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SLD NEWS UPDATES

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Budget in focus 2025-26

KE'S TURNING POINT

BR Research Published about 4 hours ago

Finally, NEPRA has announced the Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) for K-Electric's Transmission and Distribution Network segments for FY2024 to FY2030 (MYT period). This is a welcome development. It unlocks value for the company and provides an opportunity for the integrated power utility to meet Karachi's growing energy needs in a sustainable manner.

While the approval of the supply tariff is still pending, this move clears part of the uncertainty surrounding the company's financials. Stakeholders and financiers can now breathe a partial sigh of relief. It is worth noting that the MYT for the supply segment and the motion for the review of the approved Investment Plan for the MYT period are currently under NEPRA's consideration. This is a critical requirement for the preparation of financial statements for the period after June 30, 2023, according to a notice posted on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

It is important to highlight, however, that this component will not currently impact the consumer tariff, which remains uniform across Pakistan and is determined by the federal power regulator. Nonetheless, despite the holdup, progress is evident as the government makes strides in the energy sector—particularly ahead of its plan to privatize other DISCOs.

K-Electric's supply tariff and pending write-offs should be the next items on the agenda. Over Rs75 billion remains unresolved in the form of write-offs. While other DISCOs are allowed to transfer their losses to the government's account, K-Electric must absorb its write-offs and wait for regulatory approval. This is despite KE having shown considerable progress in recovering outstanding dues and exhausting all other avenues.

Meanwhile, the government has announced the allocation of 2,000 megawatts of electricity in the first phase of a national initiative to power bitcoin mining and AI data centers. In this context, ensuring that the power sector operates efficiently and remains under control must be a top priority. The power sector is the backbone of any economy, and it must be agile to respond effectively to government policy changes. Agility comes from proactive engagement, swift decision-making, and inclusive stakeholder involvement.

The government has also prioritized renewable energy. In that pursuit, efficiency and cost-effectiveness should be the main criteria—even for KE projects. If KE's projects offer better outcomes, they should be prioritized accordingly.

As the government pushes forward with energy sector reforms and the privatization of other DISCOs, KE is already demonstrating successful transformation. The challenge for KE is to continue showing resilience and to leverage its experience in managing the complex energy demands of Karachi while navigating Pakistan's broader power sector challenges. It has already

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gained international recognition. Now is the time for the government to support and collaborate with KE to power Pakistan's economic hub. This goal cannot be achieved without a financially viable, sustainable, and efficient K-Electric.

RETHINKING FOOD TAXES

BR Research Published about 4 hours ago

As the Federal Budget FY26 approaches, existing and proposed fiscal measures—such as Rs.15/kg Federal Excise Duty (FED) on sugar sold to manufacturers and the proposed 5 percent FED on over 50 ultra-processed food items—warrant reconsideration.

While such measures may be presented as public health or revenue-generating tools, their real-world impact on the economy, consumers, and the formal sector tells a different tale. At their core, these levies create a critically uneven competitive landscape—penalizing the tax-compliant formal sector while rewarding the tax-evading informal economy.

They make it harder for tax-paying companies to compete, while giving an advantage to informal businesses that don't pay taxes. This ends up harming the very goals the taxes are meant to achieve.

The country's formal sector already operates under a direct tax burden nearing 46 percent, in addition to municipal taxes, utility hikes, and regulatory compliance costs. Imposing an additional excise duty on a basic input like sugar—or processed food items in general—only amplifies their operational burden.

This is especially problematic at a time when inflation has been high and consumer spending power is shrinking. The unintended consequence of these taxes would be strengthening of the informal sector, which neither pays taxes nor complies with regulatory standards.

As formal manufacturers are forced to raise prices to absorb higher input costs, they are priced out of the market, losing ground to unregulated competitors offering cheaper alternatives. This shift erodes not only formal employment and quality assurance but also reduces the overall tax base.

The excise duty on processed foods will inevitably be passed on to consumers—raising prices of everyday staples like biscuits, juices, frozen foods, and ready-to-eat meals. In a country where the average household spends a disproportionately large share of its income on food, these increases are economically damaging. The price sensitivity of Pakistani consumers in a volatile economic is likely to provoke dissatisfaction and pushback.

Yes, many developed countries—such as France, the UK, and Chile—have imposed health-based taxes on sugary drinks and ultra-processed foods to address obesity and lifestyle-related diseases. However, those countries have robust public healthcare systems, subsidize healthier

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food options, and use revenues to fund health and education programs. In contrast, Pakistan currently lacks such safety nets.

While the long-term health rationale may be valid, the majority of Pakistanis do not have affordable access to healthier alternatives. Increasing prices on accessible, calorie-rich staples like biscuits may push low-income households toward even less nutritious, unregulated options, worsening public health rather than improving it. It's also important to note that biscuits are not ultra-processed foods—they are baked items, commonly consumed as affordable energy sources, especially by lower-income groups.

The formal food sector, which invests heavily in quality control, supply chain integrity, and employment, is placed at a severe disadvantage. A shrinking consumer base and falling sales due to price hikes will reduce profitability and investment capacity, leading to lower tax contributions, job losses, and a potential contraction in industrial activity.

Globally, countries take two main routes when taxing processed foods: health-based taxes in developed countries aim to reduce consumption of specific harmful ingredients (such as the UK's Soft Drink Levy and Hungary's public health tax), while revenue-based taxes in developing economies often prioritize collection over outcomes, lacking a clear link to health policy.

Pakistan's current approach seems to fall in the latter category—revenue-driven without the health infrastructure to support its goals. More concerning is that it targets a sector already under pressure, without introducing complementary policies.

The recent news that the government may remove the sugar FED in FY26 is a positive move. If the government recognizes how harmful this tax is for businesses, jobs, and prices, then it should also reconsider the plan to tax ultra-processed foods.

Pakistan's tax policy needs to balance raising revenue with the country's economic realities. Flat taxes on sugar and processed foods hurt formal businesses, push up prices, make life harder for consumers, and give an unfair edge to the informal sector. Without affordable healthy options in place, these taxes end up doing more harm than good. This isn't the time for quick fixes in the name of health. Pakistan needs smart, targeted policies—not broad, harmful taxes.

FY2025-26: BUDGET ESTIMATES

Dr Hafiz A Pasha Published May 27, 2025 Updated about 4 hours ago

The federal and provincial budgets for 2025-26 are likely to be announced in early June. Already, the first review report by the IMF Staff, which was released on the 17th of May, contains detailed estimates of both; the likely fiscal outcome in 2024-25 and budget estimates for 2025-26.

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The objective of this article is to identify, first; the deviations in the projected outcome in 2024-25 from the original budget estimates and second, to examine the magnitude of the key fiscal indicators for 2025-26.

The budgetary outcome, according to the IMF Staff Report, is likely to be significantly better than originally envisaged. The budget deficit is estimated at Rs 6,486 billion, as compared to the initially targeted level of Rs 7,344 billion. This is perhaps the first time in many years we are likely to see this type of positive outcome. The budget deficit in 2024-25 is estimated at 5.6 percent of the GDP, as compared to the initial budget estimates of 6 percent of the GDP.

How has this favorable outcome been achieved? It is primarily due to a significant containment of expenditure by Rs 1132 billion and a quantum jump in non-tax revenues of Rs 1614 billion. The steep reduction in interest rates in 2024-25 is likely to lead to a saving in the cost of debt servicing by as much as Rs 914 billion.

The position on the revenue side is a projected shortfall in 2024-25 of only Rs 274 billion, despite a shortfall in FBR revenues of Rs 581 billion. Other sources of revenues are expected to yield Rs 307 billion higher revenues than originally targeted.

The efforts by the government in restricting the size of the budget deficit to below the initially projected levels must be recognized, as has been done by the IMF. A large primary surplus of over 2 percent of the GDP is likely to be generated in 2024-25.

Turning to the budget estimates for 2025-26, the first impression from the numbers in the IMF staff report is that the federal and provincial budgets for 2025-26 will not be expansionary in character, as in 2024-25. Total expenditure of the federal and provincial governments combined is targeted to increase by only 5.5 percent on 2025-26. This implies a fall in the public expenditure to GDP ratio from 21.6 percent of the GDP in 2024-25 to 20.3 percent of the GDP in 2025-26.

Total current expenditure is anticipated to fall by 1.1 percent of the GDP. Interest payments are expected to be lower by 1 percent of the GDP, with the SBP policy rate down already to only 11 percent. Subsidies and grants are also expected to be lower in absolute terms. Development expenditure is targeted to stay at 2.5 percent of the GDP.

The revenue estimates for 2025-26 are also more on the conservative side. The target growth rate of total revenues in 2024-25 was as high as 40 percent. It has apparently now been set in agreement with the IMF at close to only 15 percent.

FBR revenues were projected to increase substantially by 39 percent in 2024-25. The actual increase is estimated at 32 percent. The big decline is anticipated in federal non-tax revenues in 2025-26. The SBP profits reached a peak level of Rs 2,500 billion in 2024-25. The quantum fall in interest rates implies that they will be much lower in 2025-26. Consequently, non-tax revenues are likely to fall by 33 percent.

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Based on low growth rates in total expenditure and total revenues of 5.5 percent and 6.9 percent respectively, the overall budget deficit is expected to show a 1.6 percent only change in magnitude in 2025-26. This implies that it will be 5.1 percent of the GDP in 2025-26, as compared to 5.6 percent of the GDP in 2024-25. The primary surplus will be somewhat lower at 1.6 percent of the GDP.

There is a need for an assessment of the key budgetary magnitudes for 2025-26 in the IMF Staff Report. We focus initially on the expenditure side.

The first key magnitude is the level of defence spending in 2025-26, in the presence of the military confrontation between Pakistan and India. The provision made in the Staff Report is for an increase of 12.2 percent, with the level of expenditure on defense services rising to Rs 2,414 billion. This implies an increase in absolute terms of Rs 262 billion. It is likely that a provision will have to be made for another Rs 300 billion.

The absolute decline of Rs 96 billion in the combined spending on subsidies and grants also appears to be too optimistic. In particular, a provision has to be made for inflation indexation of the cash transfers and increase in the coverage of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), in the presence of almost 110 million people now below the poverty line. Also, the slow pace of privatization of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) implies continuing increase in the burden placed on the federal budget by these entities

Overall, it is likely that there has been under-provisioning of federal current expenditure by about 0.7 percent of the GDP, equivalent to Rs 900 billion. This will raise the budget deficit to 5.8 percent of the GDP.

The projected level of revenues is also optimistic in nature. The problem starts with overestimation of FBR revenues in 2024-25 at Rs 12,332 billion. This implies a shortfall in relation to the target of Rs 581 billion. The shortfall has already exceeded Rs 820 billion in the first ten months of 2024-25. The more likely level of FBR revenues in 2024-25 is Rs 11,800 billion.

The targeted level is Rs 14,307 billion of FBR revenues in 2025-26, with the required growth rate of 21 percent. The normal increase is Rs 1,320 billion, in line with relatively low nominal GDP growth. As such, taxation proposals yielding Rs 1,200 billion will be required in the federal and provincial budgets.

The yield from the agricultural income tax will play a role in achieving this target. The target increase in provincial tax revenues in 2025-26 is Rs 236 billion, including the normal increase. This will have to be increased to Rs 500 billion to target for an increase initially in the yield from the agricultural income tax of Rs 350 billion. The full revenue potential of this tax has been estimated at Rs 880 billion in the recent RASTA project of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

However, in the event compliance in terms of payment of the tax is low, there may be a need to introduce withholding taxes, especially on large electricity bills. Further, focus will have to be on

broadening the base of the sales tax on services and on development of provincial property-related taxes like the urban immovable property tax and the capital value tax on property.

Overall, there appears to have been significant underestimation of expenditures and a likely overstatement of FBR revenues in 2025-26. This has led to the estimation of a lower budget deficit in 2025-26. Modification of the numbers in the IMF Staff Report imply that the likely budget deficit in 2025-26 is not 5.1 percent of the GDP, but significantly higher at almost 6.5 percent of the GDP. Consequently, the primary surplus will be a negligible magnitude, and may even turn negative.

The quality of financial management by both the federal and provincial governments will be tested in 2025-26. Already, there appears to be some difficulty in finalizing the budget for 2025-26, as demonstrated by extension of the date for presentation of the federal budget.

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PBF URGES GROWTH-FOCUSED BUDGET IN LIGHT OF REGIONAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION

N H Zuberi Published about 4 hours ago

KARACHI: The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has urged the government to present a growth-focused budget in light of the current regional and economic situation.

PBF President Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman stressed that the upcoming budget must prioritize economic stability instead of just revenue generation. He warned that imposing more taxes could lead to an economic slowdown and harm long-term national interests. A budget that focuses only on meeting tax targets without addressing business and inflation concerns could worsen public and industrial stress.

PBF also highlighted concerns over the government's reported plan to increase petroleum levy up to Rs100 per litre from July 1. Additionally, further taxation on electricity is being considered, which the forum believes will severely restrict economic activity. These measures, if implemented, could burden the already strained business sector and reduce industrial productivity. The forum believes such policies could discourage investment and delay recovery from the ongoing economic crisis. Businesses are already facing rising operational costs and shrinking margins.

According to the Pakistan Business Forum, the government is also considering increasing tax targets by Rs2,000 billion in the new fiscal year. This figure, in their view, is unrealistic given the fragile state of the economy. Such a heavy tax burden would be unfair to the business community, which is already dealing with inflation and uncertainty.

The forum recommended that the budget avoid new taxes and instead focus on relief for businesses and consumers. A more balanced approach could protect jobs and stabilize market conditions.

The upcoming budget, scheduled to be announced on June 10, should provide direct support to the business environment and offer genuine inflation relief.

The forum proposed reducing development expenditures and diverting those resources towards defence and economic recovery. They emphasized that the Ministry of Finance must acknowledge the exceptional nature of current challenges. Both the general public and national institutions cannot bear further inflation or instability. A responsible, supportive budget is essential for sustaining national strength.

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AURANGZEB SAYS BUDGET TO EXHIBIT 'BOLD INITIATIVES'

Obaid Abrar Published about 4 hours ago

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is preparing to introduce bold measures in the upcoming budget with a focus on strategic direction, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said Monday.

While addressing an event organised by Karandaaz Pakistan and Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) here, the finance minister said that budget is not just about revenue and expenditure, it has to provide the strategic direction of where the economy is, and where it is heading.

He added that rather than making the math work, the government intends to make the budget document more strategic.

Govt to introduce 'bold measures' in the upcoming budget, says Aurangzeb

The federal budget for FY2025-26 will be presented on June 10, 2025.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25 will be released on June 9, 2025.

Talking about the recent escalation of tensions between Pakistan and India, Aurangzeb said that these are very tense moments.

The entire nation has rightly celebrated the way our armed forces and political leadership have stood up against the aggression.

Aurangzeb shared that efforts were made to derail Pakistan's engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said, there was no stone left unturned in terms of ensuring that the meeting with the IMF does not happen. If the meeting does happen, then these items are not on the agenda, whether it is the second tranche under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the \$1.3 billion under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

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However, we are beyond that, and our case was discussed and decided on merit.

