

BUSINESS PULSE & CIVIC INSIGHT

REGULAR	DELIVERABLE FUTURES		CASH SETTLED FUTURES		ODD LOT	SQUARE UP	STOCK INDEX FUTURES		NEGOTIABLE DEAL		MARGIN TRADING SYSTEM
STATE	CLOSED	STATE	CLOSED	STATE	CLOSED	STATE	CLOSED	STATE	CLOSED	STATE	OPEN
TRADES	385,158	TRADES	169,350	TRADES	22	TRADES	17	TRADES	3	TRADES	639
VOLUME	797,999,251	VOLUME	972,427,500	VOLUME	191,500	VOLUME	1,085	VOLUME	2,455	VOLUME	19,917,230
VALUE	38,062,221,043.00	VALUE	46,944,404,095.00	VALUE	42,628,285.00	VALUE	20,139.67	VALUE	39,372.40	VALUE	299,079,289.72

Pakistan secures 10,500 job quota from Italy in landmark labour agreement

PSMU DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has secured a quota of 10,500 jobs from Italy over the next three years, marking the first time a European country has formally allocated labour quotas specifically for Pakistani workers, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development said.

Under the agreement, 3,500 Pakistani workers will be employed annually in Italy, including 1,500 under seasonal quotas and 2,000 under non-seasonal quotas. The employment opportunities will span key sectors such as shipbreaking, hospitality, healthcare, and agriculture, offering both short-term and long-term placements.

According to the ministry, the quota will cater to skilled and semi-skilled workers, with demand in professions



including welders and technical trades, chefs and culinary staff, hotel and hospitality personnel, nurses and medical technicians, as well as workers for the agricultural sector.

Officials said the quota allocation is the result of sustained diplomatic and technical engagement between Pakistan and Italy and represents a major break-

through in opening up the European labour market for Pakistani manpower.

A spokesperson for the ministry noted that Italy is the first European country to grant such a dedicated labour quota to Pakistan. He added that the second meeting of the Pakistan-Italy Joint Working Group is scheduled to take place in Islamabad in February 2026, where further

cooperation in labour mobility and skills development will be discussed.

Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain welcomed the development, describing it as a historic milestone. He said the agreement reflected the government's commitment to creating dignified and lawful overseas employment opportunities for Pakistani workers.

"Overseas Pakistanis are ambassadors of the country and play a vital role in strengthening the national economy through remittances and skills transfer," the minister said, expressing hope that similar labour agreements would soon be finalised with other European nations.

SBP introduces climate stress testing guidelines to strengthen financial sector resilience

BY COMMERCE REPORTER

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has rolled out new climate stress testing guidelines requiring banks, development finance institutions (DFIs) and microfinance banks to assess climate-related risks as part of their regular stress testing frameworks, in a move aimed at enhancing the financial sector's resilience to climate change-induced shocks.

In a circular issued by its Financial Stability Department, the central bank said the guidelines build on the stress testing framework introduced in 2020 and reflect the increasing relevance of climate change for Pakistan's economy and financial system. The new framework requires regulated financial institutions to evaluate the impact of both physical risks such as floods, heatwaves and extreme



weather and transition risks arising from shifts toward a low-carbon economy.

Under the revised instructions, all regulated institutions must conduct single-factor climate stress tests in addition to their existing stress testing exercises.

SBP has further mandated that selected Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) incorporate climate-related risks into their annual Macro Stress Testing exercises. The results of these as-

sessments must be included in the relevant sections of the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP) documents and submitted to the central bank by June 30 of the subsequent year.

The central bank said it will also conduct its own in-house climate stress tests as part of the supervisory review process and may engage with banks on appropriate risk mitigation strategies and contingency planning based on the findings. In addition, SBP supervisory teams may review the climate stress testing methodologies, frameworks and governance arrangements adopted by regulated institutions.

The move underscores SBP's broader efforts to integrate climate risk management into financial supervision and ensure long-term stability of Pakistan's banking and financial system.

TO REVISE 'UNREALISTIC' VALUE-ADDITION RULES

Gold jewellery exporters seek NA Panel's intervention

BY COMMERCE REPORTER

KARACHI: Pakistan's gold jewellery industry has urged the National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce to intervene for an immediate revision of what it described as irrational and counter-productive value-addition norms, warning that the existing framework is severely undermining exports and encouraging informal trade.

In a letter addressed to Jawed Hanif Khan, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, gold industry representative Arif Patail said SRO 760(I)/2013 governs the export of gold jewellery but contains several provisions that are inconsistent with

international practices. He particularly flagged Clause 10, which links value-addition requirements to international gold prices, calling it commercially unviable and legally questionable.

Under SRO 760, exporters are required to show value addition of 8 percent of the prevailing international gold price for plain bangles and chains, 12 percent for other plain jewellery, and 13 percent for studded or embedded jewellery. The industry argued that these fixed percentages do not reflect actual market realities for high-karat jewellery and violate World Trade Organization (WTO) customs valuation principles, which require value addition

to be based on actual transformation costs plus reasonable profit margins.

The letter further contended that the Ministry of Commerce lacks the statutory authority to impose such norms. Schedule IV of the Export Policy Order (EPO) prescribes minimum export prices only for surgical instruments, making value-addition requirements for jewellery ultra vires and beyond the ministry's mandate.

It was also pointed out that

no country except Pakistan and India imposes minimum export prices or similar restrictions on gold jewellery exports.

Comparing regional practices, the industry noted that

India's value-addition norms are significantly lower, at 3 percent for plain jewellery and 6 percent for studded jewellery, whereas Pakistan's corresponding rates stand at 6 percent, 8 percent, and 13

percent, making local exporters substantially less competitive in global markets.

Globally, jewellery is sold on

the basis of making charges

per gram, not as a percentage of gold prices, the indus-

try said. When SRO 760 was introduced in 2013, gold was priced at around USD1,380 per ounce (USD44 per gram). Today, prices have surged to over USD4,100 per ounce (USD132 per gram)—an in-

crease of nearly 300 percent while value-addition requirements remain unchanged.

At current prices, a 13 percent value-addition translates into making charges of roughly USD17 per gram, while international buyers are willing to pay only USD4–5 per gram. This gap forces exporters to remit an additional USD13 per gram, rendering exports commercially unsustainable.

"Because of these unfriendly business provisions, Pakistan's jewellery exports are stagnating at USD30–40 million, which is negligible compared to India's performance. Without urgent reforms, exports will deteriorate further," Arif Patail warned.

The industry has called



Punjab hits high level sugar recovery as crushing season gains momentum

PSMU DESK

ISLAMABAD: Punjab has recorded a noticeable improvement in sugar recovery as the ongoing crushing season gathers momentum, with falling temperatures helping enhance sucrose levels in sugarcane across major producing regions.

Sugar recovery in several areas has reached around 10 percent, providing relief to millers and boosting overall sugar output. The drop in night temperatures has played a key role in improving cane quality, particularly in southern districts of the province.

Dr Kashif Munir, Director of the Sugarcane Research Institute, Faisalabad, said the

recent decline in temperatures to around 8–9 degrees Celsius during nights has significantly improved sugar accumulation in the crop. "Lower temperatures slow down respiration in the cane plant, allowing more sucrose to accumulate, which ultimately increases recovery at mills," he explained.

He said sugar recovery in

central Punjab has also improved gradually and is now close to 9 percent in most districts. "As the crushing season progresses and temperatures continue to fall, further improvement in recovery levels is expected," he added.

According to official data from the Punjab Cane Commissioner's Office, the highest recovery rates have been recorded in Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan divisions, while central Punjab is also showing steady improvement.

The increase in sugar production has begun to ease market pressure. Wholesale and ex-mill sugar prices have declined in major markets, including Lahore.

against this backdrop, APTMA has requested a temporary waiver of the levy on gas used for captive power generation for the months of December and January. The association said such relief would allow mills to operate their gas-based captive power plants, ensuring continuity of essential operations during the critical winter period.

APTMA expressed hope that the request would be considered urgently in the broader interest of industrial productivity and economic stability.

Industrial infrastructure, sustainable production capacity, and ensure continuity of employment and export commitments," Kamran Arshad said, stressing that timely government support is crucial to stabilise the textile industry, Pakistan's largest export sector.

"This short-term facilitation will help mitigate damage to

Pakistan Share Market Updates COURSES (2025)

Core Fundamental Course	Professional Fundamental Course
Understand fundamental analysis for trading	In-depth fundamental analysis with certification
Job opportunity with a salary of 50K - 60K per month	Internship + Job opportunity (Starting Salary: 100K)
Duration 2 Months (Online)	Duration 3 Months (Online)
Cost 35,000 PKR	Cost 150,000 PKR

Patla Course	Stock Trader Management Course
Learn specialized skills for high-income opportunities	Develop essential trading management skills.
Earn potential 3 - 4 Lakh per month.	Earn potential Unlimited income opportunities.
Duration 2 Months (Physical classes)	Duration 2 Months (Online)
Cost 50,000 PKR	Cost 20,000 PKR

AMID WINTER POWER SHORTAGES

APTMA calls for temporary waiver on Captive Power Plant levy

PSMU DESK

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has urged the government to grant a temporary waiver of the levy on Captive Power Plants (CPPs) during the winter months, warning that persistent electricity shortages are disrupting industrial operations and threatening production targets.

