

Market	Current	Change	Volume
KSE- 100	43,022.00	244.48	50,015,000
Commodities	Current		
Brent (\$/bbl.)	64.65		
US WTI	61.62		
Cotton	82.70		
New York Cotton	Open	Close	Volume
Mar 18	81.75	81.75	29
May 18	82.27	82.88	15097
Jul 18	82.79	83.27	5753
Currency Parity	Selling	Buying	
PKR-USD	111.60	111.90	
PKR-GBP	154.80	155.8	
PKR-EURO	136.0	137.0	
PKR-YEN	1.030	1.050	

## Textile

### **Cotton prices move up**

Strong demand for quality cotton pushed prices higher on Wednesday, however activity could not pick up owing to short supply of lint. Complete story:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1392373/cotton-prices-move-up>

### **Government urged to eradicate irritants in export growth**

PTEA has urged the government to immediately remove the major irritants in export growth. Extreme cash flow crunch is gradually eroding the biggest job providing textile export sector; consequently sizeable textile capacity had been severely impaired. Complete story: <https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/03/20180301348086/>

### **NA speaker takes lead to bring textile industry out of woods**

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has come forward to take lead for bringing out of woods the Punjab textile industry, “We all are going to the Parliament today to meet NA Speaker on his invitation and will sensitize the agonies textile sector is going through since long,” Ejaz Gohar. Complete story:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/286975-na-speaker-takes-lead-to-bring-textile-industry-out-of-woods>

## Economy

### **Danyal Aziz briefs NA panel on PIA privatization**

Minister for Privatisation briefed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Privatisation of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and said he would share the transaction plan with the committee at its next meeting. Complete story:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1392466/danyal-aziz-briefs-na-panel-on-pia-privatisation>

### **Power Division to hold dialogue for disputed AJK payments**

Amid protests by the government and the people of Azad Kashmir over extended loadshedding, the Federal Power Division and AJK Administration have decided to hold a structured dialogue. Complete story:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1392395/power-division-to-hold-dialogue-for-disputed-ajk-payments>

### **Outlook on Pakistan banks stable: Moody’s**

Moody’s Investors Service says that its outlook for banks in Pakistan (B3 stable) is stable over the next 12-18 months, but the economy is susceptible to political instability. Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1392385/outlook-on-pakistan-banks-stable-moodys>

### **Philippines for enhancing trade ties**

Pakistan and the Philippines on Wednesday agreed to enhance bilateral trade ties and explore investment opportunities at the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting. Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1392393/philippines-for-enhancing-trade-ties>

### **Stocks gain 244 points on institutional buying**

Share prices on the Pakistan Stock Exchange increased for the second day on Wednesday with the KSE-100 index recording gains of 244.49 points (0.57 per cent) to close at 43,239.45. Complete story:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1392377/stocks-gain-244-points-on-institutional->

**Petrol price hits three-year high mark after seeing increase of Rs3.56 per litre**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

It estimated that the following quantities of cotton are required to make the following 100% cotton items: one pair of jeans, 0.68 kg; one dress shirt, 0.28 kg; one T-shirt, 0.23 kg; one diaper, 0.07 kg; and one bath towel, 0.28 kg.

## **NTDC likely to incur \$2mIn losses in equipment buying**

State-owned NTDC is feared to incur at least two million dollars in losses due to an 'alleged' favoritism showed to an international firm for supplying of costly equipment to the company. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/286851-ntdc-likely-to-incur-2mIn-losses-in-equipment-buying>

## **Overseas Pakistanis invest over \$8bln annually in local realty sector**

Overseas Pakistanis annually invest at least \$8 billion in local realty sector, given its attractive rate of returns. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/286855-overseas-pakistanis-invest-over-8bln-annually-in-local-realty-sector-minister/>

## **FMPAC concerned over high cost's economic impact**

Fertilizer industry stakeholders have expressed concerns over the long-term economic impact of high cost of production due to high rate of GIDC on the feedstock gas provided to the manufacturers. Complete story:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/286867-fmpac-concerned-over-high-cost-s-economic-impact/>

## **Ease of doing business helps reducing cost**

It may not be possible for a state to lower the cost of doing business if local wages and rates of imported commodities are high, but it can always improve ease of doing business through prudent reforms. Complete story:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/286868-ease-of-doing-business-helps-reducing-cost>

## **China to enhance financial support to Pakistan**

Pakistan's economic woes have worsened five months before national polls, according to a report by Bloomberg. China will likely be willing to offer more assistance to help its neighbor improve economic conditions, but the question is how to find an effective way. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/01-Mar-2018/china-to-enhance-financial-support-to-pakistan>

## **Revenue collection up by 17.65pc in eight months**

FBR during first eight months of the current financial year, has recorded a provisional net revenue collection of over Rs2259 billion as against Rs1920 billion collected during the same period of the previous fiscal year, excluding collection on account of book adjustments. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/01-Mar-2018/revenue-collection-up-by-17-65pc-in-eight-months>

## **\$7 billion to be borrowed to plug C/A deficit**

The government will be borrowing \$7 billion in the remaining months of the current fiscal year to bridge the widening current account deficit. Complete story: <https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/03/20180301347998//>

## **FTA between Turkey & Pakistan being negotiated**

Turkish Ambassador has said that friendly and cordial relations between Turkey and Pakistan should be translated into trade and economic ties. The Ambassador agreed with the LCCI President that that the volume of bilateral trade between both countries is \$497 million only which is very low. It should be increased through joint efforts and close contacts between the businessmen of the two countries. Complete story: <https://fp.brecorder.com/2018/03/20180301348085/>

## **Energy**

### **Petroleum prices raised by up to 9pc**

The prices of all petroleum products have touched the three-year highest level last witnessed in October 2014 with an increase of up to nine per cent in the prices of all petroleum products with immediate effect. Complete story:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1392454/petroleum-prices-raised-by-up-to-9pc>

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Economy**

#### **India's economic growth rises to 7.2 percent**

India's growth accelerated sharply in the third quarter of the financial year, official data showed Wednesday, as Asia's third-largest economy turned a corner after a period of slower expansion. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/286854-india-s-economic-growth-rises-to-7-2-percent/>

### **Energy**

#### **Oil falls**

Oil prices fell on Wednesday as weak Chinese and Japanese industrial data triggered concerns of an economic slowdown that could lower oil demand, and as an industry data report showed an increase in U.S. crude stockpiles amid soaring output. Complete story:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/286863-oil-falls>