He said the unity shown by the nation against recent aggression is the same unity needed on the economic front.

On macroeconomic stability, Aurangzeb emphasised the need to avoid repeating past mistakes.

He said that we have achieved macroeconomic stability in yesteryears and in the previous decades as well, but we have squandered the opportunity.

Because it is easy to get into a sugar rush, i.e. pump liquidity into the market, go for consumption-led growth, which triggers balance of payment and FX issues.

He said that to break away from the boom and bust cycle, Pakistan needs to stay the course in terms of structural reforms.

Aurangzeb shared that the government remains committed to simplifying the tax return filing process for the salaried class. “70-80 per cent of the salaried class do not necessarily hold equity or income portfolios, why should they fill 140-150 measures?”

“We are trying to bring it down to nine items, five on the wealth and four on the income tax side.”

He said the government wants to implement the simplified process by the end of September.

On the SoE reforms, the finance minister admitted that this is one area where we did not do well last year.

He said that the government remains committed to accelerating reforms in this sector.

He confirmed the PIA transaction has been relaunched and expressed optimism about its completion. On debt servicing, Aurangzeb said in the ongoing fiscal the government debt servicing cost has decreased by Rs1 trillion. “Next year, we are going to restructure/reorganize our debt management office along the modern lines,” he said.

The finance minister was of the view that the ongoing structural reforms would put Pakistan’s economy “on a path of sustainable growth”.

Aurangzeb expressed optimism about Pakistan’s long-term economic trajectory.

Our economy has crossed the \$400 billion level. This shows we are moving in the right direction but to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, we need to mitigate two existential issues, i.e. population and climate.

He said four out of the six points under the 10-year Country Partnership Framework inked with the World Bank deal with climate and population.

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Speaking about the importance of the initiative, Syed Salim Raza, chairperson Karandaaz, said: “Karandaaz is proud to support Pakistan’s financial sector as it transitions toward purpose-driven finance. This training is part of our broader commitment to building the institutional capacity required to align with global investment standards and deliver measurable development outcomes. By strengthening local capabilities in impact measurement and sustainable finance, we are laying the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient financial system.”

Addressing the participants, Director Development BHC Islamabad Jo Moir stated, “This training underscores BHC’s long-term engagement with Pakistan’s financial sector. A decade ago, we supported the creation of Karandaaz as a special purpose impact finance vehicle. Today, it serves as a lighthouse for the sector, demonstrating scalable models for inclusive and sustainable finance.”

The workshop is being led by Alex MacGillivray, executive director at the JIM Foundation and a globally recognised expert in impact measurement. With a career spanning development finance institutions and advisory work international impact investors, MacGillivray has delivered a highly practical curriculum that blended theory with real-world applications.

“The idea was to move beyond traditional credit models and introduce a more purposeful financing approach, one that drives measurable outcomes alongside financial returns,” said MacGillivray. “With the right institutional momentum and leadership, Pakistan can play a key role in the global impact investing movement.”

The training is covering a comprehensive range of topics, including strategic intent, impact governance, portfolio-level impact design, impact at exit and independent validation. Participants are engaging in interactive case studies, peer learning sessions, and scenario-based exercises aimed at translating concepts into actionable strategies.

Articulating the sector’s commitment to sustainable finance, Muneer Kamal, CEO and Secretary General PBA, said, “Pakistan’s banking sector must lead from the front as we transition towards a more sustainable and impact-driven financial ecosystem. This partnership with MoF and Karandaaz reflects PBA’s commitment to strengthening sectoral readiness and aligning capital with long-term national priorities.”

This training reinforces the commitment by MoF, Karandaaz and PBA’s ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional capabilities in Pakistan’s financial sector and support the country’s transition toward sustainable, impact-oriented finance. As global standards for responsible investing continue to evolve, Karandaaz remains committed to equipping local actors with the tools and knowledge needed to access and manage development capital effectively.

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IMF IN DISAGREEMENT OVER KEY TARGETS, SUBSIDIES

Mushtaq Ghuman Published about 4 hours ago

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ISLAMABAD: The Finance Ministry said on Monday that the presentation of the Federal Budget 2025-26 has been delayed from June 2 to June 10 due to disagreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over key budgetary figures, including subsidy allocations.

During a session of the Sub-Committee of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, chaired by Khurshid Ahmed Junejo, Joint Secretary (Corporate Finance) Sajjad Azhar outlined the government's challenges in revising the budget figures.

The Sub-Committee is currently working to resolve the issue of outstanding receivables owed to the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), which total approximately Rs 317.5 billion. Of this, Rs 93.693 billion is principal, while Rs 223.797 billion is accrued markup.

Aurangzeb says IMF case approved 'on merit' despite disruption attempts

"As you know, Pakistan is under the IMF's Extended Fund Facility, which restricts any changes to the allocated funds in the budget," Azhar told the sub-committee. "The budget announcement has been delayed by a week because the Finance Ministry's figures are still under reconciliation. The IMF has placed a cap on subsidies," he added.

Azhar further noted that the IMF has declined to make any changes to the revised budget figures recently presented to the Fund's team.

The Sub-Committee held a detailed discussion on the TCP receivables. Tensions flared during the meeting between Sajjad Azhar and TCP Chairman Syed Rafeo Bashir Shah over the calculation of markup and loans obtained from commercial banks.

Chairman Shah maintained that TCP distributed imported wheat and urea in line with Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) directives, yet payments remain outstanding since 2010.

In response, Azhar stated that the ECC never approved covering the markup costs through the federal government. He added that the Finance Ministry has held five meetings with relevant stakeholders to reconcile the dues. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was also approached to persuade commercial banks to reduce markup rates. However, the SBP clarified that since the agreements are commercial, no relief could be extended.

The National Assembly panel urged the Finance Division to increase subsidy allocations to enable partial payment to TCP.

Azhar informed the committee that the Finance Ministry recently secured commercial loans for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) without any discounts. Similar arrangements are being considered to manage circular debt, with borrowing pegged at the Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (KIBOR) minus 0.2 percent. A summary on this matter is being submitted to the federal cabinet.

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He also mentioned that the Punjab government has committed to paying Rs 26 billion, while the federal government will release an equivalent amount next fiscal year. Additionally, Rs 15 billion will be disbursed to TCP on behalf of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) and National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) during the current fiscal year, pending release authorizations from the respective ministries. Another Rs 30 billion will be earmarked in the upcoming budget.

A representative from NFML stated that all dues, including markup, were cleared during 2023-24, and no further payments are pending.

After an in-depth discussion, the panel decided to release the undisputed amount of Rs 90 billion to TCP in the first phase. A mechanism will be developed to address the markup issue in the second phase. It was also decided that TCP will conduct a special audit of its commercial loans to identify any discrepancies.

panel members Shaista Pervaiz Malik and Rana Atif raised various concerns regarding the markup and called for swift resolution of outstanding payments.

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REDUCTION IN FED ON BEVERAGES LIKELY

Sohail Sarfraz Published about 4 hours ago

ISLAMABAD: The government is seriously considering reducing federal excise duty (FED) on beverages (aerated water) in the coming budget (2025-26) to attract foreign investment in this sector. Sources told BUSINESS RECORDER on Monday that budget markers are finalising the budget proposal in this regard.

Foreign investors including Turkish investors have promised more foreign direct investment in beverage sector in case of tax relief in the coming budget (2025-26).

Leading global players with Turkish and Korean franchise investors have invested over USD 2 billion in Pakistan since 2018.

Govt can't levy FED on alcoholic beverages: expert

However, no new investments have been made since 2023 due to the current fiscal environment. The industry contributes over Rs 175 billion in taxes annually (FED, GST, income tax, super tax) - one of the highest taxed sectors.

Both top multinational companies received High Tax Payer Awards from Prime Minister.

During recent meetings between the finance minister and the beverage industry, foreign investors are urging the government to reconsider the high tax burden on the beverage industry in the

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upcoming federal budget. They argued that the current taxation structure is stifling growth, discouraging investment, and pushing up consumer prices.

The finance minister has been informed that unprecedented hike of FED from 13 percent to 20 percent in 2023 resulted in a double-digit volume decline over two consecutive years (2023–2025); industry reverting to 2018 volume levels; 60 percent plant capacity utilisation, despite strong infrastructure and historical growth; investment of USD 300 million has been placed on hold since March 2023.

Moreover, consumer affordability has been hit, worsening demand in a price-sensitive market. The effective tax burden now exceeds 38 percent (20 percent FED plus 18 percent GST). The industry has promised the government lowering FED to 15 percent will unlock PKR 38 billion in additional tax revenue in 2025-2027 compared to continuing with 20 percent.

Beverages are highly price sensitive, hence excessive taxation reduces consumption, leading to net revenue loss, not gain. A healthier industry revives over 16 backward and forward-linked sectors, from transporters to advertising, tourism, and retail and sustained decline will risk further job losses and shuttering of local suppliers; recovery will support ~500,000 households across the ecosystem, FBR received data from beverage industry. The tax rationalisation can restore investor confidence and reinstate USD 300 million with installed FDI. Inaction risks long-term disinvestment and negative signaling for other industries.

The proposal aligns with the prime minister's directives from last year to support industrial revival, ensure stable revenue streams, and encourage exports and FDI. The rationalised rates on aerated waters allow policymakers to diversify fiscal revenue without overburdening a single sector, data communicated to the FBR revealed. The beverage industry in Pakistan is not seeking subsidies - only fair, growth-aligned taxation. A revision to 15 percent FED is essential to transition from economic erosion to recovery, unlocking jobs, investments, and sustainable revenue streams for the government. Without this course correction, the government risks repeating the fiscal and economic setbacks of the last two years.

According to industry stakeholders, the beverage sector, one of the largest contributors to revenue through FED and sales tax—is now facing unsustainable pressure. Calls for a more investment-friendly tax policy are gaining momentum as Pakistan seeks to attract FDI and stabilise the economy. Investor groups have emphasised that a balanced tax framework would not only boost industrial growth but also create jobs and ensure long-term revenue sustainability.

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GOVT TO INTRODUCE 'BOLD MEASURES' IN THE UPCOMING BUDGET, SAYS AURANGZEB

- Pakistan to present federal budget for FY2025-26 on June 10

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Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said the federal government is preparing to introduce “bold measures” in the upcoming budget for FY2025-26, with a focus on strategic direction.

“We are going to bring some bold measures during the budget for FY2025-26,” said Aurangzeb, while addressing an event organised by Karandaaz Pakistan and Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) in Islamabad.

“Budget is not just about revenue and expenditure, it has to provide the strategic direction of where the economy is, and where it is heading,” he said, adding that “rather than making the math work”, the government intends to make the budget document “more strategic”.

The federal budget for FY2025-26 will be presented on June 10, 2025. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Economic Survey 2024-25 will be released on June 9, 2025.

Pakistan budget 2025-26: Rs2.8 trillion defence budget proposed citing ‘war-like situation’ with India

Talking about the recent escalation of tensions between Pakistan and India, Aurangzeb said, “These are very tense moments. The entire nation has rightly celebrated the way our armed forces and political leadership have stood up against the aggression.”

Aurangzeb shared that efforts were made to derail Pakistan’s engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

“There was no stone left unturned in terms of ensuring that the meeting [with the IMF] does not happen. If the meeting does happen, than these items are not on the agenda, whether it’s the second tranche under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the \$1.3 billion under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

“However, we are beyond that, and our case was discussed and decided on merit.”

He said the unity shown by the nation against recent aggression is the same unity needed on the economic front.

On macroeconomic stability, Aurangzeb emphasised the need to avoid repeating past mistakes.

“We have achieved macroeconomic stability in yesteryears and in the previous decades as well, but we have squandered the opportunity. Because it is easy to get into a sugar rush, i.e. pump liquidity into the market, go for consumption-led growth,” which triggers balance of payment and FX issues, said Aurangzeb.

He said that to break away from the boom and bust cycle, Pakistan needs to stay the course in terms of structural reforms.

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Aurangzeb shared that the government remains committed to simplifying the tax return filing process for the salaried class. “70-80% of the salaried class don’t necessarily hold equity or income portfolios.... why should they fill 140-150 measures?

“We are trying to bring it down to nine items, five on the wealth and four on the income tax side.”

He said the government wants to implement the simplified process by the end of September.

On the SOE reforms, the finance minister admitted that “this is one area where we did not do well last year”. He said that the government remains committed to accelerating reforms in this sector.

He confirmed the PIA transaction has been relaunched and expressed optimism about its completion.

On debt servicing, Aurangzeb said in the ongoing fiscal the government debt servicing cost has decreased by Rs1 trillion. “Next year, we are going to restructure/reorganise our debt management office along the modern lines,” he said.

The finance minister was of the view that the ongoing structural reforms would put Pakistan’s economy “on a path of sustainable growth”.

Aurangzeb expressed optimism about Pakistan’s long-term economic trajectory.

“Our economy has crossed the \$400 billion level. This shows we’re moving in the right direction.

“But to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, we need to mitigate two existential issues, i.e. population and climate.”

He said four out of the six points under the 10-year Country Partnership Framework inked with the World Bank deal with climate and population.

PAKISTAN FY26 BUDGET MAY ENVISAGE RS1.079TRN POWER SUBSIDY

- Figures finalised in recent meetings between government’s economic team and International Monetary Fund Mission

Mushtaq Ghuman Published May 26, 2025

ISLAMABAD: The government is likely to earmark an amount of Rs 1.079 trillion subsidy for the power sector for the fiscal year 2025-26 against Rs 1.190 trillion for FY 2024-25, well informed sources in Finance Division told BUSINESS RECORDER.

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These figures have been finalized in recent meetings between the government's economic team and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Mission.

Finance Division has also conveyed revised provisional Indicative Budget Ceilings (IDCs) of Rs 636.136 billion for sector subsidy on account of recurrent budget for 2025-26. Earlier, this amount was Rs 400 billion.

Extra subsidy needs: MoF asks ministry to allocate Rs50bn for PD to secure TSG

Since details of revised amount of subsidy for power sector for FY 2024-25 are not available it is not known if entire allocation has been consumed by the Power Division or there was some deviation.

Finance Division has also asked Power Division to comply with mandatory instructions strictly and fully by all Principal Accounting Officers (PAOs), heads of departments and bodies /entities while preparing budget estimates for each cost centre and head of accounts.

The following instructions have to be followed :(i) PAOs are required to comply with the provisions of the PFM Act, 2019 regarding performance-based budgeting and expenditures by formulating well defined plans; (ii) guidelines and procedures contained in Financial Management and Powers of PAOs Regulations, 2021 and the BCC for FY 2025-26 shall be adhered to ;(iii) ensure adoption of Single Account (TSA) as per Section 30 of the PFM Act, 2019 read with Cash Management & TSA Rules, 2024; (iv) for Climate Sensitive Budgeting / Green Budgeting the information has to be filled for both current and development budget as per the typology defined in Form-IV.

