2025

SHAHID LEGAL GROUP

SLD NEWS UPDATES

Saturday, May 31, 2025

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IN NEWS

Budget in focus 2025-26

Cash withdrawals from banks: FBR proposes raise in WHT for non-filers

Industrial raw materials: Proposals for duty cuts to be submitted to PM

Finance Bill 2025–26: CAP urges govt to overhaul retail tax structure

Ride-hailing sector calls for fair taxation

Installation of water metres must be included in coming budget: LHC

Business & Finance » Taxes

Pakistan to eliminate 'non-filer' status in budget 2025-26

FBR extends April sales tax return filing deadline to June 5

Rs3 million banking transactions to face regulatory scrutiny soon

FBR reshuffles top taxpayers to trace foreign assets

Will super tax finally end in budget 2025–26? Debate continues

Markets » Cotton & Textile

Local cotton market remains steady

Business & Finance » Money & Banking

Dollar mixed on tariff uncertainty

Asian currencies: S Korean won, Taiwan dollar up

UAE's biggest bank FAB seeks to raise $480mn from secondary offering

Indian central bank's FX forward book shrinks to $52.48 billion

SBP reiterates caution on cryptocurrency amid regulatory vacuum

SBP issues list of 54 cattle markets for cashless payments

PKR to USD May 30, 2025: rupee posts modest gain against dollar

Markets » Stocks

European shares end May higher as trade uncertainty persists

China, HK shares drop on US tariff concerns

Foreign investors raise bets that India stock market rally may stall

TSX slips as Trump says China violated tariff agreement

Wall St falls as Trump says China violated tariff terms

UAE markets fall but Dubai index ends May at multi-year high

Sri Lankan shares notch eighth straight weekly gain

Sterling set for fourth monthly rise against a weakened dollar

Indian benchmarks end May with gains as investors wait for growth data

STOXX 600 edges down on US trade uncertainties; set for monthly gains

KSE-100 adds 720 points amid bullish momentum

KSE-100 index climbs 720 points despite market volatility

Business & Finance » Industry

Oil sector: Minister outlines key investment opportunities

Cigarette industry demands effective TTS enforcement

Pakistan begins talks with US on Trump's reciprocal tariffs, says finance minister's adviser

Smuggling control: Pakistan govt may approve fees to digitise fuel supply, petrol pumps

KCCI demands subsidy release for incremental power consumption

Business & Finance » Companies

Adani's Mumbai airport spars with IndiGo, Air India over payment terms

Saudi firms to place orders for dozens of Airbus jets, sources say

Thyssenkrupp putting 20,000 jobs at risk in overhaul

India extends IndiGo's Turkish Airlines lease by just three months

India's EV makers Tata, Mahindra seek to block hybrids in govt fleets, documents show

S&P lowers outlook on Volvo Cars rating citing US tariffs, competition in China

Japan's Dai-Ichi Life to take 15% stake in British insurer M&G

Saudi Aramco could soon issue Islamic bonds, prospectus shows

Cherat, Bestway interested in Attock Cement as Pharaon mulls exit: Bloomberg

Markets » Financial

Indian FY25 fiscal deficit slightly above target

China's central bank injects 700bn yuan of outright reverse repos in May

Markets » Energy

PM urged to expedite Rs23bn power bill relief

OPEC+ may discuss oil output hike larger than 411,000 bpd for July

Global LNG: Asian spot prices flat as weak demand, rising Europe supply caps gains

Oil prices fall on possible larger OPEC+ output hike for July

Pakistan set to revise petroleum prices for first half of June 2025

Markets - Rates

Kibor interbank offered rates

PSX extends winning streak

Budget in focus 2025-26

CASH WITHDRAWALS FROM BANKS: FBR PROPOSES RAISE IN WHT FOR NON-FILERS

Sohail Sarfraz Published about 2 hours ago

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has proposed to raise withholding tax on cash withdrawal from the banks by non-filers from 0.6 percent to 1.2 percent to generate additional revenue during 2025-26. Sources told BUSINESS RECORDER that the proposal is part of the government's policy to penalise non-filers of income tax returns.

However, the government is also trying to impose financial restrictions on non-filers of income tax returns from July 1, 2025. Under the proposal, the government will abolish the category of non-filers and "ineligible persons" would not be able to carryout any kind of financial transactions.

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, had adopted the report on Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to impose restriction on economic transactions of non-filers through Finance Bill 2025-26 from next fiscal year. From July 1, 2025, the government will impose strict restriction on economic transactions of non-filers through the next Finance Bill.

FBR will now share income tax returns data with banks

Sources said that the government may not abolish all withholding taxes for non-filers in one go due to revenue implications. Therefore, the doubling of withholding tax rates on cash withdrawal from the banks by non-filers is also under consideration. Presently, over Rs 50,000 cash withdrawals by non-filers, in a single day, through credit cards/ATMs is also be subjected to 0.6 percent withholding tax.

The Finance Act 2023 had reintroduced tax collection on cash withdrawals from Non-ATL persons by banks. The section 231AB requires every banking company to deduct advance adjustable tax at 0.6 percent from a person whose name is not appearing in the Active Taxpayer List, at the time of making payment for sum total of cash withdrawal (aggregate cash withdrawal) in a single day exceeding Rs 50,000. Cash withdrawals made on credit cards or from ATMs were also be covered by this provision.

If the aggregate of cash amount withdrawn in a single day exceeds Rs 50,000, the tax is required to be deducted on the entire amount of cash withdrawn.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS: PROPOSALS FOR DUTY CUTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO PM

Mushtaq Ghumman Published about 2 hours ago

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan will submit proposals for reducing duties on industrial raw materials for the FY 2025–26 budget to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday.

The Prime Minister had earlier constituted a Committee on Industry, headed by Haroon Akhtar, to formulate proposals regarding duties and taxes across various sectors. The committee convened on May 24, 2025, to deliberate on different recommendations for tariff and duty reductions. These proposals will be formally submitted to the Prime Minister on June 2, 2025, revealed Faiz Ahmad Chadhar, Chief Executive of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), during a session of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce.

The meeting of the Standing Committee, chaired by Jawed Hanif Khan, addressed several issues related to the Ministry of Commerce. Secretary Commerce, Jawad Paul, led the ministry's delegation.

National Tariff Policy: govt approves phased elimination of import duties

Dispelling concerns about external influence, Secretary Commerce stated there was no pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for tariff rationalization. "Things have progressed significantly since March 2025, and tariffs are being rationalized under the FY 2025–26 budget."

The Commerce Ministry has also been instructed to present a detailed briefing on the National Tariff Policy, and the measures taken to achieve the Prime Minister's $60 billion export target.

The Committee discussed reasons for the ban on export and import of gold and gemstones which has irritated those in the business. It was apprised that on May 7, 2025 a ban was imposed abruptly on export of gold including consignments in transit. "Stakeholders informed the committee that the sudden ban had caused severe disruptions, particularly to consignments already in transit, "said one of the gold businessmen from Karachi.

Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul stated that a committee has been constituted to review the abrupt 60-day ban on the export and import of gold and gemstones. He explained that the ban was implemented on the recommendation of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The committee chaired by the Secretary has already held several meetings to examine the issue thoroughly. It is expected to recommend that the government allow the entry of consignments that were already in transit when the notification was issued.

He further suggested that the matter be discussed in more depth at the next meeting, with representatives from the SBP and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in attendance.

On the issue of fumigation of export-bound consignments, MNA Sharmila Farqui informed the committee that rice exporters are being harassed by the Directorate General of the Department of Plant Protection (DPP). She alleged that the department was using pest-control methods involving banned Indian-origin pests, and that officials were opening rice consignments, apparently under the orders of the Director General.

A representative from the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) acknowledged that conditions had somewhat improved for rice exporters but noted that several issues still frequently hamper exports.

In response, DPP Director General Tahir Abbas informed the committee that the government had recently cancelled the licence of a company holding 60% market share for using Indian pests in rice fumigation. He defended the department's strict enforcement of phytosanitary measures, citing a significant reduction in shipment interceptions.

Chairman of the Standing Committee, Jawed Hanif Khan, instructed the DG to maintain strict oversight of departmental operations to ensure that exporters are not mistreated by staff.

Additionally, the Juice Manufacturers Association requested duty drawbacks on incremental exports in the upcoming budget, claiming such measures could help double export volumes in the coming years.

According to official statement, the meeting reviewed the progress of key legislative measures and addressed pressing trade-related matters to enhance Pakistan's commercial landscape. It discussed the previous issue of disruptions in the export of rice.

Emphasising the importance of resolving this matter, the committee urged the Department of Plant Protection to enhance its administrative oversight, particularly concerning container inspections and related procedures. The Committee was assured that efforts were actively underway to address these challenges, with a commitment to minimising, if not eliminating, future disruptions in rice exports.

The committee also discussed the Suspension of SRO 760. The chair emphasised that the suspension of the SRO was a decision of the Federal Cabinet, and only the Cabinet could reinstate it.

However, interim relief for pipeline issues remained a priority, and the Ministry had already made necessary requests for such relief. On discussions regarding granting special relief/ rebate by the government to food exporting companies it was noted that this incremental tax rebate would assist generating additional revenue for the country. The committee decided to forward the matter to the Federal Board of Revenue for further deliberation.

The committee reviewed "The Export Development Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2025", (moved by Muhammad Mobeen Arif, MNA), and "The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2025", (moved by Usama Ahmed Mela, MNA) in depth and decided to constitute a Sub-Committee for detailed deliberation on the bills after the expiration of the previous Sub-Committee therefore, pending the bills till then.

The committee decided to hold a detailed briefing on the Pakistan National Tariff Policy in the next meeting. It was stressed that tax liberalisation should not be extended to finished goods and luxury items, ensuring that the focus remained on sectors that aligned with national economic priorities. The proposal for liberalising raw materials and machinery imports to support industrial growth and to enhance productivity was also discussed in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by MNAs, Muhammad Mobeen Arif, Usama Ahmed Mela, Shaista Pervaiz, Dr Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Muhammad Atif, Tahira Aurangzeb, Khurshid Ahmed Junejo, Kiran Haider, Mir Amir Ali Khan Magsi in person whereas, Asad Alam Niazi, Rana Atif, Muhammad Ali Sarfaraz, Farhan Chishti, MNAs and Sharmila Sahiba Hishaam Faruqui, MNA/ Special Invitee attended the meeting virtually. Senior officers from the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research were also present in the meeting.

FINANCE BILL 2025–26: CAP URGES GOVT TO OVERHAUL RETAIL TAX STRUCTURE

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

LAHORE: Pakistan's organized retail sector on Friday urged the government to overhaul the current retail taxation structure in the upcoming Finance Bill 2025–26, highlighting the urgent need for fairer policies to support compliant businesses and expand the tax base.

In a detailed appeal to Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP)—the official representative body for over 150 Tier-1 retail chains—called for inclusive policy-making through structured consultation with the private sector. CAP stressed that the upcoming budget presents a critical opportunity to resolve long-standing disparities and bring undocumented retailers into the tax net without penalizing compliant players.

CAP acknowledged the Finance Minister's leadership and reiterated its confidence in the government's commitment to reviving the economy. The association underscored the significant contributions of integrated retailers to employment, commerce, tax revenues, and export value chains, despite representing only a fraction of the retail and wholesale trade landscape.

At present, POS-integrated retailers contribute approximately 25–30% of their turnover in taxes under various heads. Meanwhile, the vast majority of the retail sector remains either under-taxed or entirely undocumented. CAP warned that this growing imbalance has placed an unsustainable burden on documented businesses, many of whom have been forced to downsize or shut down in recent years.

CAP Chairman Asfandyar Farrukh noted that strict enforcement actions and unresolved technical issues in the FBR-POS system have further disrupted operations for compliant retailers. The withdrawal of GST concessions for documented consumers last year, coupled with the failure of the Tajir Dost Scheme due to a lack of consultation and planning, has only worsened the situation. "To prevent another setback, the Finance Bill 2025–26 must introduce bold, technology-led solutions that broaden the tax base without penalizing formal businesses," Farrukh emphasized.

To drive formalization and promote a cashless economy, CAP proposed fixed GST rates on retail sales made via digital payments 1–2% for consumer goods and 3–4% for textile and leather items. These rates should be extended to all tiers of retailers, including small and mid-sized enterprises, along with simplified compliance measures and alignment with provincial digital payment incentives. CAP maintains that such a framework will reduce costs, encourage documentation, and accelerate tax collection.

The association also recommended a fixed quarterly advance income tax regime for small retailers, payable via mobile wallets and adjustable against annual income tax returns. Predictable rates for 3–5 years, coupled with incentives such as government service privileges or cash back offers, would increase voluntary compliance and build trust.

To reignite consumer engagement in tax compliance, CAP urged the government to revive the FBR-POS Prize Scheme, which has been suspended since November 2022. Additionally, the association demanded transparency in the use of the over Rs1.2 billion collected through the POS Re1 per invoice fee under the IRS Common Pool Fund.

Despite their large contributions, organized retailers remain restricted to just 10% of Pakistan's retail sector, compared to 15–20% in comparable regional economies. CAP warned that unchecked informal competition, coupled with rising compliance costs, continues to hamper sector growth.

The association reiterated its readiness to collaborate with government institutions, including the Ministry of Commerce, FBR, SBP, CCP, and others, to support the development of a fair, digital, and growth-oriented retail tax ecosystem. A formal meeting has been requested with the Finance Minister to present CAP's proposals and assist in shaping meaningful reforms in Budget 2025–26.

