting growing caution from investors looking for direction, Founder Securities investor advisor Luo Xuhong said in a note to clients.

"The market is getting uneasy about fiscal stimulus", the details of which have not yet been announced, Luo said.

The Nov. 5 U.S. election is also keeping investors on edge.

A win for Republican Donald Trump, particularly if accompanied by a Republican sweep of Congress, is expected to squeeze the yuan and shares in the export sector.

A victory for Democrat Kamala Harris is likely to result in the opposite trades.

"If Trump wins, the U.S. is expected to levy fresh tariff on Chinese goods," Haitong Securities said in a report.

China's small-caps outperformed blue-chips on Friday, with the CSI 2000 Index jumping 2.4%, compared with a gain of 0.6% in the CSI Mega-cap Index.

Winners included photovoltaic, media and electronics stocks, while losers included utilities, banking and telecom services shares.

In Hong Kong, most sectors rose, with industrials, biotech and information technology shares leading the gains.

JAPAN'S NIKKEI POSTS WEEKLY FALL AMID DOMESTIC ELECTION JITTERS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

TOKYO: Japan's Nikkei share average marked a second week of declines on Friday as investors weighed the risk outlooks ahead of a domestic election that could see the ruling party lose its majority.

The Nikkei closed 0.6% lower at 37,913.92, posting a 2.7% loss for the week. The broader Topix finished down 0.7% at 2,618.32.

The markets have been on edge as recent opinion polls suggest voters could end the Liberal Democratic Party's over decade-long dominance on Sunday, forcing the ruling party into power-sharing deals that may undermine the country's leadership.

"That's basically the scenario for 'sell Japan'," with investors considering various scenarios on how such an outcome could impact the fiscal and monetary policy outlook, said Naka Matsuzawa, chief macro strategist at Nomura Securities.

The losses were widespread as investors adjusted positions on Friday, the last day of trading before votes are counted on Oct. 27.

Of the Nikkei's 225 constituents, 176 declined, while only 48 advanced.

One was untraded.

All 33 industry sectors were in the red, led by the shipping sector's 3.6% decline.

Japan's Nikkei trades higher after three sessions of falls

Wei Li, a multi-asset quant solutions portfolio manager at BNP Paribas Asset Management, expects Japanese markets could react positively if the LDP-Komeito coalition secured a simple majority. Failing to do so, however, could heighten volatility.

"The extent of the market reaction would depend on how far below 233 seats they fall. Losing an outright majority could spark more severe turmoil," he said.

Among major shares, chip-testing equipment maker Advantest tumbled 2.9% to weigh the most on the Nikkei.

Uniqlo parent firm Fast Retailing shed 0.7%, staffing agency Recruit Holdings lost 2.4% and video-game maker Konami Group dropped 2.8%.

The largest percentage losses in the Nikkei were Sumitomo Pharma down 6.3%, followed by shippers Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha losing 4.3% and Nippon Yusen KK down by 3.8%.

INDIAN SHARES LOG WORST WEEKLY RUN IN 14 MONTHS ON FOREIGN OUTFLOWS, FRAIL EARNINGS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Indian shares logged their longest weekly losing run since August 2023 on Friday, intensifying a broad-based selloff as foreign investors continued to flee and lacklustre corporate earnings further bogged down sentiment.

The NSE Nifty 50 fell 2.7% this week and BSE Sensex dropped 2.2%, logging losses for the fourth straight week. The benchmark Nifty 50 also swung to the oversold territory, with the relative strength index (RSI) slipping below 30 for the first time in a year.

The Nifty 50 was in the overbought territory on Sept. 27 when it hit record highs.

Since then, the index has dropped 8%, weighed down by foreign outflows for the last 19 sessions, as investors direct funds to China on Beijing's stimulus measures and relatively cheaper valuations.

Both the benchmarks are set for their worst month since March 2020, when India announced a nation-wide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All the sectoral indexes logged weekly losses.

The broader, more domestically focused small- and mid-caps fell 6.5% and 5.8% this week.

Indian shares slip for fourth session as Hindustan Unilever, foreign selling weigh

"The primary driver of the sharp correction in Indian markets is foreign selling," said Santosh Meena, head of research at Swastika Investmart.

"Another major factor is disappointing earnings reports from Indian companies, especially consumption-linked sectors and financials." On the day, the Nifty lost 0.9% to 24,180.8, the while Sensex shed 0.83% to 79,402.29.

Both the indexes have declined for five straight sessions.

IndusInd Bank plunged 18.6% after the lender reported a surprise drop in its quarterly profit due to stress in microfinance loans, which led to higher provisions and lower asset quality.

NTPC lost 3.2% after posting a fall in quarterly profit on lower power generation.

Consumer major ITC rose 2.25% and was the top Nifty 50 gainer.

While the company missed quarterly profit expectations, analysts said its strong sales and volume growth were encouraging signs for future earnings.

KSE-100 INDEX HITS HISTORIC HIGH, CLOSES JUST BELOW 90,000

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) saw a bullish surge on Friday as the KSE-100 index soared to an intra-day record of 90,593.61, marking the first time it breached the 90,000 threshold.

While selling pressure in the final hours kept the index just shy of this milestone at close, the benchmark settled at an impressive 89,993.97, climbing by 1,047.98 points or 1.18%.

The rally was propelled by robust investor confidence in index-heavy sectors, particularly automobile assemblers, commercial banks, fertilizers, oil and gas exploration companies, and oil marketing companies (OMCs). Notable performers included OGDC, PPL, SSGC, NBP, and MEBL, each contributing significantly to the day's gains.

Investor optimism has been building on account of improved macroeconomic indicators and expectations of a policy rate reduction by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) at its upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on November 4. Analysts are projecting a substantial cut of at least 200 basis points in the policy rate, largely due to easing inflationary pressures. Recent inflation data showed the Consumer Price Index (CPI) registering at 6.9% in September, with expectations for stability in October within a projected range of 6.5% to 7%.

The upward momentum has been further supported by a strengthening Pakistani rupee, which appreciated by 0.07% against the US dollar in the interbank market. The currency closed at PKR 277.64, marking a gain of 20 paisas against the greenback, which reinforces investor confidence in the financial markets.

Trading volumes saw a slight dip, with total shares traded on the all-share index reaching 695.54 million, down from Thursday's 757.65 million. However, the value of shares exchanged rose to PKR 37.87 billion from PKR 36.05 billion in the prior session, underscoring heightened buying interest despite the lower volume.

Leading the volumes, Fauji Foods Ltd recorded 57.56 million shares traded, followed closely by K-Electric Ltd with 41.40 million shares, and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) with 38.04 million shares. Out of 457 companies traded, 181 registered gains, 222 faced declines, and 54 remained unchanged, reflecting a well-diversified market response.

Thursday's session also saw a strong rally, with the index climbing by 1,751.45 points, or 2.01%, to close at a historic 88,945.99 points. This consecutive bullish trend reflects sustained local and institutional investor activity, with strong backing from financial institutions buoying the PSX.

As the market approaches record-breaking levels, investor sentiment remains highly positive, fueled by expectations of favorable fiscal policies and an anticipated rate cut. With economic stability seemingly on the horizon, the PSX stands poised for further milestones as confidence in Pakistan's financial market continues to strengthen.

GOLD PRICES IN PAKISTAN SLIP RS 800 PER TOLA AMID GLOBAL DECLINE

October 25, 2024

Karachi, October 25, 2024 – Gold prices in Pakistan fell by Rs 800 per tola on Friday as the precious metal mirrored a downward trend in international markets. The price of 24-karat gold dropped to Rs 282,300 per tola, down from the previous day's closing rate of Rs 283,100, marking the second consecutive day of declines in local markets.

In addition, the 10-gram rate for 24-karat gold also saw a decline, slipping by Rs 686 to settle at Rs 242,027 from the previous closing of Rs 242,713 in Pakistan. This recent dip follows a record high of Rs 285,400 per tola, reached just two days earlier on October 23, 2024, showing a volatile trend influenced by both local and international factors.