The cost centres related to green component shall also be identified while submitting the BOs/NISs; (v) KPIs related to gender and climate may also be identified separately in Performance-Based Budgeting (Form-1); (vi) PAOs, Heads of Departments and Bodies / Entities shall submit quarter-wise budget estimates for FY 2025-26; (vii) PAOs shall make expenditures keeping in view the budgetary allocations without any assumption of additional allocation during the financial year.

Supplementary budget, regular and technical, shall not be provided; (viii) austerity measures, as issued by Finance Division from time to time, shall be fully adhered to. No allocations shall be made for banned heads of expenditures. Such allocation, if made, shall be approved by the austerity committee; and (ix) ensure full allocation of rupee cover again leased after approval of for will be adjusted from within the funds provided, anticipated foreign grants subsequently requested.

Recently, Finance Division had conveyed to Power Division that the allocation of power sector subsidies for the fiscal year 2025-26 will depend on the availability of fiscal space.

In a letter titled "MEFP for EFF 2024-27 – Circular Debt (CD) Target for FY 2025-26," the Power Division had sought indicative allocations for the upcoming fiscal year to bridge the circular debt gap.

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According to the Corporate Finance (CF) Wing of the Finance Division, budgetary allocations for the power sector in FY 2025-26 will be finalized through the standard budgetary process in consultation with the Budget and CF Wings of the Finance Division, keeping in view the prevailing fiscal constraints.

Finance Ministry did not endorse the Power Division's proposal to release an advance subsidy of Rs224 billion to address power sector cash flow and liquidity concerns, arguing that adequate funds have already been provided.

On March 25, 2025, the Power Division shared a draft summary with the Finance Ministry for submission to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), requesting the release of the advance subsidy. However, the Finance Division responded that sufficient funds—amounting to Rs633 billion—had already been allocated under various budgetary heads in line with the Power Division's requirements.

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Business & Finance » Taxes

CAR BUYING BONANZA DELIVERS 144% TAX COLLECTION BOOST IN 10MFY25

May 27, 2025

KARACHI, May 27, 2025 — The tax authorities in Karachi have reported a stunning 144% increase in tax collection from new car purchases during the first ten months (July–April) of fiscal year 2024–25, driven by a sharp rise in the sale of high-end vehicles across Pakistan.

According to officials at the local tax offices, Rs3.10 billion in withholding tax was collected on car sales from July to April FY25, compared to Rs1.27 billion in the same period last year. This significant increase reflects a surge in car buying activity, especially among higher engine capacity models.

Data from the Pakistan Auto Manufacturers Association (PAMA) supports this trend. Sales of cars with engine sizes of 1300cc and above rose by an impressive 47%, reaching 40,369 units sold — a major jump from 27,429 units in the same period last year. These premium car models are heavily taxed, which helped drive up overall collection figures.

Meanwhile, car sales in the 1000cc segment dropped sharply by 36%, falling to 3,919 units from 6,093 units previously. On the other hand, smaller vehicles with engines under 1000cc saw a 32% increase, with 38,981 units sold compared to 29,440 units in the same ten-month period of FY24.

FBR officials say that the rise in collection was not only due to more cars being sold, but also because of stricter enforcement of tax rules. Car dealerships and manufacturers are required to

deduct and deposit withholding tax at the time of sale. They must also submit buyer details, such as CNIC or NTN numbers, ensuring every transaction is recorded.

Under Section 165 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, entities that collect or deduct taxes must submit quarterly statements to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. These statements detail buyer identities, tax amounts, and transaction particulars — helping track the boom in new car sales.

This surge in tax collection shows that while inflation and price hikes have hurt many sectors, the car market, especially in luxury segments, is still thriving and generating record-breaking revenue for the exchequer.

ICAP BATTLES BRUTAL INFLATION WITH BOLD SALARY TAX PLAN

May 27, 2025

KARACHI, May 27, 2025 — In a bold and potentially game-changing proposal ahead of the 2025-26 federal budget, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) has roared into the spotlight by demanding immediate and sweeping relief for Pakistan’s long-suffering salaried class.

ICAP is urging the government to exempt salary income from taxation in direct proportion to inflation over the last two years—a move that could redefine income tax policy in Pakistan.

As inflation has skyrocketed, burning holes in the wallets of the working class, the ICAP says it’s high time the government acknowledged the real economic struggle faced by millions. The current minimum taxable salary threshold of Rs. 600,000 per annum has remained frozen for two years—even as double-digit inflation relentlessly devours purchasing power. With salaries stagnating and costs of essentials like housing, utilities, and education soaring, salaried individuals are being crushed under an unfair tax regime, ICAP warns.

“ICAP strongly recommends that the threshold for salary tax exemption be raised to Rs. 1,200,000,” reads the institute’s explosive budget proposal. “This adjustment is not just a fiscal necessity—it is a moral imperative.”

This dramatic revision, ICAP asserts, is essential to protect middle- and lower-income earners from being unfairly dragged into the tax net simply for trying to survive. With no avenues for tax planning and rigid fixed incomes, salaried workers are currently bearing a disproportionate burden in Pakistan’s fiscal equation.

In its five-pronged argument, ICAP highlights that adjusting the salary tax exemption and revising outdated slab rates will:

- Promote fairness and equality in the taxation system,
- Safeguard the real income of wage earners,

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- Prevent a decline in consumption,
- Boost economic confidence among taxpayers, and
- Encourage greater voluntary tax compliance.

ICAP's fiery advocacy for salary relief is expected to ignite major debate in policy circles, as pressure mounts on the government to offer genuine economic relief. If adopted, ICAP's proposal could mark a turning point for Pakistan's salaried class—transforming fiscal pain into long-overdue justice.

ICAP SEEKS END TO WITHHOLDING TAX FOR LISTED COMPANIES

May 26, 2025

Karachi, May 26, 2025 – The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) has put forward a significant reform proposal in its recommendations for the Federal Budget 2025-26.

ICAP has urged the government to replace the current withholding tax regime for listed companies with a more streamlined and efficient adjustable advance tax regime.

According to ICAP, the corporate sector—particularly listed companies—comprises highly compliant taxpayers who contribute significantly to national tax revenues. Despite their compliance, these companies are subjected to a complex and expanding withholding tax system. ICAP emphasized that many companies are facing increasing difficulties in obtaining tax credits due to several issues, such as the non-availability of Computerized Payment Receipts (CPRs), late or non-deposit of taxes by withholding agents, or mismatches in the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) electronic database.

In this context, ICAP has proposed that the FBR consider eliminating the burden of the withholding tax regime for listed entities and replacing it with a monthly advance tax payment mechanism. Specifically, ICAP has recommended an amendment to Section 147 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001, to require listed companies to pay advance tax on a monthly basis rather than quarterly.

ICAP believes that such a move would simplify the taxation process, making it more efficient for both taxpayers and the tax authorities. The monthly advance tax payment system would ensure timely revenue collection by the FBR, directly from the companies, without relying on third-party withholding agents. This would also help in reducing tax fraud risks, eliminate unnecessary documentation, and improve transparency.

Furthermore, ICAP highlighted that this change would positively impact the cash flow management of listed companies by reducing the incidence of excessive withholding and the associated delays in tax refunds. It would also ease administrative burdens and help create a more business-friendly tax environment.

By proposing this reform, ICAP continues to advocate for a more progressive and facilitative tax policy for Pakistan's corporate sector, aligning compliance incentives with operational ease.

AURANGZEB SLASHES TAX RETURN FIELDS FOR SALARIED CLASS

May 26, 2025

Karachi, May 26, 2025 — Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has announced major relief for Pakistan's salaried class by introducing a much simpler income tax return process.

Speaking at an event in Islamabad hosted by Karandaaz Pakistan and the Pakistan Banks Association (PBA), Aurangzeb said the government is cutting down the number of required entries on the tax return form from 150 to just nine for the salaried class.

Currently, many in the salaried class find the tax filing process unnecessarily complicated. Aurangzeb acknowledged this issue and explained that most individuals in this group don't own shares or have multiple income streams, so asking them to fill out 140 or more fields is unreasonable. The simplified version will include five fields related to assets (wealth) and four related to income.

He added that this new system aims to be in place by the end of September 2025, just in time for the next tax cycle. "The goal is to make compliance easier for the salaried class and increase overall tax filings," Aurangzeb noted.

The Finance Minister also spoke about the upcoming federal budget for FY2025-26, which will be presented on June 10. He said the government is planning "bold measures" that go beyond mere numbers. "The budget must reflect the direction of the economy, not just balance revenue and expenses," said Aurangzeb.

He highlighted that efforts were made to derail Pakistan's talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), especially regarding the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the \$1.3 billion under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF). However, Pakistan's case was ultimately approved on merit.

On broader economic issues, Aurangzeb stressed the need to end the cycle of boom and bust. He emphasized that Pakistan must stick to structural reforms to achieve long-term economic stability. He also admitted that the government fell short on state-owned enterprise (SOE) reforms last year but promised renewed focus in this area.

Addressing debt concerns, he revealed that debt servicing costs have been reduced by Rs1 trillion in the current fiscal year. Plans are also in place to modernize the debt management office next year.

In closing, Aurangzeb expressed hope for Pakistan's future, but reiterated that meaningful progress requires continued unity and sustained reform—particularly for the benefit of the salaried class.

Markets » Cotton & Textile

COTTON SPOT RATES

KARACHI: official KCA spot rates for local dealings in Pakistan rupees on Monday, (May 26, 2025)...

Recorder Report Published about 4 hours ago

KARACHI: official KCA spot rates for local dealings in Pakistan rupees on Monday, (May 26, 2025)

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The kca official spot rate for local dealings in Pakistan rupees

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

Rate	Ex-gin for	Upcountry price	Spot rate Ex-Karachi	Spot rate ex. Khi. as on 24-05-2025	Difference Ex-karachi
37.324 KG Equivalent	16,700	285	16,985	16,985	NIL
40 KGS	17,897	305	18,202	18,202	NIL

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BUSINESS ACTIVITY IMPROVES ON COTTON MARKET

Recorder Report Published about 4 hours ago

LAHORE: The local cotton market on Monday remained steady and the trading volume remained satisfactory.

Cotton Analyst Naseem Usman told BUSINESS RECORDER that the current cotton prices in Sindh and Punjab is in between Rs 16,500 and Rs 17,500 per maund, depending on quality and payment.

Around, 200 bales of Sanghar were sold at Rs 17,000 per maund, 1600 bales of Kotri were sold at Rs 16,000 per maund, 2600 bales of Basti Malok were sold at Rs 15000 per maund and 1200 bales of Rahim Yar Khan were sold in between Rs 17,300 to Rs 17,375 per maund.

Mean while 200 bales of Sanghar of cotton crop of new season of 2025-26 were sold at Rs 17000 per maund on the condition of delivery of May 27 and 200 bales of Sanghar were sold at Rs 17,500 per maund at Rs 17,500 per maund on the condition of delivery of May 28. The spot Rate remained unchanged at Rs 16,900 per maund. Polyester Fiber was available at Rs 333 per kg.

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Business & Finance » Money & Banking

RUSSIAN ROUBLE STEADY

Reuters Published about 4 hours ago

MOSCOW: The Russian rouble steadied near 80 to the dollar on Monday, supported by high interest rates, low demand for foreign currency and the prospect of upcoming tax payments by major exporters.

By 0828 GMT, the rouble was down 0.3% at 79.75 per US dollar, LSEG data based on over-the-counter quotes showed. The Russian currency hit a near two-year high of 79.32 to the dollar last week.

The Russian currency has strengthened by over 40% against the dollar this year, a rise analysts have attributed to the easing of geopolitical tensions - mainly with US President Donald Trump's administration - and the central bank's tight monetary policy, which has reduced demand for foreign currency.

The government last week said it had extended requirements for major exporters to sell a proportion of their foreign currency earnings until the end of April 2026, buttressing the rouble.

EURO HIGHER AFTER TRUMP DELAYS EU TARIFFS

Reuters Published about 4 hours ago

TOKYO/LONDON: The euro hit a one-month high against the US dollar on Monday after US President Donald Trump backed down from threatened 50% duties on European Union shipments from June 1, as the bloc asked for time to "reach a good deal".

The dollar continued its decline against a broad spectrum of other currencies as Trump's policy reversals, as well as the sweeping spending and tax-cut bill, turned investors away from US assets.

"The 'Sell America' theme, which obviously was the dominant theme back in April, is back on show," said Ray Attrill, head of FX research at National Australia Bank.

"Markets have probably taken the view - and probably rightly so - that where we land eventually on a tariff situation between the US and the EU is not going to be at 50%, but how we get there is frankly anybody's guess at the moment."

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The euro climbed as much as 0.55% to reach \$1.1418 for the first time since April 29. It was last up 0.17% on the day at \$1.1375, bringing gains for the year so far to 10%.

Much of the dollar's decline in the past couple of months has been to the benefit of the euro, as investors have targeted a range of non-US markets.

The single currency could become a viable alternative to the dollar, the world's reserve currency, if governments can strengthen the bloc's financial and security architecture, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said on Monday.

"The ongoing changes create the opening for a 'global euro moment,'" Lagarde said at a lecture in Berlin. "The euro will not gain influence by default - it will have to earn it."

Sterling rose by 0.39% to its highest level since February 2022 and was last up 0.15% at \$1.356.

The safe-haven yen and Swiss franc eased against a backdrop of improved investor sentiment. The dollar was last up 0.2% against the yen at 142.84, and was steady against the Swiss franc at 0.821 francs.

Trump announced his decision to delay EU tariffs until July 9 on Sunday after a call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who asked for more time to reach an agreement. July 9 is the end of the 90-day pause on Trump's April 2 "Liberation Day" levies on the EU and many other trade partners.

The announcement, although encouraging for investors, is a stark reminder of how suddenly US trade policy can turn.

"Following Trump's latest U-turn, we will, of course, have to wait and see what happens next. It is possible that a deal with the European Union will be reached by 9 July," Commerzbank currency strategist Michael Pfister said.

"However, it is questionable what has changed in terms of the fundamental problems following a phone call. One thing should be clear after Friday's announcement: the brief respite from tariffs that we enjoyed was only temporary."

In a possible nod to fiscal worries among investors, Trump also said on Sunday that the spending and tax-cut bill is likely to see "significant" changes in the Senate.

The House of Representatives' version of the bill is calculated to add about \$3.8 trillion to the federal government's \$36.2 trillion in debt over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

"What seems clear from the reconciliation bill...is that Trump and (Treasury Secretary Scott) Bessent have shifted tactics, swivelling hard from fiscal conservatism and reduced spending to an outright pro-growth policy stance," said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone.

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“It is fast becoming a consensus view that the USD is on the path to a multi-year decline.”

ASIAN CURRENCIES RISE AS US FISCAL WOES WEIGH ON DOLLAR

Reuters Published about 4 hours ago

BENGALURU: Malaysia’s ringgit and Taiwan’s dollar gained the most among emerging Asian currencies on Monday as US fiscal concerns and sudden shifts in US President Donald Trump’s trade policies pushed the dollar index to a one-month low.

The MSCI index of emerging market currencies rose as much as 0.4% to an all-time high.