In a letter addressed to

Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, APTMA Chairman Kamran Arshad highlighted that textile mills are facing acute power shortages during December and January, largely due to dense fog, which has significantly reduced grid electricity availability in several regions. He noted that during the winter months, electricity supply remains erratic and inadequate to support un-

interrupted industrial activi-

ty. Frequent outages and severe voltage fluctuations are damaging sensitive machinery, forcing mills to curtail production and causing substantial operational and financial losses.

The situation, he added,

has further compounded the challenges already confronting the textile sector, including widespread strikes, an uncertain business environment, and subdued demand in both domestic and interna-

tional markets.

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SPORTS

Hamza Zahoor guides Pakistan U19 to thrilling last-wicket win over Afghanistan

BY SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE: An outstanding unbeaten half-century from Hamza Zahoor guided Pakistan U19 to a nail-biting one-wicket victory over Afghanistan U19 in a tense tri-series encounter at Harare Sports Club. In a match that went right down to the wire, Pakistan successfully chased a target of 227 with just three balls remaining, showcasing remarkable character, resilience, and maturity ahead of the ICC Men's U19 World Cup.

Afghanistan U19, after winning the toss and choosing to bat first, posted 226 runs in their allotted 50 overs. The innings revolved around a composed and disciplined knock from Osman Sadat, who top-scored with 75 off 106 deliveries, striking four boundaries and a six. He was well supported by Mahboob Khan, who contributed a valuable 49, helping steady Afghanistan's innings following early setbacks and guiding them towards a competitive total. Pakistan's bowlers produced a disciplined performance, led by vice-captain Usman Khan, who delivered an impressive spell of 4 for 37. He was aided by M. Sayyam and Daniyal

Ali Khan, who picked up two wickets each, ensuring Afghanistan were contained and prevented from posting an even bigger score.

Pakistan's chase, however, did not begin smoothly. Early wickets created pressure and unsettled the batting order. Captain Farhan Yousaf stepped up to stabilize the innings, playing a composed and fluent knock of 65 off 78 balls, which included six fours and two towering sixes. His responsible batting brought Pakistan back into control, but his dismissal in the 31st over with the score at 131 once again shifted momentum in Afghanistan's favour. Pakistan struggled to build solid partnerships from that point onward, with wickets falling at regular intervals and tension steadily rising.

Amid the mounting pressure, Hamza Zahoor emerged as the defining figure of the match. Displaying maturity beyond his years, Hamza crafted a magnificent unbeaten 68 off just 51 balls, striking eight boundaries and a towering six while expertly managing the chase. Brief contributions from Daniyal Ali Khan (8) and



M. Sayyam (7) helped momentarily steady the innings, yet Pakistan still found themselves in deep trouble at 201 for 9, needing another 26 runs to win.

With defeat looming large, Hamza maintained exceptional composure and confidence. At the other end, Niqab Shafiq showed tremendous courage, scoring only a single run but, more importantly, remaining firm and supporting Hamza.

Together, they stitched an invaluable unbeaten 29-run last-wicket partnership, guiding Pakistan to an unforgettable victory.

Hamza's calm brilliance under intense pressure secured one of the most thrilling U19 cricket finishes in recent memory. Pakistan U19 will now face hosts Zimbabwe in their next match, carrying momentum and confidence from this remarkable triumph.

DMC lift Faisalabad Commissioner Schools Cup

BY SPORTS REPORTER

DMC Lift PCB Faisalabad Commissioner Super Eight Schools Cup with Win Over La Salle

LAHORE – Divisional Model College (DMC) emerged victorious in the PCB Faisalabad Commissioner Super Eight Schools Cup, defeating La Salle High School by 27 runs in a thrilling final at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad. The result ended La Salle's impressive eight-match winning streak and handed DMC a memorable title triumph in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

Electing to bat first, DMC posted a competitive total of 229 for 8 in their allotted 35 overs. The innings was anchored by a commanding second-wicket partnership of 114 runs between M. Burhan and M. Sheraz. Opener Shahwaiz Mudassar was dismissed for 20 early on, but Sheraz took charge of the innings with a fluent and powerful 88 off 70 balls, striking three boundaries and six towering sixes. Burhan provided stability with a composed 47 off 61 deliveries, ensuring DMC reached a total that would prove challenging for the opposition. Although La Salle's bowlers mounted a late fightback, picking up eight wickets for 76 runs, the target remained formidable.

In response, La Salle struggled initially, slipping to 72 for 3 inside 13 overs. The team's

hopes were temporarily revived by a fiery partnership between Abdul Raheem Ashraf and Hamid Raza, who added 83 runs for the fourth wicket. Abdul Raheem played an aggressive innings of 61 off 60 balls, including two fours and four sixes, while Hamid Raza struck 56 off 52 balls, hitting three boundaries and four sixes. Their partnership brought La Salle back into contention and appeared to shift momentum in their favour.

However, once the stand was broken, DMC regained control through disciplined bowling. Ali Hassan produced a match-winning spell, claiming 4 for 39 and triggering a late collapse. Shahwaiz Mudassar supported with two key wickets, while M. Arman and Abdul Moeed chipped in with one wicket each. La Salle lost seven wickets for just 45 runs and were eventually bowled out for 202 in 34 overs, falling short of the target. DMC's victory was a result of consistent team effort, combining strong batting, effective partnerships, and disciplined bowling at critical stages. Their win in the final showcased both skill and composure under pressure. By lifting the PCB Faisalabad Commissioner Super Eight Schools Cup, Divisional Model College capped off a remarkable campaign, ending La Salle's dominance and earning a celebrated triumph in front of their supporters.

PCB to operate Multan Sultans in PSL 11

BY SPORTS REPORTER

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed that it will directly manage the Multan Sultans franchise for the 2026 Pakistan Super League (PSL 11) season. The decision comes as the board awaits the conclusion of ownership negotiations, with a fresh auction scheduled for the franchise after the season. Acting as interim operator, the PCB will oversee all operations, ensuring stability and continuity for the Multan team during the tournament.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi announced the move during a press conference on Sunday, stating that the board will directly supervise the franchise for PSL 11. "The PCB will manage the Multan Sultans this season, and a new ownership structure will be finalized after the tournament concludes," Naqvi said. He added that the head of the Multan franchise for the upcoming season will be named within the next ten days, allowing sufficient time to organize team management and operations.

Former franchise owner Ali Tareen and the Tareen Group are reportedly preparing to bid for a new PSL franchise, potentially targeting one of the additional teams expected to join the league in future seasons. Their involvement is expected to bring renewed competition and excitement, reflecting the PSL's growing expansion and commercial appeal.

During the briefing, Naqvi also discussed the PSL 11 schedule, revealing a proposal to start the tournament on March 23 instead of March 26, subject to agreement from all franchises. An earlier start, he said, could be beneficial for player preparation and logistical planning, though final confirmation will depend on consensus from all participating teams.

In other developments, former Pakistan captain Wasim



Akram has been appointed as the PSL brand ambassador. Akram will also serve as auctioneer during the team auction, bringing star power and credibility to one of the league's most high-profile events. His involvement is expected to increase commercial engagement and fan interest nationwide and internationally.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Rizwan's role as Multan captain is under review ahead of PSL 11. With the PCB temporarily in charge, sources suggest that the franchise's leadership structure could see adjustments, including a potential reconsideration of Rizwan's long-standing captaincy as part of broader strategic planning.

By taking temporary control, the PCB aims to ensure that Multan Sultans remain operationally stable and competitive throughout PSL 11. Fans can look forward to an exciting season with strong on-field performances, administrative clarity, and enhanced league engagement as the PSL continues to grow in stature and commercial significance.

National Junior Badminton Championship kicks off in Lahore

BY SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE: The National Junior Badminton Championship officially commenced on Friday at the Nishat Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall, bringing together a large pool of young talent from across the country. More than 300 male and female athletes representing 10 teams participated in the opening day of the tournament, which promises to be a vital platform for the development of badminton among Pakistan's younger generation.

The event was inaugurated by DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab, Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, who attended as the chief guest.

In his address, Chaudhry emphasized the importance of such national-level competitions in grooming future champions and providing exposure to

emerging players. "The Fatima Khan overcame all sports associations to Junior National Badminton Mariyam Sarfaraz 21-12, foster a strong sporting culture throughout the province," he said. "By organizing events like this 21-9, and Huda recorded a 21-7, 21-7 win over Mehran championship, we aim to develop their game and provide young athletes Eman Mukhtar 21-9, 21-8, with opportunities to Nida overcame Fajar Amir 21-6, 21-10, and Noor un achieve excellence at national and international Niza defeated Abiba Amir 21-13, 20-22, 21-11. These levels."