Bullion market experts in Pakistan attribute the price drop to the global gold market's softening. The international gold price fell by $8, closing at $2,726 per ounce compared to the previous day's $2,734. Global investors appear to be taking a cautious approach, as they assess factors such as the US dollar's strength, anticipated interest rate adjustments, and broader economic uncertainties.

Analysts also highlight the potential impact of economic indicators on gold's performance, both globally and locally. With global economic conditions affecting investor sentiment and currency values, the allure of gold as a safe-haven investment may be experiencing shifts. In Pakistan, the recent weakening of gold reflects this broader economic recalibration, potentially influenced by dollar fluctuations and supply considerations within the local market.

"International market pressures play a crucial role in determining gold prices in Pakistan," commented a local bullion trader. "With prices easing globally, we are witnessing a mirrored effect locally. The market has seen significant highs recently, so this decline might also be part of a natural correction."

Gold remains a favored asset among investors in Pakistan, often considered a hedge against inflation and currency devaluation. This latest decrease could encourage buyers who previously hesitated due to high prices. Meanwhile, market experts continue to monitor potential shifts in the global economy and monetary policy that could affect the metal's trajectory.

With the ongoing uncertainties and rapid changes in the international gold market, Pakistan's gold prices are likely to remain sensitive to global influences in the near term.

GOLD PRICES LOSE MOMENTUM

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: The local gold prices lost some momentum on Friday after the global bullion rates further dropped, traders said.

Gold prices fell by Rs800 and Rs686, trading at Rs282,300 per tola and Rs242,027 per 10 grams, respectively, All Sindh Saraf Jewellers Association said.

On the world market, gold bullion value declined by $8 to $2, 726 per ounce while silver was available at $33.40 per ounce. Local silver prices stood unchanged at the record levels of Rs3,350 per tola and Rs2,872.08 per 10 grams, the association added.

BRAZIL'S SUGAR OUTPUT UP 8% IN EARLY OCTOBER, UNICA SAYS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Sugar production in Brazil's key center-south region totaled 2.44 million metric tons in the first half of October, industry group UNICA said on Friday, an 8% increase when compared with a year earlier.

Sugarcane crushing in the period rose 2.75% to 33.83 million tons, UNICA said in a report.

Sugar export: 100pc receipt of export proceeds in advance made mandatory

Both figures came in above market expectations, which stood at 2.37 million tons for sugar output and 33.51 million tons for cane crushing, according to a S&P Global Commodity Insights survey.

ARGENTINA'S WHEAT EXPORTS COULD HIT SECOND-HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR 2024/25, EXCHANGE SAYS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Argentina's wheat exports could hit 13.3 million metric tons for the 2024/25 season, which would mark the second-highest year on record, the Rosario grains exchange said in a report on Friday.

Some 19.5 million tons of wheat are expected to be harvested in the season, according to the exchange.

Russian wheat export prices rise

The exports estimate would be only behind the 2021/22 season, which exported 15.4 million tons after a record harvest.

CORN, SOYBEANS EASE AFTER EXPORT-DRIVEN RALLY

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

PARIS/SINGAPORE: Chicago corn and soybean futures dipped on Friday as traders booked profits after two-week highs and set brisk US exports against a bumper US harvest and improved planting weather in South America.

Wheat tracked corn lower, with easing global weather concerns and rapid Russian exports also pressuring prices.

The most-active corn contract on the Chicago Board of Trade was down 0.9% at $4.17-3/4 a bushel by 1105 GMT, while soybeans were 1.0% lower at $9.86-1/2 a bushel.

Both markets reached their highest in about two weeks on Thursday when the US Department of Agriculture reported the biggest weekly volume of US corn export sales in three years while also announcing more daily corn and soybean export sales.

“We have to see how long this demand for US supplies lasts for further price direction,” said one trader in Singapore.

The upturn in exports has helped corn and soybeans recover from multi-week price lows. But ample supplies and worries about trade tensions arising from the upcoming US presidential election were still hanging over the market, analysts said.

Recent rainfall over Argentina’s agricultural heartland will likely continue into November, allowing for the normal planting of soybeans and corn, a meteorologist told Reuters on Thursday.

Regular rain this month in much of Brazil has also eased worries about drought delays to soybean planting there.

CBOT wheat was down 1.3% at $5.74-1/4 a bushel, breaking a three-day rise.

Corn, soy and wheat ease further

The improved crop conditions in Argentina as well as some rain relief in parched Russian and US wheat belts were allaying immediate worries about global wheat supplies, though growing conditions in Russia and Ukraine remained mixed.

Traders continued to monitor the potential impact of Russian efforts to regulate exports.

While there was a risk of reduced Russian exports later in the season, the world’s biggest wheat supplier continued to ship heavy volumes.

“Even if Russian wheat has become more expensive, it’s still one of the cheapest origins in the world,” Argus analyst Maxence Devillers said.

ZINC SLIDES AS INVENTORY ARRIVALS EASE SUPPLY FEARS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

LONDON: Zinc prices slumped on Friday, retreating from the previous session's 20-month high, as inventory inflows calmed worries about potential shortages.

Most other industrial metals on the London Metal Exchange were also in the red, weighed down by the lack of robust stimulus measures in top metals consumer China and caution ahead of the US presidential election.

Three-month LME zinc slid 3.4% to $3,068 a metric ton in official open-outcry trading after touching its highest since early February 2023 on Thursday.

"There have been a lot of shenanigans in the zinc market this week and some of that is deflating, so that is helping to drag down the rest of the market," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank in Copenhagen.

One party had taken control of up to 79% of available zinc stocks in LME warehouses, creating concern about short-term availability of metal, but that dissipated after large inflows.

LME data showed net arrivals of 10,275 tons of zinc into Singapore storage facilities over the past two days, raising total stocks to 242,425 tons.

The premium of cash LME zinc over the benchmark three-month contract jumped to $58 a ton on Wednesday, its highest since September 2022, but tumbled to $1 on Friday.

Among other metals, LME aluminium eased 0.8% to $2,630 a ton, retreating from a multi-month high hit in the previous session, while copper edged up 0.1% to $9,520.

Zinc driven to 20-month high

"Risk appetite is on the low side and positions are being kept relatively small because the US election is too close to call and the impact could have a binary outcome," Hansen said, adding that a victory for Donald Trump could bring tariff threats for China.

The most-traded December copper contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE) closed down 0.2% at 76,390 yuan ($10,723.51) a ton.

LME copper was on track for a fourth straight weekly decline.

SHFE copper posted its third straight weekly loss. LME nickel eased 1.1% to $16,120 a ton, lead slipped 1% to $2,035.50 and tin was up 0.4% at $31,250.

GOLD PRICE PER TOLA DECREASES RS800 IN PAKISTAN

BR Web Desk | Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Gold prices in Pakistan declined further on Friday in line with their decrease in international rates. In the local market, the price of gold per tola decreased by Rs800, clocking in at Rs282,300.

Similarly, 10-gram gold was sold at Rs242,027 after it recorded a decrease of Rs686, according to rates shared by the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGJSA).

On Thursday, gold price had decreased by Rs2,300 to settle at Rs283,100.

Meanwhile, the international rate of gold decreased on Friday. As per APGJSA, the rate was at $2,726 per ounce (with a premium of $20) and was down by $8 during the day.

Silver prices remained stable at Rs3,350 per tola.

On Wednesday, gold prices hit a record-high level of Rs285,400 per tola.

Globally, gold prices eased on Friday but was on track for a weekly gain, as investors sought the safe-haven metal amid rising geopolitical tensions, while palladium was poised for its strongest week in more than a month.

Bullion is considered a hedge against economic and geopolitical uncertainties.

COPPER SET FOR WEEKLY DECLINE ON CHINA STIMULUS DISAPPOINTMENT

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Copper prices rose slightly on Friday, but remained on track to end the week lower after stimulus measures from top consumer China failed to ease demand worry.

Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange (LME) rose 0.3% to $9,536 per metric ton by 0344 GMT, while the most-traded December copper contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE) advanced 0.1% to 76,600 yuan ($10,749.97) a ton.

