

Market	Current	Change	Volume
KSE- 100	34,008.33	203.43	122,259,585
Commodities	Current		
Brent (\$/bbl.)	32.50		
US WTI	29.43		
Cotton	58.25		
New York Cotton	Open	Close	Volume
Jul 20	57.85	57.51	11005
Oct 20	57.30	58.00	3
Dec 20	57.80	57.41	5670
Currency Parity	Selling	Buying	
PKR-USD	161	160	
PKR-GBP	199	191	
PKR-EURO	172	167	
PKR-YEN	1.52	1.49	

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Friday continued with bullish trend as KSE 100 index closed at 34,008.33 points as compared to 33,804.90 points on the last working day, with positive change of 203.43 points (0.60%).

The global economy could suffer between \$5.8 trillion and \$8.8 trillion in losses—equivalent to 6.4 percent to 9.7 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP)—as a result of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
<https://nation.com.pk/16-May-2020/covid-19-economic-shock-to-reach-dollar-8-8tr-globally-reports-adb>

TOP MOST

Business on cotton market to start after Eid holidays

Trading activities on the cotton market will fully resume after Eid Ul Fitr. Market sources said that after the easing of lockdown by the government trading has started but it will fully resume after Eid. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/8-page/837351-news.html>

Policy rate cut to 8pc on positive inflation outlook

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday reduced the policy rate by 100 basis points (bps) to 8 percent on positive inflation outlook, the fourth time it has cut rates since the coronavirus pandemic hit two months ago. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/1-page/837301-news.html>

Overnight Reverse Repo rate to be at 9pc

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has decided to decrease its 'Policy Rate' (Target Rate) from 9.00 percent to 8.00 percent. SBP Overnight Reverse Repo (Ceiling) rate will be at 9.00 percent i.e. 100 bps above the SBP Policy Rate. The SBP Overnight Repo (Floor) rate will be at 7.00 percent i.e. 100 bps below the SBP Policy Rate. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/1-page/837302-news.html>

Bol seeks extension in period of incentives for SEZs

The Board of Investment (BoI) has moved a summary to the Finance Division asking for extending incentives for the developers and enterprises for Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which will expire on June 2020. A summary is included in the agenda items of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) meeting, which has been scheduled for next week, sources said. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/1-page/837299-news.html>

SPI inflation up 9.26pc YoY

The SPI inflation during the week that ended May 14, 2020 against May 16, 2019 - Year-on-Year basis - recorded an increase of 9.26 percent for combined income groups, ie, from 116.52 points to 127.31 points, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistic (PBS) revealed. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/1-page/837304-news.html>

Fiscal deficit to hit at least 9.4pc

The country's fiscal deficit will be significantly worse than projected this fiscal year, with the fallout from the novel coronavirus pandemic pushing millions into unemployment and poverty, according to government estimates reviewed by Reuters. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/15/1-page/837169-news.html>

Bangladesh's Z&Z launches 'corona block fabric'

Bangladesh's Zaber and Zubair Fabrics Ltd (Z&Z), a unit of the Noman Group, recently claimed to have developed a new fabric called 'corona block fabric' with the help of biocidal and virucidal treatment that could kill coronavirus within 120 seconds with the precision of 99.9 per cent. Complete Story:

<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/bangladesh-s-z-z-launches-corona-block-fabric--267263-newsdetails.htm>

Matter of cotton support price

It seemed that the tug of war between the textile lobby and growers had been won by the former when the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet rejected the proposal of the Ministry of National Food Security on May 7 to set the support price for cotton at Rs4200. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/10-page/837367-news.html>

GENERAL NEWS

Economy likely to grow by 2pc next year: Hafeez

The real worry for the government is how to increase gross domestic product (GDP) when there are so many tendencies towards its contraction, said Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. Complete Story:

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/15/1-page/837173-news.html>

Fuel imports fall by 55pc in April

Petroleum imports plunged by nearly 55 per cent in April owing to a steep reduction in domestic demand as a result of lockdown across the country. Complete Story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1557462/fuel-imports-fall-by-55pc-in-april>

Global impact could reach \$5.8trn

The gross domestic product (GDP) in South Asia will be lower by \$142 billion to \$218 billion (3.9 percent to six percent), mainly reflecting the tight restrictions in place in countries such as Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, says the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Complete Story: <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/1-page/837305-news.html>

Moody's places ratings under review for downgrade

Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) has placed the government of Pakistan's local and foreign currency long-term issuer and senior unsecured B3 ratings under review for downgrade. Moody's in its latest report on Pakistan stated that the decision to place the ratings under review for downgrade reflects its expectation that the government will request for bilateral official sector debt service relief under the recently announced G20 initiative.

Complete Story: <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/15/1-page/837166-news.html>

FBR revises structure of Licensing Committee

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has revised structure of Licensing Committee of senior customs officials for grant of licence to the company to track and monitor various types of cargoes covering transit cargo, export of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) products to Afghanistan and trans-shipment cargo by a company providing GSM or GPRS or satellite communication for monitoring and tracking, on a real-time basis, of containers and vehicles carrying cargoes throughout the journey. Complete Story: <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/15/12-page/837259-news.html>

SEZs: CPEC body asks BoI, SBP, FBR to resolve issues

The Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has asked the Board of Investment (BoI), the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to resolve all the issues pertaining to special economic zones (SEZs) on a top priority basis, so that these early harvest projects could be ready for economic activity. Complete Story: <https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/15/16-page/837278-news.html>

ECC approves mechanism for cash transfers to labourers

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet Friday has approved the Emergency Cash Assistance (Criteria and Mechanism) to the labour whose livelihoods has been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Complete Story: <https://nation.com.pk/16-May-2020/ecc-approves-mechanism-for-cash-transfers-to-labourers>

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Nepra voices concern over Discos' performance, rising circular debt

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday expressed serious concern over the deteriorating performance of the power distribution companies (Discos), increasing circular debt and worsening governance in the power sector. It advised the government to immediately close down its power plants. Complete Story: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1557417/nepra-voices-concern-over-discos-performance-rising-circular-debt>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1557417/nepra-voices-concern-over-discos-performance-rising-circular-debt>

Withholding tax collection falls 34pc to Rs6.4bln in July-April

Withholding tax collection from non-cash banking transactions sharply fell 34 percent to Rs6.41 billion in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year of 2019/20 as taxpayers showed inclination to file returns to avoid the punitive taxation, official data showed on Friday. Complete Story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/659203-withholding-tax-collection-falls-34pc-to-rs6-4bln-in-july-april>

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/659203-withholding-tax-collection-falls-34pc-to-rs6-4bln-in-july-april>

US retail sales plunge 16.4pc in April

US retail sales plunged by 16.4 percent in April as the coronavirus pandemic forced businesses to shut down across the world's largest economy, the Commerce Department said on Friday. Complete Story: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/659206-us-retail-sales-plunge-16-4pc-in-april>

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NAC fails to agree on economic growth rate

The National Accounts Committee (NAC) on Friday could not agree on economic growth rate for the outgoing fiscal year after some members raised objections over the methodology in the aftermath of the novel coronavirus outbreak. Complete Story: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2222387/2-nac-fails-agree-economic-growth-rate/>

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