The Malaysian ringgit and the Taiwanese dollar

jumped 0.6% and 0.5%, respectively, to three-week highs, while the Singapore dollar reached an eight-month peak.

The Taiwan dollar is the best regional performer so far this month, with an over 6% gain.

Two days after threatening to slap 50% tariffs on imports from the European Union next month, Trump, on Sunday, restored a July 9 deadline for talks.

While that calmed worries about a global downturn, it also served as a reminder of how quickly and suddenly US trade policy can turn.

Trump’s policy reversals, as well as his sweeping spending and tax-cut bill currently in legislation, turned investors off from US assets, with the dollar the prime target.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of currencies, touched its lowest since April 22.

“The dollar selling seems to be fairly broad-based, and clearly a lot of EM Asian currencies are reacting to that,” said Mitul Kotecha, head of Asia FX and emerging markets macro strategy at Barclays.

China’s yuan strengthened to trade near a seven-month high, while the South Korean won climbed as much as 0.4% to its highest since October 2024.

The won has gained over 4% so far this month and is the second-best regional performer, amid broader dollar weakness and chatter that the country could use exchange rate revaluation as a carrot in trade talks with the United States.

“The KRW is facing appreciation pressure amid ongoing Korea–US trade negotiations, which have raised expectations for a realignment of the undervalued currency,” DBS analysts said.

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The stronger won and weakening macroeconomic indicators add to the rationale for a rate cut by the Bank of Korea on Thursday, they added.

In Thailand, the baht weakened 0.5% and equities

slipped 0.6%. Data showed that the country's export growth in April was slower than the previous month, while the commerce ministry warned exports in the second half will face a risk of US tariffs after a moratorium expires in July.

Among stock markets, Seoul shares jumped 2% to a three-month high, while equities in Jakarta, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur slipped between 0.2% and 0.9%.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO PICK NEW HEAD TO CONFRONT US FUNDING CUTS

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

NAIROBI/ABIDJAN: The African Development Bank is meeting in Ivory Coast this week to pick a new president at a time when the continent's biggest multilateral lender faces unprecedented challenges from funding cuts by the U.S. government.

Washington wants to cut \$555 million in funding to the AfDB and its African Development Fund, which offers low-priced financing to the continent's poor nations.

"This is going to be a major task and it is effectively the new president's first test," said Hannah Ryder, founder of Development Reimagined, an Africa-focused consultancy.

The annual gathering of heads of state and finance officials, taking place this year in Abidjan, is one of the biggest finance meetings on the continent.

It comes as heavily indebted governments in the region are searching for new sources of financing to bankroll their development projects.

AfDB, which is Africa's largest development finance institution with \$318 billion capital, is owned by 54 African states and G7 nations such as the U.S. and Japan. Its biggest shareholder is Nigeria.

The next round of replenishment for the ADF, which is held on a three-year cycle, is scheduled to take place in November. It is targeting to raise \$25 billion, up from \$8.9 billion in the last round.

The new president will have to try to persuade the U.S. to reinstate the funding, seek additional funds from non-regional members of the bank like China, or Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in return for more say, or ask African states to contribute more, Ryder said.

Five candidates - from South Africa, Senegal, Zambia, Chad and Mauritania - are vying to replace outgoing President Akinwumi Adesina, who will step down in September after serving the maximum two five-year terms.

AfDB will focus on boosting electricity connections, increasing food production, fostering industries, integrating economies on the continent and lifting people's living standards over the next decade, Adesina told a media reception at the meeting on Monday.

The winner, who must secure at least 50.01% of the votes from the 54 African member states of the bank, and in a second vote from all 81 members, including non-African ones, will be announced on Thursday.

The bank is grappling with the challenges of a changing global economy after U.S. President Donald Trump returned to the White House, including higher U.S. import tariffs.

"We expect the meeting to discuss implications of current global events arising from the Trump administration," said Fred Muhumuza, a lecturer at Makerere University's business school in Kampala. "Many of the key contributors have been cutting bilateral support to African countries."

PKR VS USD MAY 26, 2025: RUPEE DIPS AGAINST DOLLAR IN INTERBANK

May 26, 2025

Karachi, May 26, 2025 – The Pakistani rupee witnessed a slight dip of 9 paisas against the US dollar on Monday, closing at PKR 282.06 in the interbank foreign exchange market. This marks a minor decline from last Friday's closing rate of PKR 281.97.

Currency experts attributed the modest weakening of the rupee to increased dollar demand, particularly on the first trading day of the week. The upcoming Hajj season has also driven up dollar outflows, further pressuring the local unit in the interbank market.

Additionally, import-related dollar demand has intensified ahead of the federal budget, scheduled for announcement on June 10, 2025. Traders expect continued pressure on the rupee in the coming days due to advance import payments and heightened economic activity.

However, the rupee found partial support from the country's improving external account position. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported that foreign exchange reserves surged by \$1.035 billion during the week ending May 16, 2025. Reserves now stand at \$16.65 billion, up from \$15.614 billion the previous week. Analysts link this rise to fresh inflows from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), providing a critical buffer for dollar liquidity in the interbank system.

From a broader perspective, macroeconomic indicators show mixed signals. Between July and April of the current fiscal year, Pakistan posted a current account surplus of \$1.88 billion— a

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remarkable turnaround from a \$1.34 billion deficit in the same period last year. This shift is largely due to a 31% surge in worker remittances, which reached \$31.2 billion, and a 6.25% rise in exports. These inflows have helped stabilize the rupee against the dollar in recent months.

Still, challenges persist. Pakistan's trade deficit widened by 8.81%, touching \$21.35 billion, driven by a 7.37% jump in imports. This trend continues to strain the rupee, particularly in the interbank market, where dollar availability remains sensitive to demand spikes.

Analysts believe that continued IMF backing, strong remittances, and resilient exports will be crucial in maintaining the rupee's strength. Nonetheless, they warn that domestic fiscal uncertainty and global volatility could still impact currency stability.

Business & Finance » Industry

MUTUAL FUNDS OFFER INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS: SECP CHIEF

Recorder Report Published about 5 hours ago

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) conducted Mutual Fund Focus Group Sessions 2025. The closed-door session brought together a diverse range of stakeholders from across Pakistan's capital markets for in-depth discussions on critical issues shaping the mutual fund industry.

According to the spokesperson, the event was structured into thematic segments and facilitated by expert-led deliberations on mutual fund reforms, product innovation, digital transformation, investor inclusion, governance frameworks and market development, addressing both domestic challenges and global best practices.

During his opening remarks, SECP Chairman Akif Saeed underscored the strategic importance of mutual funds in broadening access to formal investment opportunities, particularly for retail investors. He stated that mutual funds have the potential to democratize investing by offering professionally managed, transparent, and regulated options to a wider investor base. He further emphasized that the SECP remains fully committed to strengthening the mutual fund ecosystem by fostering innovation, simplifying accessibility, and enhancing regulatory oversight to ensure long-term and inclusive growth of financial sector.

The sessions featured robust discussions on emerging global trends, including the rise of ESG-focused, thematic, and infrastructure-linked funds, as well as the expanding market for Shariah-compliant investment products. A key focus was also placed on women's financial inclusion, with participants exploring how mutual funds can serve as an effective tool to enhance female participation in the economy.

Discussion also centered on digital transformation and governance, with stakeholders examining the role of technologies such as Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) and Centralized Gateway Portals (CGPs) in improving investor onboarding and operational efficiency. Additionally, discussions emphasized the need for strong governance frameworks, transparent disclosure

practices, and robust risk management protocols to bolster investor confidence and safeguard market integrity.

SECP Commissioner Abdul Rehman Warraich highlighted the significance of stakeholder input in shaping future regulatory policies. He thanks the stakeholders for the candid and constructive engagement from industry partners and hoped that the insights gathered will play a crucial role in informing upcoming reforms by SECP. He emphasized that a transparent, well-regulated, and inclusive mutual fund industry is vital for deepening Pakistan's capital markets and advancing financial inclusion.

The SECP, as a sole regulator of capital markets in the country, extended its appreciation to the participants for their valuable contributions and reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing collaboration with industry stakeholders. The Mutual Fund Focus Group Sessions 2025 will also continue on Tuesday with further discussions on the same thematic areas involving a fresh group of experts and market participants.

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CONSISTENT POLICIES NEEDED FOR ECONOMIC STABILITY: FCCI CHIEF

Press Release Published about 5 hours ago

FAISALABAD: Long term policies are prerequisite to achieve sustained economic stability and, in this connection, the business leaders across the country must adopt a unified stand, said Rehan Naseem Bharara, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Addressing All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference 2025 organised by the RCCI, he said that Pakistan was making steady progress in the 1960s but later on decline started due to multiple reasons including inconsistent policies and international and domestic meltdown.

He said that once again serious efforts were made for the revival of the economy which were sabotaged and failed to give the required results.

He appreciated the economic vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and said that he has not only saved Pakistan from bankruptcy but also put it back on the path of revival.

“However, positive, practical and long term policies are required to consolidate these achievements on a sustained basis,” he said and added that consultation with genuine stakeholders is a must in policy formulation.

About the problems confronted by the business community, he expressed concern over the recently amended tax laws and demanded its immediate review. He said that exports are the lifeline of Pakistan and we must satisfy exporters by restoring the Final Tax Regime (FTR). He

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also stressed the need to bring down the policy rate to single digit in addition to providing electricity to the industrial sector at 9 cent per unit.

“It would help our exportable surplus to compete in the international markets,” he added. About the SME sector, he termed it as an economic growth engine but added that this financially starved sector was facing multiple issues.

He said that the SME sector must be facilitated with concessional loans to unlock their immediate growth potential.

“Similarly, the limit of the SME sector should also be enhanced from 80 crore to Rs 2 billion, he said and demanded that the SME sector may also be allowed to import used machinery through concessional loans. President FCCI said that the tax net should be broadened in connection with the documentation of the economy. He acknowledged the importance of women entrepreneurs and said that the government should also take special measures to encourage them by providing them concessional loans.

Later President FCCI Rehan Naseem Bharara signed two separate MoUs with Movenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad and Wah Nobel Group. Under the MoUs, these institutions would provide services to FCCI members at subsidized rates.

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KE'S TARIFFS FOR 7 YEARS: KCCI REJECTS NEPRA'S DETERMINATIONS

Recorder Report Published about 5 hours ago

ISLAMABAD: Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has rejected NEPRA's recent determinations about KE's distribution and transmission tariffs for seven years. In a letter to Registrar NEPRA, Secretary General, KCCI has stated that it completely rejects it, as NEPRA ignored Intervenor's objections, claiming that this is predominantly against the interests of the consumers.

The letter notes that Power Division strongly opposed the foreign currency linked return, arguing it was unjustified and misaligned with returns offered to state run utilities. The RoE for the transmission and distributions businesses should be aligned with returns allowed to NTDC and the Public Sector Distribution Companies (DISCOs), the Ministry stated in written comments to NEPRA.

Intervenor's during the hearing and through their written submissions, opposed the grant of a US dollar-based Return on Equity (ROE) to the petitioner. They emphasized that the petitioner does not qualify as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) entitled to a dollar-based RoE with indexation under the specific policy framework applicable to IPPs. The nature of the petitioner's business falls outside the purview of such a policy.

Additionally, the Intervenor also raised serious concerns regarding KE's request for a USD denominated RoE. Despite these substantive objections raised by key stakeholders, the Authority has proceeded to approve a dollar-based RoE of 14% for KE's distribution segment and 12% for its transmission business under the Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) for the period 2024-2030.

After explaining the background, KCCI expressed its strong opposition to NEPRA's decision, which it believes disregards valid concerns and sets an unsustainable and inequitable precedent.

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BUSINESSMAN SAYS PAKISTAN'S WEAK ECONOMY IMPEDIMENT TO SOCIAL WELFARE STEPS

Recorder Report Published May 26, 2025

KARACHI: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, Mian Zahid Hussain said that sustainable development requires strengthening both defence and the economy, as a weak economy is the biggest obstacle to national sovereignty, stability, and public welfare.

He said that the current economic growth rate is inadequate to meet the country's defence and public welfare needs. He stressed that an increase in Pakistan's defence budget has become inevitable in the face of a cunning adversary like India, which spends ten times more on defence.

Mian Zahid Hussain highlighted the need to expand Pakistan's economy to USD 1 trillion annually, as declared by Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. This is in contrast to the current economic size of only \$411 billion in the ongoing fiscal year.

He said that industrial development is essential to provide public relief and create jobs. However, the economic growth rate is expected to fall short of the target, likely ending at just 2.6%, which is alarming for a country where 70% of the population comprises youth. He noted that such low growth makes it impossible to generate sufficient employment opportunities, which will only worsen unemployment, poverty, and inflation.

Mian Zahid Hussain urged the government to take immediate and comprehensive measures to stabilize the economy and ensure consistent increase in the growth rate. He identified poor performance in the agriculture and industrial sectors as major contributors to economic stagnation. Furthermore, he warned that Pakistan's high interest rates are obstructing industrial productivity. Lowering energy costs and reducing interest rates are critical to decreasing production expenses and restoring investor confidence.

He stressed the importance of adopting fresh, practical economic policies instead of repeating outdated and failed strategies. These new policies should focus on increasing both the overall

size of the economy and the growth rate. He warned that if the economic trajectory is not corrected, the country's sovereignty could be at risk.

He advocated facilitating the private sector to stimulate investment, increasing exports, substituting imports, and reducing the trade deficit.

He called for redirecting all national resources, policies, and energies toward export promotion.

Furthermore, he emphasized the urgency of curbing the wastage of national resources and strengthening the productive sectors. A simplified, fair, and transparent tax system, backed by complete digitalization of all transactions, is vital to restoring economic confidence.

Lastly, he underlined the importance of equipping the youth with skills to ensure employment and economic participation.

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Markets » Stocks

PSX PLUNGES FURTHER

Recorder Report Published about 5 hours ago

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed another volatile trading session on the first trading day of the week amid selling pressure across multiple sectors.

The KSE-100 Index dropped by 881.55 points, or 0.74 percent, settling at 118,221 points on Monday compared to 119,102.67 points on Friday. During intraday trading, the KSE-100 Index also touched an intraday low of 952 points; however, some recovery was witnessed by the end of the session.

On Monday, BRIndex100 ended at 12,661.88 points, which was 77.18 points or 0.61 percent lower than the previous close with the total volume of 541.947 million shares. BRIndex30 decreased by 146.66 points or 0.39 percent to settle at 37,359.26 points with the total share trading volume of 438.783 million.

Analysts at AHL said PSX witnessed more downside at the start of the week with the benchmark KSE-100 falling towards 118,000 points. They argue that the KSE-100 Index is declining in support of the large price gap from where upside is expected to resume and breach 120,000 points.

Trading activity saw a notable uptick, with the ready market turnover surged to 635.535 million shares on Monday from 338.003 million shares in the previous session. The value of shares traded also slightly increased from Rs 18.511 billion to Rs 18.576 billion. The overall market

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capitalization declined by Rs 60 billion to Rs 14.325 trillion on Monday, compared to Rs 14.385 trillion on Friday. Out of the 467 actively traded companies, the share value of 188 companies increased, while that of 325 companies decreased, and 44 companies' share values remained unchanged.