LME copper was on track for its fourth straight week of decline. SHFE copper was also set for a weekly drop.

China released a slew of supportive measures to boost growth but the scale of support so far failed to lift demand worries.

LME aluminium dropped 1.7% to $2,605.50 a ton, retreating from a near five-month high hit in the previous session on raw material supply worry.

LME zinc fell 1.4% to $3,130, but was set to log a weekly gain after hitting a 20-month high on Thursday on tightness of near-term supplies.

LME zinc hits 3-week high amid supply disruptions

“It is not the first time that metals have got carried away with supply disruption or ore shortage stories by ignoring demand slowdown. But in most such times, prices have started multi-month bearish trend,” said Sandeep Daga, a director at Metal Intelligence Centre.

“Bulls are refraining from adding new bets despite Chinese stimulus, while bearish stakes are at multi-year low. A large part of panic buying from bears is over. I expect prices to slide,” Daga said, adding that LME copper could fall to $9,200 a ton.

LME nickel eased 0.4% to $16,230, lead edged down 0.2% at $2,070 and tin fell 0.4% to $31,000.

SHFE aluminium fell 1.2% to 20,785 yuan a ton, zinc declined 0.4% to 25,245 yuan, tin decreased 0.4% to 253,750 yuan, while nickel rose 0.3% to 126,310 yuan and lead edged up 0.2% at 16,790 yuan.

Technology

INTEL TO INVEST MORE THAN $28BN TO BUILD TWO CHIP FACTORIES IN OHIO

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

Intel said on Friday it would invest more than $28 billion to construct two new chip factories in Licking County, Ohio, as the company pushes ahead with plans to expand its foundry business.

The chipmaker’s shares, which have slumped more than 55% this year, rose 1.4% in early trading.

Intel to cut 15% jobs, suspend dividend in turnaround push; shares plummet

The initial phase of the project is expected to create 3,000 Intel jobs, it said.

CHINA EVERGRANDE’S EV UNIT TO CEASE DISCUSSIONS FOR STAKE SALE

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

China Evergrande New Energy Vehicle said on Friday that its potential sellers have decided to cease talks for a stake sale in the company, which is the electric vehicle unit of the debt-laden China Evergrande.

In May, liquidators of the parent company - which held 58.5% in the EV unit - said they were talking to a third-party buyer to sell a 29% stake in the EV group, with an option to sell the rest of the holding within a certain period of time.

China Evergrande - in a separate statement - said on Friday that its liquidators will continue to seek possible buyers and other opportunities to divest the shares in Evergrande NEV, but also flagged that it is not certain that such a transaction will take place.

Shares of China Evergrande's EV unit soar after liquidators' stake sale deal

Evergrande NEV posted a net loss of 20.3 billion yuan ($2.9 billion) in the first half, widening from a 6.9 billion net loss a year earlier.

The company said an application has been made for the resumption of trading in shares on stock exchange from Oct. 28.

Economic distress

SPEAKING OUT IN DEFENCE OF IMF LENDING

Farhat Ali Published October 26, 2024 Updated 15 minutes ago

Following the approval of a $7 billion funding agreement by International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board, there is a certain amount of optimism that this bailout takes care of all the fiscal challenges facing Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's optimism escalated to the point that he is reported to have stated that this IMF programme would be the country's last programme.

The federal finance minister, Mohammad Aurangzeb, expressed similar optimism. Unfortunately, however, the ground realities do not support this optimism as of now. Much has to be done to come up to that level of optimism.

There is also a persistent argument that the IMF programme undermines government's authority and that it does not work in favour of the middle and lower segments of society.

To grasp the complexity of IMF programmes and Pakistan's lending dilemma, one has to look at a bigger picture as to what the IMF loan is all about.

The IMF programmes have worked brilliantly for many countries and its people and have been a disappointment for some countries and their people. Which country did what with the programmes makes all the difference.

To ascertain that one needs to review: (1) the countries that rightly employed the IMF programmes for the purpose that they were meant and walked out of them after having achieved the objectives; never looked back; and (2) the countries that could not make it and therefore remained perpetually hooked on the lifeline of the IMF programme.

Established in July 1944, The IMF works to stabilize and foster the economies of its member countries. Its focus is on restoring macroeconomic stability, promoting structural reforms such as fiscal discipline and encouraging economic growth.

The first challenge that the IMF confronted was the economic chaos in Europe at the end of the Second World War.

So great were Europe's economic problems that the American government was obliged to intervene, launching the Marshall Plan—the European Recovery Program—in 1947 to help kick-start the beleaguered European economies.

By 1958, IMF helped stabilize the fiscal part of most of Europe's economies when ten West European countries made their currencies freely convertible for global transactions.

The year 1958 thus marked an important point in the development of the modern international monetary system and significant progress was made towards liberalizing the international payments system; whereas, during the same decade, the World Bank supported infrastructure development in the war-ravaged Europe.

Working in tandem, the IMF and World Bank also supported Japan to emerge successfully from a similar crisis.

The decade of the sixties witnessed Germany and Japan as the fastest growing economies of the world followed by other European economies.

What is a behind this rapid success is the sincere deployment of the IMF programme funds for the assigned purpose and adoption of sound macroeconomic policies and reforms that targeted fiscal sustainability and monetary stability. This success marked the end of IMF engagement in Central Europe and Japan in a short period of time.

Before long, the remarkable post-war growth rates in the industrialized countries began to seem unexceptional as the newly industrializing countries—what we now called emerging markets—took off. The IMF diverted its focus to support emerging markets.

The most spectacular performance was in East Asia. Growth accelerated rapidly in South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore, the first members of the group known as the 'Asian tigers'. In 1960, South Korea embarked on a radical programme of economic policy reform, including opening the economy for free trade. Other countries in the region—Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia among them—soon followed suit. Thereafter, we have seen high rates of growth for over more than two decades in China, lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty.

Once again, what is common among these successful emerging economies is that the IMF lending was sincerely employed and macroeconomic policies and reforms that targeted fiscal sustainability and monetary stability diligently implemented.

The same is the success story of our eastern neighbor; India. In 1990, amidst severe economic and fiscal crises India opted for an IMF bailout.

In 1991, economic reforms were introduced and IMF loan was effectively employed to achieve fiscal sustainability to support its economy.

Thereafter, Indian growth accelerated significantly and this first IMF programme became the last IMF program.

Conversely, countries that struggled to benefit from IMF programmes include Zimbabwe, Argentina, Greece and couple of more countries in the emerging markets. These countries experienced continued economic decline and recurring crises despite repeated IMF involvement.

The reasons evaluated by experts are political instability, poor governance, social unrest despite significant financial assistance, lack of political consensus and commitment, failure to maintain macroeconomic stability and above all reluctance to implement compelling economic reforms.

The case study of countries that benefited from IMF programmes and those that did not vividly exhibits that the IMF programme can provide critical support to countries facing economic crisis, but its success largely depends on the commitment of the borrowing countries to implement necessary reforms, their political environment, and other economic factors.

As such, while many nations have successfully emerged from crises with IMF assistance, others have found themselves struggling with one IMF programme after another. They are the ones that did not sincerely deploy the IMF funds nor did they efficiently carry out reforms to make their government’s processes and systems efficient.

The conclusion is that the countries which successfully deployed the funds received from IMF for the right purpose have benefited from IMF programmes and the countries that squandered the funds remained dependent and subservient to IMF while their people suffered. It is not difficult to comprehend in which category Pakistan is placed. Needless to say, Pakistan is hooked on IMF lending since 1958.

COMPLEXITIES OF SOE REFORMS

Published October 26, 2024 Updated 20 minutes ago

EDITORIAL: Poorly performing state-owned enterprises (SOEs), wracked with chronic inefficiencies and ringing up losses worth billions over many years, have long

been a drain on public resources, leaving the government with little room for fiscal manoeuvrability.