RIDE-HAILING SECTOR CALLS FOR FAIR TAXATION

Recorder Report Published May 31, 2025 Updated 30 minutes ago

KARACHI: Ride-hailing sector has called for fair and progressive taxation framework in the coming fiscal budget. Amid the country's growing urban population, a lack of adequate public transport, rising fuel costs, traffic congestion, and parking challenges, ride-hailing services have seen substantial growth in recent years.

Despite this progress, industry experts argue that the current uniform service tax is hindering further expansion.

“It’s concerning that platforms charging drivers commissions as low as 10% are subjected to the same service tax rates as those taking up to 25%,” said Anton Ambrose, Head of Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs for inDrive in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ambrose proposed a tiered taxation model in the upcoming budget. “Platforms that charge less than 11% commission should be completely exempt from service tax,” he recommended.

“Those with commission rates between 11% and 15% could be taxed at 5%, while platforms exceeding 15% commission should fall into the 15% or higher tax bracket.”

INSTALLATION OF WATER METRES MUST BE INCLUDED IN COMING BUDGET: LHC

Recorder Report Published May 31, 2025 Updated about an hour ago

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday hearing petitions regarding environmental issues observed that the installation of water metres must be included in the upcoming provincial budget and adjourned the proceedings to June 06.

The court also observed that water bills should also be issued in GOR zones to discourage unnecessary usage of water.

Earlier, a law officer assured the court that the installation of water metres will indeed be part of the new budget plan.

The court commenting on the global warming observed that the temperature increase projected for 2050 is now expected by 2028.

The court also instructed the Environment Department to implement the issuance of emission testing stickers for vehicles and order to impose fines on vehicles emitting smoke on the motorways.

The court also called for a report regarding the actions taken against the smoke emitting vehicles.

The court also emphasised that those burning crop residues should face heavy financial penalties.

Business & Finance » Taxes

PAKISTAN TO ELIMINATE 'NON-FILER' STATUS IN BUDGET 2025-26

May 31, 2025

In a landmark shift in its taxation policy, Pakistan is preparing to eliminate the term 'non-filer' from its tax laws — a move set to be officially introduced in the upcoming Budget 2025-26.

This bold reform aims to tighten the noose around individuals who earn taxable income but fail to disclose their earnings and assets to the government.

The term 'non-filer', long synonymous with tax evasion, will be replaced with 'ineligible persons'. These individuals will be barred from conducting key financial transactions unless they fulfill their legal obligations of filing income and asset declarations. This change signals a firm message: evasion will no longer be tolerated under a new regime of transparency and accountability.

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue has already endorsed the Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, laying the groundwork for this historic change. As part of the Finance Bill 2025-26, effective from July 1, 2025, the government will introduce sweeping restrictions on financial activities of non-filers. From real estate deals to large banking transactions, those outside the tax net will face increasing difficulty in accessing Pakistan's formal economy.

Despite this aggressive shift, sources indicate that not all privileges for non-filers will be stripped away instantly. Due to concerns over potential revenue losses, certain withholding tax measures are expected to remain — at least temporarily. One such measure under consideration is the doubling of withholding tax on bank cash withdrawals by non-filers. Currently, a 0.6% tax applies to daily cash withdrawals exceeding Rs 50,000 by any individual not listed in the Active Taxpayer List (ATL), whether via ATM or credit card.

This provision, reintroduced under the Finance Act 2023 through Section 231AB, authorizes banks to deduct advance adjustable tax from non-ATL persons on all aggregate daily withdrawals above Rs 50,000. This rule applies uniformly across credit card transactions and ATM withdrawals, tightening control over undocumented cash flows.

As the Budget 2025-26 approaches, Pakistan's tax enforcement landscape is set for a dramatic overhaul. With the end of the non-filer era in sight, the government is signaling a zero-tolerance stance on undeclared wealth. The upcoming budget will not only redefine compliance — it may very well redefine financial access in Pakistan.

FBR EXTENDS APRIL SALES TAX RETURN FILING DEADLINE TO JUNE 5

May 30, 2025

Islamabad, May 30, 2025 — The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Friday extended the deadline for filing the sales tax return for the month of April 2025.

In a move that offers temporary relief to the business community and tax practitioners, the FBR has pushed the due date to June 5, 2025, instead of the previously set deadline of May 18, 2025.

The decision to extend the sales tax return filing deadline was made under the authority granted by Section 74 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, and Section 43 of the Federal Excise Act, 2005. The FBR has communicated the new date to all Chief Commissioners of Inland Revenue across Large Taxpayer Offices (LTOs), Medium Taxpayer Office (MTO), Corporate Tax Offices (CTOs), and Regional Tax Offices (RTOs). However, the extension is conditional upon timely payment of the due sales tax liability.

This latest deadline extension comes in response to mounting pressure from the business community and tax professionals who have reported persistent technical issues on the FBR's IRIS portal. The portal underwent major structural changes in recent months, including the introduction of new annexures intended to enhance tax documentation. Unfortunately, these upgrades have led to widespread confusion, data errors, and difficulty in filing accurate returns.

According to the Pakistan Tax Bar Association (PTBA), the new system has resulted in only a small fraction of filers successfully submitting their returns for March and April. The PTBA has formally written to FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial, urging a further extension—ideally until June 30—to resolve the persistent system flaws. They emphasized that most taxpayers are struggling to navigate the changes and risk penalties despite making genuine efforts to comply.

"Taxpayers are being set up for failure," read the PTBA's letter. "The annexures may be well-intentioned, but unresolved technical issues are compromising the entire sales tax filing process."

The association also called on the FBR to allow revisions for flawed returns submitted due to the new annexures—without imposing any penalties. Numerous bar associations across Pakistan have echoed these concerns, reporting a surge in complaints and confusion over the sales tax return filing procedure.

As the new June 5 deadline approaches, tax professionals warn that unless the FBR stabilizes the system, confidence in Pakistan's tax administration—and particularly in sales tax compliance—may suffer lasting damage.

RS3 MILLION BANKING TRANSACTIONS TO FACE REGULATORY SCRUTINY SOON

May 30, 2025

In a major move to tighten financial regulations and enhance transparency, a critical proposal is being considered for inclusion in Pakistan's upcoming Budget 2025–26. The proposal recommends mandatory scrutiny of banking transactions exceeding Rs3 million, especially those conducted through personal bank accounts.

The aim is to counter the misuse of personal accounts for undisclosed business dealings and ensure stricter financial accountability.

According to officials involved in the proposal, any banking transaction above the Rs3 million threshold would be flagged for compulsory due diligence by financial institutions and regulatory bodies, unless the transaction is directly linked to verified business operations or documented asset acquisitions. Individuals or entities involved in such high-value transactions would be required to furnish clear evidence to validate the nature and source of the funds.

This move is a direct response to a rising trend in which personal accounts are being used to channel unreported income or facilitate tax evasion. With enhanced monitoring mechanisms, authorities hope to curb this behavior, reduce revenue leakage, and promote a more robust and transparent banking environment.

The proposal also calls for intensified scrutiny of transactions that involve foreign remittances, large cash inflows, or inconsistent financial patterns that don't align with the account holder's declared income or profession. In such cases, banks will be obligated to report these activities to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) or other relevant watchdog agencies.

By closely monitoring these large transactions, the government aims to create a digital audit trail that makes financial misconduct significantly harder to conceal. This regulatory tightening will also help bring untaxed income into the official fold, supporting broader national efforts for tax compliance and economic documentation.

Not only will the proposed framework boost confidence in the banking sector, but it will also deter potential abuse of personal financial channels. The overarching goal is to align Pakistan's fiscal policies with international best practices and enhance financial discipline across the board.

If implemented, this rule would mark a significant step forward in modernizing the country's banking oversight, promoting fair taxation, and reinforcing economic integrity in an era of growing digital and cross-border financial transactions.

FBR RESHUFFLES TOP TAXPAYERS TO TRACE FOREIGN ASSETS

May 30, 2025

Karachi, May 30, 2025 – In a bold and strategic move, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has unleashed a sweeping reshuffle, transferring 21 high-profile taxpayers to intensify monitoring of their offshore assets.

This dramatic step signals a fresh wave of enforcement targeting Pakistan's wealthiest individuals suspected of parking fortunes abroad.

The FBR's latest directive follows an earlier jurisdictional shakeup involving 72 individuals with known foreign assets. This time, the Commissioner Inland Revenue (Automatic Exchange of Information – AEOI) Zone Karachi has reassigned top-tier taxpayers across monitoring zones. These zones are empowered to aggressively pursue data under global tax agreements.

The FBR's aim? To tighten the noose around elite taxpayers and expose hidden income streams overseas. By enhancing its surveillance apparatus through the AEOI Zones, the FBR is determined to crack down on tax evasion by acquiring financial intelligence through international frameworks, including agreements with the OECD.

With foreign asset scrutiny heating up, taxpayers now face heightened accountability. The FBR has armed its Commissioners with powerful legislative tools, enabling them to invoke key provisions under the Income Tax Ordinance 2001. Under section 108, Commissioners can dissect and reallocate income in deals between associated parties to reflect fair, market-based taxation. This spells trouble for those using shell arrangements to camouflage wealth transfers.

Additionally, under section 165B, the FBR now mandates all financial institutions, including banks, to report details of non-resident and other reportable persons. This turbocharges the FBR's ability to unearth concealed foreign accounts and shadow investments.

Taxpayers with overseas holdings are now on high alert. With the FBR ramping up cross-border data exchange and enforcement, the era of loosely regulated foreign wealth may be coming to a close.

This sweeping taxpayer reshuffle is not just administrative—it's a message. The FBR is prepared to pursue tax dodgers wherever their assets are hidden. In the new era of transparency, taxpayers must adapt or face the full force of the law.

WILL SUPER TAX FINALLY END IN BUDGET 2025–26? DEBATE CONTINUES

May 30, 2025

As the countdown to the federal Budget 2025–26 begins, the future of the controversial super tax hangs in the balance.

Widely criticized by both corporate entities and individual taxpayers, the super tax—originally introduced as a temporary measure—has sparked intense discussions across Pakistan's financial and legislative corridors.

Sources within the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have confirmed that extensive internal debates are ongoing regarding the fate of the super tax, especially as it remains entangled in constitutional litigation. With conflicting High Court rulings and a pending decision before the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the FBR finds itself under mounting pressure to either revamp or abolish the super tax mechanism altogether.

Stakeholders from across the economic spectrum—tax professionals, business chambers, trade councils, and financial experts—have voiced strong opposition to the continuation of the super tax. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), in its formal budget recommendations, highlighted the adverse impact and legal uncertainty surrounding this tax. They emphasized the need for a revenue strategy that is both effective and free from prolonged court battles.

"The super tax has become an unnecessary burden mired in legal complexity," ICAP stated. "It's time to explore alternative, litigation-free means of revenue collection from high-earning individuals and corporations."

ICAP has suggested the complete withdrawal of Section 4C of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001—under which the super tax is currently imposed. As an alternative, they propose amending Clause (i) of Sub-section (2) of Section 4C to exclude income from brokerage and commission, and to better define the treatment of dividends, profit on debt, and capital gains—particularly when such income is taxed under final or fixed regimes.

The super tax, first introduced in the Finance Act 2022, was meant to enhance revenue collection during economic hardship. However, with a new budget around the corner, all eyes are now on the government to decide whether this controversial tax will survive—or be laid to rest once and for all.

Markets » Cotton & Textile

LOCAL COTTON MARKET REMAINS STEADY

LAHORE: The local cotton market on Friday remained steady and the trading volume remained low. Cotton Analyst ...

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

LAHORE: The local cotton market on Friday remained steady and the trading volume remained low.

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

The Spot Rate remained unchanged at Rs 16,900 per maund. Polyester Fiber was available at Rs 333 per Kg.

Business & Finance » Money & Banking

DOLLAR MIXED ON TARIFF UNCERTAINTY

Reuters Published May 31, 2025 Updated about an hour ago

NEW YORK: The dollar was mixed on Friday but on track for a monthly gain against the Japanese yen as investors factored in the likelihood of trade tariffs remaining in some form, even as US President Donald Trump faces a court battle over his authority to impose them.

A federal appeals court temporarily reinstated the most sweeping of Trump's tariffs on Thursday, a day after a US trade court ruled that Trump had exceeded his authority in imposing the duties and ordered an immediate block on them.

While the exact level of tariffs that will remain on trading partners is unknown, traders are expecting the levies to persist in some form.

"We're going to have some tariffing. Maybe not as exciting as was announced on April the 2nd, but we're still going to get it," said Steve Englander, head of global G10 FX research and North America macro strategy at Standard Chartered Bank's NY Branch. "The one thing that the court ruling may have done is limited the amount of shocks that Trump can unleash with a headline or with a comment at a press conference," Englander said.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on Thursday that the Trump administration will seek to enact tariffs through other means if it ultimately loses the court fights over its trade policy.

Investors are concerned that tariffs will slow growth and reignite inflation, though deals to drop tariff increases on China and the European Union as they negotiate trading terms has reduced pessimism over the US economic outlook.

The dollar briefly bounced on Friday after Trump said that China had violated an agreement on tariffs with the United States. It comes a day after Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that trade talks between the US and China were "a bit stalled." Tariffs are also seen as a key source of revenue as Congress works on a bill to reduce some income taxes.