Participating teams included Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), SNGPL, Army, and Wapda. The championship features events across different age categories, with players competing in singles and doubles formats. The women's singles U-19 round of 32 saw some impressive performances. Minahil Abbas dominated Aman Sohail 21-3, 21-3, while

results highlighted the depth of talent present in the tournament will continue over the coming days, featuring intense competition across singles and doubles matches. Scouts and coaches will be closely monitoring performances to identify future talent for national squads. With a growing focus on grass-roots development, the province performed admirably at the 35th National Games, finishing ahead of several top departments on the medals table. "The Punjab Sports Department is working closely with the Punjab Olympic Association and Pakistan."

NBA roundup: Key wins for Magic, Bucks, Jazz, & more



Orlando Magic pulled off a dramatic 127-126 win over the Denver Nuggets on Saturday, fueled by career highs from Anthony Black and Desmond Bane. Black scored 38 points, including seven 3-pointers, while Bane added 24 points, including two clutch free throws with 6.9 seconds remaining. Wendell Carter Jr. contributed 18 points, Tristan da Silva 17, and Paolo Banchero 12.

Denver committed 16 turnovers, giving up 27 points, while the Magic only had six turnovers. Nikola Jokic finished with 34 points, 21 rebounds, and 12 assists for his 180th career triple-double, just one shy of Oscar Robertson's second-all-time mark. Jamal Murray added 24 points but missed a potential game-winning fadeaway at the buzzer. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 20 and Peyton Watson 15 for the Nuggets, who have lost two straight on the road following an 11-game winning streak away from home.

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from an eight-game injury absence to score 29 points, leading the Bucks to a 112-103 victory over Chicago. Ryan Rollins added 20, Bobby Portis 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Myles Turner contributed 13 and Kyle Kuzma 12. Nikola Vucevic and Coby White led the Bucks with 16 points each, Josh Giddey had 13 points, nine assists, and seven rebounds, and Ayo Dosunmu added 11 off the bench. Chicago's five-game winning streak ended.

Utah Jazz beat the San Antonio Spurs 127-114 behind Lauri Markkanen's 29 points and Keionte George's 28. Waller Clayton Jr. scored 17 off the bench, while Jusuf Nurkic added 16 and Brice Sensabaugh 11. Victor Wembanyama led the Spurs with 32 points in his first start since November 14, with Keldon Johnson posting 27 points and 10 rebounds.

The New York Knicks edged Atlanta 128-125 as OG Anunoby scored 15 points, hitting four free throws in the final 30 seconds. Karl-Anthony Towns added 36 points and 15 rebounds, while Jalen Brunson scored 34. Onyeka Okongwu had 31 points and 14 rebounds for the Hawks.

Sacramento Kings defeated Dallas 113-107, with Keon Ellis and Russell Westbrook scoring 21 each, and rookie Maxime Raynaud adding 19 points. Dallas' Cooper Flagg had 23 points and five assists. Miami Heat dominated Indiana 142-116, scoring a franchise-record 83 points in the second half. Jaime Jaquez Jr. and Andrew Wiggins had 28 each. Pascal Siakam led the Pacers with 33 points, with Bennedict Mathurin adding 25.

Phoenix Suns completed a two-game road sweep over New Orleans 115-106. Devin Booker scored 20, Dillon Brooks 18, and Collin Gillespie 17. Trey Murphy III led the Pelicans with 24 points, Zion Williamson 22, and Derik Queen had a double-double of 21 points and 11 rebounds. Agencies

Chess-Irate carlsen pushes away Camera after world blitz loss

Magnus Carlsen, the former world chess champion, drew attention at the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in Doha, Qatar, after losing a match to Vladislav Artemiev. The Norwegian grandmaster, who held the world title from 2013 to 2023, pushed away a photographer's camera as he stormed out of the venue following his defeat, highlighting his well-known competitive intensity and occasional frustration over losses.

Carlsen's second day at the championships was challenging. Earlier, he split a point with Maxime Vachier-Lagrange before succumbing to Artemiev in a tense match. Despite the setback, Carlsen remains in contention for the title, sitting in joint second place with seven points alongside Alexey Sarana, Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus, and Nodirbek Abdusattorov. Artemiev and Hans Niemann currently lead the open category with 7.5 points.

This is not the first time Carlsen has displayed visible frustration in competitive settings. At the Norway Chess 2025 tournament, he famously slammed his fist on the table after losing to world champion Gukesh Dommarraju. Last year, he briefly withdrew from the World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in New York after FIDE barred him from a round for wearing jeans.

FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky told Reuters that the governing body does not plan any action against Carlsen for his Saturday outburst but would review the incident if a formal complaint is filed. Carlsen's occasional displays of ire have become part of his public persona, reflecting the intensity with which he approaches high-level competition.

Despite his visible frustration, Carlsen continues to be a formidable presence on the chessboard. Analysts note that while these moments attract media attention, they do not necessarily impact his performance in subsequent games. His ability to recover quickly and focus on upcoming rounds remains a hallmark of his career, contributing to his decade-long dominance as world champion. The World Rapid and Blitz Championships continue to draw top players from around the globe, offering a platform for emerging talent and established grandmasters alike. Carlsen's participation ensures high stakes and media interest, particularly as the event unfolds toward its final rounds. As the tournament progresses, all eyes remain on Carlsen, who, despite his frustration, has the opportunity to vie for the championship alongside Artemiev, Niemann, and other leading contenders. Agencies



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Dr. Shamshad Akhtar: Remembering Pakistan's economic torchbearer

The passing of Dr. Shamshad Akhtar marks the end of an era in Pakistan's economic and financial history. A globally respected technocrat, visionary economist, and trailblazer for women in leadership, Dr. Akhtar leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of policymakers, professionals, and students alike. Her life's journey was one defined by intellect, integrity, and unwavering commitment to the nation and the global community.

Dr. Akhtar's career was nothing short of extraordinary. She held the highest echelons of economic governance in Pakistan, serving as the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, where her tenure was widely recognized for stability, prudence, and innovation. Her contributions went beyond routine administration; she earned consecutive accolades as Asia's Best Central Bank Governor, reflecting her foresight in navigating complex monetary and financial challenges with precision and skill. Under her leadership, Pakistan's central banking framework strengthened, gaining recognition not just domestically but across emerging markets globally.

Her influence, however, extended far beyond Pakistan's borders. As the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, she led critical initiatives shaping post-2015 development agendas and coordinated global strategies for sustainable economic growth. Her tenure as Vice President at the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa, and years at the Asian Development Bank, highlighted her extraordinary ability to bridge policy, economics, and diplomacy, impacting development outcomes across the region. These roles positioned her as a voice of reason, rigor, and strategic insight in international financial circles.

What made Dr. Akhtar truly exceptional was not just her academic brilliance—she was a Fulbright Fellow at Harvard, with multiple advanced degrees in economics—but her unwavering dedication to public service. Her stewardship of Pakistan's economy during challenging periods, her mentorship of young economists, and her insistence on principled, evidence-based policy underscore a rare combination of intellect and moral courage. She was a role model for women in Pakistan and

"Her legacy lies in the countless lives she impacted. From nurturing talent within the State Bank and guiding ministries on economic policy to shaping global discussions on finance and development, her influence was pervasive and enduring. She demonstrated that sound economic management, ethical governance, and visionary leadership are not merely ideals but achievable goals that strengthen nations and economies."

the world, proving that leadership in global finance is both attainable and transformative.

Beyond accolades and positions, Dr. Akhtar's legacy lies in the countless lives she impacted. From nurturing talent within the State Bank and guiding ministries on economic policy to shaping global discussions on finance and development, her influence was pervasive and enduring. She demonstrated that sound economic management, ethical governance, and visionary leadership are not merely ideals but achievable goals that strengthen nations and economies.

Her passing is a profound loss for Pakistan and the international community. Yet, even in mourning, we celebrate a life that exemplified excellence, courage, and service. Dr. Shamshad

Akhtar's journey reminds us that dedication, intellect, and integrity can leave an indelible mark on both a nation and the world. As Pakistan navigates its economic future, her principles and vision will continue to serve as a guiding light for policymakers and citizens alike.

In paying tribute to Dr. Akhtar, we honor more than an accomplished economist; we celebrate a legacy of brilliance, resilience, and unwavering service. Her life teaches us that leadership is measured not just in titles, but in impact, mentorship, and the courage to lead with conscience. Pakistan has lost a towering figure, but the foundations she strengthened and the paths she charted will endure as a testament to her remarkable life and contributions.

Declining exports: Strategies to revive Pakistan's global competitiveness

BY SAMEER SAGAR

Pakistan's export sector, long considered the backbone of its economy, is facing one of its most challenging periods in recent memory. Official figures reveal a staggering decline of 36-38 percent in exports, with critical sectors such as textiles, agriculture, and food products bearing the brunt of this downturn. Food exports, for example, fell from \$3.15 billion to \$1.95 billion between July and November, while rice exports plummeted from \$1.5 billion to \$769 million. For a country that relies heavily on exports to maintain foreign exchange reserves, ensure industrial activity, and support employment, these numbers are alarming.