This was brought into sharp focus by the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP's) recently released annual report for 2023-24, which included a section on "Reforming SOEs in Pakistan", lamenting the glacial pace of the reforms process that has led many of these entities to consistently report net losses over the past eight years, with the government's cumulative fiscal support to them in the form of subsidies, grants, loans and equity injections ballooning to a massive Rs5.7 trillion or 1.4 percent of the GDP between FY16 and FY23.

It is clear that the current trajectory of government support and bailouts to SOEs must be substantially altered to address the growing concerns regarding Pakistan's fiscal viability.

As highlighted by the SBP report, most of the losses emanate from two sectors: power, and infrastructure, transport and Information Technology & Communications (ITC). These sectors' losses significantly outweigh the profits generated by other sectors, particularly oil and gas, which is the largest contributor to total SOE profits.

The power sector recorded combined losses of Rs208 billion, accounting for 29 percent of total SOE losses in FY23, while the infrastructure, transport and ITC sector was responsible for 69 percent of total SOE losses, with the National Highway Authority and PIA being major contributors in this regard. What is often ignored is that many profitable SOEs benefit substantially from government contracts, and if exposed to competitive market conditions, could struggle to remain efficient.

Internationally, many of the success stories pertaining to SOE reforms suggest that fruitful transformations of these entities often hinge on meaningful reorganisations of the sectors they are operating in, with there being a focus on deregulation and fostering increased competition.

Furthermore, establishing robust corporate governance frameworks that address strategic management inefficiencies, and encourage transparency and accountability are also vital prerequisites of an effective reform exercise. And contrary to popular belief, bringing about changes in ownership through complicated, long drawn privatisation processes isn't necessarily a panacea for addressing SOEs' structural inefficiencies.

In Pakistan, a deep-seated resistance to initiating a truly consequential reforms process has resulted in fragmented efforts, often missing coherence and direction, driven more by external pressures from international lenders than by an intrinsic motivation to enact truly substantive changes in loss-making entities.

Lack of political consensus on the best path forward to reorganise SOEs, resistance from the bureaucracy and within the SOEs, difficulties in managing labour issues, and a general disregard for international best practices and expertise concerning SOE reforms have made this exercise a cumbersome, laborious endeavour.

Privatisation transactions, for example, have too often been excessively drawn-out, taking about six to 16 years to complete, according to the report. It is little surprise then that the privatisation of PIA, for instance, with its massive losses, is proving to be such a challenging and time-consuming effort, stifling the progress of SOE reforms.

Despite recent signs of increased government commitment in this area, as evidenced by the passage of key legislations last year and the establishment of a permanent cabinet committee on SOEs focused on enhancing corporate governance and promoting sectoral competition, any lasting impact will only be realised with genuine political will and consensus, alongside public support for a comprehensive reform initiative.

Moreover, it is essential to establish clear objectives and performance benchmarks for SOEs, targeting improved corporate governance to ensure accountability, transparency and effective management.

This structured approach remains critical for aligning SOEs with the country's broader economic goals, as this will facilitate the optimal use of resources, boost revenue streams and alleviate the financial strain on the government.

Business & Finance » Companies

LUCKY CEMENT WINS 'EXCELLENCY AWARD'

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: Lucky Cement Limited has been honoured with the Excellency Award in the Cement Category at the 39th Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) Awards in a ceremony took place in Karachi, recognising outstanding corporate performance and management practices across various industries.

This award reaffirms Lucky Cement's commitment to excellence in the cement sector and highlights the company's continuous efforts to maintain high standards of quality and innovation in its operations.

The MAP Awards celebrate corporate success and promote best practices in management across Pakistan's business landscape.

QUARTER ENDED SEP 30, 2024: OGDCL ANNOUNCES RS41.019BN PROFIT AFTER TAX

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of OGDCL, in its meeting held on Friday in Islamabad, announced the financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2024. The company reported net sales revenue of Rs 106.01 billion, with a profit after tax of Rs 41.019 billion, translating to earnings per share (EPS) of Rs 9.54.

The Board announced a first interim cash dividend of Rs 3.00 per share (30%) for the quarter ended September 30, 2024, up from Rs 1.60 per share (16%) during the same period last year (2023).

Previously, in its meeting on September 23, 2024, the Board had recommended a final cash dividend for the year ended June 30, 2024, at Rs 4.00 per share, amounting to Rs 17,204 million. Notably, this final quarterly dividend of Rs 4.00 per share marks the highest quarterly dividend in the Company's history, bringing the total cumulative dividend payout to 101%.

Despite a challenging energy and crude oil price environment, a decline in operating expenses was recorded across all quarters compared to the previous fiscal year 2023-24. This reduction reflects the company's commitment to administrative and operational efficiencies implemented by management. Additionally, an increase in finance and other income by Rs 9.476 billion over 1Q 2023-24 positively impacted the company's financials. The current quarter's collection stood at 121 percent against billing.

OGDCL's financial performance was, however, impacted by a final tax payment of Rs 9.498 billion on bonus shares issued by MPCL. Additionally, forced production curtailments by SNGPL and UPL, with a financial impact of Rs 5.230 billion, contributed to lower profitability, together negatively affecting EPS by Rs 3.42.

The decline in production output is attributable to forced production curtailments and delays in the delivery of production enhancement equipment by vendors. To address this, OGDCL has implemented an aggressive short-term plan to counter the production decline curve and augment oil and gas production, with results expected to reflect in the upcoming quarters of fiscal year 2024-25.

OGDCL contributed Rs 42.09 billion to the national exchequer through taxes, dividends, and royalties. During the reporting period, the company's exploration efforts yielded two gas condensate discoveries in Punjab and Sindh. The expected combined daily production potential from these discoveries is 388 barrels of crude oil and 13 MMcf of gas, with 2P reserves estimated at 0.41 MMSTB and 17.18 bcf, respectively. These discoveries underscore OGDCL's commitment to expanding its resource base to support the country's energy needs.

Moreover, OGDCL has initiated a diversification effort to assess the geothermal potential of its fields. The ongoing R&D project, in collaboration with Schlumberger, is expected to be completed by December 2024, marking a significant step in expanding the company's energy portfolio.

Regarding the Reko Diq project, the feasibility study is in its final stages, with international advisors closely engaged to meet project development timelines in alignment with R&D targets.

The company remains committed to maintaining operational excellence, exploring new growth opportunities, maximizing shareholder value, and supporting Pakistan's energy needs.

The Board expressed appreciation for the management's efforts in driving the company's overall performance, which has significantly contributed to sustainable growth and energy security for the country.

IMC TO EXHIBIT HEV AT PAPS

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

LAHORE: Indus Motor Company (IMC) has exhibited it's first-ever Make in Pakistan Hybrid Electric Vehicle at Pakistan Auto Show (PAPS) that is being held in Lahore from October 25-27.

The event was attended by IMC's Senior Director Manufacturing Makoto Kubota and Director Manufacturing Wali Muhammad Khan.

With their continued focus of "Make in Pakistan," IMC showcases its rigorous commitment to local manufacturing, sustainability, and innovation. Over the last more than 30 years, IMC has invested toward its localization efforts, enhancing the production of high-quality vehicles, while creating jobs and promoting local industry growth.

In the light of this significant investment, IMC requests the government to provide the local auto industry with sustainable policies that will foster long-term growth. By implementing policies favoring increased localization and manufacturing, Pakistan can further strengthen its automotive industry.

IMC also emphasizes the need for continued long-term policies for Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) and Battery powered Hybrid Electric Vehicles (BHEVs), as per AIDEP 21-26.

JS BANK CLOSES 9MFY24 WITH 34PC YOY GROWTH IN PROFIT AFTER TAX

Press Release Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: JS Bank announced its financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2024. For the nine-month period, the Bank posted a standalone profit before tax of Rs 6.21 billion, growing by 33 percent and profit after tax of Rs. 3.10 billion, recording a growth of 34 percent, as compared to the same period last year.

Earnings per share (EPS) stood at Rs. 1.51 in 9MFY24, as compared to Rs. 1.63 for the same period last year due to higher weighted average number of shares over the current period.