Meanwhile the dollar showed little reaction to data on Friday showed that US consumer spending increased marginally in April as a rush to beat higher prices from import duties slowed, while inflation eased during the month. A separate report showed that the US trade deficit in goods narrowed sharply in April as the boost from the front-running of imports ahead of tariffs faded. "Nothing in the data was such a clear surprise relative to expectations that would generate a definitive market move," said Englander.

May's jobs report due for release next Friday will next be closely watched for any indications that the labor market is weakening, after data on Thursday showed a bigger than expected jump in jobless claims in the latest week.

The euro was last down 0.47% at $1.1317. It is on pace for a 0.05% monthly loss, the first red month since December.

German inflation eased further in May, bringing it closer to the European Central Bank's 2% target and bolstering the case for an interest rate cut next week.

The dollar weakened 0.14% to 143.99 Japanese yen. The greenback is on track for a monthly increase of 0.7% against the Japanese currency, the best performance since December, following four consecutive months of losses.

ASIAN CURRENCIES: S KOREAN WON, TAIWAN DOLLAR UP

Reuters Published May 31, 2025 Updated about an hour ago

BENGALURU: Asian stock markets fell on Friday after a US federal court kept President Donald Trump's tariffs in effect, while currencies also weakened, although both assets were headed for monthly gains.

The Thai baht fell 0.4% and the South Korean won dropped 0.7%.

The Malaysian ringgit and the Singapore dollar dipped 0.1% and 0.2%, respectively.

A federal appeals court temporarily reinstated Trump's tariffs while it considers the government's appeal, a day after a trade court blocked tariffs on the grounds that the president had exceeded his authority.

The dollar index weakened earlier but was last 0.2% higher. It was poised for its fifth consecutive monthly decline.

The "bounce in the USD is seen as short-term unwinding of short positions rather than bullish reversals to chase," said Fiona Lim, a senior FX strategist at Maybank.

Trump's tariff policy reversals and concerns over US fiscal health have prompted investors to shun the dollar and favour Asian currencies this month.

While tariffs risk lingers, the news flow and cautious positioning are supportive for emerging assets, said Barclays analysts.

MSCI's emerging market currencies index has gained more than 2% in May, the most in any month since November 2023.

The baht is set for its best month since September 2024, and the Singapore dollar is poised for a fifth consecutive monthly gain.

The won has jumped about 3.4% this month as Seoul officials confirmed currency policy was on the table during recent trade talks with US counterparts.

In Taiwan, closed on the day for a holiday, the dollar surged 6.5% against the US dollar in May, with most of that coming early in the month on speculation that Washington had asked for that to happen as part of the tariff talks, which Taiwan has denied.

The focus across the region now is on developments in trade negotiations leading up to the Trump-imposed July 9 deadline.

"Any trade deal or signs of tensions easing could continue to spur unwinding of short USD positions and keep the USD/AXJ mostly supported on dips in the near term," Maybank's Lim said.

Lim sees a possibility for a virtuous circle for Asian currencies, especially with a bearish dollar allowing regional central banks to further lower interest rates to boost growth.

MSCI's gauge of Asian emerging market equities fell 0.9% on the day on the latest twist in the tariffs saga.

However, the index has jumped 5% this month, largely due to the trade deal between the US and China, a major trading partner for many Southeast Asian countries.

UAE'S BIGGEST BANK FAB SEEKS TO RAISE $480MN FROM SECONDARY OFFERING

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

DUBAI: First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), the UAE's biggest bank by assets, is looking to raise around $480 million from a secondary share sale, the bookrunner for the deal said on Friday.

The selling shareholder, whose name was not disclosed, is offering around 113 million shares at a price of 15.5 dirhams ($4.22) per share through an accelerated bookbuilding, said Citi, which is acting as bookrunner.

It added that books were fully covered as demand exceeded the deal size.

The offer price represents a 3.7% discount to FAB shares' closing price of 16.1 dirhams apiece on Abu Dhabi's bourse on Friday.

FAB, whose top shareholder is the $330 billion Abu Dhabi wealth fund Mubadala, held assets worth 1.31 trillion dirhams as of the end of March.

The bank has been seeking to expand including outside of the Gulf. Two years ago it said it had considered a bid for London-listed Standard Chartered.

INDIAN CENTRAL BANK'S FX FORWARD BOOK SHRINKS TO $52.48 BILLION

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

MUMBAI: The size of the Indian central bank's FX forward book shrank to $52.48 billion at the end of April, down $11.7 billion from the previous month, according to data released by the central bank on Friday.

The Reserve Bank of India's aggregate short dollar position in FX forwards and futures had climbed to a record high of $88.7 billion in February amid dollar-selling interventions by the central bank to support the rupee which had declined to it all-time low of 87.95 that month.

India central bank bought net $14.36 billion in spot forex market in March, bulletin shows

The aggregate short dollar position had built up over months as the central bank intervened in the FX markets to support the rupee.

The shrinking of the size of the RBI's FX forward book, meanwhile, has coincided with the rupee's recovery which ended at 85.5775 on Friday.

SBP REITERATES CAUTION ON CRYPTOCURRENCY AMID REGULATORY VACUUM

May 30, 2025

Karachi, May 30, 2025 – The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued a comprehensive clarification regarding the legal status of cryptocurrency in the country, reiterating its earlier stance on the issue.

The statement, prompted by recent news reports referencing the 14th meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, aims to provide clarity on SBP's position regarding Virtual Assets (VAs), including cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Litecoin, and others.

According to the SBP, its 2018 advisory to financial institutions—including Banks, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), Microfinance Banks (MFBs), Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs), Payment System Operators (PSOs), Payment Service Providers (PSPs), and Exchange Companies—was not issued because cryptocurrency was declared illegal in Pakistan. Instead, the advisory was issued due to the absence of a formal legal and regulatory framework for VAs in the country. This step was taken as a precaution to protect regulated entities and their customers from potential financial risks associated with unregulated digital currencies.

The SBP emphasized that until a comprehensive legal framework is in place, virtual currencies remain outside the realm of authorized financial activity in Pakistan. To address this gap, the SBP, along with the Finance Division, is actively working with the Pakistan Crypto Council—an advisory body established by the federal government—to draft a legal and regulatory framework for VAs. According to the central bank, such a framework would ensure greater clarity and legal protection for consumers and investors in the future.

The SBP also reaffirmed the contents of its April 2018 public notice (Circular No. 03 of 2018), cautioning the general public about the risks of dealing in cryptocurrencies. The notice stated that virtual currencies such as Bitcoin, OneCoin, DasCoin, Pakcoin, and others are not recognized as legal tender in Pakistan. Moreover, no individual or institution is authorized by SBP to issue, buy, sell, or invest in any such digital assets. Regulated financial institutions are prohibited from facilitating any transactions involving virtual currencies or Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs).

The SBP highlighted several inherent risks linked with cryptocurrencies. These include extreme price volatility, business failures or shutdowns of crypto exchanges, and vulnerability to hacking and cyberattacks. Numerous global incidents have shown that users can lose significant sums due to the collapse or compromise of cryptocurrency platforms. Additionally, the anonymity offered by these digital assets makes them susceptible to misuse for illegal activities such as money laundering and fraud.

Another major concern raised by SBP is the proliferation of fraudulent investment schemes in Pakistan. Many of these schemes operate under pyramid or Ponzi structures, luring unsuspecting individuals with promises of high returns through fake tokens or coins. The SBP warned that such scams can lead to substantial financial losses for the general public.

The central bank also reiterated that all domestic and international payment and money transfer services in Pakistan are regulated under applicable SBP laws. Any person or entity using virtual currencies for transferring value outside Pakistan may face legal action.

In light of the above, the SBP strongly advises the public to avoid mining, trading, exchanging, or promoting cryptocurrencies until an appropriate regulatory framework is established. The SBP remains committed to safeguarding the integrity of the financial system and protecting consumers from unregulated and high-risk financial activities.

SBP ISSUES LIST OF 54 CATTLE MARKETS FOR CASHLESS PAYMENTS

May 30, 2025

Karachi, May 30, 2025 – In a bid to modernize financial transactions and reduce dependency on physical cash during the high-transaction Eid-ul-Adha season, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has unveiled a comprehensive list of designated cattle markets across the country for enabling cashless payments.

The initiative is part of the central bank's broader "Go Cashless" campaign that began on May 19, 2025, and will run until June 6, 2025.

With thousands of livestock sales expected ahead of Eid-ul-Adha, the SBP campaign aims to promote digital financial inclusion and facilitate secure, convenient, and efficient transactions for buyers and sellers alike. The effort is expected to significantly curb the risks associated with large cash transactions such as theft, counterfeit currency, and transactional errors.

The "Go Cashless" campaign reflects SBP's commitment to enhancing Pakistan's digital financial infrastructure. By promoting the use of mobile banking apps, QR codes, and point-of-sale (POS) machines in cattle markets, the central bank is ensuring that livestock transactions, parking fees, food, water, and other market provisions can be paid for seamlessly without the need for cash.

In collaboration with various commercial banks, SBP has activated this campaign in 54 cattle markets across 22 major districts, covering both urban and rural regions. The inclusion of these markets will enable a broad base of citizens to experience the convenience of cashless financial transactions, even in traditionally cash-dominated environments.

Key Locations for Cashless Transactions in Cattle Markets Include:

Karachi:

• Northern Bypass Mandi (Taiser Town)

• Malir Cattle Market

• Liyari Expressway Market

• Korangi Crossing

• Cattle Fiesta, DHA Phase 1

Lahore:

• Shahpur Kanjran Cattle Market

• LDA City, Kahna Kachha

• Burki Road Market

• Raiwand Market

Islamabad & Rawalpindi:

• Sangjani (Near Facto Cement)

• Bhara Kahu

• Sultana Foundation, Lehtarar Road

• Bhatta Chowk Intersection

• Zia Masjid Expressway

Multan:

• Fatima Town

• Billi Wala Bypass

• Lahore Morr Khanewal

• Bakar Mandi Haji Shareef Chowk

Peshawar:

• Mal Mandi Ring Road

• Kala Mandi

• Palosai and Syphen Cattle Markets

Quetta:

• Eastern and Western Bypass

• Spiny Road

• Airport Road

Sialkot:

• Aimanabad Road, NawaPind

• Pasrur Bypass, Daska

Sukkur Region:

• City Point, Sukkur

• Thehri (Khairpur)

• Ali Wahan, Rohri

• Main Shikarpur Road, Jacobabad

Faisalabad Region:

• Model Cattle Market, Samundari Road

• 85 Jhaal, Silanwali Road, Sargodha

• Bhakkar Road, Jhang

• New Sabzi Mandi, Chiniot

Hyderabad:

• Hatri Bypass

• Bismillah City, Unit 10

• Near Indus Hospital, Tando Muhammad Khan Road

Muzaffarabad:

• Talhi Mandi

• Langarpura (Chikoti Road)

• Bela Noorshah

Bahawalpur:

• Ahmadpur Road

• Jhangi Wala Road

• Yazman Road

D.I. Khan:

• Qureshi Moor Main Cattle Market

Gujranwala:

• Mafiwala, Sialkot Bypass

• Khiali Bypass, Sheikhupura Road

• Wapda Town, Chan Da Qila

This comprehensive reach illustrates SBP's vision of a digitally inclusive Pakistan, where access to secure, cashless financial solutions is not limited to cities but extended to cattle markets nationwide. Through this push, the SBP not only ensures safer financial practices but also fosters broader adoption of digital banking platforms.

Stakeholders across the cattle trade sector—sellers, buyers, and service providers—are encouraged to leverage this opportunity. Commercial banks involved in the initiative are providing technical assistance, setting up booths, and educating participants about mobile wallets and cashless transactions.

The SBP emphasized that the successful rollout of the "Go Cashless" campaign hinges on public participation and awareness. With Eid-ul-Adha being a peak period for livestock sales, transitioning to cashless payments can enhance overall market efficiency and transparency.

As Pakistan continues its journey toward a more digitized economy, initiatives like these serve as critical milestones. The SBP remains committed to ensuring that every citizen, regardless of geography, has access to safe, innovative, and user-friendly financial solutions.

PKR TO USD MAY 30, 2025: RUPEE POSTS MODEST GAIN AGAINST DOLLAR

May 30, 2025

Karachi, May 30, 2025 — The Pakistani rupee recorded a slight appreciation against the US dollar on Friday, supported by healthy foreign inflows and stable reserves. In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee closed at PKR 282.02 against the dollar, improving by 5 paisas from the previous day's closing rate of PKR 282.07.

Currency analysts attributed the modest gain in the rupee's value to a combination of seasonal remittance inflows and end-of-month export receipts. With the approach of Hajj and Eid-ul-Adha, overseas Pakistanis have significantly increased their remittances, providing a much-needed cushion for the local currency against the dollar. Exporters, on the other hand, have accelerated the realization of foreign proceeds to meet month-end financial commitments, which has helped ease the demand pressure for the dollar in the local market.

In addition, the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) efforts to maintain a stable level of foreign exchange reserves have further strengthened market sentiment in favor of the rupee. According to market insiders, the reserves are sufficient to cover import requirements for the next few months, which has added to the confidence of traders and investors.

However, experts also warned that the rupee remains vulnerable to volatility, especially as Pakistan moves closer to its annual federal budget announcement scheduled for June 10, 2025. Upcoming import payments and corporate obligations could exert renewed pressure on the rupee, particularly if the demand for the dollar surges in the coming weeks.