Several structural and policy factors are contributing to this crisis. High production costs, driven by rising energy prices and inflation, are making Pakistani goods less competitive in international markets. Electricity and gas tariffs remain among the highest in the region, inflating the cost of industrial operations and reducing profit margins for exporters. Meanwhile, a convoluted tax system and delays in refunds create additional hurdles for businesses trying to operate efficiently. Infrastructure-related levies, such as the Sindh government's infrastructure cess, have further increased the financial burden on exporters, with nearly \$9.15 billion collected without transparent reporting or audits. These combined pressures have forced many businesses to scale back production, undermining Pakistan's export capacity.

Agricultural exports have been hit particularly hard due to declining per-acre yields and weak investment in research and development. Crops such as wheat, rice, and cotton have seen reduced productivity over the past two years, while smuggling, hoarding, and inconsistent policies have further disrupted the supply chain. As a textile-dependent economy—where roughly 60 percent of exports are linked to textiles—declining cotton production and quality have directly impacted value addition and competitiveness in global markets.

High input costs, coupled with logistical challenges, have made it increasingly difficult for exporters to meet international demand or maintain profitable operations.

Despite these challenges, there are concrete strategies that the government and private sector can pursue to revive Pakistan's global competitiveness. First, lowering energy costs and rationalizing tariffs for export-oriented industries could provide immediate relief, allowing manufacturers to operate at sustainable margins. Temporary waivers on levies and facilitating the use of captive power plants during peak demand periods can help mitigate disruptions caused by energy shortages. Reforming the taxation system to ensure timely refunds and reduce bureaucratic hurdles would also enhance operational efficiency and improve investor confidence.

Investment in technology, research, and development is another critical area for improving competitiveness. Upgrading production processes, adopting modern agricultural techniques, and introducing quality control measures can increase per-acre yields and enhance product quality. For the textile sector, incentivizing mechanization and investing in high-yield cotton varieties can help rebuild the supply chain, improve export volumes, and boost value-added production. Collaboration with universities, research institutions, and private sector experts can provide the innovation necessary to meet international standards and maintain a competitive edge.

Trade facilitation and policy consistency are equally important. Exporters require stable and predictable regulations, streamlined customs procedures, and easier access to trade finance. Aligning policies with international best practices—particularly in sectors like gold and jewelry, where Pakistan's value-addition norms have lagged behind competitors—can remove unnecessary barriers and open new opportunities in global markets. Bilateral agreements and labor export arrangements,

such as the recent 10,500-job quota secured from Italy, can also support export-led growth by strengthening international trade linkages and creating additional revenue streams.

Private sector engagement is essential to shaping effective export strategies. The government's formation of working groups led by industry representatives, as directed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is a positive step toward policy-making that reflects ground realities. Incorporating feedback from exporters ensures that reforms address practical challenges and deliver measurable results. Furthermore, incentivizing value addition and product diversification can reduce reliance on a few commodity-based exports, making Pakistan's trade portfolio more resilient to global price fluctuations.

Finally, Pakistan must actively pursue trade diplomacy to open new markets and strengthen existing relationships. Strategic engagement with key partners, participation in regional trade initiatives, and compliance with international trade standards can enhance market access, improve competitiveness, and protect Pakistan's economic interests. Addressing the root causes of export decline—ranging from high costs and energy inefficiencies to policy inconsistency and lack of innovation—requires a coordinated approach that combines government action, private sector initiative, and targeted investment.

Reviving Pakistan's export sector is not just an economic imperative; it is critical for sustaining industrial activity, stabilizing the rupee, creating employment, and boosting investor confidence. By implementing energy reforms, streamlining taxes, investing in research and development, and promoting trade facilitation, Pakistan can rebuild its global competitiveness and reclaim its position as a reliable supplier in international markets. With proactive policy measures and private sector collaboration, the country can turn the current export crisis into an opportunity for long-term growth and sustainable economic resilience.

5G spectrum auction: Driving telecom growth and economic transformation in Pakistan

BY ZAIRA HASAN

Pakistan's telecom and technology sectors are poised for a transformative leap with the impending 5G spectrum auction, expected by early 2026. The introduction of 5G technology is widely regarded as a game-changer, promising faster connectivity, higher network reliability, and new opportunities across industries ranging from healthcare and agriculture to finance and manufacturing. The auction represents not just a technological milestone but also a significant economic opportunity, positioning Pakistan to leverage digital infrastructure for sustained growth and global competitiveness.

The telecom industry is one of the key drivers of Pakistan's economic growth, contributing billions in revenue and providing employment to millions. The adoption of 5G will allow operators to deliver high-speed internet, ultra-low latency, and massive device connectivity, enabling innovative applications such as smart cities, autonomous logistics, telemedicine, and advanced e-learning solutions. Enhanced connectivity is expected to attract foreign investment into the technology sector, increase digital exports, and promote entrepreneurship, especially in fintech, software development, and artificial intelligence.

Beyond telecom, the information technology sector stands to gain substantially. Faster internet speeds and reliable networks will improve cloud computing services, data analytics, and software development capabilities, enabling Pakistan to compete more effectively in global IT markets. Startups and SMEs, which form the backbone of Pakistan's emerging digital economy, will be able to leverage 5G for remote services, digital platforms, and e-commerce, creating new revenue streams and expanding access to both domestic and international markets.

The government's plans to auction 5G spectrum also have broader macroeconomic implications. By stimulating investment in telecom infrastructure, the initiative will create jobs across network deployment, maintenance, and ancillary services.

Infrastructure spending is likely to have a multiplier effect on related sectors, including manufacturing of telecom equipment, electronics, and digital devices. Additionally, improved connectivity will reduce the digital divide between urban and rural areas, enhancing productivity and access to education, healthcare, and government services.

Revenue from the 5G spectrum auction is expected to provide a much-needed boost to federal finances, supporting fiscal stability and public investment.

Policymakers are keen to ensure a transparent, competitive, and efficient auction process, which will maximize state revenue while maintaining fair pricing for telecom operators. With proper regulation, 5G adoption can accelerate Pakistan's integration into the global digital economy, enhance competitiveness, and strengthen resilience against future economic shocks.

However, the success of the 5G rollout will depend on several critical factors. First, policy consistency and clear

regulatory frameworks are essential to encourage private sector participation and attract foreign investment. Spectrum pricing, licensing terms, and quality-of-service requirements must balance revenue generation with market affordability to ensure widespread adoption. Second, investments in fiber-optic backbones, data centers, and cybersecurity infrastructure are necessary to support the high-speed networks that 5G demands. Without robust underlying infrastructure, the benefits of 5G may remain limited to urban pockets.

Affordability and accessibility will also be key. Operators must design pricing strategies that make 5G services viable for businesses and consumers, while the government should consider incentives for rural coverage expansion. Public-private partnerships and foreign collaborations can help bridge infrastructure gaps, ensuring that 5G adoption is inclusive and contributes to broader economic development goals.

"The impending 5G spectrum auction, expected by early 2026, promises to transform Pakistan's telecom and tech sectors with faster connectivity, higher reliability, and new opportunities across industries. The auction positions Pakistan to leverage digital infrastructure for sustained growth, attract foreign investment, and enhance global competitiveness, driving economic growth, job creation, and digital transformation."

The 5G spectrum auction also signals Pakistan's commitment to technological advancement and digital transformation. Countries around the world are increasingly leveraging next-generation networks to boost productivity, support innovation, and enhance competitiveness. By embracing 5G, Pakistan can modernize its digital ecosystem, attract international investors, and position itself as a hub for innovation in South Asia. The potential for increased digital exports, enhanced service delivery, and economic diversification makes 5G a critical pillar of Pakistan's growth strategy.

In conclusion, the upcoming 5G spectrum auction is more than a telecom initiative—it is a catalyst for economic growth, industrial modernization, and global competitiveness. By creating opportunities in telecom, IT, and other digital sectors, 5G promises to transform the way Pakistan conducts business, delivers public services, and engages with the global economy. Effective implementation, inclusive access, and strategic investment will be essential to harness the full potential of this next-generation technology. If executed well, 5G could become a cornerstone of Pakistan's economic expansion and digital revolution in 2026 and beyond.

Pakistan-UAE economic ties: Fauji Group deal and strategic investments

PSMU SPECIAL

Pakistan's economic ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have entered a new phase of strategic collaboration, highlighted by the UAE's planned acquisition of shares in the Fauji Group. This landmark investment is set to settle a \$1 billion liability while offering the potential to roll over an additional \$2 billion loan, signaling renewed confidence in Pakistan's economic stability and investment climate.

The deal underscores the growing importance of bilateral economic engagement and positions Pakistan to benefit from both capital inflows and enhanced diplomatic relations in the Gulf region.