On a consolidated basis, JS Bank's profit before tax was reported at Rs. 24.72 billion, growing by 147 percent while profit after tax was reported at Rs. 12.71 billion, reflecting a growth of 83 percent, as compared to the same period last year.

As a result, the consolidated earnings per share (EPS) rose to Rs. 4.94 in 9MFY24, as compared to Rs. 4.74 for the same period last year.

Earlier this year, the Bank also reached a significant milestone of crossing half a trillion in total deposits, which stemmed from a strong closing of 2023. On a consolidated basis, JS Bank closed the 9MFY24 at a level of Rs. 1.07 trillion in total deposits.

"At JS Bank, our commitment to growth is based on understanding and meeting the evolving needs of our customers in the best way possible," said Basir Shamsie, President and CEO of JS Bank.

"We continue to explore new opportunities to enhance our services, ensuring that every step forward adds real value for those we serve. Our performance reflects our dedication to create lasting impact for all our stakeholders and we thank them for their continued trust and support, as always." he added.

PPL'S 73RD AGM APPROVES 25PC CASH DIVIDEND

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) held its 73rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) at a local hotel in Karachi, where shareholders approved the financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, along with the auditor's report.

A final cash dividend of 25 percent on ordinary shares was also ratified, bringing the total dividend for the year to 60 percent.

The meeting was chaired by Shahab Rizvi, Chairman of the PPL Board of Directors, who expressed his gratitude to the shareholders for their continued trust and support. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the current business environment but emphasized PPL's resilience and agility. "Despite external headwinds, PPL has demonstrated remarkable strength, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our employees," Rizvi said.

Imran Abbasy, Managing Director and CEO, highlighted the company's significant accomplishments during the fiscal year 2023-24. PPL recorded it's highest-ever profit-after-tax of Rs114 billion and achieved unprecedented collections from customers. He further noted the successful discovery of gas and condensate at Jhim East X-1 in the Shah Bandar Block, alongside four other partner-operated discoveries, underscoring PPL's robust exploration capabilities.

PPL's exploration portfolio continues to thrive with 48 assets, including offshore blocks in Pakistan and Abu Dhabi, and an onshore lease in Yemen.

Abbasy reported substantial progress in Abu Dhabi's Offshore Block-5, where two successful appraisal wells have been completed, and drilling of the first exploration well is underway.

On the production side, PPL sustained production at 713 mmscfde, despite natural declines in mature fields, excess LNG line pressure, and lower off takes by GENCO-II. This performance was bolstered by drilling seven development wells and implementing successful rig-less production enhancement initiatives.

In the minerals sector, PPL is advancing through strategic partnerships, such as the joint venture with Degan Exploration Works to develop resources in Balochistan. The Barite, Lead & Zinc (BLZ) Project, under Bolan Mining Enterprises, is positioned for substantial long-term growth. Additionally, the Reko Diq Project is progressing, with the feasibility study expected by December 2024 and production anticipated by 2028.

PPL remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of health, safety, and environmental protection. The company achieved a stellar safety record with zero Lost Time Injuries and no Tier 1 spills reported during the year. As a signatory to the De-carbonization Charter at COP28, PPL is actively contributing to Pakistan's de-carbonization efforts. The company also continues to invest in community uplift through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes, allocating Rs3.7 billion to initiatives in healthcare, education, and disaster relief, benefiting underprivileged communities across the country.

BANKISLAMI REPORTS STRONG FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 9 MONTHS

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

LAHORE: BankIslami continues its growth trajectory, delivering substantial returns to its shareholders with a remarkable 33.6% increase in profit before tax for the nine-month ended September 2024. The Bank's profit before tax reached Rs19.9 billion, while its post-tax profit surged to Rs10.2 billion, reflecting a robust 20.5% growth. Despite challenging market conditions, BankIslami remains steadfast in its commitment to financial excellence.

A key highlight of this period was the significant rise in Non-Fund-based Income (NFI), which grew by nearly Rs1.3 billion compared to the same period last year. The NFI ratio to total income also improved, rising to 9.4% from 7% in the previous year, underscoring the Bank's strategic focus on diversified revenue streams.

In response to ongoing economic uncertainty, BankIslami strategically expanded its investment portfolio while prudently optimizing its financing portfolio. The investment portfolio reached Rs346.7 billion, while the gross financing portfolio saw a controlled reduction of 21.5%, settling at Rs199.5 billion. This strategic adjustment led to an increase in the infection ratio from 9% at the end of 2023 to 12.7% in the current period.

The Bank's deposit portfolio experienced significant growth, rising by 19.5% compared to the period ended September 30, 2023, and by 5.6% compared to December 31, 2023. This growth was largely fuelled by a 12.2% rise in Term Deposits since December 2023 bringing stability in deposit book. The CASA ratio also remained strong, maintained at 60%, reflecting growing consumer confidence, enhanced liquidity, and a strategic emphasis on expanding trade finance and other business avenues.

With heightened profitability and a strengthened credit risk profile, BankIslami's Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) stood at an impressive 29.16%, well above the regulatory threshold of 11.50%.

MG REVEALS INNOVATIVE VEHICLES AT PAPS AUTO SHOW 2024

Sponsored Content Published October 25, 2024

MG Motor, the iconic British automotive brand with nearly a century-long legacy of design and innovation, made a significant mark at the PAPS Auto Show 2024. Held at the Lahore Expo Centre, this highly anticipated event saw the unveiling of two revolutionary models – the MG HS PHEV and the MG Cyberster – which promise to redefine the future of mobility in Pakistan.

A legacy of automotive excellence

Founded in 1924, MG has long been synonymous with British automotive excellence. With sporty designs and state-of-the-art technology, MG's commitment to pushing the boundaries of innovation remains steadfast.

Now under the ownership of SAIC Motor International, the world's fifth-largest auto manufacturer, MG continues its mission as a pioneer in electric vehicles (EVs) worldwide.

Game-changing launch at PAPS Auto Show

The PAPS Auto Show 2024 served as the ideal platform for MG to demonstrate its vision for Pakistan's automotive future. The brand's showcase featured the MG HS PHEV, the first locally assembled plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) in Pakistan, alongside the MG Cyberster, a trailblazing all-electric sports car. Both models captivated attendees with their combination of cutting-edge technology, sustainability, and performance.

The event was graced by key figures in the automotive industry, including CEO Amir Nazir, GM Marketing Asif Ahmed, and one of the directors, Ahmad Afridi.

Attendees experienced MG's vision firsthand, with realistic "passports" as exclusive entry passes, inviting them to explore the future of driving at the MG booth.

MG HS PHEV: Pakistan's first locally assembled PHEV

The MG HS PHEV marks a significant milestone as the first plug-in hybrid electric vehicle assembled locally in Pakistan. Manufactured at MG's fourth Global KD plant in Lahore, which was built with a $100 million investment, this model represents the brand's commitment to advancing eco-friendly technology in the country.

The vehicle boasts a 16.6 kWh battery, offering a pure electric range of over 50 km, ideal for daily commutes. It achieves an impressive fuel efficiency of 58.8 km/L, delivering 280 hp and accelerating from 0-100 km/h in just 7.1 seconds.

The MG HS PHEV's 10-speed transmission and 12.1-inch virtual cockpit provide advanced tech features, while the luxurious Monaco Blue interior adds an extra touch of sophistication.

MG Cyberster: a visionary electric sports car

The MG Cyberster, the world's first soft-top convertible electric sports car, perfectly blends MG's roadster heritage with futuristic design. The Cyberster features iconic scissor doors and boasts a powerful 496 hp, capable of accelerating from 0-100 km/h in just 3.2 seconds.

With a range of 545 km on a full charge and a rapid 38-minute recharge time, it offers both thrilling performance and practical range for long journeys.

Designed for driving enthusiasts, the Cyberster comes equipped with 14 MG Pilot safety and driver assistance features, providing an unmatched level of safety and innovation. Pre-bookings are now open, allowing Pakistani consumers to secure their piece of automotive history.