While Friday's movement reflects a positive sentiment in the currency market, analysts emphasized the need for sustained inflows and prudent fiscal policies to maintain stability. The next few weeks will be critical in determining whether the rupee can hold its ground or face renewed depreciation against the dollar amid fiscal and external sector challenges. While the rupee showed strength today, future performance will depend heavily on macroeconomic indicators, fiscal discipline, and global dollar movements.

Markets » Stocks

EUROPEAN SHARES END MAY HIGHER AS TRADE UNCERTAINTY PERSISTS

Reuters Published May 31, 2025 Updated about an hour ago

FRANKFURT: European shares closed higher on Friday, rounding off the month with gains in a still uncertain trade environment as investors assessed the latest developments in US President Donald Trump's tariff plan.

The continent-wide STOXX 600 index ended 0.1%higher, brushing off a temporary reinstatement of the most sweeping Trump's tariffs on Thursday, a day after another court ordered an immediate block on them.

However, the benchmark index pared most gains after Trump said on Friday that China had violated an agreement on tariffs and issued a new threat to get tougher with Beijing, without revealing details.

"It is a whole different situation that we are going to be in... it's longer and slower and more complicated," said Jochen Stanzl, chief market analyst at CMC Markets, pointing to the developments on the tariff front.

The index still posted its first monthly advance in three, rising about 4%, while also ending the week higher, as investors capitalised on Trump's decision to postpone tariffs on the EU, opening the door for Brussels to produce a trade deal with Washington and recent US fiscal concerns that sent investors flocking to assets outside the US

On the day, most sectors were higher, with utilities and healthcare shares up 0.8% each

Construction and materials stocks were at the bottom, down 1%.

"This is very much driven by momentum and some fear of missing out... investors over the past few months have been trained to buy the dip to some extent," said Stanzl.

Europe's aerospace and defence index was the top winning sector for the month, up about 14%, as dimming hopes of a truce between Russia and Ukraine persuaded investors to buy ammunition stocks.

Germany's DAX 40 ended 0.3% higher. Data showed German inflation eased further in May, bringing it closer to the European Central Bank's 2% target and bolstering the case for an interest rate cut next week.

Another dataset showed German retail sales fell by 1.1% in April compared with the previous month.

M&G gained 5.5% after it said Japanese life insurer Dai-Ichi Life Holdings will take a 15% stake in the British insurer and asset manager as part of a strategic deal.

CHINA, HK SHARES DROP ON US TARIFF CONCERNS

Reuters Published May 31, 2025 Updated about an hour ago

HONG KONG: Chinese stocks fell on Friday as shares of Apple suppliers weakened after a US court reinstated President Donald Trump's tariffs, while automakers extended losses amid ongoing price war concerns.

China's blue-chip CSI 300 index closed 0.5% lower and registered its second week of loss. The Shanghai Composite index also dropped 0.5% to 3,347.49 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index fell 1.5% and Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index lost 1.2%. Both the indexes snapped their six-week winning streaks.

"Sentiment dropped further amid lower turnover and lukewarm macro prints," Laura Wang, Chief China Equity Strategist at Morgan Stanley wrote in a note on Friday.

"No signs of near-term stimulus step-up as the interim tariff truce continues."

A federal appeals court on Thursday temporarily reinstated the most sweeping of US President Donald Trump's tariffs, a day after a trade court blocked them, saying the president exceeded his authority.

The CSI Consumer Electronics Thematic Index lost 2%. Apple iPhone assembler Foxconn lost 3.9%, BYD Electronics tumbled 6% and Lens Tech weakened 3.4%.

Auto shares continued their downward trend as price war concerns lingered. Shares of Xpeng, BYD and Nio slipped by 3.3% to 5%.

Cushioning the losses, the CSI Banks Index advanced 0.6% after news that People's Bank of China (PBOC) Governor Pan Gongsheng will attend the opening ceremony of the Lujiazui Forum in Shanghai next month and announce several major financial policies.

FOREIGN INVESTORS RAISE BETS THAT INDIA STOCK MARKET RALLY MAY STALL

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

Foreign investors are becoming more cautious about the Indian stock market, indicating a three-month rally may run out of legs despite retail traders growing optimistic, according to monthly derivatives data analysed by two brokerages.

The Nifty 50 has risen about 12% from March through May, largely due to better-than-expected corporate earnings and easing global trade risks. That is nearly double the 6.6% gain in the MSCI Emerging Markets index in that time.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pumped $2.66 billion into Indian equities over that period and cut their short positions on the Nifty. A short seller borrows stock at a higher price betting its value will decline, at which point they buy the stock and pocket the profit.

However, FPIs have started the June derivatives series – which runs from May 30 to June 25 – with about $2 billion in Nifty index futures shorts, the highest since February, according to Nuvama Alternative and Quantitative Research.

In contrast, retail investors and high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), called the client category, turned bullish with long positions worth $1.54 billion on Nifty futures, compared with $546 million in shorts from early May.

Indian benchmarks end May with gains as investors wait for growth data

"This divergence sets up a potential tug-of-war between institutional caution and retail optimism, and could lead to a brief pause in the market rally in June," said Abhilash Pagaria, head of Nuvama.

Indeed, the Nifty's gains have weakened in each month – from 6.3% in March to 3.5% in April and to about 2% in May.

"Markets appear to be waiting for some concrete cues before turning bullish," said Sriram Velayudhan, VP at IIFL Securities.

Velayudhan expects the Nifty 50 to trade between 24,300 and 25,300 points over the June series, compared with its current level of about 24,800 points.

Analysts expect the Nifty to hit new highs by end-2025, but say a correction is likely in the next three months, according to a Reuters poll.

TSX SLIPS AS TRUMP SAYS CHINA VIOLATED TARIFF AGREEMENT

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

Canada's main stock index slipped on Friday, as trade worries over U.S. President Donald Trump's accusation in a social media post of China violating a tariff agreement offset positive sentiments about domestic economic growth.

"China, perhaps not surprisingly to some, HAS TOTALLY VIOLATED ITS AGREEMENT WITH US. So much for being Mr. NICE GUY!," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

The Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX composite index was down 0.3% at 26,133.45 points. However, for the week, the index was up 1.2%.

Global equities had initially rallied in the previous session, after the Court of International Trade ruled late on Wednesday to effectively block most levies imposed since January.

However, a U.S. federal appeals court temporarily reinstated Trump's tariffs on Thursday, to consider the government's appeal.

"People who were expecting to see some clarity in the market are going to be somewhat disappointed", said Michael Sprung, president at Sprung Investment Management.

"When Trump says China has violated any sort of agreement the whole premise might be that he might do something retaliatory, which is going to be inflationary and harmful."

Data showed, Canada's economy grew faster than expected in the first quarter. But an increase in imports that led to inventory build-up, lower household spending and weaker final domestic demand showed that the economy was battling on the domestic front. Economists have warned that as tariffs continue on Canada, this trend will persist.

This comes ahead of the Bank of Canada's rates decision next week. The market sees a 22% chance of a rate cut next week, down from 27% before GDP data.

The TSX has gained 5.4% so far in May and was set for its best month in six, boosted by investor optimism on easing of the global trade war earlier this month.

South of the border, U.S. consumer spending increased marginally in April as a rush to beat higher prices from import duties slowed.

On TSX, energy subindex fell 1.3% as oil prices headed for a second consecutive weekly loss.

Healthcare stocks fell 1.7%.

WALL ST FALLS AS TRUMP SAYS CHINA VIOLATED TARIFF TERMS

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

Wall Street's main indexes fell on Friday as U.S. President Donald Trump accused China of violating a tariff agreement, ramping up tensions in a trade war that has roiled global markets and businesses.

Trump's post on his Truth Social platform did not specify how China had violated the agreement made in Geneva, Switzerland, and what action he would take against Beijing. "So much for being Mr. NICE GUY!," he said.

In their Geneva talks, both sides had agreed the U.S. would drop levies on Chinese imports from 145% to 30% during a 90-day negotiation period and China would cut duties from 125% to 10%.

"We went from a place where it felt as though investors had a pretty good handle on the direction of trade and tariffs and now that picture has become very confusing," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at B Riley Wealth.

Helping stem losses, data showed U.S. consumer spending increased marginally in April, with the year-on-year reading increasing to 2.1% after advancing 2.3% in March. The Fed tracks the PCE price measures for its 2% inflation target.

Traders continued to bet that the U.S. central bank will cut its target for short-term borrowing costs in September.

At 09:59 a.m. ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 49.27 points, or 0.12%, to 42,166.46, the S&P 500 lost 27.12 points, or 0.46%, to 5,885.05 and the Nasdaq Composite lost 155.75 points, or 0.81%, to 19,020.13.

Most megacap and growth stocks fell, with Nvidia down 2.4%.

Nine of the 11 major S&P 500 sub-sectors fell, with energy and information technology declining the most.

Wall St edges lower as markets await Nvidia earnings

Despite the losses, the Nasdaq is on pace for its best month since November 2023, while the benchmark S&P 500 is on track for its biggest monthly gain since November 2024. The Dow is also set to notch a near 3.5% advance for May.

It has been a volatile month for stocks as Trump's on-and-off trade moves kept investors on edge, though his softening stance on tariffs had helped the S&P 500 rebound from its April lows. The benchmark is now about 4% lower than its all-time high hit in February.

Hopes of more deals between the U.S. and major trading partners, along with upbeat earnings and tame inflation data, had also driven the gains in equities.

U.S. equities had initially rallied in the previous session, after the Court of International Trade ruled late on Wednesday to effectively block most levies imposed since January, without addressing some industry-specific tariffs.

However, a federal appeals court on Thursday temporarily reinstated most of the tariffs and ordered the plaintiffs in the cases to respond by June 5 and the administration by June 9.

Among other big movers on the day, Ulta Beauty jumped 15% after the cosmetics retailer raised its annual profit forecast after beating quarterly results.

Shares of drugmaker Regeneron dropped more than 18% after its experimental drug for patients with a type of lung condition commonly called “smoker’s lung” failed a late-stage trial, although it succeeded in another.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 2.33-to-1 ratio on the NYSE and by a 2.66-to-1 ratio on the Nasdaq.

The S&P 500 posted 6 new 52-week highs and 2 new lows while the Nasdaq Composite recorded 24 new highs and 40 new lows.

UAE MARKETS FALL BUT DUBAI INDEX ENDS MAY AT MULTI-YEAR HIGH

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

Dubai’s main share index ended May at its highest level since July 2008, even as global trade uncertainty and concern over an economic slowdown weighed on sentiment in Friday’s session.

Oil prices - a catalyst for Gulf markets - were flat on Friday and heading for a second consecutive weekly loss, as investors weigh a potentially larger OPEC+ output hike for July, and uncertainty spreads around U.S. tariff policy after the latest courtroom twist.

United Arab Emirates’ markets settled lower on Friday, with Dubai’s index retreating 0.22% and Abu Dhabi’s benchmark index ending 0.62% lower, although the market ended the month at its highest level since March 2024.

Abu Dhabi’s index also recorded a seventh consecutive weekly session of gains.

Ratings agency Fitch warned on Thursday that Dubai real estate prices are likely to face a double-digit fall in the second half of the year and in 2026.

The Gulf's business and tourism hub, Dubai has experienced a post-pandemic property boom, fuelled by foreign investment and government-led residency reforms, which have helped send real estate prices soaring.

Real estate development company Emaar Properties fell 1.13% on Friday. Healthcare and education investment company Amanat Holding was the biggest loser on the index, down 2.78%.

All other Gulf markets are closed on Friday.

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 ABU DHABI      down 0.62% to 9,685.1
 DUBAI          down 0.22% to 5,480.51
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SRI LANKAN SHARES NOTCH EIGHTH STRAIGHT WEEKLY GAIN

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

Sri Lankan shares logged their eighth straight week of gains on Friday, as gains in utilities stocks overpowered losses in IT firms.

The CSE All Share index settled up 0.23% at 16,854.86.

Sri Lanka's Colombo consumer price index was down 0.7% year-on-year in May after dropping 2% in April, its statistics department said on Friday.

SMB Finance PLC and Ramboda Falls PLC were the top percentage gainers on the CSE All Share index, rising 50% and 21%, respectively.

Trading volume on the CSE All Share index rose to 210.8 million shares from 173.8 million in the previous session.

Sri Lanka shares close flat as energy losses offset other gains

The equity market's turnover fell to 5.17 billion Sri Lankan rupees ($17.3 million) from 6.43 billion rupees in the previous session, according to exchange data.

Foreign investors were net sellers, offloading stocks worth 606.1 million rupees, while domestic investors were net buyers, purchasing shares worth 5 billion rupees, the data showed.

STERLING SET FOR FOURTH MONTHLY RISE AGAINST A WEAKENED DOLLAR

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

Sterling held steady on Friday, set for its fourth month in a row of gains against the dollar, as recent favourable economic data support Britain's currency just as worries over U.S. tariffs and high debt weigh on the greenback.

"Sterling looks well supported," said Kit Juckes, chief FX strategist at Societe Generale, pointing to "reasonably good" data trends.

Sterling was last trading at $1.3472, little changed on the day and down around 0.5% on the week after gaining about 2% last week.

That leaves the pound set to end May with a gain of around 1%, which would mark a fourth straight month of increases against a weakened greenback.

It last recorded four consecutive monthly gains against the dollar in 2022.

The dollar, meanwhile, was en route to its fifth-straight monthly decline on Friday, as further uncertainty around trade policy and U.S. fiscal health weighed.

Sterling weakens versus dollar but stays close to over three-year high

Sterling rose around 0.25% to 84.06 pence per euro.