The Fauji Group, one of Pakistan's largest conglomerates, operates across diverse sectors including fertilizers, energy, and defense. UAE investment into this entity not only injects much-needed liquidity into Pakistan's economy but also strengthens investor confidence at a time when the country faces multiple fiscal and structural challenges. By directly sup-

porting a key industrial group, the

investment ensures operational continuity, facilitates debt management, and demonstrates the attractiveness of Pakistan's large-scale enterprises to global investors.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has highlighted that Pakistan, once viewed as diplomatically isolated, has regained a strong international profile due to proactive policies and a principled foreign policy. The Fauji Group deal exemplifies this renewed confidence, showcasing Pakistan as a viable destination for strategic investment and as a credible partner in international economic collaboration.

With the UAE already recognized for its significant investments in regional infrastructure and trade, its engagement in Pakistan's industrial sector sends a positive signal to other potential investors in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Economic benefits from this partnership extend beyond debt settlement. The infusion of foreign capital is expected to stabilize key sectors, sup-

porting industrial growth, and enhance

employment opportunities. The Fauji

Group's extensive operations mean

that improved liquidity can lead to

expanded production, technology

and security interests. The UAE's commitment to invest in

Pakistan is part of a broader regional

engagement strategy, reinforcing

the deal minimizes risk and maxi-

mizes economic impact. It supports

the government's objectives of debt management, industrial revitalization, and economic stabilization, while sim-

ultaneously enhancing investor per-

ception of Pakistan's regulatory and

investment frameworks. The Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs has played an instru-

mental role in facilitating these nego-

tiations, highlighting Pakistan's ability

to combine diplomatic engagement

with strategic economic planning.

Moreover, the deal illustrates a

broader trend of Pakistan leverag-

ing bilateral partnerships to stabilize

and grow the economy. Similar agree-

ments with China, Saudi Arabia, and

other friendly nations have contrib-

uted to debt management, infra-

structure development, and liquidity

support. These partnerships have

not only provided financial relief but

have also strengthened Pakistan's

global standing, allowing it to en-

gage more effectively in multilateral

forums and attract further foreign di-

rect investment.

Looking ahead, the Fauji Group

could serve as a model for future strategic investments. Encouraging

foreign participation in major indus-

trial and infrastructure projects can

help Pakistan address critical chal-

lenges, from energy shortages and

industrial financing gaps to export

promotion and employment cre-

ation. As investor confidence grows,

these initiatives are expected to cata-

lyze broader economic reforms, mod-

ernize key sectors, and contribute to

sustained economic growth in 2026

and beyond.

In conclusion, the UAE's investment

in the Fauji Group is a landmark de-

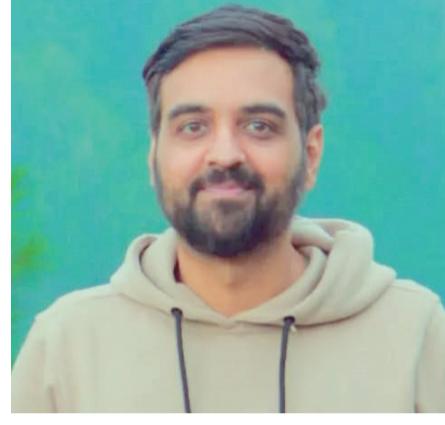
velopment in Pakistan-UAE economic

cooperation. By

COMPANY PROFILE & TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

D.G. Khan Cement (DGKC): Moving beyond just cement

DGKC has a target price of PKR 315/share which provides upside of 27% from last closing price of PKR248/share. Company is trading at forward FY26e PE of 10.2x.



BY NASHEED MALIK
Senior Research Analyst



- Modern grinding and packing systems.
- Power generation and waste heat recovery setups to support operations.
- Products:** Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) and Sulphate Resistant Cement (SRC).

(FY24: PKR 759 million) respectively.

Recovery in local cement demand:

Macroeconomic stability, combined with a favorable low base effect, supports a positive outlook for cyclical sectors. We expect domestic cement demand to rebound from FY26, growing at an estimated 12% year-on-year over the following few years. This recovery is primarily driven by accumulated unmet demand since FY21, reflected in year-on-year declines of 16%, 5%, and 3% in FY23, FY24, and FY25 respectively, along with easing inflationary pressures and a lower interest rate environment.

Fiscal discipline and revenue enhancement have been central to the current IMF program, leading to significant pressure on development spending. As a result, the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), being the most easily adjustable expenditure item, has been particularly affected, with utilization recorded at just 44%, 98%, 69%, and 42% in FY22, FY23, FY24, and FY25 respectively, against budgeted allocations of PKR 900bn, PKR 727bn, PKR 950bn, and PKR 1,400bn. This sharp decline in actual public sector development spending has been a key factor behind the weakness in domestic cement demand over the past three years and has also had a spillover effect on private sector investment activity. Looking ahead to FY26, the federal PSDP has been budgeted at PKR 1 trillion, and we expect improved disbursements as subdued spending in recent years provides room to support a recovery in private sector demand.

International coal prices to remain favorable:

Overall coal prices are expected to weaken in the near term due to abundant supply, high inventories, and softening demand globally. Coal markets are facing downward pressure as renewable energy and alternative fuels displace coal in power generation. For key benchmark prices like Australian thermal coal, analysts project a fall of around 21% in 2025, followed by a further decline of about 7% in 2026 before potential stabilization. Oversupply in major export hubs (Indonesia, Australia) and expected declines in global coal trade volumes in 2026 are likely to keep thermal coal prices under pressure. High stock levels, especially in China, are expected to suppress global price rallies.

Optimal power and fuel mix:

The increase in gas tariffs, coupled with the imposition of a levy on furnace oil, has significantly raised the cost of both fuel sources. Under these conditions, companies with

greater reliance on renewable energy or captive coal-based power generation are better positioned. D.G. Khan Cement stands out in this regard, as it operates the largest captive coal power capacity of 60MW, split evenly between its DG Khan and Hub plants. Additionally, the company has developed a combined waste heat recovery capacity of 32MW—comprising 10MW at DG Khan, 12MW at Kallar Kahar, and 10MW at Hub—along with 8MW of solar power installed across two locations, further strengthening its cost advantage in the current environment. The company operates on a diversified coal-based fuel strategy. For its northern operations, it utilizes a mix of Afghan and domestic coal, while its southern facilities depend entirely on imported coal due to logistical considerations. This flexible approach allows the company to adjust its fuel mix in response to prevailing market conditions.

Dividend income to remain strong: DGKC maintains a well-diversified investment portfolio, highlighted by a substantial 9% stake in MCB Bank. Its other investments include Nishat Mills Limited (8.6%), Nishat Chunian Limited (3.0%), Nishat Chunian Power Limited (2.0%), Nishat Packaging (55.0%), Nishat Dairy (55.1%), Nishat Hotels (8.5%), Adamjee Insurance Company Limited (8.0%), among others. In FY25, the company generated dividend income of PKR 3.9 billion, equivalent to PKR 9.7 per share on a pre-tax basis. We anticipate a strong contribution from other income going forward and project pre-tax earnings from this segment at PKR 10.7, PKR 12.3, and PKR 15.6 per share in FY26E, FY27E, and FY28E, respectively.

Diversification into profitable food business: The Board of Directors approved NCPL's acquisition of up to 7.65% of the paid-up ordinary share capital of Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited (RMPL). This acquisition will be executed through a nomination by Nishat Hotels and Properties Limited, as part of a broader transaction involving affiliated entities collectively acquiring up to 75.69% of Rafhan's shares. The acquisition is subject to contract and necessary regulatory approvals. This represents a diversification move beyond NCPL's core power-generation business. For the nine months ended 2025, RMPL has posted profit of PKR 5,090mn (EPS: PKR 551.05) compared to PKR 5,565mn in nine months of 2024. For 3Q2025 profit stood at PKR 1,224mn (EPS: 132.48) compared to PKR 1,854mn in 3Q2024 (EPS: 200.78).



3. Hub Plant (Lasbela District, Balochistan):
Location: Hub, Lasbela District, Balochistan.
Capacity: ~9,000 tons clinker per day — the largest single line among DGKC plants.
Start of Operations: Commissioned to expand production and strengthen DGKC's position in the southern region. It is among the biggest cement production facilities established in Pakistan.

Subsidiaries of DGKC:

Nishat Packaging Limited:

Incorporated in Pakistan on July 23, 2004; DGKCL holds a 55% equity stake in NPL. Principally engaged in the manufacture and sale of packaging products, primarily in meeting cement industry requirement. Three production lines with a combined annual capacity of 250 million bags - comprising two paper bag lines (160 million bags) located at Khairpur on the parent company's premises, and one polypropylene (PP) line (90 million bags) at Quaid-e-Azam Business Park, Sheikhupura, commissioned in the third quarter of FY25. In FY 2025, NPL produced 43.2 million (FY24: 43.3 million) paper bags and 29.7 million PP bags.