Pioneering the future of mobility in Pakistan

MG's presence at the PAPS Auto Show 2024 underscores its commitment to revolutionizing the automotive landscape in Pakistan. As a pioneer in electric and hybrid vehicles, MG continues to set new benchmarks in the local industry by offering global standards of safety, technology, and sustainability. The launch of the MG HS PHEV and MG Cyberster is just the beginning of the brand's journey in Pakistan, with plans to continue introducing advanced vehicles that cater to diverse driving needs.

OGDC'S PROFIT DOWN 16% IN 1QFY25 AMID LOWER SALES

BR Web Desk Published October 25, 2024

Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), the country's largest exploration and production (E&P) company, reported a profit-after-tax (PAT) of Rs41.02 billion for the quarter ended September 30, 2024.

Earnings registered a decline of over 16% as compared to Rs49.03 billion in the same period of the previous year (SPLY), showed the E&P's latest financial results provided to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday.

The board of directors met on October 25 to review the company's financial and operational performance and also approved an interim cash dividend of Rs3 per share i.e. 30%.

Earnings per share (EPS) were recorded at Rs9.54 in 1QFY25 as compared to EPS of Rs11.40 in SPLY.

The decline in profit comes amid a decline in sales during the period.

OGDC's profit down 7% in FY24 despite higher sales

During the period, ODGCL's revenue from contracts with customers declined to Rs106.01 billion compared to Rs120.1 billion in SPLY, which is down by nearly 12%.

The E&P's gross profit registered a drop of 16%, clocking in at Rs65.8 billion in 1QFY25, compared to Rs77.9 billion in FY23.

Resultantly, the company's profit margin dropped to 62% in 1QFY25, as compared to 65% in same period previous year

During the period, the E&P's saw a significant improvement of over 58% in its other income, which stood at Rs25.7 billion in 1QFY25, as compared to Rs16.3 billion in 1QFY24.

The company's exploration and prospecting expenses increased by over 46%.

OGDCL's share of profit in associates clocked in at Rs3.24 billion in 1QFY25, compared to Rs2.99 billion in SPLY, an increase of nearly 9%.

OGDCL profit before tax clocked in at Rs83.12 billion in 1QFY25, registering a decrease of nearly 4% year-on-year.

Consequently, the E&P paid lower income tax to the tune of Rs32.6 billion in 1QFY25, as compared to Rs37.1 billion in SPLY, a decline of over 12%.

OGDCL was incorporated on 23 October 1997 under the Companies Ordinance, 1984. The company was established to undertake exploration and development of oil and gas resources, including production and sale of oil and gas and related activities formerly carried on by Oil and Gas Development Corporation, which was established in 1961.

LOTTE CHEMICAL'S PROFIT PLUNGES 75% IN 3QCY24

BR Web Desk Published October 25, 2024

Despite higher revenue, Lotte Chemical Pakistan Limited (LOTCHEM), a subsidiary of South Korean chemical giant Lotte Chemical Corporation (LCC), saw its profit-after-tax (PAT) plunge by 75%, clocking in at Rs494.94 million for the quarter ending September 30, 2024 compared to PAT of Rs1.99 billion in same period of the previous year (SPPY).

The profit decline is attributed to a rise in the cost of sales.

The Board of Directors (BoD) of the listed company in a meeting held on Friday reviewed the company's financial performance for the period ended on September 30, 2024.

As per the latest financials, the company's earnings per share (EPS) stood at Re0.33 per share in 3QCY24, against Rs1.31 per share in SPLY.

LOTCHEM's net revenue increased by over 4% to Rs24.6 billion in 3QCY24, as compared to Rs23.6 billion recorded in the previous year.

Lotte Chemical's profit plunges 50% in 2023

However, despite higher revenues, the company's gross profit stood at Rs1.04 billion in 3QCY24, as compared to Rs3.41 billion in SPPY, a drop of over 69%. The drop in profit comes on account of increase in cost of sales, which jumped by 17% year-on-year in 3QCY24.

Resultantly, LOTCHEM's profit margin reduced to 4.2% in 3QCY24, in comparison to 14.5% in 3QCY23.

During the period, the company's administrative expenses increased by 22%, reaching Rs190.6 million in 3QCY24, compared to Rs156.2 million in SPLY.

On the other hand, LOTCHEM's other income stood at Rs274.7 million in 3QCY24, down by 61% compared to Rs700.5 million in SPPY.

Consequently, the company's registered a profit before tax of Rs819.1 million in 3QCY24, as compared to Rs3.21 billion in SPPY, a fall of nearly 75%.

During the period, the chemical maker paid taxes to the tune of Rs324 million, as compared to Rs1.23 billion in SPPY.

Lotte Chemical Pakistan Limited was incorporated in Pakistan on 30 May 1998 under the Companies Ordinance, 1984. The principal activity of the Company is to manufacture and sale of Pure Terephthalic Acid (PTA).

100PC SHAREHOLDING IN TELENOR, ORION TOWERS: CCP TO ADDRESS CONCERNS IN PTCL'S PROPOSED ACQUISITION

Sohail Sarfraz Published October 25, 2024

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) remains committed to addressing concerns in the ongoing Phase II Merger Review of PTCL's proposed acquisition of 100 percent shareholding in Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited and Orion Towers (Private) Limited.

The review is being conducted by a distinguished Bench, led by Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, alongside Members Salman Amin and Abdul Rashid Sheikh.

During day-long hearing Wateen reiterated its objections to the merger, expressing concerns about its potential negative impact on the competitive balance in the market.

Jazz emphasized the need for specific conditions, such as those applied in the Warid merger, to be considered by the CCP. They urged for regulations on interconnection and tariffs to ensure a level playing field for all CMOs.

In an in-depth analysis, the CCP has thus far held five extensive hearings, beginning on September 30, 2024, with subsequent hearings on October 2nd, 3rd, 22nd, and 24th, 2024. The Bench posed critical questions regarding the potential impacts of the merger, ensuring thorough scrutiny of the competitive dynamics in the telecom sector.

Chairman CPP, having international experience of dealing in competition issues, is looking extensively into all aspects of this merger to safeguard the interests of stakeholders.

During the most recent hearing, Senior Counsel for PTCL Rahat Kaunain Hassan accompanied by Counsel for PTCL Mariam Saleem Malik presented responses to the concerns raised by Wateen, Jazz, and CM Pak (Zong) in earlier hearings. The CCP Bench facilitated discussions, offering all stakeholders, including PTCL, Wateen, Jazz, and Telenor, the opportunity to provide their respective comments.

During the hearing, the PTCL presented data showing that Merger Co would not dominate the market post-transaction, with Jazz remaining the largest in terms of subscribers. PTCL argued that the merger would promote competition by narrowing the gap between the top players—from 12.37 percent to 0.35 percent —thereby fostering a more balanced market.

Khalid Ibrahim, External Legal Counsel, Jazz emphasized Jazz's concerns about frequency allocation, stressing that PTCL already holds a strong position in upstream markets, including spectrum, infrastructure, and IP bandwidth, which could further bolster its dominance post-merger.

PTCL emphasized the merger's competitive benefits, particularly highlighting the expected reduction in the market share gap between the two leading players. PTCL also addressed potential risks of input and customer foreclosure, outlining the evaluation principles, while highlighting the merger's efficiencies, including cost savings, increased network capacity, accelerated technological advancements, and the roll-out of 5G services. PTCL assured the Bench that the Merge Co would fully comply with the Spectrum Sharing Framework, once issued by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), thereby adhering to all regulatory requirements.

Jazz and Wateen, in turn, reiterated their concerns over critical industry matters, particularly tariff regulations, infrastructure sharing, national roaming, and the operations of Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs).

Throughout the proceedings, CCP officials, including Shahzad Hussain (Director General/Registrar), Barrister Ambreen Abbasi, Hafiz Naeem, Arshad Javed (Legal Department), Marryum Pervaiz (HoD Merger Department), Noman Ahmed (Merger Department), raised pertinent questions, ensuring a comprehensive review process.

The CCP is committed to ensure that any potential competitive risks arising from the merger are fully addressed, safeguarding market competition and consumer welfare.