Selling pressure was seen in key sectors including automobile assemblers, oil and gas exploration companies, OMCs and power generation. Index-heavy stocks including HUBCO, OGDC, PPL, POL, MARI, PSO and SSGC traded in the red.

Among the most notable traded companies, K-Electric Ltd. ranked first with 246.932 million shares closing at Rs 5.72, followed by WorldCall Telecom, of which 36.72 million shares were traded and it closed at Rs 1.27. Telecard Limited ranked third and closed at Rs 8.22 with 30.01million shares turnover.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB again recorded the highest gains increase by Rs 2,006.32 and closed at a new high of Rs 22,069.53 followed by Khyber Textile Mills Limited whose share price value closed at Rs 2,096.70, up by Rs 190.61. Moreover, Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited and Sazgar Engineering Works Limited faced notable losses with share values decreased by Rs 72.36 and Rs 36.29 respectively to close at Rs 10,755.23 and Rs 1,216.17.

Meanwhile, BR Automobile Assembler Index closed at 21,502.27 points with a net negative change of 221.06 points or 1.02 percent with total turnover remaining 2.5139 million shares. BR Cement Index lost 79 points or 0.79 percent to settle at 9,906.17 points with a total turnover of 17.189 million.

BR Commercial Banks Index closed at 34,678.59 points down by 233.05 points or 0.67 percent with a total turnover of 14.67 million shares. On the other hand, BR Power Generation and Distribution Index ended at 20,063.36 points with a positive change of only 118.74 points or 0.6 percent with total turnover of 250.261 million shares.

BR Oil & Gas Index closed at 11,411.99 points with a net negative change of 165.86 points or 1.43 percent on 25.706 million shares turnover. While BR Technology & Communication Index finished at 4,957.64 points marking a negative change of 64.25 points or 1.28 percent, with total turnover of 110.611 million shares.

Analysts from Topline sales desk cited that the continued bearish trend is primarily driven by concerns over the delay in the federal budget announcement and the lack of clarity regarding the IMF conditions tied to it. In the absence of positive triggers, investors chose to trim their positions and adopt a cautious stance.

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CHINA, HK STOCKS WEAKEN

Reuters Published about 5 hours ago

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HONG KONG: China and Hong Kong stocks retreated on Monday as automobile shares slid on price war concerns and Apple suppliers dropped on potential US tariffs.

At the close, the Shanghai Composite index weakened 0.1% to 3,346.84. The blue-chip CSI300 index dropped 0.6%.

In Hong Kong, the benchmark Hang Seng Index was down 1.4% at 23,282.33. The Chinese H-share index listed in Hong Kong, the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index, fell 1.7%.

Car-makers slipped, weighing on both onshore and offshore markets, after BYD slashed prices on some of the models to spur sales as competition heats up. Its Hong Kong-listed shares dipped 5.9%, while rival Geely Auto tumbled 9.5%.

The CSI All Share Automobiles Index lost 2.9%, the biggest single-day drop in five weeks, while the Hang Seng Automobile Index in Hong Kong tumbled 4.9%.

“The price cuts could put some short-term pressure on earnings,” analysts at Sinolink Securities said in a note. “It got investors concerned about profitability, and the sector is likely to enter a correction.”

Apple supplier stocks also lost some ground after US President Donald Trump threatened tariffs on imported iPhones. iPhone assembler Luxshare lost 0.2%.

However, China’s yuan has strengthened past the 7.17 level after the central bank tightened the midpoint fixing, and analysts say the firming trend of the currency should lend support to the nation’s stocks.

“We estimate every 1% of RMB increase versus the USD could boost Chinese equities by 3%,” Goldman Sachs’ China equity strategist Kinger Lau wrote in a note.

Sectors such as consumer discretionary, property, and brokers typically outperform when the yuan appreciates, he added.

SRI LANKA SHARES CLOSE FLAT AS ENERGY LOSSES OFFSET OTHER GAINS

- CSE All Share index settled up 0.01% at 16,496.24

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

Sri Lankan shares closed flat on Monday, as gains in IT and health care stocks were offset by losses in energy.

The CSE All Share index settled up 0.01% at 16,496.24, marking its eight-straight day of gains

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Singhe Hospitals PLC and Seylan Developments PLC were the top percentage gainers on the CSE All Share index, rising 25% and 15.9%, respectively.

Trading volume on the CSE All Share index fell to 171.8 million shares from 182.5 million in the previous session.

Sri Lanka shares end flat

The equity market's turnover rose to 3.76 billion Sri Lankan rupees (\$12.55 million) from 3.74 billion rupees in the previous session, according to exchange data.

Foreign investors were net buyers, purchasing stocks worth 206.2 million rupees, while domestic investors were net sellers, offloading shares worth 3.62 billion rupees, the data showed.

INDIAN SHARES ADVANCE ON EU TARIFF RELIEF

Reuters Published about 5 hours ago

MUMBAI: Indian shares advanced on Monday, extending gains from the previous session, on easing global trade tensions and the Reserve Bank of India's record dividend transfer, which reaffirmed prospects of sustained fiscal consolidation.

The Nifty 50 closed 0.6% higher at 25,001.15, while the BSE Sensex traded 0.56% higher to close at 82,176.45.

US President Donald Trump backed off his threat to impose 50% tariffs on European Union (EU) imports, easing trade concerns, potentially hinting "that the US may reduce its aggression in the trade war, which is a positive," according to G Chokkalingam, founder and head of research at Equinomics Research and Advisory. The US and EU now have time until July 9 to work on a trade deal.

All 13 major sectors logged gains.

Metals jumped about 1%, as a weaker US dollar and Trump's reprieve boosted the appeal of commodities.

NIKKEI RISES FOR SECOND DAY AS TRADE FEARS EASE

Reuters Published about 5 hours ago

TOKYO: Japan's Nikkei share average extends gains to a second consecutive session on Monday as easing trade tensions between the United States and the European Union supported risk appetite.

Nippon Steel jumped as much as 7.4% after US President Donald Trump appeared to give his blessing to the company's protracted takeover of US Steel, and closed 2.1% higher.

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Demand for equities also rose broadly after Trump on Sunday extended a tariff deadline on EU imports to July 9, just two days after he pushed for a 50% levy on the bloc.

The Nikkei 225 closed 1% higher, its sharpest one-day advance in almost two weeks. The broader Topix rose 0.6%.

Japanese government bonds also rallied, following a dramatic week in which super-long yields rose to all-time highs. “The market is now becoming more and more doubtful about the seriousness of the tariff policy, particularly after (Trump) dropped the tariff rates on China,” said Nomura chief macro strategist Naka Matsuzawa.

EUROPEAN STOCKS RECOVER AFTER TRUMP DELAYS EU TARIFFS

Reuters Published about 5 hours ago

FRANKFURT: European shares kicked off the week on a positive note on Monday, recouping the previous session’s losses, as markets heaved a sigh of relief after US President Donald Trump delayed his threat to impose a 50% tariff on the region.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index closed 1% higher. It had lost 0.9% on Friday after Trump unexpectedly called for sharp tariffs on goods from the European Union, saying that negotiations with the region were not moving fast enough.

On Sunday, Trump extended the deadline for tariffs to July 9 from June 1, after European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the 27-nation bloc needed more time to produce a deal.

The automobiles and parts index, sensitive to tariff-related pressures, led broader gains with a 1.8% rise. However, they were limited by a 3.3% decline in Porsche.

Defence companies were among the biggest boosts to the STOXX 600 index, with Rheinmetall and Leonardo gaining over 3% each and the aerospace and defence index advancing 1.7%.

The stocks also pulled up the industrial goods and services sector by 1.5%. The defence and auto sectors helped German stocks rise by 1.7%, near a record high.

Luxury stocks, highly exposed to the US market, also gained. Shares of Kering, LVMH and Richemont rose about 1% each, as did the broader index. “While more time for EU-US negotiations is good news, the speed of the rebound in stocks suggests that investors may have become too optimistic on the path for trade discussions,” said Mark Haefele, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management.

The euro jumped along with other risk-sensitive currencies, while euro zone government bond yields were little changed, as Trump backtracked from his tariff threats.

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Rising concerns about the US economic slowdown and fiscal woes, underscored by Moody's credit rating downgrade on May 16, are pushing investors to limit their exposure to US assets.

"If you want to have a low-risk portfolio, the US is where you would go first, but with the trade tensions and geopolitical tensions, this favourable sentiment has shifted," said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, a senior market analyst at Swissquote Bank.

Trading volumes were lighter than usual due to public holidays in the US and the UK markets. However, US stock futures were up more than 1% each.

Thyssenkrupp jumped 8.8% after a weekend report said the submarine and car parts maker plans to hold a shareholder meeting on August 8 to approve an expected spin-off of its warship division. Thyssenkrupp was not immediately available for comment.

Zealand Pharma topped the STOXX 600 with a 10% advance.

INDIAN SHARES ADVANCE ON EU TARIFF RELIEF, CENTRAL BANK'S RECORD DIVIDEND

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

Indian shares advanced on Monday, extending gains from the previous session, on easing global trade tensions and the Reserve Bank of India's record dividend transfer, which reaffirmed prospects of sustained fiscal consolidation.

The Nifty 50 closed 0.6% higher at 25,001.15, while the BSE Sensex traded 0.56% higher to close at 82,176.45.

U.S. President Donald Trump backed off his threat to impose 50% tariffs on European Union (EU) imports, easing trade concerns, potentially hinting "that the U.S. may reduce its aggression in the trade war, which is a positive," according to G Chokkalingam, founder and head of research at Equinomics Research and Advisory.

The U.S. and EU now have time until July 9 to work on a trade deal.

All 13 major sectors logged gains.

Metals jumped about 1%, as a weaker U.S. dollar and Trump's reprieve boosted the appeal of commodities.

Auto, pharma, IT all gained about 1%, while financials, the heaviest-weighted sub-index, added 0.4%.

Indian equity benchmarks top Asian gainers, erase weekly losses

Midcaps and smallcaps rose 0.7% and 0.4%, respectively.

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The RBI's board approval to transfer a record 2.69 trillion rupees (\$31.6 billion) as surplus to the federal government for the fiscal year ended March could help the government reduce its fiscal deficit drastically, said Chokkalingam.

Analysts said domestic fundamentals — including projected GDP growth of more than 6% in fiscal 2026, an early onset of the southwest monsoon and moderating inflation — remain supportive, despite global uncertainty.

Among individual stocks, JSW Steel rose 2.4% after the Supreme Court of India paused the liquidation proceedings of Bhushan Power and Steel (BPSL), weeks after it rejected JSW Steel's deal to acquire the debt-ridden firm and ordered its liquidation.

Bajaj Auto also gained 2.4%. The two-wheeler maker entered a call option deal with Austria's Pierer Group to take a controlling stake in the troubled motorcycle maker KTM.

STOXX 600 JUMPS AS TRUMP'S EU TARIFF DEADLINE EXTENSION BOOSTS SENTIMENT

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

European shares surged on Monday, poised to recoup the previous session's losses on relief after U.S. President Donald Trump delayed his threat to impose a 50% tariff on the European Union.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 1% by 0710 GMT.

The benchmark lost 0.9% on Friday after Trump unexpectedly called for sharp tariffs on goods from the EU, saying that negotiations with the region were not moving fast enough.

On Sunday, Trump extended the deadline for tariffs to July 9 from June 1, as he agreed after European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told him that the 27-nation bloc needed more time to produce a deal.

European stocks rise as yields ease, data lifts sentiment

The automobiles and parts index, sensitive to tariff-related pressures, rebounded by 1.4%. Mercedes gained 2.1%, BMW rose 2% and Volkswagen advanced 1.9%.

Luxury stocks, highly exposed to the U.S. market, gained. Shares of Kering, LVMH and Richemont rose between 1.5% and 2.4%.

Economically-sensitive banks surged 1.5%, while technology stocks (.SX8P), opens new tab led gains among sectors, rising 1.9%.

AUSTRALIAN SHARES FLAT; WISETECH GAINS ON ITS BUYOUT DEAL FOR US CO

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

Australian shares traded flat on Monday, as banks' losses offset the gains in mining and tech stocks, led by WiseTech Global's jump to a more than three-month high on its biggest deal to take over a US-based cloud computing firm.

The S&P/ASX 200 index was largely unchanged at 8,354.9 points by 0033 GMT. The benchmark had closed at 8,360.9 points on Friday.

Tech stocks rose 1.4% to their highest since February 24, buoyed by software firm WiseTech Global's 4.5% rise after announcing a \$2 billion deal to buy out E2open.

Steeper copper prices pushed miners 0.4% higher.

BHP and Fortescue climbed 0.4% and 0.7%, while Rio Tinto was flat. Financials fell 0.2%, with the "Big Four" banks shedding between 0.2% and 0.6%.

Gold stocks advanced 1.2% to a more than one-month high as bullion soared after US President Donald Trump's renewed tariff threats.

Evolution Mining and Northern Star Resources added 0.8% and 2.2%, respectively.

Energy stocks gained 0.8%, tracking a rise in oil prices after Trump extended the deadline for trade talks with the European Union, easing concerns about US tariffs on the bloc that could hurt the global economy and fuel demand.

Australian shares rise on the back of banks, energy stocks

Traders are awaiting the local inflation data for April later this week to reinforce expectations of further interest rate cuts from the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) this year after last week's quarter-point trim.

Swaps now imply a 60% probability for another cut in July, while a reduction in August has been more than fully priced in.

Rates are more likely to bottom at 3.1% rather than 3.35%.

New Zealand's benchmark S&P/NZX 50 index fell 0.3% to 12,558.25 points.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand is widely anticipated to lower the cash rate by 25 basis points at its next meeting on Wednesday, a Reuters poll showed.

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CHINA, HONG KONG STOCKS WEAKEN AS AUTO SHARES, APPLE SUPPLIERS WEIGH

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

HONG KONG: China and Hong Kong stocks retreated on Monday, with automobile and Apple suppliers leading the decline.

- At the midday break, the Shanghai Composite index was down 0.3% at 3,338.42 points. China's blue-chip CSI300 index was down 0.7%.
- In Hong Kong, the benchmark Hang Seng Index was down 1% at 23,366.06. The Chinese H-share index listed in Hong Kong, the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 1.3% to 8,474.69.
- Apple supplier stocks lost ground after US President Donald Trump threatened tariffs on imported iPhones.
- iPhone assembler Luxshare and mobile screen maker Lens Tech both lost 1.3%. Airpod maker Goertek declined 0.7%.
- Car-makers also slipped, weighing on both onshore and offshore markets. The CSI All Share Automobiles Index lost 2.8% to near a one-week low, while the Hang Seng Automobile Index in Hong Kong tumbled 4.6%.
- "Sentiment has been weakening without significant fresh inflow and specific themes to trade on, analysts at China Securities said in a note.
- However, China's yuan has strengthened past the 7.17 level after the central bank tightened the midpoint fixing, and analysts say the strengthening trend of the currency should lend support to the nation's stocks.
- "We estimate every 1% of RMB increase versus the USD could boost Chinese equities by 3%," Goldman Sachs' China equity strategist Kinger Lau wrote in a note.
- Sectors such as consumer discretionary, property, and brokers typically outperform when the yuan appreciates, he added.