Still, it was set for its first week of declines after six weeks of increases as gains seen after UK retail sales and inflation numbers last week and optimism around Britain's trade deals with the U.S. and India faded.

Last week's stronger than expected UK inflation print caused markets to do away with bets for a rate cut at the Bank of England's policy meeting in June, with about 97% of traders now anticipating that the central bank will hold rates after a cut by 0.25 percentage points to 4.25% in May.

"The economy has not got the legs to justify a significant strengthening (of the pound) from here," Juckes said. "I just think it's going to frustrate all the bears, left, right, and centre."

Further out, traders looked ahead to a multi-year spending review by finance minister Rachel Reeves on June 11, with the government facing the challenging task of boosting economic growth while limiting spending and tax increases as it has pledged.

INDIAN BENCHMARKS END MAY WITH GAINS AS INVESTORS WAIT FOR GROWTH DATA

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

India's benchmark indexes edged lower on Friday but logged a third straight monthly gain, supported by steady institutional inflows and earnings momentum despite geopolitical and trade concerns.

The Nifty 50 rose 1.7% in May to 24,750.70, while the BSE Sensex gained 1.5% to 81,451.01; both indexes are up around 12% since March but remain about 6% below their September 2024 record highs.

Domestic growth data, due after markets close, likely picked up pace in the January–March quarter, driven by stronger rural demand and increased government spending.

Markets wavered early in May following a flare-up in tensions with Pakistan but rebounded after both nations agreed to a ceasefire.

“The de-escalation eases some of the foreign investor concerns, paving the way for sustained inflows,” said Matt Gertken, chief geopolitical strategist at BCA Research.

FPIs bought about $2.6 billion worth of Indian shares in May, the highest since September 2024.

Financials, IT stocks weigh on Indian equity benchmarks

Global sentiment improved as the U.S. reached a 90-day tariff truce with China and advanced trade negotiations with the U.K.

Talks between India and the U.S. also progressed, with New Delhi aiming to clinch a deal during the truce period.

“The trajectory now hinges on corporate earnings, economic growth data after market close, and the RBI’s upcoming policy decision next week,” said Anil Rego, founder of Right Horizons PMS.

The broader small-caps and mid-caps jumped 8.7% and 6.1%, respectively.

On Friday, the Nifty fell 0.33% and Sensex lost 0.22% as the Nifty IT dropped after a U.S. court reinstated broad Trump-era tariffs. Still, the IT index ended May higher, while metals also posted strong gains.

Among individual stocks, Bharat Electronics jumped 22.5% in May, its best in a year, helped by the government’s defence indigenisation push and strong March quarter earnings.

STOXX 600 EDGES DOWN ON US TRADE UNCERTAINTIES; SET FOR MONTHLY GAINS

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

European shares dipped on Friday as caution prevailed after a U.S. court reinstated President Donald Trump’s tariffs, even as the benchmark index neared a robust monthly gain.

The continent-wide STOXX 600 index (.STOXX), opens new tab was down 0.1%, as of 0711 GMT, pressured by a temporary reinstatement of the most sweeping of Trump's tariffs a day after another court ordered an immediate block on them.

However, the benchmark index was set for its first monthly advance in three, up 3.8% so far, capitalising on easing trade tensions and the recent U.S. fiscal concerns that forced investors to move away from American assets.

European shares ease after court blocks Trump's tariffs

On Friday, data showed German retail sales fell by 1.1% in April compared with the previous month. Investors also looked ahead to Germany's May inflation figures, to be released later in the day, that could offer more clues about the European Central Bank's policy decision next week.

Among sectors, basic resources was the biggest drag and fell 0.9%, dragged by lower copper prices.

The real estate supported the main index by rising 0.8%.

M&G jumped 8.2% after it said Japanese life insurer Dai-Ichi Life Holdings will take a 15% stake in the British insurer and asset manager as part of a strategic deal.

KSE-100 ADDS 720 POINTS AMID BULLISH MOMENTUM

BR Web Desk Published May 30, 2025

Buying rally continued at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index closing the day with a gain of 720 points.

The bulls largely maintained their grip over the market, hitting the index to an intra-day high of 119,913.88.

At close, the benchmark index settled at 119,691.09, up by 719.69 points or 0.60%.

Top positive contributions to the index came from FFC, MEBL, HUBC, PKGP, ENGROH and MCB, as they cumulatively contributed 668 points to the index, brokerage house Topline Securities said in its post-market report.

The KSE 100 Index gained 7.5% on month-on-month (MoM) basis.

"This gain can be attributed to cut in policy rate by 100bps by SBP to 11% in its monetary policy meeting - citing improvement in inflation outlook relative to the previous assessments and approval of first review of EFF by IMF board along with a new facility under Resilience and Sustainability Facility of US$1.4 billion," Topline said.

On Thursday, the PSX closed in the green zone, as investors remained strong due to various domestic and international reasons. The KSE-100 Index gained 638.50 points or 0.54% to settle at 118,971.40 points.

Internationally, stocks slipped in Asia on Friday, and the US dollar dropped with Treasury yields as investors digested an appeals court's decision to keep President Donald Trump's tariffs in effect, a day after markets rallied on a separate ruling blocking most of them.

Japan's Nikkei saw the most pronounced selling, after experiencing the most pronounced buying on Thursday, with moves in the exporter-heavy index exacerbated by the ebb and flow in demand for the safe-haven yen.

Asian shares, US dollar climb on rosy data, tech optimism

The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington temporarily reinstated Trump's duties on Thursday while it considers the government's appeal.

The Nikkei dropped 1.7% in the Asian morning, putting it basically back at Wednesday's closing level.

The yen strengthened about 2% from its low on Thursday to last change hands at around 143.48 per US dollar.

A stronger yen reduces the value of overseas revenues.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 1.4% and mainland China's blue chip index eased 0.3% in early trading.

South Korea's KOSPI fell 0.5%.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was off 0.4%.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani rupee registered marginal gain against the US dollar, appreciating 0.02% in the inter-bank market on Friday. At close, the local currency settled at 282.02, a gain of Re0.05 against the greenback.

Volume on the all-share index decreased to 580.32 million from 741.65 million recorded in the previous close.

The value of shares declined to Rs22.74 billion from Rs23.91 billion in the previous session.

WorldCall Telecom was the volume leader with 79.67 million shares, followed by K-Electric Ltd with 47.70 million shares, and Cnergyico PK with 35.76 million shares.

Shares of 474 companies were traded on Friday, of which 259 registered an increase, 161 recorded a fall, while 54 remained unchanged.

KSE-100 INDEX CLIMBS 720 POINTS DESPITE MARKET VOLATILITY

May 30, 2025

Karachi, May 30, 2025 – The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a strong upward movement on Friday as the benchmark KSE-100 index gained 720 points in a turbulent trading session.

The index closed at 119,691 points, up from the previous day's close of 118,971, reflecting a daily increase of 0.60%.

According to analysts at Topline Securities Limited, the KSE-100 index maintained its bullish momentum carried forward from the previous session. Throughout the day, the index remained predominantly in the green, despite some fluctuations in investor sentiment. This consistent upward trajectory led the KSE-100 index to settle near the 119,700 mark.

Key contributors to Friday's gains included prominent stocks such as Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), Meezan Bank Limited (MEBL), Hub Power Company (HUBC), Pakistan GasPort Consortium (PKGP), Engro Fertilizers (ENGROH), and MCB Bank. Collectively, these heavyweights added approximately 668 points to the index, demonstrating strong investor confidence in these sectors.

In terms of trading activity, some of the most actively traded stocks by value included Attock Refinery Limited (ATRL) with PKR 1.66 billion, DG Khan Cement (DGKC) at PKR 878 million, HUBC at PKR 807 million, FFC at PKR 708 million, MEBL at PKR 661 million, and Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MARI) at PKR 607 million.

Despite the market's upward momentum, overall trading volumes and value showed a decline. The day's traded volume stood at 579 million shares, reflecting a 22% decrease compared to the previous day. Similarly, the total traded value dropped by 4.5% to settle at PKR 22.7 billion.

Market experts believe that the sustained performance of the KSE-100 index amid volatility suggests underlying investor optimism, possibly driven by expectations of economic stability and favorable corporate earnings. However, they caution that external factors and political developments could influence short-term trends in the index performance.

Investors are advised to monitor key economic indicators, fiscal developments, and global market cues that may shape the KSE-100 index trajectory.

Business & Finance » Industry

OIL SECTOR: MINISTER OUTLINES KEY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Recorder Report Published May 31, 2025 Updated about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik outlined key investment opportunities in upstream exploration, pipeline development, and downstream processing, aligned with the global shift toward cleaner energy in a meeting with the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

OICCI held a detailed interactive session with Ali Pervaiz Malik, attended by senior business leaders from both local and multinational companies. Discussions focused on Pakistan's energy priorities and the path to long-term economic stability.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to structural reforms, accelerated policy execution, and enhanced industry engagement. He cited recent resolution of refinery-sector challenges as a positive example of collaborative progress.

During the meeting, the Minister outlined key investment opportunities in upstream exploration, pipeline development, and downstream processing, aligned with the global shift toward cleaner energy and invited the foreign companies for investment. He further highlighted the recent FDI-related successes in attracting foreign investment in the mining sector, which aim to unlock the country's untapped natural resources and drive future exports and industrial diversification.

Yousaf Hussain, President of OICCI and CEO of Faysal Bank, emphasised the importance of policy consistency, technocratic execution, and a joint, collaborative roadmap to achieve deep-rooted economic stability and sustainable growth.

He noted that closer engagement between the government, OICCI, and industry in both policy formulation and execution will be essential to delivering results and strengthening investor confidence.

CIGARETTE INDUSTRY DEMANDS EFFECTIVE TTS ENFORCEMENT

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: Cigarette industry has urged the federal government for the special measures in the budget for effective enforcement of digital monitoring tools like Track and Trace System (TTS) to collect the billions of rupees additional tax revenue.

As per estimates, Pakistan's illicit cigarette market is draining over Rs415 billion annually from the national treasury, shifting an unfair tax burden onto compliant manufacturers, which are the leading tax payer sector in the country.

While illegal manufacturers evade taxes and regulatory oversight, legal companies bear nearly all the tax load despite having less than half the market share.

This creates a distorted market where legal businesses struggle to compete, and consumers unknowingly support illicit trade through inflated prices and limited product choices.

Industry sources said that illicit trade severely disrupts market balance, forcing lawful manufacturers to shoulder disproportionate tax costs.

This not only harms the industry's growth but ultimately affects consumers who pay higher prices for taxed products, they added. "Effective enforcement of digital monitoring tools like Track and Trace is essential to restore fairness and protect government revenues," they said.

Experts warned that if preventive measures are not taken in the upcoming budget, illicit trade will continue to erode government resources needed for public services, hinder economic development, and encourage illegal business practices that undermine the rule of law in Pakistan.

Industry experts emphasise that cracking down on illicit trade through enhanced regulatory frameworks can reclaim billions in lost revenue and ensure a level playing field for all stakeholders.

They said that the government can earn billions of rupees revenue by fully implementing the track and trace system in the industry. Several commitments have been made in the past to address this issue; however, enforcement actions on the ground have not been taken to curtail the scale of the illicit trade. In absence of the full implementation of the Track and Trace system, illicit operators are growing freely and depriving the national exchequer of much-needed billions of rupees revenue.

PAKISTAN BEGINS TALKS WITH US ON TRUMP'S RECIPROCAL TARIFFS, SAYS FINANCE MINISTER'S ADVISER

- Both sides express confidence in advancing negotiations for successful conclusion at the earliest, says Khurram Schehzad

BR Web Desk Published May 30, 2025

Pakistan on Friday formally initiated talks with the United States (US) on the reciprocal tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump last month, the finance minister's adviser said.

Trump imposed 29% reciprocal tariff on Pakistan, besides over 185 countries and territories, saying that Islamabad charges 58% tariff on goods imported from the US.

"Pakistan's formal negotiations on US reciprocal tariffs kick-started between Mr Muhammad Aurangzeb, Pakistan's Finance Minister and Ambassador Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative through a telephonic/conference call on May 30, 2025," Khurram Schehzad said in a post on X.

"Both sides exchanged their viewpoint through a constructive engagement with the understanding that technical level detailed discussions would follow in the coming weeks.

“Both sides expressed confidence in advancing the negotiations for successful conclusion at the earliest,” he added.

Trump tariffs: US offers Pakistan to buy more cotton

In imposing the tariffs in early April, Trump called the trade deficit a national emergency that justified his 10% across-the-board tariff on all imports, with higher rates for countries with which the United States has the largest trade deficits, particularly China.

Many of those country-specific tariffs were paused a week later.

The Trump administration on May 12 said it was also temporarily reducing the steepest tariffs on China while working on a longer-term trade deal. Both countries agreed to cut tariffs on each other for at least 90 days.

This week, a US trade court blocked President Donald Trump’s tariffs from going into effect in a sweeping ruling that the president overstepped his authority by imposing across-the-board duties on imports from nations that sell more to the United States than they buy.

SMUGGLING CONTROL: PAKISTAN GOVT MAY APPROVE FEES TO DIGITISE FUEL SUPPLY, PETROL PUMPS

Salman Siddiqui Published May 30, 2025

Pakistan government is likely to approve additional fees for oil marketing companies (OMCs) and dealers to digitise supply chain and petrol pumps in a bid to curb fuel smuggling.

The additional fee “will be added to it (petroleum products) in the form of every litre,” said Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday while talking to the media during his visit to the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC).