During the hearing, PTCL made a compelling case before the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) regarding its 100 percent acquisition of TP and Orion Towers, highlighting its benefits for competition, the country's technological advancement and consumer welfare. PTCL assured regulators that the acquisition complies with the legal framework, ensuring no harm to competition, in fact enhancing competition by placing itself as a close rival to current market leader Jazz.

Wateen's attempt to redefine markets in relation to the merger was strongly contested by PTCL's counsel, who argued that market definitions are determined by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) through a consultative process. They stressed that such definitions should not be altered to protect competitors but should reflect industry realities set by the regulator.

Addressing spectrum issues, PTCL confirmed that its post-merger spectrum holdings not only align with domestic and international standards they are in proportion to increase in subscriber base. The company also noted that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) will auction additional spectrum in 2025, further opening opportunities for the industry.

Counsel for PTCL, Madam Rahat Kaunain and Mariam Saleem, stressed that this acquisition will accelerate the roll-out of 5G technology in Pakistan, improve connectivity, and enhance service quality. With streamlined operations and more efficient use of spectrum, PTCL aims to deliver faster, more reliable networks, helping Pakistan catch up with global technology trends. The merger is positioned as a vital step in modernizing the country's telecommunications infrastructure, fostering economic growth, and enhancing digital services for consumers nationwide.

Rahat Kaunain Hassan, senior Counsel PTCL stated that the pre-merger application is focused on PTCL's acquisition of Telenor Pakistan (TP). After this acquisition, TP will become a subsidiary, and PTCL will then proceed towards a more detailed amalgamation scheme. She indicated that more information on this will be provided later as the process evolves.

Responses to Stakeholders' Concerns: Rahat provided point-by-point responses to concerns raised by stakeholders like Wateen, Jazz, and CM Pak. This included addressing issues related to market dynamics and the anticipated effects of the merger on competition.

Chairman CCP Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu raised questions to PTCL regarding the thoroughness of their due diligence process, seeking clarity on their evaluation methods during the transaction.

Shabbir Harianawala, counsel, Telenor reiterated Telenor's rationale for the merger, emphasizing the transaction's alignment with Telenor's strategic plan and global objectives, including efficiency improvements and market positioning.

Ambreen Abbasi, Senior Legal Advisor highlighted specific clauses in the CCP's Merger Regulations, emphasizing the Commission's mandate and scope in evaluating the proposed merger under the competition law.

Rahat addressed the challenges in providing detailed data for analysis at the current stage, particularly concerning the amalgamation process and its implications.

The PTCL underscored that the definition of relevant markets follows PTA regulations, which involve detailed data analysis, transaction scope assessments, and a methodology that considers practical indicators to define market boundaries.

PTCL and other parties discussed the potential risks of input and customer foreclosure, where PTCL could theoretically disadvantage competitors. However, PTCL referenced international cases, arguing that PTA's regulation minimizes these risks and that any claims of harm must be backed by substantial evidence, not just assumptions.

The PTCL committed to complying with the forthcoming PTA Spectrum Sharing Framework, ensuring that any spectrum-sharing requests from new market entrants would be handled fairly and without discrimination.

PTCL assured that it would uphold all agreements with infrastructure-sharing partners, ensuring uninterrupted services for other operators during any site or network changes, in line with existing contracts and regulations.

PTCL highlighted expected benefits, including cost savings, increased network capacity, faster technological advancements, and an accelerated 5G rollout, which could enhance overall service quality for consumers.

Fuel & Energy

ASIAN SPOT LNG PRICES RISE ON SUPPLY CONCERNS, GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

LONDON: Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) recorded its second weekly gain since the end of August, amid concerns over supply disruptions due to geopolitical tensions and lower feedgas volumes at US terminals undergoing planned maintenances.

The average LNG price for December delivery into north-east Asia rose to $13.80 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), up form $13.50/mmBtu last week, industry sources estimated.

“Prices are holding firm, with the market continuing to balance at high levels amid ongoing demand and geopolitical tensions,” said Alex Froley, senior LNG analyst at data intelligence firm ICIS.

US production has dipped over the week, with reductions at the Cameron and Sabine Pass terminals due to planned maintenance, he added.

Asian prices also tracked European gas prices at the Dutch TTF hub, which hit a 10-month high on concerns over supply disruption due to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and in Ukraine.

“For now, JKM (the Asian benchmark), just keeps up pace with geopolitical developments in other regions as TTF seems to have a slight premium over JKM when corrected for shipping and insurance,” said Klaas Dozeman, market analyst at Brainchild Commodity Intelligence.

“The geopolitical increase of oil makes oil-indexed LNG a bit more expensive, thereby slightly intensifying the spot demand for LNG,” he said, adding that investors are increasingly likely accounting for a longer war in the Middle East.

Qatar LNG sales to key Asian markets confronted by US-UAE rivalry

In Europe, delivered LNG prices rose over the week, lifted by gains at downstream gas hubs which came from several drivers including an unplanned outage at Norway’s Sleipner field and adjustments to heating demand expectations for later this month and through November, said Samuel Good, head of LNG pricing at commodity pricing agency Argus.

S&P Global Commodity Insights assessed its daily North West Europe LNG Marker (NWM) price benchmark for cargoes delivered in December on an ex-ship (DES) basis at $13.196/mmBtu on Oct. 24, a $0.25/mmBtu discount to the December gas price at the Dutch TTF hub.

Argus assessed the price for December delivery at $13.240/mmBtu, while Spark Commodities assessed the price for November delivery at $13.104/mmBtu.

In LNG freight, the Atlantic rates dropped for a fifth consecutive week to $20,750/day on Friday, while the Pacific rates continued to decline for an eleventh straight week to $36,750/day.

“Freight rates in both basins continue to be at their lowest levels in five years for this time of year,” said Spark Commodities analyst Qasim Afghan.

Argus’ Samuel Good said that the subsequent weakening of the freight market has further increased the number of firms incentivised to offer Atlantic cargoes to Asia.

OIL SET FOR 3% WEEKLY GAIN, INVESTORS WEIGH MIDDLE EAST RISK

Reuters Published October 25, 2024

HOUSTON: Oil prices were on track to gain around 3% on the week as Friday’s prices ticked up, with investors taking stock of a planned resumption in Gaza ceasefire talks in the coming days amid ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Brent crude futures was up 70 cents, or 0.94%, at $75.08 a barrel by 11:12 a.m. EDT.

US West Texas Intermediate crude rose 67 cents, or 0.95%, to $70.86.

Brent was set for a 2.8% weekly gain and WTI was on track for a 2.4% rise on the week.

Both benchmarks have fluctuated this week, rising on Monday and Tuesday before falling on Wednesday and Thursday, largely on expectations of heightened or reduced Middle East risk.

“Geopolitics is the leading force today that we are seeing, otherwise we are just waiting to see what happens with the (US) election, and what direction that will push markets in,” said Tim Snyder, chief economist at Matador Economics.

An Israeli strike killed three journalists in south Lebanon on Friday, Lebanon’s health ministry said, and the UN refugee agency warned that Israeli airstrikes on a border crossing with Syria were hindering refugees trying to flee the war.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was a real sense of urgency in getting to a diplomatic resolution to end the conflict in Lebanon between Israel and Iran-aligned Hezbollah, while calling for the protection of civilians.

US and Israeli officials are set to restart talks for a ceasefire and the release of hostages in Gaza in the coming days. Investors continue to await Israel’s response to an Iranian missile attack on Oct. 1.

A response could involve strikes on Tehran's oil infrastructure, though media reports last week said Israel would strike military rather than nuclear or oil targets.

Oil prices fall on uncertainty

Elsewhere, traders are also seeking more clarity on China's stimulus policies, though analysts do not expect such measures to provide a major boost to oil demand.

Goldman Sachs on Thursday left its oil price forecasts unchanged at between $70 and $85 a barrel for Brent in 2025, expecting the impact from any Chinese stimulus to be modest relative to bigger drivers such as Middle East oil supply.

Bank of America is forecasting Brent crude to average $75 a barrel in 2025 without any rolling back of OPEC+ production cuts into next year, it said in a note on Friday.