JAPAN'S NIKKEI RISES FOR A SECOND DAY AS TRADE FEARS EASE, NIPPON STEEL JUMPS

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

TOKYO: Japan's Nikkei share average gained for a second-straight session on Monday as easing trade tensions between the United States and Europe supported risk appetite.

Nippon Steel jumped as much as 7.4% after United States President Donald Trump appeared to give his blessing to the company's protracted takeover of US Steel.

Demand for equities rose broadly after Trump extended a tariff deadline on Europe, another backtrack from his sweeping "Liberation Day" import duties announced last month.

Japan's Nikkei bounces as US tariff fears ease, yen softens

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The Nikkei 225 Index climbed 0.5% as of the midday break, while broader Topix was up 0.25%. Japanese bonds also rallied after a dramatic week that saw super-long yields rise to records.

“The market is now becoming more and more doubtful about (the) seriousness of the tariff policy, particularly after (Trump) dropped the tariff rates on China,” said Nomura chief macro strategist Naka Matsuzawa.

“The bond market started to stabilise after steepening quite a lot on the long end, rallying for two consecutive days, so I think that gave relief to the stock market as well,” he added.

The Japanese yen remained near a one-month high against the US dollar, curbing demand for export-related shares like Mazda Motor, which lost 0.8%. Nippon Steel pared its gains to just 1.6% at the break.

The largest percentage gainers in the Nikkei were CyberAgent up 4.4%, followed by Keisei Electric Railway gaining 3.7%.

The biggest losers in the index were Konica Minolta down 3.1%, followed by department store operators J.Front Retailing and Isetan Mitsukoshi Holdings, both down 2.9%.

SOUTH KOREAN SHARES RISE 1% AS TRUMP DELAYS EU TARIFFS, BATTERY MAKERS REBOUND

- The benchmark KOSPI was up 26.97 points, or 1.04%, at 2,619.06

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

SEOUL: Round-up of South Korean financial markets:

- South Korean shares climbed 1% on Monday, led by battery makers, as risk appetite improved after US President Donald Trump delayed his threat to impose 50% tariffs on the European Union by more than a month.
- The benchmark KOSPI was up 26.97 points, or 1.04%, at 2,619.06, as of 0217 GMT.
- Trump on Sunday backed off his threat to speed up 50% tariffs on imports from the EU, agreeing to extend his deadline for trade talks until July 9 after the head of the EU executive body said the bloc needed more time to “reach a good deal.”
- South Korean presidential frontrunner Lee Jae-myung said on Sunday the deadline to reach a deal with the US on President Donald Trump’s tariffs needs to be reconsidered to find a mutually beneficial agreement between the two allies.
- Among index heavyweights, Samsung Electronics edged 0.09% lower after Trump said a 25% tariff he planned to impose on Apple would also apply to the South Korean smartphone maker and others.
- Battery maker LG Energy Solution climbed 2.8%, while peer Samsung SDI jumped 3.5%, in a rebound after sharp losses last week on Trump’s tax-cut bill, which includes cancellations of electric-vehicle tax credits.

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- Shares of Hyundai Motor and sister automaker Kia Corp were up 0.89% and up 0.11%, respectively. Steelmaker POSCO Holdings added 2.14%, while drugmaker Samsung BioLogics fell 0.10%.
- Of the total 935 traded issues, 570 shares advanced, while 323 declined.
- Foreigners were net buyers of shares worth 121.1 billion won (\$88.97 million).
- The won was quoted at 1,362.0 per dollar on the onshore settlement platform, 0.33% higher than its previous close at 1,366.5.
- The most liquid three-year Korean treasury bond yield fell by 1.8 basis points to 2.324%, while the benchmark 10-year yield fell by 0.8 basis point to 2.747%.

SELLING PRESSURE AT BOURSE, KSE-100 SHEDS NEARLY 900 POINTS

BR Web Desk Published May 26, 2025

Negative sentiment was observed at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday, with its benchmark KSE-100 Index closing the day with a loss of nearly 900 points.

Selling pressure persisted throughout the trading session, dragging the KSE-100 Index to an intra-day low of 118,150.27.

At close, the benchmark index settled at 118,221.12, a decrease of 881.55 points or 0.74%.

“The local bourse witnessed a profit-taking session on Monday as uncertainty continued to weigh on investor sentiment,” brokerage house Topline Securities said in its post-market report.

“The bearish trend was primarily driven by concerns over the delay in the federal budget announcement and the lack of clarity regarding the IMF conditions tied to it.

“In the absence of positive triggers, investors chose to trim their positions and adopt a cautious stance,” it said.

KEL led the volume chart with 246.93 million shares traded, closing at its upper circuit, following news that K-Electric secured a dollar-linked tariff for its transmission and distribution business.

Energy stocks came under pressure amid rumours of a potential delay in the clearance of circular debt, with PPL, OGDC, and PSO emerging as major losers. On the downside, key index heavyweights including ENGROH, SYS, PSO, FFC, and OGDC collectively contributed to a 452-point decline in the benchmark index, Topline said.

During the previous week, the PSX remained under persistent pressure as investors adopted a cautious stance ahead of the upcoming federal budget amid growing concerns about proposed tax measures, which led to a continued downward trend in the market. The KSE-100 Index plunged by 546.47 points, or 0.45% week-on-week (WoW), closing at 119,102.67 points down from 119,649.14 points in the previous week.

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Internationally, stock markets across Asia edged higher on Monday, and the euro rallied after President Donald Trump abruptly extended by more than a month his threat to slap 50% tariffs on EU goods, marking another temporary reprieve as part of his erratic trade policy.

On Sunday, Trump agreed to extend his deadline for trade talks until July 9, from the June 1 deadline he set on Friday, after European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc needed more time to “reach a good deal.”

Market sentiment had been steadying after a sharp selloff across most assets last month as Trump paused his growth-denting tariffs and investors were keen on fresh trade deals after a pact with UK and a temporary agreement with China.

However, Trump’s latest policy moves were a reminder to investors how quickly circumstances could change and analysts have been pointing out that investors are shifting their money out of the US to Europe and Asia as they price in a possible US recession and a consequent global slowdown.

Apple was also caught in the trade crossfire on Friday, after Trump threatened a 25% levy on all imported iPhones bought by US consumers.

On Monday, MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan inched up 0.12%, while Japan’s Nikkei was marginally higher.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani rupee registered slight decline against the US dollar, depreciating 0.03% in the inter-bank market on Monday. At close, the local currency settled at 282.06, a loss of Re0.09 against the greenback.

Volume on the all-share index increased to 635.53 million from 338.00 million recorded in the previous close.

The value of shares rose to Rs18.58 billion from Rs18.51 billion in the previous session.

K-Electric Ltd was the volume leader with 246.93 million shares, followed by WorldCall Telecom with 36.72 million shares, and Telecard Limited with 30.01 million shares.

Shares of 467 companies were traded on Monday, of which 188 registered an increase, 235 recorded a fall, while 44 remained unchanged.

INDIAN BENCHMARK INDEXES SET TO OPEN HIGHER AFTER TRUMP DELAYS EU TARIFFS

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

India’s benchmark indexes are set to open marginally higher on Monday, after U.S. President Donald Trump extended the deadline for trade talks with the European Union, easing near-term tensions.

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Gift Nifty futures were trading at 24,935.5 as of 8:09 a.m. IST, indicating that the Nifty 50 will open above its Friday's close of 24,853.15.

Trump on Sunday backed off his threat to speed up 50% tariffs on imports from the EU, agreeing to extend his deadline for trade talks until July 9 after the head of the EU executive body said the bloc needed more time to "reach a good deal."

Other Asian markets opened marginally higher, with the MSCI Asia ex-Japan index gaining 0.2%, while oil prices also edged higher on easing concerns of fuel demand.

Indian equity benchmarks top Asian gainers, erase weekly losses

The Nifty 50 has climbed 5.7% since early April, supported by foreign inflows, improving corporate earnings, and expectations that India will remain relatively insulated from U.S. tariffs. The index remains 5.4% below its record high of September 27, 2024.

Foreign portfolio investors purchased 17.95 billion rupees (\$211.14 million) worth of Indian equities on Friday, bringing May's net inflows to \$1.64 billion.

Investor focus will also be on key domestic triggers, with India's Q4 GDP data due on May 30 and the RBI's policy decision on June 6. Signs of economic recovery or policy support could further strengthen sentiment and corporate profitability expectations.

Short-term momentum remains constructive, but global trade risks and upcoming data releases may drive volatility, two analysts said.

GOLD PRICES FALL BY RS2,600 PER TOLA IN LOCAL MARKETS

May 26, 2025

Karachi, May 26, 2025 – Gold prices experienced a significant decline on Monday, falling by Rs2,600 per tola in local markets following a notable drop in the international bullion market.

The price of 24-karat gold settled at Rs351,500 per tola, down from the previous closing of Rs354,100 in domestic markets.

Similarly, the rate of 24-karat gold per 10 grams also fell by Rs2,228, closing at Rs301,354 compared to Rs303,583 a day earlier in the local bullion trade. The decline comes just a month after gold prices reached an all-time high of Rs363,700 per tola on April 22, 2025, in local markets.

Market analysts and bullion traders attributed the sharp decline in local gold prices to weakness in the international market. On the global front, gold prices dropped by \$26 per ounce, settling at \$3,331 from the previous close of \$3,357. Experts pointed to ongoing geopolitical tensions, a slowdown in global demand, and rising uncertainty over international trade tariffs as key contributors to the volatility in precious metal prices.

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According to bullion dealers, investors are currently shifting focus away from safe-haven assets like gold, preferring more liquid options amid expectations of monetary tightening in major economies. The easing of international tensions in certain regions and a rebound in equity markets have also diminished the appeal of gold as a hedge, leading to reduced demand and lower prices.

In Pakistan, the impact of the global price dip was promptly reflected in the local markets, where traders and jewellers saw moderate buying activity as customers anticipated further corrections in gold prices. Despite the recent dip, dealers noted that prices remain relatively high compared to historical averages, keeping overall retail activity subdued.

Traders suggest that future movements in gold prices will largely depend on the direction of international markets and domestic currency fluctuations, especially against the US dollar. With continued uncertainty in global financial dynamics, local bullion markets are expected to remain sensitive to external shocks.

For now, stakeholders are keeping a close watch on global cues and hoping for stabilization, which could encourage more consistent trading activity in local markets.

KSE-100 INDEX SHEDS 882 POINTS AMID BUDGET UNCERTAINTY

May 26, 2025

Karachi, May 26, 2025 – The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a sharp downturn on Monday as the benchmark KSE-100 index plummeted by 882 points, closing at 118,221 points, down from Friday's closing level of 119,103 points.

The decline was fueled by investor concerns over the delayed announcement of the federal budget for the fiscal year 2025–26, compounded by uncertainties surrounding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program.

According to analysts at Topline Securities Limited, the session was dominated by broad-based profit-taking, as market participants reacted negatively to the lack of policy clarity. The KSE-100 index briefly fell as much as 952 points during intraday trading, reflecting deep-rooted investor unease. The day ultimately ended with a 0.74% loss in the index, which is widely considered a key barometer of market sentiment.

Market watchers noted that the bearish spell was largely driven by the absence of positive triggers and growing apprehensions regarding the government's ongoing negotiations with the IMF. Delays in finalizing budgetary measures linked to IMF conditions have led investors to adopt a defensive approach, reducing their exposure to riskier assets.

K-Electric Limited (KEL) emerged as the most actively traded stock, with a staggering 246 million shares changing hands. KEL hit its upper circuit amid reports that the company had secured a dollar-linked tariff mechanism for its transmission and distribution operations—news that was received positively by market participants.

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Conversely, energy sector heavyweights such as Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDC), and Pakistan State Oil (PSO) faced heavy selling pressure. Market rumors about delays in resolving the circular debt issue weighed heavily on these scrips.

Collectively, major index contributors including ENGROH, Systems Limited (SYS), PSO, Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), and OGDC were responsible for a 452-point drag on the KSE-100 index.

Despite the overall negative trend, trading activity remained buoyant. Total traded volume reached 634 million shares, while trading value stood at Rs18.5 billion, indicating sustained interest from both retail and institutional investors.

Market analysts believe that clarity on the budget timeline and IMF terms will be crucial for stabilizing the index and restoring investor confidence in the sessions ahead.

Technology

WITH DIGITAL PUSH UNDERWAY, PM APPOINTS BILAL BIN SAQIB AS SAPM ON BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTO

BR Web Desk Published May 26, 2025

In a key step towards embracing crypto technology, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appointed Bilal bin Saqib as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Blockchain and Crypto with the status of Minister of State.

The development comes weeks after Saqib was appointed as the Chief Advisor to the Finance Minister for the Pakistan Crypto Council (PCC). Saqib also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the PCC.

Saqib, recognised by Forbes, is a Web3 investor, strategic advisor, and thought leader in the blockchain space is also the recipient of the 1632nd Points of Light Award, awarded by the British Prime Minister to recognise change-makers in the country.

He received his MBE (Member of the British Empire) in 2023 for contributions to the National Health Service in the UK.

His appointment as state minister coincides with Pakistan's ambitious move to harness surplus energy for digital infrastructure.

On Sunday, the government announced the allocation of 2,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity to fuel Bitcoin mining and AI data centers—marking the first phase of a transformative national strategy to monetize surplus energy, attract foreign investment, and propel the country into the forefront of the digital revolution.

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The landmark initiative, led by the PSCC under the Ministry of Finance, aims to convert Pakistan's underutilised power capacity into a high-value asset, read a statement from the Finance Division.

With AI and Bitcoin mining operations requiring massive, consistent power, Pakistan's surplus electricity, particularly from underutilised plants, is being repurposed into a lucrative opportunity.

"This energy-backed digital transformation not only unlocks high-value investment but enables the government to generate foreign exchange in USD through Bitcoin mining," said Saqib.

He further revealed that Pakistan could eventually accumulate Bitcoin in a national wallet, shifting from selling power in PKR to holding digital assets for long-term economic stability.

Days ago, the government announced the establishment of a dedicated body — the Pakistan Digital Assets Authority (PDAA) — to regulate blockchain-based financial infrastructure, read a statement released by the Ministry of Finance.

OPENAI TO OPEN OFFICE IN SEOUL AMID GROWING DEMAND FOR CHATGPT

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

SEOUL: OpenAI will set up its first office in Seoul and has established an entity in South Korea as demand in the country jumps for its ChatGPT service, the company said on Monday.

South Korea has the largest number of paying ChatGPT subscribers after the United States, according to OpenAI.

OpenAI has also begun hiring staff to support partnerships with the country and expects to announce further details on this in coming months, the company said.