However, he claimed that approval of the fees would not lead to an increase in fuel prices.

As per details, the digitisation would use radar based technology and digital nozzles, and installation of CCTV cameras to run and monitor the supply chain.

Fuelling around: OMCs’ rollercoaster ride in FY24

Malik did not disclose the amount of the additional fee. The background information, however, suggests it may be Rs1.35/litre for OMCs and Rs1.40/litre for dealers (petrol pumps).

The Petroleum ministry is set to send a summary to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) in this regard within two months.

The minister stated that his ministry had previously submitted a summary, which contained some issues. The issues were being addressed, he added.

“The cost will be utilised to digitise vehicles transporting oil to pumps and digitise petrol pumps as well to detect and discard the smuggled-in diesel and other petroleum products,” he said.

The minister elaborated that they had registered all the petroleum products nationwide in phase-I.

In the phase-II, lorries and trucks - which transport petroleum products from oil depot to petrol pumps - would be fully digitised over the next two to three-months from 85% at present. In another two months, the nozzles would be fully digitised from 70% at present, he explained.

FBR tells ministry: 2.5% advance tax not applicable to OMCs’ outlets

“The petrol pumps and supply chain system of the products would get fully digitised within six to 12-month from the time we provide OMCs the required investment and make arrangements for payments and paybacks,” Malik said.

The minister regretted the power producers were not “honouring their commitment to lift the imported gas (RLNG) for electricity generation”, which is apparently causing surge in receivables of the Pakistan State oil (PSO) and piling up circular debt in the gas sector in contradiction to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommendation to freeze the debt and reduce it to zero in the time to come.

The ministry might opt to acquire bank loan to reduce the circular debt like power sector was doing, the minister said.

KCCI DEMANDS SUBSIDY RELEASE FOR INCREMENTAL POWER CONSUMPTION

May 30, 2025

Karachi, May 30, 2025 – The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has called on the federal government to urgently release the long-delayed subsidy related to incremental electricity consumption, which is critical for the survival and growth of Karachi’s industrial sector.

In a formal appeal to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, KCCI President Muhammad Jawed Bilwani emphasized the need to include a provision for the Rs23 billion subsidy in the upcoming federal budget for FY 2025–26. He highlighted that although the relief for incremental electricity consumption had been allocated in past budgets, it has not been disbursed, leaving Karachi’s industries uniquely burdened. Similar subsidies have already been granted to other parts of the country.

Bilwani expressed serious concerns over the government’s failure to release the funds despite confirmed allocations in FY 2021–22 (Rs22 billion), FY 2022–23 (Rs13 billion), and FY 2023–

24 (Rs7 billion). The total subsidy for the period between July 1, 2021, and October 21, 2023, is Rs33 billion, of which Rs23 billion is undisputed. However, legal and administrative delays, especially involving K-Electric, have stalled its release.

In the letter, the KCCI president acknowledged the government's recent efforts to stabilize the economy but stressed that prolonged delays in settling the incremental electricity consumption subsidy undermine investor confidence and the operational capacity of industries in Karachi. "K-Electric operated without a stay order for nine months and still failed to disburse the subsidy," he noted, blaming regulatory gaps and ineffective oversight from NEPRA.

He also pointed out that even after K-Electric's appeals were dismissed by the Tribunal in July 2024, the matter remains unresolved due to a stay order by the Islamabad High Court. As a solution, KCCI urged the government to bypass K-Electric and directly disburse the Rs23 billion to industrial consumers to avoid further procedural setbacks.

"This is not merely a financial issue," Bilwani asserted. "It is about protecting Karachi's economic engine. The government must act decisively to ensure justice in electricity consumption subsidies."

KCCI remains hopeful that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will personally intervene to ensure Karachi's industries are not left behind and receive their rightful relief in electricity consumption costs.

Business & Finance » Companies

ADANI'S MUMBAI AIRPORT SPARS WITH INDIGO, AIR INDIA OVER PAYMENT TERMS

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

NEW DELHI: The airport in India's financial capital of Mumbai, run by the Adani Group, has triggered a lobbying effort by top carriers IndiGo and Air India after it changed payment rules, citing financial needs and a risk of airline defaults, documents show.

The airport is one of India's busiest at a time when dozens are being added in one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets. It is the biggest of seven managed by a group led by billionaire Gautam Adani.

Confidential letters seen by Reuters show the intense pushback to the change, which seeks a compulsory cash deposit in a bank as security against charges such as landing and parking fees, instead of a long-standing practice of bank guarantees.

"None of these airlines normally pay on time … we want to align our cash flow with the airlines' cash flow," said Arun Bansal, the chief executive of Adani Airport Holdings, which has a stake of 74% in the airport.

"They have taken advantage of our niceness," he added, referring to resistance to the new payment system from IndiGo and Air India since the change eight months ago in October.

Airlines often delay payments beyond a due date at month-end but the airport has to pay authorities earlier, creating working capital challenges that can be resolved by using the security deposit when needed, Bansal said.

IndiGo and Air India, which together have a share of 91% of the market in India, did not respond to queries from Reuters.

A source with direct knowledge of the matter said the new policy would require the two airlines to make deposits of about 2 billion rupees ($23 million), taken together. For Air India, owned by the Tata Group conglomerate, such payments could strain its finances after racking up losses of $521 million last year, in addition to monthly costs of $50 million after Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian airlines.

India extends IndiGo's Turkish Airlines lease by just three months

The Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), which serviced 53 million passengers last year, also faces financial challenges, after posting losses of $71.11 million on revenues of $461 million last year, disclosures show.

In a December 31 letter to an airlines body, the airport justified the change by pointing out its "deteriorating financial position" and "significant debt obligations".

"The deposits will help MIAL's financial stability and credit rating," it added.

Default risk, Air India push

The change also aimed to protect the airport from risks such as an airline going bankrupt, as carriers Jet Airways, Go First and Kingfisher Airlines have done in the last few years, Bansal said.

The Mumbai airport has the right to cancel the slots of airlines that do not follow the new policy, but does not intend to do so in the interest of passengers, he added.

The International Air Transport Association, representing both Air India and IndiGo, wrote to India's civil aviation ministry in December, calling the change a bid to use airline deposits to fund the airport's need for working capital.

India's civil aviation ministry did not respond to Reuters' queries. The government has a stake of 26% in the Mumbai airport.

In a letter on April 2, the Federation of Indian Airlines told the airport it disagreed with the contention that airline payments were not timely.

Air India has lobbied the Indian government, saying the industry was already facing “immense financial pressure” in an April 15 letter.

“It is highly likely that other airports across the country could adopt similar measures, leading to widespread financial strain,” Air India said in the letter, seen by Reuters.

SAUDI FIRMS TO PLACE ORDERS FOR DOZENS OF AIRBUS JETS, SOURCES SAY

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

NEW DELHI: Saudi Arabia is set to place orders for billions of dollars of Airbus jets as the kingdom balances suppliers in its quest to match the aviation growth of Gulf neighbours, industry sources said.

Leasing company AviLease, which placed an order for 30 Boeing 737 MAX jets during a visit to the region this month by U.S. President Donald Trump, could place a comparable order for Airbus A320neo jets at next month’s Paris Airshow, they said.

The fast-growing company, which aims to be one of the world’s top lessors, is also potentially interested in Airbus A350 freighters, they added.

Barring a problem in negotiations, startup airline Riyadh Air appears poised to select the Airbus A350 over Boeing’s delayed 777X, they said.

Saudi Arabia to invest $600bn, says White House as US, KSA sign $142bn defence deal

The possible Riyadh Air A350 deal, which Bloomberg earlier reported could involve 50 jets, would also be announced at one of this year’s trade shows.

Airbus declined comment. AviLease was not immediately available.

Riyadh Air reiterated it was studying an order for large wide-body planes. “A decision will be made in the coming months,” a spokesperson added.

THYSSENKRUPP PUTTING 20,000 JOBS AT RISK IN OVERHAUL

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

BERLIN: Germany’s IG Metall union sees around a fifth of jobs at Thyssenkrupp at risk, a senior official was quoted as saying on Friday, following the conglomerate’s recent plans to turn into a holding company.

On Monday, Thyssenkrupp said it would pursue plans to sell minority stakes in three of its five divisions, with the other two - submarines and steel - already in the process of being spun off or partly divested.

“The plans could see more than 20,000 employees’ positions slashed,” Juergen Kerner, deputy chairman of both the IG Metall union and Thyssenkrupp’s supervisory board, told Sueddeutsche Zeitung (SZ) newspaper.

Thyssenkrupp has already announced plans to cut or outsource up to 11,000 jobs at its steel division TKSE and plans to slash around 1,800 jobs at its automotive unit.

Kerner said that Thyssenkrupp’s supervisory board would meet in June to approve the spin-off of the group’s submarine and warship division TKMS, which is planned for later this year.

Turning to steel, Kerner criticised Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky, who last year bought a 20% stake in TKSE and is in talks to acquire another 30% contingent on a job cuts deal with workers.

“I now consider Mr Kretinsky less and less to be the right buyer,” Kerner said, adding the billionaire had resisted sharing his plans for the steel business for more than a year.

INDIA EXTENDS INDIGO’S TURKISH AIRLINES LEASE BY JUST THREE MONTHS

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

NEW DELHI: IndiGo’s Turkish Airlines lease has been extended by three months, less than the six-month extension allowed under current rules, India’s aviation regulator said on Friday, giving the Indian airline a temporary boost in its international expansion plans.

There has been public pressure on the Indian government to review its business ties with Turkey after Ankara’s support for Pakistan during a recent conflict with India, which sparked public anger and boycott of Turkish products, including chocolates, coffee and clothing.

IndiGo was not immediately available for a comment on Friday.

IndiGo has had a codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines since 2018 and has used that pact to connect travelers from India to a growing number of destinations in Europe and the U.S. in the last few years, making Istanbul an important hub for India’s largest domestic airline.

Since 2023, Turkish has leased to IndiGo two Boeing 777 aircraft with pilots and some crew. The aircraft presently operates on the Delhi-Istanbul and Mumbai-Istanbul routes, allowing IndiGo to carry more passengers, compared with the narrowbodies it operated earlier.

India’s IndiGo co-founder to sell up to $1.4 billion worth of shares, term sheet shows

IndiGo has been leasing widebody aircraft to tide over aircraft delivery delays and expand internationally. The airline expects its first Airbus A350 by early 2027 and the long-range A321XLR this financial year.

The agreement with Turkish has faced calls to be scrapped. Rival Air India has lobbied Indian officials to halt the leasing tie-up, citing the business impact as well as security concerns sparked by Turkish support for Pakistan, Reuters reported earlier this month.

IndiGo has previously defended the Turkish partnership, saying it offers multiple benefits to Indian travelers and boosts aviation growth and jobs.

The government's move to give an extension follows its announcement earlier this month revoking the security clearance of Turkish ground handling service firm Celebi, citing national security, inviting a lawsuit from the Indian arm of the Turkish firm.

INDIA'S EV MAKERS TATA, MAHINDRA SEEK TO BLOCK HYBRIDS IN GOVT FLEETS, DOCUMENTS SHOW

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

NEW DELHI: India's biggest automakers are seeking to block a pollution management body's attempts to promote hybrid vehicles in government fleets in and around New Delhi, saying it will disrupt adoption of cleaner battery electric cars and hit investments, documents show.

Companies, including Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors, are lobbying the ministry of heavy industries to overturn an attempt to equate hybrids with EVs and ensure incentives for all government programmes are restricted to electric models, five company letters seen by Reuters show.

In a May 2 advisory, the Commission for Air Quality Management, tasked with fixing severe air pollution levels in India's capital region, categorised strong hybrids as "cleaner vehicles" recommending their use in government fleets, a move that caught carmakers by surprise.

Given the "ultra-high density" of vehicular traffic in New Delhi and nearby areas, there is a need to move away from "polluting vehicles, dependent purely on fossil fuels like diesel and petrol", the commission said.

Automakers, however, argue that hybrids - which use a battery and combustion engine - are reliant on fossil fuels whereas EVs produce zero tailpipe emissions, making them an effective solution for the urban air pollution crisis.

"Our plea is for government policy and incentives to stay firmly focused only on EVs," Mahindra said in its May 15 letter to the heavy industries ministry.

India's Tata Motors tops fourth-quarter profit view on higher JLR sales, lower costs

Along with Tata and Mahindra, JSW MG Motor, Hyundai Motor and Kia Corp have also written to the ministry in support of electric cars, rekindling their face-off with hybrid proponents like Toyota Motor and Maruti Suzuki.

Tata, Mahindra, JSW MG Motor, Hyundai, Kia Corp and the ministry of heavy industries did not respond to requests for comment.

Policy uncertainty

The potential opportunity is huge - of the 847,544 vehicles in use by government agencies across India in 2022, only 5,384 were EVs - less than 1%, official data showed.

A major concern for EV makers is that support for hybrids dilutes the Indian government's own policy which incentivizes only EVs in its production-linked schemes and other programmes.

It will also create confusion among car buyers, companies and investors, hurting EV sales at a time when their growth is already slowing due to inadequate charging infrastructure and high upfront vehicle costs.

"The lack of a consistent and predictable policy environment may deter long-term investors … particularly in high-capex, technology-intensive sectors like EV," said Tata, which has raised $1 billion from private equity firm TPG for its EV push.

Tata in its May 15 letter said, the commission's move will undermine current and proposed EV investments, impact India's global image as an investor friendly destination and send mixed signals to international stakeholders.