Profitability improved mainly due to the one-time gain from the paper bag line sale, with revenue rising to PKR 3.29 billion (FY24: PKR 2.50 billion) and PBT&L reaching PKR 645.5 million, supported by higher volumes and operational efficiencies. Strategically, the segment has returned to profitability with a leaner cost base and modernized PP operations, though the fast-growing polypropylene market remains highly competitive.

Nishat Dairy (Private) Limited:

Nishat dairy was incorporated on October 28, 2011. Engaged in the business of production and sale of raw milk. As at June 30, 2025 the Company has 3,634 mature milking animals. Its daily milk production capacity stands at 110K litres (40.15 million litres annually) with actual output for FY2025 reaching 39.7 million litres (FY24: 37.7 million litres). DGKC owns 55.1% holding in NDPL. Nishat Group has entered into a joint venture agreement with Turkish brand, Sutas and launched the product 'Milkyield'; NDPL is a major supplier of the said venture. Revenue and Profits for the FY 2025 are PKR 5,792 million (FY24: PKR 5,622 million) and PKR 675 million

(FY24: PKR 5,622 million) and PKR 675 million (FY24: PKR 5,622 million) and PKR 675 million

2. Khairpur Plant (Chakwal):

Location: Khairpur, Tehsil Kallar Kahar, District Chakwal, Punjab.

Capacity:

~6,700 tons clinker per day (approx.).

Facility Features:

• Limestone quarries on site.

Company Introduction and Investments:
D.G. Khan Cement Company Limited is one of Pakistan's leading cement manufacturers, recognized for its strong market presence and commitment to quality. Established in 1978, the company operates under the umbrella of the Nishat Group, one of the largest and most diversified business groups in the country. DGKC was acquired by Nishat Group in 1992 under privatization initiated by the government.

The company produces and markets high-quality cement for use in residential, commercial, and infrastructure projects across Pakistan. With modern production facilities located in Dera Ghazi Khan and Hub, Balochistan, D.G. Khan Cement utilizes advanced technology to ensure efficient operations, consistent product standards, and environmentally responsible manufacturing practices.

D.G. Khan Cement is known for its focus on innovation, sustainability, and customer satisfaction. The company actively invests in energy efficiency, alternative fuels, and emission control systems to reduce its environmental impact while maintaining competitive production costs.

Through its strong distribution network, reliable products, and emphasis on corporate responsibility, D.G. Khan Cement Company Limited continues to play an important role in Pakistan's construction and economic development. Company is operating locally through more than 2,300 dealers. Total market share of the company (local and export) is about 12%. D.G. Khan Cement operates three major cement manufacturing plants, all based on advanced dry process technology, strategically located across Pakistan to serve both domestic and export markets.

1. Dera Ghazi Khan (DGK) – Plant:

Location: Khoffi Sattai, Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab.

Number of Lines: Two integrated plant units.

Technology: Dry process cement manufacturing.

These original production units are the historic base of the company and contribute significantly to overall clinker and cement output.

2. Khairpur Plant (Chakwal):

Location: Khairpur, Tehsil Kallar Kahar, District Chakwal, Punjab.

Capacity: ~6,700 tons clinker per day (approx.).

Facility Features:

• Limestone quarries on site.

KSE-100 ends week strong, eyes 177,000-178,000 zone



BY MUHAMMAD TAHAKHAN

Research Analyst,
PSMU

The KSE-100 Index ended the Friday session on a strong note, closing at 174,200, up 1,570 points (+0.92%), reflecting firm buying interest into the weekly close. Price action remains constructive as the index continues to trade above its short-term moving averages, confirming that the broader trend is still intact. Volumes stayed healthy, which adds credibility to the recent upside move and suggests institutional participation rather than short covering alone.

From a technical perspective, the index has successfully held above the



170,300-169,500 zone, which now acts as immediate support on any short-term pullback. As long as this area is respected, the bias remains bullish to neutral. On the upside, the market is approaching a key resistance band around 173,900-174,500, followed by the upper Fibonacci projection near 177,300-178,000, where some consolidation or profit-taking cannot be ruled out.

Going into the weekend close, overall structure favors continuation higher, but after a sharp run-up, minor pauses are healthy. Any dips toward support should be viewed as an opportunity for selective accumulation rather than a trend reversal. The broader outlook remains positive, with higher highs and higher lows still visible on the daily chart.

WEEKLY REVIEW

KSE-100 wraps up year at historic high

KSE-100 Index: Week Open: 171,404.49 close 172,400.73 (996.24)

The KSE-100 Index extended its record run, closing the week at 172,400, up 0.6% WoW, although average daily turnover fell by 25% WoW. Sentiment was supported by a key privatisation breakthrough, with the government auctioning Pakistan International Airlines Ltd to a consortium led by AHCL for Rs135bn, securing a 75% stake. The deal marks the first major privatisa-

tion in two decades and meets an important benchmark under the IMF programme.

External financing momentum also remained firm, with the World Bank approving US\$700mn to support macroeconomic stability, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed two financing initiatives totaling US\$730mn.

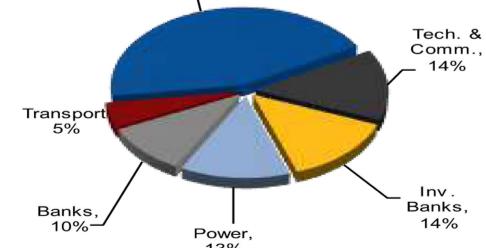
JS Global

Pakistan Equity Research

Cumulatively, Pakistan received foreign assistance of around US\$3bn during 5MFY26. In an encouraging development, The Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) revealed that private sector lending in FY26-TD has reached Rs1.5tn leading to increased liquidity. In the latest T-bill auction, the government raised Rs911bn against a target of Rs471bn, with yields falling 36-78bps across tenors. In another development, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) approved plans to auction 5G spectrum by end-Jan 2026 or early Feb-2026.

Lastly, SBP foreign exchange reserves edged up by US\$16mn to US\$15.9bn, posting a marginal increase of 0.1% WoW.

Key sectors by volume



Source: PSX, JS Research

WAVES shows bullish consolidation, eyes 14-15 zone

WAVES has shown a constructive shift in structure after successfully holding the 11.80-12.00 base and delivering a strong impulsive move higher. The stock is now consolidating above the 13.00 level, which aligns with a key breakout area and the mid-range of the prior Fibonacci retracement, indicating acceptance at higher prices. This sideways digestion appears healthy after the recent rally rather than a sign of distribution.

From a technical standpoint, as long as 13.00-12.90 holds, the bias remains bullish. A sustained hold above this zone keeps the stock positioned for a continuation move toward 14.00, followed by 14.80-15.20, where previous supply emerged. Volumes have cooled during consolidation, which further supports the view of accumulation rather than aggressive selling. Overall, the setup favors upside continuation, with dips likely to attract buyers and trend strength expected to resume on a breakout above the recent range.



Daily PAKISTAN Share Market

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UPDATES

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025

KSE-100					
172,400.73		(1,570.51)	(0.92%)		
HIGH	LOW	VOLUME			
172,582.95	171,146.14	346,402,696			

ALLSHR					
103,483.95		(561.58)	(0.55%)		
HIGH	LOW	VOLUME			
103,644.10	102,990.44	796,969,751			

KSE30					
52,734.05		(564.57)	(1.08%)		
HIGH	LOW	VOLUME			
52,799.61	52,241.15	184,555,875			

KMI30					
245,565.33		(2,605.02)	(1.07%)		
HIGH	LOW	VOLUME			
245,927.00	243,398.06	110,967,011			

INDICES					
Index	High	Low	Current	Change	% Change
KSE100	172,582.95	171,146.14	172,400.73	1,570.51	0.92%
KSE100PR	54,213.31	53,761.96	54,156.07	489.60	0.91%
ALLSHR	103,644.10	102,990.44	103,483.95	561.58	0.55%
KSE30	52,799.61	52,241.15	52,734.05	564.57	1.08%
KMI30	245,927.00	243,398.06	245,565.33	2,605.02	1.07%
BKTI	48,088.61	47,428.81	47,898.10	462.51	0.98%
OGTI	33,914.80	33,373.61	33,838.49	464.88	1.39%
KMIALLSHR	67,320.49	66,886.45	67,233.69	453.28	0.68%
PSXDIV20	76,364.96	75,677.87	76,093.28	379.27	0.50%
UPPP	59,947.63	59,299.12	59,861.49	565.85	0.95%
NITPGI	44,698.45	44,232.86	44,639.64	447.25	1.01%
NBPPGI	48,706.35	48,225.78	48,642.09	472.08	0.98%
MZNPI	30,435.07	30,041.23	30,381.74	381.62	1.27%
JSMFI	46,244.68	45,676.79	45,940.16	253.39	0.55%
ACI	24,995.07	24,716.03	24,847.31	148.84	0.60%
JSGBKTI	72,371.30	70,634.82	71,625.06	1137.40	1.61%