OpenAI in talks to hire senior executive for major leadership role, The Information reports

"Korea's full-stack AI ecosystem makes it one of the most promising markets in the world for meaningful AI impact, from silicon to software, and students to seniors," Chief Strategy Officer Jason Kwon said in a statement.

Earlier this year, OpenAI announced it would develop artificial intelligence products for South Korea with chat app operator Kakao.

Kwon, who is visiting Seoul, is set to hold a meeting with officials from the main opposition Democratic Party and the ruling People Power Party, local media reported.

Business & Finance » Companies

VOLVO CARS TO CUT 3,000 JOBS IN RESTRUCTURING

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

STOCKHOLM: Sweden-based Volvo Cars said on Monday it will cut 3,000 mostly white-collar jobs as part of a restructuring announced last month as it grapples with high costs, a slowdown in electric vehicle demand and uncertainty over trade tariffs.

Volvo Cars, which is majority-owned by China's Geely Holding, on April 29 unveiled a programme to slash costs by 18 billion Swedish crowns (\$1.9 billion) and hit the brakes on investments, warning that redundancies were inevitable.

In the first quarter, the auto maker had 43,500 full-time employees and 3,000 staffing agency personnel, according to its earnings report.

Volvo Cars said in a statement the reductions will primarily affect office-based positions in Sweden and represent around 15% of the total office-based workforce globally.

"The automotive industry is in the middle of a challenging period. To address this, we must improve our cash flow generation and structurally lower our costs," CEO Hakan Samuelsson said.

Volvo Cars CEO says customers must pay for rising tariffs

As the group announced its cost cuts last month it also withdrew its financial guidance, pointing to unpredictable markets amid weaker consumer confidence and trade tariffs causing turmoil in the global auto industry.

On Friday U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose a 50% tariff on imports from the European Union from June 1, but on Monday he backed away from that date, restoring a July 9 deadline to allow for talks between Washington and Brussels.

Samuelsson on Friday told Reuters customers would pay a big part of any tariff-related cost increases, and that a 50% levy could make it impossible to import one of its most affordable cars, the Belgium-made EX30 electric vehicle, to the U.S.

NEPRA APPROVES KE'S T&D TARIFF PLAN FOR 7 YEARS

BR Web Desk Published May 26, 2025

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved K-Electric's (KE) new Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) for transmission and distribution (T&D) network segments for FY2024 to FY2030 (MYT Period).

The power utility company announced the development in a notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday.

The listed company submitted its application for MYT (T&D segments) to NEPRA on December 27, 2023, after NEPRA approved the investment plan for this tariff period.

“Pursuant to investment plan approval for the MYT period, KE had applied to NEPRA for approval of MYT for transmission and distribution network segments on December 27, 2023, in accordance with Rule 3(1) of NEPRA (Tariff Standards and Procedure) Rules, 1998.”

K-Electric stated it is currently reviewing the approved tariff in detail “and will exercise available remedies, if required, in accordance with the statutory provisions”.

Meanwhile, the MYT for supply segment and motion for review of approved investment plan for the MYT period “is currently under determination of NEPRA,” said KE.

The power utility added that approval of the supply segment and resolution of the motion for review are crucial for K-Electric's financial statements after June 30, 2023.

KE requested a tariff control period of seven years (FY 2024 to FY 2030), consistent with previous allowances and the approved investment plan for transmission and distribution (T&D). A sustainable long-term tariff is crucial for financing and equity investment, as lenders require clear revenue and profitability forecasts.

PAKISTAN'S RICE EXPORTER MATCO TO RESTRUCTURE CORN STARCH BUSINESS

BR Web Desk Published May 26, 2025

In a strategic move, Matco Foods Limited, one of Pakistan's leading rice exporters, has approved a corporate restructuring initiative involving its corn starch business.

The decision involves the demerger of the corn starch business and its merger into Matco Corn Products (Private) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary. The listed company informed its stakeholders in a notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday.

“This is in continuation of the disclosures/notices issued by Matco Foods Limited on November 25, 2024, February 28, 2025 and May 9, 2025, pertaining, inter alia, to the company's strategic vision of carving out its corn starch division into a wholly-owned subsidiary, and exploring and evaluating strategic options to raise growth capital for the same.

Matco Foods Limited

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“Consequently, the Board of Directors of the company, through circular resolutions passed on May 23, 2025, approved the corporate restructuring/reorganization of the company, involving, inter alia, the demerger/carve out of certain assets, liabilities, obligations and undertakings of the company, pertaining to its corn starch division, and the merger of the same with and into the company’s wholly owned subsidiary i.e. Matco Corn Products (Private) Limited (MCPPL),” read the notice.

Under the proposed scheme, Matco Foods will transfer its corn starch business to MCPPL, said the company.

In return, MCPPL will issue shares to Matco Foods, thereby maintaining MCPPL as a wholly owned subsidiary.

“The scheme shall be subject to all requisite shareholders’, creditors’ and regulatory approvals being obtained, and the sanction of the Scheme by the High Court of Sindh at Karachi, along with fulfilment of related legal formalities, and further subject to any changes or modifications thereto as may be required or prescribed, or such amendments as may be considered necessary,” it added.

Founded as Matco Rice Processing Private Limited in 1964. Matco Foods is principally engaged in the processing and export of rice, rice protein, rice glucose, pink salt, condiments and spices, dessert mixes, etc.

The company is one of the largest rice exporters of the country with exports of its flagship brand ‘Falak’ in over 65 countries across the globe.

Markets » Financial

DESPITE LOWER SURPLUS TRANSFER, INDIAN BOND YIELDS COULD DIP FURTHER, ANALYSTS SAY

Reuters Published about 8 hours ago

MUMBAI: Indian government bond yields and overnight index swap rates are set to continue their downward trend, as expectations that the central bank will infuse further liquidity and lower interest rates boost investor sentiment, analysts and traders said.

Even the Reserve Bank of India’s lower-than-expected surplus transfer to the government is unlikely to impact demand in the short term and bond yields, which move inversely to prices, could dip further as the June 6 monetary policy decision looms, they added.

This is in contrast to U.S. Treasury yields, which have been climbing recently due to concerns over proposed tariffs on key U.S. trading partners and a rising budget deficit.

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The gap between the benchmark 10-year Indian and U.S. bond yields has dropped to a near 21-year low, with investors not anticipating any sharp reversal.

In India, the short end of the yield curve has declined significantly more than the long end, amid relentless liquidity injection, and the steepness is expected to persist, traders said.

India bond yields witness upside bias as Treasury yields spike

The 10-year bond yield has eased 52 basis points (bps) so far in 2025, whereas the five-year bond yield has dropped 80 bps.

Nomura recommends a long position in the 6.75% 2029 bond with a target of 5.75% in a month, anticipating the spread with the 10-year bond yield to widen to 50 bps from 36 bps currently.

With the RBI focused on economic growth, overnight index swap rates have plummeted, anticipating over 50 bps of rate cuts in the ongoing easing cycle.

The one-year swap rate has registered its most significant inversion against the RBI repo rate in five years.

The RBI has cut the repo rate by 50 bps so far and is expected to cut at least by a similar quantum in the coming months, with Nomura expecting another 100 bps of cuts in 2025.

The RBI has pumped around \$100 billion into the banking system over the past six months, the largest amount ever for such a period, using methods such as easing the cash reserve ratio, secondary market debt purchases, foreign exchange swaps, and aggressive open market operations.

IDFC First Bank predicts the impact of the surplus transfer to be evident in liquidity from June to August, deferring the need for debt purchases to October-March.

It anticipates the RBI will purchase bonds worth another 1.6 trillion rupees (\$18.83 billion) this fiscal.

INDIA REGULATOR FINES MCX OVER INADEQUATE DISCLOSURES ON TRADING PLATFORM

Reuters Published May 26, 2025

India's markets regulator on Monday fined Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) 2.5 million rupees (\$29,383) for inadequate disclosures and providing incorrect information related to its trading platform contract.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said MCX repeatedly extended its contract with 63 Moons Technologies at a high cost after delays in a move to a new trading platform developed by Tata Consultancy Services.

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SEBI said MCX failed to complete the platform migration in a timely manner, putting it at risk of being left without vendor support for its core trading software — potentially disrupting key market functions and affecting a broad range of stakeholders.

The regulator said MCX made insufficient disclosures to stock exchanges and submitted misleading information about the timeline of the derivatives trading platform project.

Markets » Energy

OIL EDGES DOWN AS POTENTIAL HIGHER OPEC+ OUTPUT EYED

Reuters Published 6 minutes ago

Oil prices eased on Tuesday as market participants weighed the possibility of an OPEC+ decision to further increase its crude oil output at a meeting later this week.

Brent crude futures shed 12 cents, or 0.19%, to \$64.62 a barrel by 0022 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was down 15 cents, or 0.24%, at \$61.38 a barrel.

“Crude oil edged lower as the market contemplated the outlook for rising OPEC supply,” Daniel Hynes, senior commodity strategist at ANZ, said in a note.

Eight OPEC+ members that had pledged additional voluntary cuts are now expected to meet on May 31, one day earlier than previously scheduled, three sources within the group told Reuters on Monday.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, collectively known as OPEC+, will likely finalise July output at the meeting, which sources have previously told Reuters will entail a production increase of 411,000 barrels per day.

This month, OPEC+ agreed to accelerate oil output increases for a second consecutive month in June.

However, losses were limited as U.S. President Donald Trump announced an extension to trade talks with the European Union until July 9, alleviating immediate fears of tariffs that could suppress fuel demand.

Oil steadies after Trump extends EU trade talks deadline

Elsewhere, Iran set the official selling price for its light crude oil grade for Asian buyers at \$1.80 a barrel above the Oman/Dubai average for June, the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said. The price it set for May was a premium of \$1.65.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that Iran would be able to survive if negotiations with the U.S. over its nuclear programme fail to secure a deal.

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If nuclear talks between the U.S. and Iran fail, it could mean continued sanctions on Iran, which would limit Iranian supply and be supportive of oil prices.

OPEC+ EXPECTED TO OPEN TAPS MORE DESPITE PRICE SLUMP

AFP Published about 5 hours ago

LONDON: Despite oil trading low at \$60, OPEC+ this week is expected to continue to further open the taps.

This follows pressure from US President Donald Trump and group leader Saudi Arabia's quest to penalise allies that breach the cartel's quotas.

In past months, Saudi Arabia, Russia and six other OPEC+ members have surprised markets by announcing a sharp increase in oil production for May and June despite the low prices.

Numbering a total of 22 countries, most of which are highly dependent on oil revenues, the group has long been exploiting supply scarcity to boost prices, holding millions of barrels in reserve.

This week the cartel will hold two meetings — one online on Wednesday with all OPEC+ members to discuss the group's common strategy, and one on Sunday with just the eight member states — known as the "V8" — that have made the largest cuts in recent years. "What's most interesting is the V8 decision" in Sunday's meeting regarding production for July, UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo told AFP.

Analysts expect the V8 to up production by 411,000 barrels a day for July — the same as in May and June — whereas the initial plan called for an increase of just 137,000 barrels.

This could further weigh down prices already slumping to lows last seen during the pandemic, which hit global demand.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and their allies — collectively known as OPEC+ — have justified their change in strategy by citing "current healthy market fundamentals, as reflected in the low oil inventories". But observers are sceptical, given concerns about global demand due to the trade war that Trump has unleashed. Since late 2022, the cartel had slashed production, with Riyadh, Moscow and the six other OPEC+ members withholding 2.2 million barrels per day.

At the start of the year, the group said it would reintroduce some of the oil kept under ground, but it has significantly accelerated the pace. With this, OPEC leader Saudi Arabia effectively

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puts pressure on members that have failed to cut back their production as agreed, reducing their profits.

OIL STEADIES AFTER TRUMP EXTENDS EU TRADE TALKS DEADLINE

Reuters Published about 5 hours ago

CALGARY: Oil prices steadied on Monday after US President Donald Trump extended a deadline for trade talks with the European Union, easing concerns about US tariffs on the bloc that could hit fuel demand.

Brent crude futures were down 17 cents at \$64.61 a barrel at 8:35 ET while US West Texas Intermediate crude was down 18 cents to \$61.35 a barrel.

Both contracts had traded higher earlier in the session after Trump said he agreed to extend a deadline for trade talks with the European Union until July 9, marking another temporary trade policy reprieve. Global markets climbed on Monday and the euro rallied after Trump delayed his threat to slap 50% tariffs on EU goods.

“Trump’s pivot, by postponing higher tariffs for the EU, and his comments on possible sanctions on Russia are moderately supporting crude prices today,” UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

Trading volumes are expected to be light Monday due to the US Memorial Day holiday. Trump separately said in a social media post that Russian President Vladimir Putin had “gone absolutely CRAZY” by unleashing the largest aerial attack of the war on Ukraine and that he was weighing new sanctions on Moscow.

Brent and WTI traded higher on Friday as limited progress in US-Iran nuclear talks quashed expectations more Iranian oil will return to global markets, and as US buyers covered positions ahead of the three-day Memorial Day weekend.

Prices on Friday also drew strength from data from energy services firm Baker Hughes that showed US firms cut the number of operating oil rigs by eight to 465 last week, the lowest since November 2021, raising the chance of tighter supplies in future. The gains were capped by expectations that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies, a group known as OPEC+, could decide to increase output by another 411,000 barrels per day for July at a meeting on Sunday.

PAKISTAN’S POWER SECTOR INDIGENIZATION NEED OF THE HOUR: AWAIS LEGHARI

APP Published May 26, 2025

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari said on Saturday that government is striving for exports-oriented economy instead of imports and power sector indigenization is need of the hour.

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He added that power sector reforms are going on, while independent system and market operator has been fully functional and Energy Infrastructure Development and Management Company will also be made functional soon.

He was addressing through a video link the national consultative workshop on “Power Sector Indigenization Road Map” jointly hosted by National Grid Company (NGC), formerly NTDC, and LUMS (Lahore University of Management Sciences) Energy Institute here at the LUMS campus.

The event brought together senior leadership from the power sector, manufacturing industry, regulatory bodies, policymakers and academia to chart a cohesive national strategy for accelerating the localization of Pakistan’s electrical power equipment manufacturing ecosystem.

The Federal Minister commended the joint initiative, stating, “NGC is the first national entity to implement an approved Indigenization Policy, and its strategic procurement model is already delivering tangible results”.

He urged WAPDA, DISCOs (Distribution Companies), KE (Karachi Electric), and state-owned and private power generation plants to adopt indigenization as a strategic imperative—not as CSR, but as a core procurement principle aligned with the National Electricity Plan 2023–2027.

A key milestone of the workshop was the launch of Pakistan’s first Power Equipment Manufacturing Dashboard, developed by the LUMS Energy Institute with input from power sector stakeholders. This real-time digital tool will monitor localization progress, assess vendor capacity, and identify strategic investment opportunities under the Power Sector Indigenization Plan (PSIP). The dashboard was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Fiaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Chairman NGC Board of Directors, and Senior Advisor at the LUMS Energy Institute, Pakistan Engineering Council Chairman Engineer Waseem Nazir, Managing Director NGC Engineer Muhammad Waseem Younas, CEO K-Electric Syed Monis Abdullah Alvi and others.