Carmakers in India are expected to invest over $10 billion through 2030 to manufacture lithium-ion cells, EVs and batteries, ratings agency Moody's said in a report, adding EV adoption rates in India are still low versus China, Europe and the U.S.

Mahindra's EV unit counts Singapore's Temasek and British International Investment among investors while Hyundai plans to invest over $500 million in EVs in India.

S&P LOWERS OUTLOOK ON VOLVO CARS RATING CITING US TARIFFS, COMPETITION IN CHINA

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

STOCKHOLM: S&P on Friday lowered the outlook for its BB+ credit rating on Volvo Cars to "negative" from "stable", saying U.S. tariffs and tougher competition in China were hurting the company's growth prospects.

The Sweden-based automaker, which is majority-owned by China's Geely, last month withdrew its earnings guidance and announced cost cuts, which will include laying off some 3,000 mostly white-collar workers amid a slowdown in demand.

"The negative outlook on Volvo Cars reflects its large exposure to U.S. import tariffs and the increasing marginalisation in the Chinese market," S&P said in a statement.

"We expect Volvo Cars' profitability and cash generation after investments to come under pressure in 2025-2026, partly alleviated by a substantial cost reduction programme."

The United States represented 16% of Volvo Cars sales in 2024, while China accounted for 20%.

Volvo Cars to cut 3,000 jobs in restructuring

Volvo Cars produces only one of its models in the United States, and relies on imports for the rest, leaving the company more exposed to U.S. tariffs than many of its European peers.

S&P said a proposed 2027 U.S. ban on automakers controlled by a Chinese entity also weighed on the outlook.

In the most recent twist in the trade turmoil sparked by President Donald Trump, a U.S. court on Thursday temporarily reinstated sweeping new tariffs, a day after another U.S. court had ordered an immediate block on them.

JAPAN'S DAI-ICHI LIFE TO TAKE 15% STAKE IN BRITISH INSURER M&G

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

PARIS/LONDON: Japanese insurer Dai-ichi Life will take a 15% stake in British financial group M&G and has agreed a long-term partnership, sending shares in M&G sharply higher and marking the latest overseas foray by a Japanese firm.

The tie-up, in which Dai-ichi Life becomes M&G's biggest single shareholder, is expected to deliver at least $6 billion of new business for M&G and $2 billion of new business for Dai-ichi Life over the next five years, M&G said on Friday.

M&G shares rose more than 8% in early trading, hitting their highest since June 2021. The stock was last up nearly 6% at 1050 GMT.

M&G CEO Andrea Rossi told Reuters the agreement would help the firm accelerate growth in Asia via Dai-ichi Life's distribution network. He said the Japanese firm would also help fuel the growth of its European private markets business.

M&G has been seen as a takeover target in the past, but Rossi said the tie-up would strengthen M&G's competitive position as a standalone firm.

"I can see us having a great independent future in front of us," he said.

The two companies will “pursue opportunities to co-invest in new asset management capabilities” under the tie-up, and M&G will become Dai-ichi Life’s preferred asset management partner in Europe.

Asset management has seen a spate of consolidation and collaboration deals in recent years as firms try to bulk up in order to compete with U.S. giants like BlackRock and Vanguard.

Japanese firms have also become more active in the insurance and asset management market outside of Japan, with British rival Legal & General announcing a tie-up with Meiji Yasuda in February, while DWS is in talks to form a joint venture with Nippon Life in India, Reuters reported this month.

Under the deal, Dai-ichi Life will have the right to appoint a director to the board of M&G for as long as it holds at least a 15% shareholding, the British company said.

In 2023 M&G was linked with a potential bid by Australia’s Macquarie, which the British money manager at the time dismissed as speculative. Active asset managers have come under pressure from inflation and from investors turning to passive investment funds, which charge lower fees.

M&G reported an unexpected rise in annual profit in March, helped by cost-cutting and growth in its asset management business.

Dai-ichi Life earlier in May said it would raise its stake in UK-based Capula Investment Management to 15%, from just under 5%, and in April agreed to buy a 15.1% stake in Australian investment manager Challenger for around $550 million.

SAUDI ARAMCO COULD SOON ISSUE ISLAMIC BONDS, PROSPECTUS SHOWS

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

DUBAI: Saudi Aramco has published a new prospectus for its issuance programme of Islamic bonds or sukuk, signalling the state oil major may soon tap the debt markets again after it raised $5 billion from a three-part bond sale this week.

The prospectus, submitted to the London Stock Exchange where the sukuk would be listed, is dated May 30. Aramco has a year to issue sukuk under its terms.

Aramco earlier this week raised $5 billion from a sale of conventional bonds. The borrowing comes after economic uncertainty and rising supply hit crude markets, denting the top oil exporter’s profits.

Saudi Aramco seeks funds through three-part bond sale

Aramco in March said it expected to slash its dividend this year by nearly a third as profits and free cash flow decline.

The Saudi government is heavily reliant on generous payouts from its longtime cash cow Aramco, which also include royalties and taxes. Oil receipts made up 62% of state revenue last year.

The government does not disclose at which crude price its books are balanced. The IMF estimates it needs oil at over $90 a barrel for a balanced budget. Brent crude was trading around $64.4 on Friday.

CHERAT, BESTWAY INTERESTED IN ATTOCK CEMENT AS PHARAON MULLS EXIT: BLOOMBERG

BR Web Desk Published May 30, 2025

Pharaon Investment Group Ltd., a Lebanon-based company exploring a strategic sale of its stake in Attock Cement Pakistan Ltd (ACPL), has attracted initial interest from several major players in the cement and energy sectors, including Cherat Cement and Bestway Group, reported BLOOMBERG, citing people familiar with the matter.

According to the report, Pakistani cement giants, including Cherat and Bestway, are among suitors considering bids for the stake. Meanwhile, Kot Addu Power Co. from the energy sector has also been evaluating ACPL "and may explore a joint offer with a local building materials producer like Fauji Cement."

Earlier, Pharaon Investment Group informed its stakeholders that certain prospective investors had expressed interest in acquiring its shareholding in ACPL and also indicated their intention to submit binding offers.

PIGL shared that Standard Chartered Bank has been appointed as a financial advisor for the divestment process.

Last year, it was reported that Pharaon Investment was exploring strategic options, including a potential sale, in relation to its investment in the cement business in Pakistan.

Attock Cement Pakistan Ltd was incorporated in Pakistan on October 14, 1981, as a public limited company. The company is a subsidiary of Pharaon Investment Group Limited Holding S.A.L, Lebanon.

Its main business activity is the manufacturing and sale of cement.

Markets » Financial

INDIAN FY25 FISCAL DEFICIT SLIGHTLY ABOVE TARGET

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

MUMBAI: Fiscal deficit for 2024-25 was 100.5% of the fiscal year target, data released on Friday showed.

In February, the Indian government set the 2024-25 fiscal deficit target at 4.8% of gross domestic product and aimed to lower it to 4.4% in the current fiscal year. The government did not provide fiscal deficit data as a percentage of the GDP.

India beats forecasts with 7.4% growth in January-March

India's fiscal year runs April through March.

SHANGHAI: China's central bank has injected 700 billion yuan ($97 billion) into its banking system during May through an outright reverse repurchase tool, the bank said on Friday.

The operations, conducted with tenors of three and six months, were aimed at maintaining "reasonably ample liquidity" in the banking system, the PBOC said in a statement.

With 900 billion yuan in outright repos expiring this month, the data suggests a net withdrawal of 200 billion yuan from the system via the tool.

In a separate statement, the PBOC said on Friday that it had refrained from buying or selling Chinese government bonds in open market operations for the fifth consecutive month in May.

Market participants are closely watching for signals on when the PBOC will resume purchases of its own government bonds.

China central bank eases policy ahead of US trade meeting

"Amid rising risks of U.S.-China decoupling, there is growing urgency to resume government bond trading to increase the central bank's holdings of sovereign debt," analysts at Caitong Securities said in a note on Thursday.

The analysts expect the PBOC to resume bond buying as early as July or August, amid concerns that a potential end to the tariff truce between China and the United States could weigh on economic sentiment.

CHINA'S CENTRAL BANK INJECTS 700BN YUAN OF OUTRIGHT REVERSE REPOS IN MAY

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

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With 900 billion yuan in outright repos expiring this month, the data suggests a net withdrawal of 200 billion yuan from the system via the tool.

In a separate statement, the PBOC said on Friday that it had refrained from buying or selling Chinese government bonds in open market operations for the fifth consecutive month in May.

Market participants are closely watching for signals on when the PBOC will resume purchases of its own government bonds.

China central bank eases policy ahead of US trade meeting

"Amid rising risks of U.S.-China decoupling, there is growing urgency to resume government bond trading to increase the central bank's holdings of sovereign debt," analysts at Caitong Securities said in a note on Thursday.

The analysts expect the PBOC to resume bond buying as early as July or August, amid concerns that a potential end to the tariff truce between China and the United States could weigh on economic sentiment.

Markets » Energy

PM URGED TO EXPEDITE RS23BN POWER BILL RELIEF

N H Zuberi Published May 31, 2025 Updated about an hour ago

KARACHI: President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Muhammad Jawed Bilwani has appealed the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to ensure that the long-pending relief of Rs23 billion in the electricity bills on incremental consumption is released without further delay by duly incorporating provision in the forthcoming federal budget for FY 2025–26.

Despite being allocated in previous budgets, the relief has yet to be disbursed, causing severe financial stress to the Karachi's industrial sector only as this relief has been provided to the rest of the country.

In a formal letter addressed to the Prime Minister, President KCCI acknowledged the government's efforts to address challenges faced by the business community and improve Pakistan's economic landscape.

However, he expressed grave concern over the delay in releasing the subsidy for incremental electricity consumption from July 1, 2021, to October 21, 2023, stressing that Karachi's industries continue to bear the brunt of administrative and legal setbacks.

He pointed out that the total subsidy amount for the period is Rs33 billion, of which Rs23 billion is undisputed and should have been disbursed.

Budgetary allocations were already made in FY 2021-22 (Rs22 billion), FY 2022-23 (Rs13 billion), and FY 2023-24 (Rs7 billion), but the funds have not reached the intended recipients due to procedural and legal delays involving K-Electric.

"K-Electric operated without a stay order for nearly nine months yet failed to pass on the subsidy to consumers," said Bilwani, pointing to the lack of enforcement by NEPRA and subsequent legal hurdles that have prolonged the crisis.

He added that despite the dismissal of KE's appeals by a Tribunal in July 2024, the matter stands stalled due to a stay order granted by the Islamabad High Court.

KCCI emphasized the need for immediate verification of the subsidy figures by the Power Division and NEPRA, urging the government to ensure that the verified amount is reflected in the upcoming federal budget.

More importantly, KCCI proposed that the undisputed Rs23 billion be released directly to industrial consumers rather than through KE, in order to prevent further delays.

"This is not just a matter of legal obligation; it is a question of economic justice and national interest," Bilwani stated.

"Ensuring that Karachi's industries receive this long-overdue relief is essential for sustaining industrial operations and maintaining economic stability across Pakistan", he added.

Jawed Bilwani hoped that the Prime Minister will intervene swiftly to resolve the issue, restore confidence in government policy, and deliver the much-needed support to Karachi's industrial backbone.

OPEC+ MAY DISCUSS OIL OUTPUT HIKE LARGER THAN 411,000 BPD FOR JULY

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

LONDON/MOSCOW: OPEC+ may discuss an increase in oil output for July at its meeting on Saturday larger than the 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) increases it made for May and June, sources familiar with OPEC+ talks told REUTERS.

Eight OPEC+ countries have been raising output more rapidly than earlier planned, even though the extra supply has weighed on prices. The strategy of group leaders Saudi Arabia and Russia is partly to punish over-producing allies and to win back market share, REUTERS has reported.

On Saturday, the eight members may decide to increase output by 411,000 bpd for July, OPEC+ sources have told REUTERS. Two more sources familiar with OPEC+ talks and two OPEC+ delegates said they could also discuss a larger increase.

Kazakhstan's statement on Thursday that it won't cut production has sparked debate in OPEC+, some of the sources said on Friday, with one saying that this factor may tilt discussions towards a larger output hike on Saturday.

All sources declined to be identified by name due to the sensitivity of the matter. OPEC and authorities in Russia and Saudi Arabia did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Friday.

OPEC+ may discuss 2027 baselines and agree July hike this week, sources say

United Arab Emirates Energy Minister Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, asked about the plan for July output on Tuesday, said OPEC+ was doing its best to balance the oil market and needed to be mindful of rising demand.

Kazakhstan has been pumping hundreds of thousands of barrels over its OPEC+ target for months, a factor that has angered other OPEC+ members and helped sway a decision by the group to proceed with plans to hike output in April, sources said at the time.

OPEC+ wants it to compensate by making further cuts, but on Thursday Russia's Interfax news agency cited Kazakhstan's deputy energy minister as saying that the country has informed OPEC that it does not intend to reduce production.

Oil prices fell to a four-year low in April below $60 per barrel after OPEC+ said it was accelerating its output hike in May and as U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs raised concerns about global economic weakness. Since then prices have recovered to about $65.

OPEC+, which includes OPEC members and allies such as Russia, has made deep output cuts since 2022 to support the market. Eight members of the group have been increasing production since April to unwind some of those cuts.