MARKET HIGHLIGHTS					
Market Status	Closed	172,400.73			
Current Index	172,400.73				
Change	1,570.51				
Percent Change	0.92%				
High	172,582.95				
Low	171,146.14				
Volume	346,402,696				
Previous Close	170,830.22				
Value	28,915,999.160				

Market Performers			
TOP ACTIVE STOCKS			
SYMBOL	PRICE	CHANGE	VOLUME
WTL	1.66	-0.07 (-4.05%)	79,320,913
BOP	40.06	1.16 (2.98%)	78,049,661
KEL	5.74	0.08 (1.41%)	33,061,161
PIBTL	18.46	0.21 (1.15%)	31,377,247
HASCOLNC	16.04	0.50 (3.22%)	29,718,301
PIAHCLA	30.74	-3.42 (-10.01%)	27,101,000
PTC	54.20	0.02 (0.04%)	26,953,369
CSIL	8.29	-1.00 (-10.76%)	18,926,360
LSECL	5.17	-0.52 (-9.14%)	18,570,325
NCPL	50.25	-1.17 (-2.27%)	18,036,999
TOP ADVANCERS			
SYMBOL	PRICE	CHANGE	VOLUME
786R	4.34	1.00 (29.94%)	784,066
UCAPM	7.15	0.92 (14.77%)	2,123,425
AMBL	12.94	1.18 (10.03%)	21,434
SKRSCN	37.03	3.37 (10.01%)	131,796
ZUMANC	69.58	6.33 (10.01%)	130,055
PAKRI	20.01	1.82 (10.01%)	11,920,242
NONS	108.37	9.85 (10.00%)	182,569
TSBL	39.58	3.66 (10.00%)	3,891,334
BFMOD	23.14	2.10 (9.98%)	97,957
JVDC	96.85	8.58 (9.72%)	4,906,739
TOP DECLINERS			
SYMBOL	PRICE	CHANGE	VOLUME
LSEVLR	3.31	-0.97 (-22.66%)	4,067,636
CSIL	8.29	-1.00 (-10.76%)	18,926,360
PIAHCLA	30.74	-3.42 (-10.01%)	27,101,000
FCIBL	38.76	-4.31 (-10.01%)	462,801
SGPL	32.21	-3.58 (-10.00%)	2,040,481
GEMMEL	34.47	-3.82 (9.98%)	3,012
EWIC	42.27	-4.68 (-9.97%)	5,968
SUHJNC	109.76	-12.15 (-9.97%)	71,801
GEMBLUEX	73.50	-8.00 (9.82%)	2,563
LSECL	5.17	-0.52 (-9.14%)	18,570,325

KSE 100



KSE 30



ALLSHR



CLOSING RATE SUMMARY

AUTOMOBILE ASSEMBLER					
SCRIP	LDCP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CURRENT
AL-Ghazi Tractors	402.59	402.59	409.95	400.3	403.33
Atlas Honda Ltd	1,416.83	1415.0	1425.0	1412.0	1419.84
Dewan Motors	22.40	22.4	24.0	22.0	22.65
Ghanda Automobile	551.09	553.09	553.09	545.22	547.59
Ghanda Ind.	789.37	792.0	798.99	788.0	794.35
Hinopak Motor	471.01	473.0	473.0	459.05</	

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SCRIPT	LDCP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CURRENT	CHANGE	VOLUME	LEASING COMPANIES							
								LDCP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CURRENT	CHANGE	VOLUME	
MTL-JAN	550.00	539.99	539.99	539.99	539.99	-10.01	500	Suhail Jute	121.91	109.72	134.1	109.72	109.76	-12.15	71,801
MTL-DECB	527.00	517.5	539.0	516.0	516.0	-11.0	22,000	GRAYS LEASING	24.00	25.0	25.0	23.0	23.03	-0.97	3,661
MUGHAL-JAN	105.23	106.0	107.8	105.21	106.56	1.33	307,500	Pak Gulf Leasing	15.28	15.9	16.0	15.2	15.2	-0.08	14,292
MUGHAL-DEC	104.24	105.38	106.06	103.51	104.24	403,000									
NBP-DEC	240.77	242.5	249.5	241.0	246.9	6.13	10,662,000								
NBP-JAN	244.19	246.0	255.0	244.3	251.05	6.86	11,091,500								
NRL-JAN	409.34	410.0	414.0	409.0	411.44	2.1	1,056,000								
NRL-DEC	403.89	404.0	408.3	395.0	403.59	-0.3	1,230,500								
NETSOL-JAN	132.63	132.1	133.75	131.01	132.7	0.07	832,500								
NETSOL-DEC	130.53	131.0	131.5	126.02	129.87	-0.66	910,000								
NCPL-JAN	51.79	52.7	52.7	49.0	51.08	-0.71	4,311,000								
NCPL-DEC	51.36	52.45	52.45	48.2	50.08	-1.28	1,919,500								
NML-JAN	182.58	181.5	183.0	180.76	181.78	-0.8	1,737,000								
NML-DEC	179.79	177.02	181.0	177.01	178.34	-1.45	2,499,500								
NPL-JAN	67.54	67.5	72.0	65.95	70.96	3.42	2,805,500								
NPL-DEC	66.78	66.22	71.92	65.04	69.97	3.19	1,396,000								
OCTOPUS-DEC	42.43	42.45	43.99	41.51	42.09	-0.34	346,000								
OCTOPUS-JAN	43.05	43.13	46.79	42.6	44.61	1.56	196,000								
OGDC-JAN	271.44	271.1	275.0	271.0	274.3	2.86	1,962,500								
OGDC-DEC	267.53	267.2	271.0	267.05	269.8	2.27	1,795,000								
PSO-DECB	455.57	457.0	459.49	455.05	457.59	2.02	2,042,000								
PSO-JAN	461.86	462.01	466.0	462.0	464.31	2.45	2,041,000								
PTC-DEC	54.33	55.8	58.05	54.0	54.23	-0.1	6,234,000								
PTC-JAN	55.00	55.45	58.7	54.86	55.19	0.19	13,714,500								
PACE-DEC	18.97	18.91	19.08	18.15	18.44	-0.53	1,296,000								
PACE-JAN	19.24	19.25	19.3	18.75	18.82	-0.42	11,525,000								
PAEL-DEC	54.52	54.6	55.35	53.5	54.61	0.09	10,553,500								
PAEL-JAN	55.28	55.41	56.22	55.05	55.63	0.35	11,535,500								
PIBTL-DEC	18.26	18.25	18.67	18.2	18.38	0.12	8,378,500								
PIBTL-JAN	18.53	18.7	19.1	18.52	18.82	0.29	11,762,500								
POL-DEC	620.50	0	0	0	609.14	500									
POL-JAN	623.51	0	0	0	617.31	500									
PPL-DEC	220.91	221.0	228.89	220.6	226.88	5.97	2,991,500								
PPL-JAN	223.63	223.7	231.9	223.55	230.37	6.74	5,470,500								
PRC-DEC	35.99	36.2	36.65	34.0	36.06	0.07	5,720,000								
PRC-JAN	36.34	36.5	37.17	36.5	36.72	0.38	5,956,000								
PIAHCLAJA-DEC	34.11	33.12	33.5	30.7	30.7	-3.41	8,994,500								
PIAHCLAJA-JAN	34.72	34.0	34.37	31.25	31.25	-3.47	18,669,500								
PIOC-DEC	391.62	397.0	397.4	378.0	390.89	-0.73	1,007,000								
PIOC-FEB	381.00	378.0	378.0	378.0	378.0	-3.0	3,000								
PIOC-JAN	396.29	399.00	403.00	390.0	396.92	0.63	950,500								
POWER-DEC	18.08	18.08	19.82	17.25	17.25	-0.83	967,000								
POWER-JAN	18.25	18.35	19.8	17.91	18.0	-0.25	860,500								
SAZEW-JAN	1,644.25	1,645.0	1,644.0	1,642.0	1,644.16	-0.09	57,000								
SAZEW-DEC	1,627.67	1620.0	1637.0	1601.25	1614.4	-13.27	75,000								
SNBL-JAN	26.48	26.68	28.5	26.48	27.53	1.05	3,377,000								
SNBL-DEC	26.29	26.3	27.3	26.0	26.68	0.39	4,665,000								
SNGP-JANB	117.91	118.47	120.12	117.69	117.9	1.79	875,500								
SNGP-DEC	116.25	116.74	117.94	115.12	117.31	1.06	1,194,500								
SSGC-DEC	34.53	34.3	34.69	33.14	33.96	-0.57	9,519,500								
SSGC-JANB	35.04	34.9	35.5	34.5	34.6	-0.44	9,193,500								
SYM-JAN	14.19	13.52	13.9	13.15	13.71	-0.48	230,000								
SYM-DEC	13.30	13.3	13.86	13.01	13.38	0.08	454,000								
SYS-JAN	164.84	165.49	170.49	165.9	169.62	4.78	242,500								
SYS-DEC	162.83	163.0	167.31	163.0	165.86	3.03	335,000								
TGL-JAN	212.10	212.5	216.0	212.5	216.0	3.9	2,500								
TGL-DEC	209.00	209.0	215.8	209.0	213.99	4.99	15,000								
TELE-JAN	11.34	11.25	11.5	11.25											