"Market participants remain fundamentally torn between supply risks due to the tense situation in the Middle East and demand concerns," Commerzbank analysts said.

NTDC INSTALLS 4TH 250MVA AUTOTRANSFORMER AT 500 KV GRID STATION

Recorder Report Published October 25, 2024

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has successfully energized its fourth 250 MVA autotransformer at the 500 kV Grid Station Sheikhupura to enhance power transmission capacity.

The Project Delivery (North) Lahore team has completed the replacement of the existing 160 MVA, 220/132 kV autotransformer (T-6) with a new 250 MVA 220/132 kV autotransformer. This work was a part of World Bank funded National Transmission Modernization Project (NTMP-1).

This capacity enhancement will boost the grid station`s power transmission capabilities, which will ensure reliable supply of electricity to the region. The upgraded infrastructure will directly benefit domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers served by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) through improved power supply stability and reduced transmission constraints.

Deputy Managing Director (P&E), Engr. Qaiser Khan and Deputy Managing Director (AD&M), Engr. Rasheed A. Bhutto commended the Project Delivery (North) Lahore team for their efficient execution and early completion of this critical infrastructure project before the maximum allowed shutdown period.

Markets - Rates

PSX ACHIEVES A HISTORIC MILESTONE

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: The record breaking trend continued on Pakistan Stock Exchange as the market hit new historic highest-ever level on Friday on the back of investosr strong interest coupled with institutional support.

The benchmark KSE-100 Index surged by 1,047.98 points or 1.18 percent and closed at new highest-ever level of 89,993.97 points. The index crossed 90,000 historic level to hit 90,593.61 points intraday highest-ever level however closed at slightly lower level due to profit-taking in some stocks.

The daily trading volumes on ready counter stood at 695.544 million shares as compared to 757.648 million shares traded on Thursday while total daily traded value on the ready counter increased to Rs 37.873 billion against previous session’s Rs 36.047 billion.

BRIndex100 increased by 67.86 points or 0.71 percent to close at 9,653.93 points with total daily turnover of 586.682 million shares.

BRIndex30 closed at 28,713.18 points, down 78.06 points or 0.27 percent with total daily trading volumes of 377.895 million shares.

The market capitalization increased by Rs 97 billion to Rs 11.689 trillion. Out of total 457 active scrips, 222 closed in negative and 181 in positive while the value of 54 stocks remained unchanged.

Fauji Foods was the volume leader with 57.561 million shares and gained Rs 0.78 to close at Rs 10.01 followed by K-Electric that lost Rs 0.24 to close at Rs 4.58 with 41.399 million shares. Sui Southern Gas Company increased by Rs 1.03 to close at Rs 11.98 with 38.036 million shares.

Rafhan Maize Products Company and Unilever Pakistan Foods were the top gainers increasing by Rs 371.44 and Rs 229.44 respectively to close at Rs 7,400.00 and Rs 18,685.00 while Sapphire Textile Mills and Nestle Pakistan were the top losers declining by Rs 73.47 and Rs 59.84 respectively to close at Rs 1,101.53 and Rs 6,565.12.

Ahsan Mehanti at Arif Habib Corporation said stocks closed to new all-time high led by selected blue chip scrips in oil, banking and fertilizer sectors on strong financial results and expected major cut in SBP key policy rate next week.

He said FM affirmation for privatisation of SOEs, rationalising PSDP, $1.0 billion sought for IMF climate fund, and falling lending rates played a catalyst role in bullish activity in PSX.

BR Automobile Assembler Index declined by 183.89 points or 1.02 percent to close at 17,892.59 points with total turnover of 9.604 million shares.

BR Cement Index surged by 350.21 points or 3.83 percent to close at 9,484.00 points with 91.855 million shares.

BR Commercial Banks Index increased by 298.73 points or 1.2 percent to close at 25,277.32 points with 33.384 million shares.

BR Power Generation and Distribution Index plunged by 463.06 points or 3.0 percent to close at 14,990.52 points with 61.282 million shares.

BR Oil and Gas Index soared by 148.43 points or 1.74 percent to close at 8,664.20 points with 120.077 million shares.

BR Tech. & Comm. Index decreased by 69.66 points or 1.63 percent to close at 4,199.67 points with 88.170 million shares.

"Continuing its momentum KSE-100 Index extended its gain by 1.18 percent to close at 89,994 level, just shy of 90,000 psychological level," an analyst at Topline Securities said.

Good corporate result announcements also provided stimulus to the market – where PSO (highest traded value wise scrip – Rs.5.09 billion) from the OMC Sector announced its 3Q2024 result announcement in at Rs 8.46, which was better than street estimate on account lower than expected inventory losses; following the result announcement it garnered investor interest to close at Rs 224.98 (up by 9.58 percent).

KIBOR INTERBANK OFFERED RATES

KARACHI: Kibor interbank offered rates on Friday (October 25, 2024). ========================== KIBOR...

Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: Kibor interbank offered rates on Friday (October 25, 2024).

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           KIBOR
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Tenor         BID     OFFER
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1-Week       17.34    17.84
2-Week       17.07    17.57
1-Month      16.57    17.07
3-Month      14.81    15.06
6-Month      13.87    14.12
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9-Month      13.69    14.19
1-Year       13.30    13.80
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Data source: SBP

OPEN MARKET FOREX RATES

Updated at: 26/10/2024 7:50 AM (PST)

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.75	186.00
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.60	203.00
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	298.20	300.95
Hong Kong Dollar	35.3	35.65
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.87	906.37
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
NewZealand $	165.23	167.23
Norwegians Krone	24.96	25.26
Omani Riyal	715.20	723.70
Qatari Riyal	75.45	76.15
Saudi Riyal	73.60	74.15
Singapore Dollar	208.64	210.64
Swedish Korona	26.46	26.76
Swiss Franc	319.11	321.91
Thai Bhat	8.15	8.3
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	75.90
UK Pound Sterling	357.15	360.65
US Dollar	277.20	278.70

Index

INTER BANK RATES

Updated at: 26/10/2024 7:50 AM (PST)

Currency	**Bank Buying TT Clean**	**Bank Selling TT & OD**
Australian Dollar	183.94	184.27
Canadian Dollar	200.51	200.87
China Yuan	39.33	39.40
Danish Krone	40.30	40.37
Euro	300.62	301.16
Hong Kong Dollar	35.88	35.94
Japanese Yen	1.8314	1.8347
Saudi Riyal	73.97	74.10
Singapore Dollar	210.58	210.96
Swedish Korona	26.41	26.46
Swiss Franc	320.55	321.13
Thai Bhat	8.22	8.24
UK Pound Sterling	360.08	360.73
US Dollar	277.75	278.25

GOLD RATE

Bullion / Gold Price Today

As on Sat, Oct 26 2024, 02:58 GMT

Metal	Symbol	PKR for 10 Gm	PKR for 1 Tola	PKR for 1 Ounce	
Gold	XAU	243,924	284,211	758,702	
Palladium	XPD	103,763	120,901	322,744	
Platinum	XPT	91,351	106,439	284,139	
Silver	XAG	2,994	3,488	9,311	

for local market Gold Rates in Pakistan

Gold Price in Pakistan

As on Sat, Oct 26 2024, 02:58 GMT

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
per Tola Gold	Rs. 284200	Rs. 260515	Rs. 248675	Rs. 213150
per 10 Gram	Rs. 243700	Rs. 223390	Rs. 213238	Rs. 182775
per Gram Gold	Rs. 24370	Rs. 22339	Rs. 21324	Rs. 18278
per Ounce	Rs. 690900	Rs. 633320	Rs. 604538	Rs. 518175

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.

* 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	6,252	7,285	19,446	
Euro	EUR	813	947	2,528	
Japanese Yen	JPY	133,370	155,398	414,834	
Saudi Riyal	SAR	3,293	3,837	10,243	
U.A.E Dirham	AED	3,225	3,758	10,031	
UK Pound Sterling	GBP	677	789	2,107	
US Dollar	USD	878	1,023	2,731	