

Market	Current	Change	Volume
KSE- 100	-	-	-
Commodities	Current		
Brent (\$/bbl.)	65.27		
US WTI	61.85		
Cotton	84.15		
New York Cotton	Open	Close	Volume
Mar 18	-	-	-
May 18	-	-	-
Jul 18	-	-	-
Currency Parity	Selling	Buying	
PKR-USD	112.15	111.85	
PKR-GBP	155.5	153.75	
PKR-EURO	137.95	136.75	
PKR-YEN	1.05	1.02	

NATIONAL NEWS

Textile

Govt set to release Rs6b

Central chairman of PRGMEA, has discussed the stuck up payments of PM package Duty Drawback of Taxes Order 2017-18 with Commerce Minister, and Federal Secretary Commerce. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/11-Mar-2018/govt-set-to-release-rs6b>

PARC to ensure seed quality to increase yield

The 42nd meeting of the BOG to be held here on Tuesday for discussing the research priorities to develop the local agriculture and livestock sector on modern lines for enhancing food safety and security in the country. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2018/parc-to-ensure-seed-quality-to-increase-yield>

Economy

Pakistan set for Rs7.5bln investment in oil storage infrastructure in 3 years

Pakistan is expecting at least seven billion rupees in investment from new oil marketing companies in building of storage infrastructure within the next three years. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/290760-pakistan-set-for-rs7-5bln-investment-in-oil-storage-infrastructure-in-3-years>

Negative perception hampers exports

Pakistan's security situation has improved immensely, but the exporters are still being given five to 10 percent lower prices as a premium for the negative perception of the country. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/290763-negative-perception-hampers-exports>

FCCI picked apart for passive trade diplomacy

The FCCI has regrettably distanced itself from its national duty of projecting Pakistan's potential at international trade, investment, and economic events. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/290778-fcci-picked-apart-for-passive-trade-diplomacy>

Ever-enhancing power costs, uncertain tax regimes annoy exporters

Exporters have asked the government to put a cap on gas and electricity prices, removing tax distortions, expansion of exporters finance and long term finance schemes, revision of free trade agreements and further downslide of exchange rate for reversing downslide of Pak made up exports in different destinations. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/291223-ever-enhancing-power-costs-uncertain-tax-regimes-annoy-exporters>

Policy reforms must to maximize GSP Plus benefits

The business community has called for more policy reforms to get maximum benefits from GSP Plus status awarded to Pakistan by European Union; providing Pakistani products easy access to the EU markets. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/11-Mar-2018/policy-reforms-must-to-maximise-gsp-plus-benefits>

ICT can harness potential of agriculture in Punjab

Pakistan's economy is primarily agro-based and is the largest employer, absorbing almost 43% of the total population and contributing 19.82% to the country's GDP. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/11-Mar-2018/ict-can-harness-potential-of-agriculture-in-punjab>

Urea off-take up by 33pc in January

Urea off-take for the month of January 2018 clocked in at 539,000 tons in line with initial estimates, reporting a rise of 33 percent annually, according to recent data published by NFDC. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/11-Mar-2018/urea-off-take-up-by-33pc-in-january>

On the interbank market, the rupee/dollar parity hovered in a tight band owing to soft dollar demand last week

Do you know?

The recommended bale covering material is cotton. However, in some countries cotton continues to be packed in jute, plastic and polypropylene.

Govt to borrow heavily ahead of polls

The government will borrow massively from external as well as domestic sources ahead of general elections to finance the revised twin deficits during current fiscal year. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/11-Mar-2018/govt-to-borrow-heavily-ahead-of-polls>

Bol approves, notifies 7 SEZs

The Board of Investment (Bol) has approved and notified seven Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in three provinces in the country. Complete story: <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/03/11/1-page/704178-news.html>

GSP+ not a panacea for dwindling exports

Unilateral preferential agreements may be compared to welfare transfers within an economy: as long as a person gets cash support from the government, he has little incentive to work. The textile and clothing sector, the lynchpin of Pakistan's exports, is the largest beneficiary. Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1394623/gsp-not-a-panacea-for-dwindling-exports>

Energy

Govt urged to cut taxes on import of LPG

The stakeholder of the LPG industry urged the Government to facilitate LPG industry to cut taxes on import of LPG and take measures to ensure safety standards regarding cylinders. Complete story: <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/03/12/5-page/704390-news.html>

Experts laud China's role in transforming Pak energy sector

Experts here spoke high of China's decisive role in transforming Pakistan's energy sector, as well as boosting the country's overall economy. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/11-Mar-2018/experts-laud-china-s-role-in-transforming-pak-energy-sector>

Gas cos unlikely to meet unbundling deadline

The timeframe for unbundling Sui gas companies is unrealistic and new five gas companies will not be able to meet their operational deadline of December 2018. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2018/gas-cos-unlikely-to-meet-unbundling-deadline>

110,000 farmers to get smart phones

The Punjab government will give 110,000 smart phones to the farmers with an objective to keep them updated about agriculture department recommendations about their crops. The tenants will pay Rs500 while the owners of land would pay Rs1000. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2018/110-000-farmers-to-get-smart-phones>

LCCI voices concern over rising circular debt

The LCCI has expressed grave concern over record circular debt and expressed and feared of dire consequences in the days to come if issue is not controlled. Complete story: <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/03/11/5-page/704215-news.html>

Coal-based power plant abandoned — a year's work gone to waste

A year's worth of cost, energy and time has gone to waste due to the government's ad-hoc policy decision. The Kapco CFO said that converting the power plant from imported to indigenous coal was not a viable option. Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1394622/coal-based-power-plant-abandoned-a-years-work-gone-to-waste>

Red tape, provinces' opposition hinder gas sector reforms

Plan envisages dismantling of two gas utilities into five public sector companies but procedural hiccups and opposition from the provinces delays reforms. Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1394739/red-tape-provinces-opposition-hinder-gas-sector-reforms>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Economy

Trade war will bring disaster to global economy

Any trade war with the United States will only bring disaster to the world economy, Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said on Sunday, as Beijing stepped up its criticism on proposed metals tariffs by Washington amid fears it could shatter global growth. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/12-Mar-2018/trade-war-will-bring-disaster-to-global-economy-china>

11 nations sign CPTPP trade pact in Santiago

Eleven countries signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) without the United States last week in Chile's capital Santiago. The trade pact will reduce tariffs in nations that jointly account for more than 13 per cent of the global economy. Complete story: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/11-nations-sign-cptpp-trade-pact-in-santiago-241032-newsdetails.htm>

Amazon India to empower over 62,000 women entrepreneurs

Complete story: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/apparel-news/amazon-india-to-empower-over-62-000-women-entrepreneurs-241030-newsdetails.htm>