DAILY PAKISTAN Share Market

UPDATES

www.psmunews.com

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025

PUBLISH FROM KARACHI

PAKISTAN Share Market

UPDATES

www.psmunews.com

BOP | 60 | PSMU

RSI 14 49.42 (Neutral)

MACD Histogram -0.17 (Bearish)

EMA 20 37.19

EMA 50 36.48

Trend Bullish Trend

Signal NEUTRAL

PSMU Pivot Dashboard

PP: 37.6667

R1: 38.0333

R2: 38.6067

S1: 37.0933

S2: 36.7267

Trend → BEARISH → Target S1 / S2

TP → 37.0933 | 36.7276

SL → 38.0333

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0332 9859289

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PAKISTAN Share Market

UPDATES

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PIBTL | 60 | PSMU

RSI 14 50.35 (Neutral)

MACD Histogram -0.11 (Bearish)

EMA 20 17.37

EMA 50 16.84

Trend Bullish Trend

Signal NEUTRAL

PSMU Pivot Dashboard

PP: 17.4933

R1: 17.7967

R2: 18.1733

S1: 17.1167

S2: 16.8133

Trend → BEARISH → Target S1 / S2

TP → 17.1167 | 16.8133

SL → 17.7967

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PAKISTAN Share Market

UPDATES

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DAILY MTS POSITION

Open MTS Volume Before Release

465,506,237.00

Open MTS Amount Before Release

26,364,543,776.96

Current Day Release Volume

38,988,853.00

Current Day Release Amount

2,631,027,203.55

Current Day MTS Volume

40,917,229.00

Current Day MTS Amount

2,578,130,568.13

Net Open MTS Volume

467,434,613.00

Net Open MTS Amount

26,300,852,504.12

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PAKISTAN Share Market

UPDATES

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Symbol Wise Open Interest (DFC)

Symbol	Open Interest (No. of Contracts)	Open Interest (Volume)	Open Interest (Value)	Free Float (Volume)	% of Free Float
BML-JAN	105,742	52,871,000	320,398,260	2,648,888,230	2.00
BOP-JAN	181,425	90,712,500	368,927,375	1,381,832,802	6.56
KEL-JAN	156,791	78,395,500	456,261,810	2,761,519,425	2.84
WTL-DEC	164,624	82,312,000	135,814,800	4,234,945,808	1.94
WTL-JAN	229,560	114,780,000	193,978,800	4,234,945,808	2.17
TOTAL	838,142	418,071,000	1,475,380,445		

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PAKISTAN Share Market

UPDATES

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DAILY MFS POSITION

Open Position Before Release

709,810,880.00

Current Day Release

18,629,987,038.89

Current Day Take-up

47,646,808.00

Volume

693,848,886.00

Value

18,366,149,027.35

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DAR HIGHLIGHTS PAKISTAN'S RISING GLOBAL STANDING

Fauji Foundation deal paves way to settle \$1bn UAE liability

BY COMMERCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar underscored Pakistan's enhanced diplomatic, political and economic profile on the global stage, attributing the progress to the dynamic policies of the incumbent government. Speaking at a press conference detailing the annual achievements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dar said Pakistan has emerged from a period of diplomatic isolation to become a respected and influential player among the comity of nations.

Referring to recent developments, Dar highlighted the UAE's planned investment in Fauji Group, expected to help settle a \$1 billion liability, with the possibility of rolling over an additional \$2 billion loan, as part of ongoing economic and strategic cooperation. He expressed gratitude to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and China for their support in strengthening Pakistan's financial stability.

Dar emphasized Pakistan's principled and proactive stance on global issues, citing the country's responsible response during the four-day

conflict with India and its firm position on the Jammu and Kashmir issue, which he said continues to be highlighted at international fora. He noted that Pakistan's nuclear and missile capabilities have fortified national defence while the government pursues turning Pakistan into an economic power capable of leading the Ummah.

On foreign relations,

Dar described significant progress, including the "major thaw" in ties with

Bangladesh, strengthened ties from Afghan soil. He also US relations with \$13.28 billion in bilateral trade and reduced tariffs, and active while reiterating Pakistan's commitment to dialogue, regional stability, economic collaboration and the pursuit of peace as the cornerstones of its foreign policy.

Dar concluded that the country's enhanced diplomatic stature, strengthened defence, expanded economic partnerships and constructive engagement.

Bilawal Bhutto calls for national reconciliation, rules out immediate elections

PSMU DESK

LARKANA: Senior Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader and Federal Minister Mustafa Kamal yesterday accused the party's founder, Altaf Hussain, of masterminding the murder of senior MQM leader Dr Imran Farooq. Speaking at a press conference in Karachi, Kamal claimed that Hussain, while allegedly intoxicated, ordered the killing and that the attack was carried out under his instructions.

The murder drew international attention and prompted a lengthy investigation by Scotland Yard. While several MQM members were later convicted, questions about the involvement of senior party leadership persisted.

The murder drew international attention and prompted a lengthy investigation by Scotland Yard. While several MQM members were later convicted, questions about the involvement of senior party leadership persisted.

Addressing the status of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he noted that the party has not faced undue hardship but cautioned that any entity operating like an extremist organisation must be dealt with according to the law.

He identified President Asif Ali Zardari as a key facilitator capable of promoting political harmony while warning against early elections conducted without transparency or marred by allegations.

The PPP chairman reiterated that resolution of the country's challenges cannot rest on one party's long-term tenure alone. "Genuine political

stability requires all political powers to consider steps that serve the nation's betterment," he said, invoking the legacy of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, whose vision emphasised reconciliation and inclusive governance.

On the economic front, Bilawal acknowledged ongoing challenges but noted that the immediate threat of default has been averted. He lauded the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in Sindh as a successful administrative framework and urged the federal government to adopt similar approaches.

"Continuity of policies is the only guarantee for national stability and sustainable economic recovery," he added.

Market Commentary - Leaders' Lens

PSX surges to 172,401: KSE-100 remained volatile throughout week



TABISH ABBAS
Senior Research Analyst
Spectrum Securities Limited

over week, and the market witnessed profit-taking in the index heavy stocks, however the market recovered from the negative zone due to the successful privatization of PIA which was Pakistan's highest loss making state owned entity, that marks a historical moment for Pakistan as this event has brought investor's confidence in Pakistan's economy and its future outlook.

Sector-wise, the main pullers that supported the market against the dragger were Bank, Inv. Banks, E&P and Fertilizer contributing (+443pts), (+225pts), (+200pts), and (+158pts) during the week. Stock-wise, the main stocks that lifted the market up during the week were ENROH, PPL, NBP and PTC contributing (+203pts), (+183pts), (+158pts) and (+157pts) collectively.

We expect the market to perform better and likely to achieve higher level in coming days as today marks the last day of roll-over week which has kept the index under pressure throughout the week. Moreover, improving economic indicators and easing inflationary pressure are likely to bring optimism in Pakistan economy.

Another notable factor was the rollover week. Typically, this creates pressure, but such pressure wasn't seen this time because the weekly gains remained positive. Consequently, there is significant positive economic news for next week: the UAE's \$1.0 billion debt will now be settled against shares of the Fauji Foundation. In essence, \$1.0 billion worth of Fauji shares will be sold to them. This is a very big news and a major achievement for the current government, as they will not need to roll over the debt, thereby reducing our total debt to the UAE by \$1.0 billion.

According to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, this is a significant achievement for the current government. This is a major positive, and because of this, I feel the market will follow suit.

PIA privatization, UAE deals fuel year-end Bull run



ASAD ABDUL RAZZAQ
CEO, Venus Securities Limited

The market will perform very well next week. Looking at the broad-based market, 221 scripts advanced while 229 scripts declined. The market is improving, and since the main pressure was the roll-over week, it appears that this pressure will subside, leading to a positive outlook for next week.

Furthermore, the government has taken similar steps with PIA, which is very good for the economy. If the economy performs, the stock market will follow suit.

Market should remain bullish. The news of Privatisation of PIA and also acquisition of US\$ 1.0 billion worth Fauji Foundation by UAE couple with the completion of roll-over week should keep formers in the coming few days.

Bulls charge toward 175k: PIA, UAE deals ignite PSX year-end rally



IMRAN MEMON
Director, SIA Equities Limited

remained in control for 7th consecutive week, as index achieved the suggested weekly target zone of 172,600 (172,582 Was Weekly High), while closing the week at highest weekly level ever.

During the past week, the index remained within the suggested range as it witnessed a low of 170,641 (Suggested Weekly Support Was 170,900) and the posted a high of 172,582, just shy of the suggested target of 172,600, before closing the week at 172,400 with a net gain of 996 Points.

Volumes from KSE-100 Index Stocks clocked at a weekly total of 1,232,740, despite intra-day