

Market	Current	Change	Volume
KSE- 100	43,582.09	175.28	61,846,660
Commodities	Current		
Brent (\$/bbl.)	62.49		
US WTI	59.05		
Cotton	76.35		
New York Cotton	Open	Close	Volume
Mar 18	76.41	76.35	27908
May 18	77.49	77.39	29832
Jul 18	78.36	78.41	10198
Currency Parity	Selling	Buying	
PKR-USD	111.80	112.10	
PKR-GBP	154.0	155.0	
PKR-EURO	136.50	137.5	
PKR-YEN	0.995	1.00	

## Textile

### **Restricted trading on cotton market**

Trading on the cotton market remained slow and restricted due to poor demand for lint from leading spinners. Barring a few small and needy spinners, the trading ring gave a deserted look. Complete story:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1389241/restricted-trading-on-cotton-market>

### **Cotton unchanged**

Dull trading was recorded at the Karachi Cotton Exchange on Tuesday, while spot rates remained unchanged. The spot rates stood firm at Rs7, 000/maund (37.324kg) and Rs7,502/40kg. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/280652-cottonunchanged>

## Economy

### **Turkey wants early finalisation of free trade agreement**

The Turkey-Pakistan Business Council has called for an early conclusion of a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries in order to further improve the flow of trade. Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1389245/turkey-wants-early-finalisation-of-free-trade-agreement>

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### **Pakistan, Canada seek to remove hurdles in bilateral trade**

Pakistan and Canada have decided to hold a joint working group meeting next month in Islamabad to identify and remove bottlenecks in bilateral trade relations.

Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1389250/pakistan-canada-seek-to-remove-hurdles-in-bilateral-trade>

### **Opposition slams govt over ‘unfair’ distribution of farm loans**

Over 85pc of ZTBL agriculture loans given to Punjab last year, NA informed. The opposition in the National Assembly criticized the government for what it called “unfair” distribution. Complete story:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1389279/opposition-slams-govt-over-unfair-distribution-of-farm-loans>

### **Govt all set to unveil package to lift exports**

The government’s incentives package to increase the country’s exports is in final stage, which would offer subsidized rates of electricity and gas to the exporters. Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/14-Feb-2018/govt-all-set-to-unveil-package-to-lift-exports/>

### **Formulation of agri advisory committee proposed**

An inter-ministerial committee proposed that agriculture advisory committee must be formulated in order to streamline the matters relating to agricultural loans.

Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/14-Feb-2018/formulation-of-agri-advisory-committee-proposed>

### **Lawmakers rap unfair distribution of agri loans**

Opposition Leader in the National Assembly proposed to form a parliamentary committee to look into the interest rates being charged on agriculture loans.

Complete story: <https://nation.com.pk/14-Feb-2018/lawmakers-rape-unfair-distribution-of-agri-loans>

### **11th five year plan**

Government has missed all major macroeconomic targets, but improvement has been made. Complete story:

[https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI\\_ID=11201802140046&EN\\_ID=11201802140022&EMID=11201802140009](https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11201802140046&EN_ID=11201802140022&EMID=11201802140009)

Equities at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) ended on a positive note on Tuesday with the KSE-100 index recovering 175 points (0.40 per cent) to close at 43,690.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Machine picking was introduced in the USA in 1942 and all cotton in the USA has been picked by machine for many decades.

## **Pakistan yet to achieve Sustainable Development Goals**

Pakistan has ranked 147 out of 188 countries in the Human Development Index of 2016, which pushed its stumbling pursuit further away from achieving SDGs (2016-2030) as it scored 55.6 under SDGs' global index in the results released in July 2017.

Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/280861-pakistan-yet-to-achieve-sustainable-development-goals>

## **Urea subsidy elimination likely to offset tax incentive**

A government's proposal to eliminate subsidy on urea is likely to offset the benefit of a three percent reduction in sales tax on the key agriculture input. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/280642-urea-subsidy-elimination-likely-to-offset-tax-incentive>

## **Energy**

### **Branchless banking transactions decline**

Branchless banking transactions declined 1.47 percent in volume and 2.67 percent in value during the July-September quarter of 2017 over the previous quarter. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/280639-branchless-banking-transactions-decline-1-47-percent-in-july-sept>

### **Power sector could see 'market operator' under new reforms**

The government has started the process for transformation of Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guarantee as an independent operator of electricity market from its existing role of a billing and financial settlement agent of the distribution companies.

Complete story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1389251/power-sector-could-see-market-operator-under-new-reforms>

### **Gas imports to match local output in two years**

The industrial sector is set to be fueled to reach unprecedented levels of production as the import of gas would come at par with the local production within a span of two years. Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/280656-gas-imports-to-match-local-output-in-two-years-official/>

Complete story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/280656-gas-imports-to-match-local-output-in-two-years-official/>

### **GIDC removal on feedstock**

The fertilizer manufacturing sector has urged the government to consider measures for reduction of gas prices through removal of GIDC on feedstock to ensure prices of urea at affordable rates for the growers. Complete story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2018/02/14/13-page/699816-news.html>

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Textile**

#### **Vietnam's Tien Giang attracts \$9 mn investment in 2018**

The Mekong Delta province of Tien Giang in Vietnam has attracted two new foreign direct investment (FDI) projects worth \$9 million, comprising a garment-textile company and a steel pipe producing company. Complete story:

<http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/announcement/vietnam-s-tien-giang-attracts-9-mn-investment-in-2018-240612-newsdetails.htm>

#### **US Congress passage of bill to help cotton growers hailed**

Congress has passed a supplemental disaster bill. The measure will provide cotton producers and lenders some certainty as they prepare for the 2018 growing season. The new policy will help ease the financial burden as producers struggle to cover total costs, NCC chairman Ronnie Lee. Complete story: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/cotton-news/us-congress-passage-of-bill-to-help-cotton-growers-hailed-240611-newsdetails.htm>

Complete story: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/cotton-news/us-congress-passage-of-bill-to-help-cotton-growers-hailed-240611-newsdetails.htm>

#### **Wool to dominate at Intertextile Shanghai**

Some 3,300 exhibitors from around 20 countries covering all apparel fabrics and accessories product groups are expected at Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics, during March 14-16, 2018. A special feature of the fair will be the Premium Wool Zone. Complete story: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-fairs-news/wool-to-dominate-at-intertextile-shanghai-240606-newsdetails.htm>

Complete story: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-fairs-news/wool-to-dominate-at-intertextile-shanghai-240606-newsdetails.htm>

#### **Energy**

#### **Bitcoin energy use in Iceland set to overtake homes**

Iceland is facing an "exponential" rise in Bitcoin mining that is gobbling up power resources, a spokesman for Icelandic energy firm HS Orka has said. This year, electricity use at Bitcoin mining data centres is likely to exceed that of all Iceland's homes. Complete story: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-43030677>

Complete story: <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-43030677>

#### **Research Desk – PO**