GLOBAL LNG: ASIAN SPOT PRICES FLAT AS WEAK DEMAND, RISING EUROPE SUPPLY CAPS GAINS

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

SINGAPORE: Asian spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices were flat this week after three weeks of gains, as low demand from Asian buyers and increased supply in Europe capped gains.

The average LNG price for July delivery into north-east Asia was at $12.40 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), industry sources estimated.

Despite extremely weak production at Malaysia's Bintulu export terminal, which had been undergoing maintenance and delaying shipments, demand in Asia has also been soft with limited appetite this week, said Martin Senior, head of LNG pricing at Argus.

"Prices (are) still out of reach of price sensitive buyers in Asia, with limited requirements posted this week," he said.

Buying interest seems to be stemming primarily from trading houses and portfolio majors, added Masanori Odaka, senior analyst at Rystad Energy.

"If prices fall another $1/mmBtu, then we will see interest from some Asian buyers," he said, adding that while the arbitrage for U.S.-sourced LNG to Asia is closed this week, factoring in full shipping, the arbitrage for Nigeria supply to Asia is open.

S&P Global Commodity Insights assessed its daily North West Europe LNG Marker price benchmark for cargoes delivered in July on an ex-ship basis at $11.211/mmBtu on May 29, a $0.52/mmBtu discount to the July gas price at the Dutch TTF hub, with ample waterborne LNG cargoes and pipeline supply easing sentiment.

Global LNG: Asian spot LNG prices rise to two-week high amid renewed demand

Argus assessed the price for July delivery at $11.30/mmBtu, while Spark Commodities assessed the June price at $11.175/mmBtu.

"Improving renewables supply and recovering pipe-gas flows from Norway to the continent worked in tandem with an influx of LNG to meet the current demand across Europe," said Aly Blakeway, manager of Atlantic LNG at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

"For now, European demand remains relatively sluggish with procurements of LNG and the pace of injections seeing a relative slowdown on the week."

Meanwhile, the U.S. arbitrage to northeast Asia via the Cape of Good Hope decreased this week, but still pointed towards Europe, said Spark Commodities analyst Qasim Afghan.

The U.S. arbitrage to northeast Asia via Panama closed out for the first time in over three weeks, and is now also marginally pointing to Europe.

In LNG freight, Atlantic rates dropped for a fourth straight week to $29,500/day on Friday, while Pacific rates held steady at $20,750/day, he added.

OIL PRICES FALL ON POSSIBLE LARGER OPEC+ OUTPUT HIKE FOR JULY

Reuters Published May 30, 2025

HOUSTON: Oil prices fell on Friday and headed for a second consecutive weekly loss, as investors weigh a potentially larger OPEC+ output hike for July, and uncertainty spreads around U.S. tariff policy after the latest courtroom twist.

Brent crude futures fell by 21 cents, or 0.33%, to $63.94 a barrel by 1451 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude fell by 34 cents, or 0.56%, to $60.60 a barrel.

The Brent July futures contract is due to expire on Friday. The more liquid August contract was trading 43 cents lower, or 0.71%, at $59.77 a barrel.

At these levels, the front-month benchmark contracts were headed for weekly losses over 1%.

Price moves dipped into negative territory after REUTERS reported that OPEC+ may discuss an increase in July output larger than the 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) that the group had made for May and June.

Oil prices fall on demand concerns in volatile session

"The oil price would probably only come under greater pressure if the oil-producing countries were to increase their production even more than in previous months or give indications that there will be similarly high production increases in the following months," Commerzbank analysts said earlier on Friday in a note, published before the news.

Senior Analyst Phil Flynn with Price Futures Group said an online post on Truth Social by U.S. President Donald Trump that seemed to threaten more changes in tariff levels for Chinese imports also put pressure on crude prices.

"Trump's Truth Social message on China failing to observe a truce on tariffs also combined with the REUTERS headline to push prices down," Flynn said.

The potential OPEC+ output hike comes as the global surplus has widened to 2.2 million bpd, likely necessitating a price adjustment to prompt a supply-side response and restore balance, said JPMorgan analysts in a note, adding that they expect prices to remain within the current range before easing into the high $50s by year-end.

Trump's tariffs were expected to remain in effect after a federal appeals court temporarily reinstated them on Thursday, reversing a trade court's decision a day earlier to put an immediate block on the sweeping duties.

Oil prices were down more than 1% on Thursday.

Oil prices have lost more than 10% since Trump announced his "Liberation Day" tariffs on April 2.

Also pressuring prices, U.S. consumer spending slowed in April, according to data published on Friday.

PAKISTAN SET TO REVISE PETROLEUM PRICES FOR FIRST HALF OF JUNE 2025

May 31, 2025

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan is preparing to revise petroleum prices for the first half of June 2025, with a formal announcement today.

This revision comes amid minor shifts in the international oil market, where price movements have shown a relatively stable trend with slight downward pressure.

According to preliminary estimates, petroleum products in Pakistan may see a modest price adjustment, offering a small degree of relief to the general public. Petrol is expected to be reduced by Rs. 0.60 per litre, bringing the new rate down from the current Rs. 252.63 to Rs. 252.03 per litre. Similarly, the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) may see a minor decrease of Rs. 0.28 per litre, lowering it from Rs. 254.64 to Rs. 254.36 per litre.

However, not all fuel types are projected to become cheaper. Kerosene could see an increase of Rs. 0.30, taking the new price to Rs. 164.96 per litre. Light Diesel Oil (LDO) is expected to rise by Rs. 1.30 per litre.

The anticipated change in petroleum prices is based on the latest global oil trends, which have remained relatively calm but not low enough to trigger a significant local price drop. Despite recent reductions in the international market, Pakistan has been criticized for not passing on the full benefit to consumers. Many economic observers argue that domestic petroleum pricing does not always reflect global dynamics due to tax structures and import costs.

Currently, Pakistan is charging Rs. 252.63 per litre for petrol and Rs. 254.64 for HSD, with the last change coming on May 16, when HSD was reduced by Rs. 2 per litre while petrol remained unchanged.

The federal government's decision to revise petroleum rates, effective from June 1, is seen as a cautious attempt to balance fiscal needs with public expectations as Pakistan navigates through economic recovery.

Markets - Rates

KIBOR INTERBANK OFFERED RATES

KARACHI: Kibor interbank offered rates on Friday (May 30, 2025). ========================= KIBOR...

Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: Kibor interbank offered rates on Friday (May 30, 2025).

KIBOR		
Tenor	BID	OFFER
1-Week	10.92	11.42
2-Week	10.91	11.41
1-Month	10.88	11.38
3-Month	10.94	11.19
6-Month	10.95	11.20
9-Month	10.97	11.47
1-Year	10.98	11.48

Data source: SBP

PSX EXTENDS WINNING STREAK

Recorder Report Published about 2 hours ago

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) ended the week on a positive note as investor sentiment stayed upbeat, fueled by optimism over the upcoming budget and fresh investment pledges pouring in from abroad.

The benchmark KSE-100 Index rose by 719.69 points, or 0.60 percent, to close at an impressive 119,691 points, up from 118,971 points in the previous session. During the intraday trading, the index touched high level of 119,913 points and a low level of 118,772 points.

On Friday, BRIndex100 ended at 12,842.51 points, which was 89.17 points or 0.7 percent higher than the previous close with the total volume of 489.356 million shares. BRIndex30 also increased by only 2.57 points or 0.01 percent to settle at 37,794.85 points with the total share trading volume of 79.666 million.

Mubashir Anis, analyst at JS Global, credited the market's upward trajectory to improved investor sentiment driven by a stabilizing economic outlook and optimism surrounding the upcoming federal budget. He noted that this positive sentiment translated into a robust and broad-based rally throughout the trading session, with healthy participation from across key sectors.

The total volume of the traded shares declined to 580.318 million on Friday as compared to 741.654 million shares on Thursday. While the traded value also declined to Rs 22.743 billion on Friday from Rs 23.911 billion on the last trading day. However, the overall market capitalization saw an increase of Rs 77 billion, reaching to Rs 14.503 trillion on Friday, compared to Rs 14.426 trillion on Thursday. Out of 474 actively traded companies, share prices of 259 companies rose, 161 declined, while 54 remained unchanged.

Top positive contributions to the index came from FFC, MEBL, HUBC, PKGP, ENGROH and MCB, as they cumulatively contributed 668 points to the index.

Among the top traded companies, WorldCall Telecom. ranked first with 79.666 million shares closing at Rs 1.37, followed by K-Electric Ltd, of which 47.700 million shares were traded and it closed at Rs 5.32. Cnergyico PK ranked third and closed at Rs 7.86 with 35.756 million shares turnover.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB recorded the highest gains increase by Rs 2,670.41 and closed at a new high of Rs 29,374.54 followed by Khyber Textile Mills Limited whose share price value closed at Rs 2,790.71, up by Rs 253.70. Moreover, Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited and Sapphire Fibres Limited faced prominent losses with share values decreased by Rs 147.42 and Rs 61.74 respectively to close at Rs 9,960.91 and Rs 1,011.89.

Meanwhile, BR Automobile Assembler Index closed at 21,287.33 points with a net negative change of 81.64 points or 0.38 percent with the total turnover remaining 3.613 million shares. BR Cement Index gained 90 points or 0.88 percent to settle at 10,317.36 points with a total turnover of 58.092 million.

BR Commercial Banks Index closed at 34,990.77 points up by 291.51 points or 0.84 percent with a total turnover of 23.827 million shares. Meanwhile, BR Power Generation and Distribution Index ended at 20,362.78 points with a net positive change of 355.49 points or 1.78 percent with total turnover of 54.752 million shares.

BR Oil & Gas Index closed at 11,508.64 points with a net negative change of 0.35 points on 26.888 million shares turnover. While BR Technology & Communication Index finished at 5,022.77 points marking a negative change of 26.32 points or 0.52 percent, with total turnover of 127.320 million shares.

In its commentary, Darson Securities Ltd reported that the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) experienced a range-bound trading session amid mixed investor sentiment driven by uncertainties surrounding upcoming Federal Budget. Despite an initial decline, buyers quickly asserted themselves, propelling the index by marking a gain of 942.47 points.

While, Ahsan Mehanti of AHL said stocks closed bullish led by blue chip scrips in oil, banking and fertilizers sector amid hopes for positive federal budget announcements. Budgetary relief for oil refineries, real estate, agri-sector, proposed levy of 1.5pc tax on imports to support industries and rupee stability played a catalyst role in bullish close at PSX, he added.

OPEN MARKET FOREX RATES

Updated at: 31/5/2025 8:19 AM (PST)

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.25	187.50
Bahrain Dinar	749.00	757.00
Canadian Dollar	207.60	210.00
China Yuan	37.59	37.99
Danish Krone	42.23	42.63
Euro	320	323.15
Hong Kong Dollar	35.64	35.99
Indian Rupee	3.2	3.29
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.06
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.30	922.80
Malaysian Ringgit	65.38	65.98
NewZealand $	166.10	168.10
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.60
Omani Riyal	733.50	742.00
Qatari Riyal	76.85	77.55
Saudi Riyal	75	75.9
Singapore Dollar	221	223
Swedish Korona	28.98	29.28
Swiss Franc	335.55	338.35
Thai Bhat	8.42	8.57
U.A.E Dirham	76.9	77.5
UK Pound Sterling	380	383.8
US Dollar	283.5	284.4

INTER BANK RATES

Updated at: 31/5/2025 8:19 AM (PST)

Currency	**Bank Buying TT Clean**	**Bank Selling TT & OD**
Australian Dollar	181.23	181.55
Canadian Dollar	204.02	204.38
China Yuan	39.23	39.30
Danish Krone	42.90	42.97
Euro	320.01	320.58
Hong Kong Dollar	35.96	36.02
Japanese Yen	1.9603	1.9638
Saudi Riyal	75.16	75.30
Singapore Dollar	218.74	219.13
Swedish Korona	29.61	29.66
Swiss Franc	342.63	343.24
Thai Bhat	8.63	8.64
UK Pound Sterling	379.83	380.50
US Dollar	281.95	282.45

GOLD RATE

Bullion / Gold Price Today

As on Sat, May 31 2025, 02:58 GMT

Metal	Symbol	PKR for 10 Gm	PKR for 1 Tola	PKR for 1 Ounce	
Gold	XAU	301,204	350,952	936,866	
Palladium	XPD	88,484	103,099	275,222	
Platinum	XPT	98,171	114,386	305,353	
Silver	XAG	3,017	3,515	9,385	

for local market Gold Rates in Pakistan

Gold Price in Pakistan

As on Sat, May 31 2025, 02:58 GMT

Gold Rate	24K Gold	22K Gold	21K Gold	18K Gold
per Tola Gold	Rs. 351000	Rs. 321748	Rs. 307125	Rs. 263250
per 10 Gram	Rs. 300900	Rs. 275823	Rs. 263288	Rs. 225675
per Gram Gold	Rs. 30090	Rs. 27582	Rs. 26329	Rs. 22568
per Ounce	Rs. 853000	Rs. 781911	Rs. 746375	Rs. 639750

Gold Rate

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

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

Gold Rates in other Major Currencies

Currency	Symbol	10 Gm	1 Tola	1 Ounce	
China Yuan	CNY	7,674	8,941	23,869	
Euro	EUR	939	1,095	2,922	
Japanese Yen	JPY	153,869	179,283	478,595	
Saudi Riyal	SAR	4,005	4,666	12,456	
U.A.E Dirham	AED	3,922	4,569	12,198	
UK Pound Sterling	GBP	792	923	2,463	
US Dollar	USD	1,068	1,244	3,322	