

NEWS

[Pakistan's Trade Deficit widens marginally to \\$5.4bn in 3MFY25](#)

The country's trade balance, gap between exports and imports, was recorded at a deficit of \$5.44 billion in July to September period of 2024-25 as compared to \$5.21 billion in the same period of the previous year, an increase of 4.2%.

During 3MFY25, Pakistan's exports increased by 14% to \$7.88 billion, up from \$6.90 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

On the other hand, imports increased by nearly 10% to \$13.31 billion in 3MFY25 as compared to \$12.12 billion in 3MFY24.

[Sugar Export to Afghanistan: Banks directed to ensure 100pc advance payment](#)

Measure aims to enhance transparency and safeguard the timely collection of export payments, particularly in trade with Afghanistan.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has directed banks to ensure that 100 percent of sugar export proceeds to Afghanistan are received in advance through official banking channels.

[Pakistan's Inflation drops to 44 month low locking in at 6.9% for September](#)

Questions have been raised over the methodology used to monitor electricity prices, which captures the monthly consumption of only 50 units or 4% of the total residential consumers of Pakistan. For the lower income groups, the electricity bill is now eating up to 30% of their monthly incomes.

[ME Conflict lifts oil prices](#)

Brent futures rose 34 cents, or 0.46%, to settle at \$73.90 per barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude climbed 27 cents, or 0.39%, to settle at \$70.10 per barrel.

On Tuesday, Iran fired more than 180 missiles at Israel, its biggest ever direct attack on the country. Israel and the United States vowed retribution for the attack, a sign that conflict in the region is intensifying. Israel's retaliation could include targeting Iranian oil production facilities among other strategic sites, US news website Axios reported on Wednesday citing Israeli officials.

[Gold price per Tola Increases 600 in Pakistan](#)

After declining in the last four sessions, gold prices in Pakistan surged on Wednesday in line with their increase in international rates. In the local market, the price of gold per tola grew by Rs 600, clocking in at Rs 275,500.

Experts have attributed the recent increase in gold prices to global developments, including escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, Fed rate cuts and soaring demand from major markets like China and India.

Globally, gold prices were flat on Wednesday, as a firmer dollar partially offset safe-haven demand amid heightened Middle East tensions, while investors awaited US data for further economic cues.

[ADB approves \\$320m grant for road rehabilitation in K-P](#)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a grant of \$320 million to rehabilitate roads in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) that were damaged by recent floods, as reported by Radio Pakistan on Wednesday.

[Sale of petroleum products rise by 20% in September](#)

The jump in sales comes on the back of higher demand amid decline in MS and HSD prices by 20.19% and 20.06% YoY, respectively

[Pakistan Russia Ink Historic Trade Deal](#)

Barter agreement signed as 60 firms seek business opportunities in Moscow.

The first-ever Pakistan-Russia Trade and Investment Forum was held in Moscow, marking a significant event in the evolving trade relationship between the two nations.

Russian company LLC "Astarta Agrotrading" and Pakistani firms Meskay & Femtee Trading Company and National Fruit Processing Factory agreed to exchange goods such as chickpeas, rice, mandarins, potatoes, and red lentils, signalling a new era of trade cooperation.

Over 60 Pakistani companies showcased a diverse range of products, including textiles, leather goods, sports equipment, pharmaceuticals, food, agricultural products, logistics, and tourism services.

These companies represent a combined export value of over \$500 million, underscoring Pakistan's push for deeper trade engagement with Russia.

[Rupee Rebounds to 6 Month High](#)

The Pakistani rupee appreciated by Rs0.05, closing at Rs277.64 against the US dollar.

According to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data, the rupee first hit this six-month high last week after the country received the first tranche of \$1.03 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

[Banks trapped in Surplus Liquidity](#)

Banks find themselves trapped in liquidity surplus these days, forcing them to start lending at throwaway rates as low as three per cent per annum to avoid paying tax on Advance-to-Deposit Ratio (ADR) applicable at the end of calendar year 2024.

If the banks fail to meet the minimum requirement of ADR no less than 50 per cent, the government would impose a 15 per cent incremental tax on banks.

[Competition concerns emerge in PTCL'S bid for Telenor](#)

Wateen Telecom and Jazz Telecom voiced strong opposition to the proposed acquisition of Telenor Pakistan by PTCL and its merger with Ufone during a Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) hearing on Wednesday.

The Phase II Merger Review of PTCL's planned acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding in Telenor Pakistan and Orion Towers Private Limited is currently underway. The hearing was conducted by CCP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, with members Salman Amin and Abdul Rashid Sheikh also in attendance.

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