About the Dashboard, Federal Minister said that the launch of this dashboard is a welcome step and it will help in power sector indigenization.

Dr Fiaz Chaudhry stated, “NGC’s indigenization strategy—anchored in policy reform and targeted educational orders—has already saved over USD 10 million in foreign exchange through import substitution.”

He reaffirmed that LUMS will continue supporting policy design, digital innovation, and institutional transformation in the energy sector. Pakistan’s market for static transmission and substations is currently valued at around USD 8 million. This figure, however, does not reflect the true scale of our potential. “We must work to expand this market at least threefolds through strategic development, innovation, and local industrial growth.

At the same time, we should set a clear target of achieving no less than USD 16 million in exports from this sector. That is the level of ambition we must embrace to position ourselves competitively on the global stage,” he maintained.

K-ELECTRIC SECURES DOLLAR-BASED TARIFF FOR SEVEN YEARS

May 26, 2025

Karachi, May 26, 2025 – In a significant regulatory development, K-Electric (KEL) has successfully secured a dollar-based tariff structure for its transmission and distribution operations, following a similar arrangement granted earlier for its power generation segment.

This new dollar-linked tariff will remain in effect for a period of seven years, covering the fiscal years from FY2024 to FY2030.

According to analysts at Topline Securities Limited, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved a 14% USD-based Internal Rate of Return (IRR) for K-Electric's distribution business. This translates into a PKR-based Return on Equity (ROE) of 25.6% for the first year (FY24), significantly higher than the previous PKR-denominated tariff, which offered a return of 16.67%.

Similarly, the company's transmission segment has been granted a USD IRR of 12%, equating to a PKR ROE of 21.4% for FY24. This is an improvement over the earlier return of 15% under the local currency-based tariff framework. The newly introduced tariff regime breaks from past practice by unbundling the business into three separate components—generation, transmission, and distribution—each with its own regulatory return structure.

Earlier, in October 2024, NEPRA approved a dollar-based tariff for K-Electric's generation business, offering a 14% USD ROE under a "take-or-pay" model. This move replaced the previous model, which offered a 17.56% PKR-based ROE (15% base plus a 2.56% pre-defined devaluation factor). Analysts view these new returns under the latest control period as a notable improvement and a positive signal for the company's long-term financial planning.

The PKR-denominated returns appear higher than the USD returns due to the base exchange rate being indexed from FY2016, which accounts for currency devaluation over time. However, the dollar-based approach provides more predictability and insulation from exchange rate fluctuations.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Energy (MoE), in its written observations, expressed reservations about awarding a dollar-based ROE to K-Electric, labeling it "unjustified." The MoE pointed out that FESCO, a government-owned utility, was recently granted only a 14.66% return in rupees.

Nevertheless, NEPRA has suggested that K-Electric's distribution tariff structure could be revisited and aligned with those of other power distribution companies (DISCOs) once they undergo privatization.

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Markets – Rates

BRINDEX100 AND BR SECTORAL INDICES

KARACHI: BRIndex100 and BR Sectoral Indices on Monday (May 26, 2025).

===== BR...

Recorder Report Published about 5 hours ago

KARACHI: BRIndex100 and BR Sectoral Indices on Monday (May 26, 2025).

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BR INDICASE AT A GLANCE

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BRINDEX100

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Day Close:	118,221.12
High:	119,290.94
Low:	118,150.28
Net Change:	881.55
Volume (000):	350,581
Value (000):	12,237,459
Makt Cap (000)	3,535,512,000

BR AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLER

Day Close:	21,502.27
NET CH	(-) 221.06

BR CEMENT

Day Close:	9,906.17
NET CH	(-) 78.89

BR COMMERCIAL BANKS

Day Close:	34,678.59
NET CH	(-) 233.05

BR POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Day Close:	20,063.36
NET CH	(+) 118.74

BR OIL AND GAS

Day Close:	11,411.99
NET CH	(-) 165.86

BR TECH & COMM

Day Close:	4,957.64
NET CH	(-) 64.25

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As on: 26-MAY-2025

These indices are available Live on Aaj TV, www.brecorder.com and www.khistocks.com.

For further information please visit www.khistocks.com

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

Recorder Report Published about 5 hours ago

KARACHI: Karachi Shipping Intelligence report incorporating changes till 7 am on Monday (May 26, 2025).

Alongside East Wharf

Berth No.	Ship	Working	Agent	Berthing Date
Op-3	Swan lake	Disc Crude Oil	Pak National Ship	24-05-2025
B-1	Hakone	Disc	Alpine Marine	24-05-2025
B-2	Galaxy	Chemical	Services	
	JiproLsis	Disc	Alpine Marine	25-05-2025
		Chemical	Services	
B-11/B-12	Damon	Load	Ocean Services	24-05-2025
		Clinkers		
B-14/B-15	Interlink	Disc. DAP	Bulk Shipping	18-05-2025
	Priority		Agencies	
Nmb-1	Al Danish 1	Load Rice	N.S.Shipping	07-05-2025
			Line	
Num-1	Al Khaleel 3	Load Other	N.S.Shipping	22-05-2025
			Line	
Num-2	Taef	Load Rice	N.S.Shipping	20-05-2025
			Line	

Alongside WEST Wharf

B-20/B21	Princess	Load Rice	Pak Liner	21-05-2025
	Wafya		Agencies	
B-28/B-29	X-Press	Dis Load	X-Press Feeders	
	Salween	Containers	Sip Agency Pak	25-05-2025

Alongside SOUTH Wharf

Sapt-2	Northern	Dis./Load	Cma Cgm Pak	25-05-2025
	Juvenile	Containers		
Sapt-4	Ever Lasting	Dis./Load	Green Pak	24-05-2025
		Containers	Shipping	

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Expected Sailing

Name of Vessel	Expected Date	Expected Arrival Cargo	Agent
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Expected Arrivals

INF LIGHT	26-05-2025	D/10000 JET OIL	Trans Maritime
M.TSHALAMR	26-05-2025	D/73000 CRUDE OIL	Pakistan National
ANCHOR 18	26-05-2025	D/7500 CHEMICAL	Alpine Marine
VALENCE	26-05-2025	D/L CONTAINER	Eastwind
MSC ULSAN III	26-05-2025	D/L CONTAINER	Msc Agency
X-PRESS			
ODYSSEY	26-05-2025	D/L CONTAINER	X-Press Feeders
SANA	26-05-2025	L/2000 RICE	Ocean World
FAIRCHEM			
CONQUEST	27-05-2025	D/1000 CHEMICAL	Gac Pakistan
KMTC	27-05-2025	D/L CONTAINER	United Marine
CHENNAL			Agencies
FSL KELANG	27-05-2025	D/L CONTAINER	Cma Cgm
WAN HAL 626	27-05-2025	D/L CONTAINER	Riazada
CMA CGM			
ZANZIBAR	27-05-2025	D/L CONTAINER	Cma Cgm
BLUE	27-05-2025	D/4850 ROCK	WMA Shipcare
VOYAGE		PHOSPHATE	
ZX GLORY	27-05-2025	D/39787 GENERAL CARGO	Seahawks Asia Global

Ship Sailed

Name of Vessel	Departure Date	Ships Departures Cargo	Agent
HIGHWAY	26-05-2025	CONTAINER SHIP	-
T.SARGODHA	26-05-2025	TANKER	-
DSI PYXIS	26-05-2025	CLINKERS	-
INDEPENDENT	26-05-2025	CONTAINER SHIP	-
SPIRIT			
OOCL			
NAGOYA	26-05-2025	CONTAINER SHIP	-
ELENI T	26-05-2025	CONTAINER SHIP	-

PORT QASIM INTELLIGENCE

Berth	Vessel	Working	Agent	Berthing Date
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MULTI PURPOSE TERMINAL

MW-4	OBE Lotus	Coal	Alpine	May 23rd, 2025
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2nd Container Terminal

QICT	MSC Guernsey	Container	MSC PAK	May 26th, 2025
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FOTCO OIL TERMINAL

FOTCO	INF Light	Gas oil	Trans Marine	May 23rd, 2025
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GRAIN & FERTILIZER TEMINAL

FAP	Gloria	Soya Bean Seed	East Wind	May 22nd, 2025
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DEPARTURE

Vessel	Commodity	Ship Agent	Departure Date
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Leonora Kosan	Chemicals	Alpine	May 26th, 2025
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EXPECTED Departures

INF Light	Gas oil	Trans Marine	May 26th, 2025
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OUTERANCHORAGE

MSC

Guernsey	Container	MSC PAK	May 26th, 2025
Nave Cielo	Gas oil	Trans Marine	-do-
Al-Daayan	LNG	GSA	-do-
Sakizaya	Soya	Ocean Service	Waiting for Berths
Unicorn	Bean Seed		
Venus-9	LPG	Mer Marine Serv	-do-
Athanasia-C	Soya	Ocean Service	-do-
	Bean Seed		

EXPECTED ARRIVAL

Eleni-T	Container	GAC	May 26th, 2025
Valence	Container	GAC	May 27th, 2025
MSC Ulsan-III	Container	MSC PAK	-do-

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KIBOR INTERBANK OFFERED RATES

KARACHI: Kibor interbank offered rates on Monday (May 26, 2025).
KIBOR...

Published about 5 hours ago

KARACHI: Kibor interbank offered rates on Monday (May 26, 2025).

KIBOR		
Tenor	BID	OFFER

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1-Week	10.93	11.43
2-Week	10.93	11.43
1-Month	10.95	11.45
3-Month	11.11	11.36
6-Month	11.13	11.38
9-Month	11.13	11.63
1-Year	11.12	11.62
=====		

Data source: SBP

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LME OFFICIAL PRICES

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

Recorder Report Published about 5 hours ago

LONDON: The following were Friday official prices.

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ALUMINIUM

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CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	2435.00	2437.00
3-month	2447.00	2448.00

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COPPER

=====

CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	9594.00	9595.00
3-month	9565.00	9570.00

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ZINC

=====

CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	2650.50	2651.00
3-month	2675.00	2675.50

=====

NICKEL

=====

CONTRACT	BID	OFFER

Cash	15200.00	15205.00
3-month	15395.00	15405.00

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LEAD

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CONTRACT	BID	OFFER
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Cash	1957.50	1958.00
3-month	1980.50	1981.50
=====		

Source: London Metals Exchange.

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ACTIVITIES OF KARACHI PORT TRUST, PORT QASIM

Recorder Report Published about 5 hours ago

KARACHI: The Karachi Port Trust handled 416,599 tonnes of cargo comprising 273,923 tonnes of import cargo and 142,676 tonnes of export cargo during last 48 hours, ending at 0700 hours.

The total import cargo of 273,923 comprised of 130,268 tonnes of Containerized Cargo, 11,949 tonnes of Dap, & 131,706 tonnes of Liquid Cargo.

The total export cargo of 142,676 comprised of 92,539 Containerized Cargo, 1,297 tonnes of Bulk Cargo, & 48,186 Clinkers 654 tonnes of Rice.

Approximately, 04 ships, namely, Eleni t, X-Press Salween, Northern Javenile & Jipro Isis, berthed at the Karachi Port Trust.

Around, 06 ships namely, Highway, MT Sargodha, Dsi pyxis, Independent Spirit, Oocl Nagoya & Eleni t, sailed from the Karachi Port Trust.

PORT QASIM

A total of five ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a chemicals carrier 'Leonora Kosan' left the port on Monday morning, while another gas carrier 'INF Light' expected to sail on Monday.

Cargo volume of 42,742 tonnes, comprising 42,742 tonnes imports cargo and Nil export cargo was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Nave Cielo, Al-Daayan & another ship 'Eleni-T' carrying Gas oil, LNG and Container are expected to take berths at FOTCO, PGPCL and QICT respectively on Monday 26th May, while two more container ships, Valence and MSC Ulsan-III are due to expected arrive at outer anchorage on Tuesday 27th May, 2025.

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OPEN MARKET FOREX RATES

Updated at: 27/5/2025 7:18 AM (PST)

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.20	186.45
Bahrain Dinar	752.40	760.40
Canadian Dollar	207.00	209.40
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	42.23	42.63
Euro	319.65	322.40
Hong Kong Dollar	35.64	35.99
Indian Rupee	3.2	3.29
Japanese Yen	1.98	2.04
Kuwaiti Dinar	915.30	924.80
Malaysian Ringgit	65.38	65.98
NewZealand \$	166.10	168.10
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.60
Omani Riyal	736.85	745.35
Qatari Riyal	76.85	77.55
Saudi Riyal	75.30	75.85
Singapore Dollar	220.5	222.50
Swedish Korona	28.98	29.28
Swiss Franc	335.55	338.35
Thai Bhat	8.42	8.57
U.A.E Dirham	76.90	77.55
UK Pound Sterling	379.70	383.2
US Dollar	282.65	284.15

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INTER BANK RATES

Updated at: 27/5/2025 7:17 AM (PST)

Currency	Bank Buying TT Clean	Bank Selling TT & OD
Australian Dollar	183.77	184.10
Canadian Dollar	205.73	206.10
China Yuan	39.48	39.55
Danish Krone	43.11	43.19
Euro	321.59	322.16
Hong Kong Dollar	35.96	36.03
Japanese Yen	1.9778	1.9813
Saudi Riyal	75.15	75.28
Singapore Dollar	219.89	220.28
Swedish Korona	29.91	29.96
Swiss Franc	343.64	344.25
Thai Bhat	8.68	8.70
UK Pound Sterling	382.70	383.37
US Dollar	281.85	282.35

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GOLD RATE

Bullion / Gold Price Today

As on Tue, May 27 2025, 02:58 GMT

Metal	Symbol	PKR for 10 Gm	PKR for 1 Tola	PKR for 1 Ounce	
Gold	XAU	304,439	354,720	946,926	
Palladium	XPd	89,616	104,418	278,743	
Platinum	XPT	99,175	115,555	308,473	
Silver	XAG	3,035	3,536	9,440	

for local market Gold Rates in Pakistan

Gold Price in Pakistan

As on Tue, May 27 2025, 02:58 GMT

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
per Tola Gold	Rs. 354700	Rs. 325139	Rs. 310363	Rs. 266025
per 10 Gram	Rs. 304100	Rs. 278756	Rs. 266088	Rs. 228075
per Gram Gold	Rs. 30410	Rs. 27876	Rs. 26609	Rs. 22808
per Ounce	Rs. 862100	Rs. 790253	Rs. 754338	Rs. 646575

Gold Rate

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

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

Gold Rates in other Major Currencies

Currency	Symbol	10 Gm	1 Tola	1 Ounce	
 China Yuan	CNY	7,755	9,036	24,122	
 Euro	EUR	950	1,107	2,956	
 Japanese Yen	JPY	153,947	179,373	478,837	
 Saudi Riyal	SAR	4,051	4,720	12,599	
 U.A.E Dirham	AED	3,967	4,622	12,339	
 UK Pound Sterling	GBP	800	932	2,489	
 US Dollar	USD	1,080	1,259	3,360	