

- Current account deficit shrinks 78% in February | Dawn:** The country's current account deficit (CAD) shrank by 78.46% to USD545mn in February from a whopping USD2.53bn in January mainly on account of a sharp decline in the imports. However, during the first 8 months of FY22, the CAD crossed the USD12bn mark leaving no sign of improvement in the external account. In February 2021 the CAD was just USD34mn. The State Bank of Pakistan's data issued on Saturday showed that the CAD widened to USD12.10bn in 8MFY22 against a surplus of USD994mn in the same period of last fiscal year.
- Next 3 years: USD8.7bn ADB assistance 'in the pipeline' | BR:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has reportedly pledged USD8.7bn for various projects and programs for Pakistan during the next three years, it is learnt. ADB Vice-President Shixin Chen has concluded a five-day visit to Pakistan during which he met with Prime Minister Imran Khan, key ministers, and other senior government officials. Official sources, who attended these high-level engagements, revealed to Business Recorder that financial assistance to the tune of USD8.7bn from the ADB is in the pipeline during the next three years. This was also shared during the recent engagements.
- IMF asks govt how it will fund subsidy package | BR:** Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said on Sunday the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sought more details of financing of petroleum levy and electrify prices reduced under Prime Minister Relief Package in response to explanations provided to them and now a response is expected from them today (Monday). Addressing a news conference ahead of a meeting with the Prime Minister Imran Khan at Bani Gala, in response to a question, Finance Minister said that a response from the IMF was expected on Friday; however, the Fund has sought another day and day and half, and now the response is expected from them before Monday.
- Big industries expand 7.6% in Jul-Jan | Tribune:** Large industries of Pakistan posted 7.6% growth in the first seven months of current fiscal year on the back of increase in output of almost all major industries after the downward growth paused for the first time in five months. The pace of growth in large-scale manufacturing (LSM) industries increased to 7.6% during July-January of fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. It was the second growth figure released by the PBS under the new base year of 2015-16.
- Rupee hits new low vs dollar | Tribune:** The rupee weakened against the US dollar at PKR180.57 in the inter-bank market on Friday compared with Thursday's close of PKR180.07, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). It was an all-time low value for the local currency as demand for the dollar stood higher compared to its supply in the wake of an expanding current account deficit, swelling imports and rising global commodity prices.
- Govt to pay USD900mn as part of Reko Diq settlement | Tribune:** Pakistan has decided to pay USD900mn to a firm, Antofagasta -- one of the companies engaged in the settlement of the Reko Diq dispute in which the country was penalised with fine of almost USD6bn by a global arbitration body in favour of the Tethyan Copper Company (TCC). The TCC was a joint venture between Chile's Antofagasta and Canada's Barrick Gold. After the Supreme Court had blocked the TCC in 2013 from developing Reko Diq - one of the world's biggest untapped deposits of copper and gold -- the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes ordered the government to pay USD5.8bn in damages after the joint venture took it to court.
- Exports reach USD100mn per day in Feb | BR:** Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood was informed on Saturday that for the first time, exports reached USD100mn per day in February 2022. A consultative meeting was chaired by the Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood to discuss the trade trends for Financial Year 2021-22 (FY) here. The Advisor was informed that according to the provisional figures compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports from Pakistan during February 2022 grew by 7.9% to USD2.82bn as compared to USD2.61bn in January 2022. They increased by 36.4% as compared to USD2.07bn in February 2021.
- Government initiates fuel subsidy payment process | The News:** Petroleum authorities have activated the process of fuel subsidy payment to oil sector to ensure smooth supply of petrol and diesel at prices frozen by the government for until next budget to calm down inflation-broken public. Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has sought the Price Differential Claims (PDCs) from oil marketing companies (OMCs) and refineries for the period of March 01 to 15, 2022 for payment, The News has learnt.
- POL products: PKR114bn collected through PL | BR:** The federal government has been able to collect a revenue of PKR114bn through Petroleum Levy (PL) on petroleum products, an official of the Petroleum Division told Business Recorder. The total PL budgetary target envisaged in the current financial year was PKR610bn; however, the government could only collect 18% revenue through the PL in the first eight months of the current financial year.
- Payment in form of PIBs, Sukuk: CPPA-G likely to negotiate with CPEC IPPs | BR:** Central Power Purchasing Agency- Guaranteed (CPPA-G) is likely to negotiate with CPEC IPPs to accept payment of PKR50bn in the form of Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs), and Sukuk based on the terms and conditions of currently available offers by the Ministry of Finance, well-informed sources told Business Recorder. Sharing the details, sources said the Prime Minister held two meetings - on January 14 and January 26, 2022 - prior to his visit to China.
- SPI down 1.37% as PM's relief package pays off | The News:** Government's relief package has worked numerically to slash down weekly inflation by 1.37% week-on-week, pushing sensitive price index (SPI) to an almost two-year low during the seven-day period ended March 17, data showed on Friday. Year-on-year numbers also eased to 15.12%, from 16.49% last week. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data attributed the decline to drop in prices of tomatoes (12.04%), chicken (8.39%), garlic (2.04%), sugar (0.49%), potatoes (0.41%), pulse gram (0.31%), pulse mash (0.14%), electricity charges for Q1 (9.81%), and LPG (1.58%).
- Non-textile exports jump 26% to almost USD8bn | Dawn:** Pakistan's non-textile exports grew 25.6% year-on-year to USD7.95bn in the first eight months of the current fiscal year owing to a partial revival of international orders and the government's support schemes. Overall growth in the non-textile sector is mainly led by the value-added sectors. The non-textile sector has yet to receive full orders to pre-Covid levels, data compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) showed. In FY21, three sectors — leather garments, surgical instruments and engineering goods — have maintained growth in export proceeds despite lockdowns in many countries.
- Barrick to restart Reko Diq; penalty to be waived | BR:** The federal and provincial government of Balochistan have signed a new agreement with Barrick Gold Corporation of Canada for extraction of gold and copper reserves from Reko Diq with an investment of US\$10bn. According to Prime Minister Office, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday witnessed the signing ceremony between the federal government, the government of Balochistan and Barrick Gold Corporation of Canada after successfully resolving the longstanding dispute with Tethyan Copper Company (TCC) concerning the development of copper and gold mines in Chagai, popularly known as the Reko Diq dispute.
- FCA for Feb 2022: CPPA-G, KE seek tariff rise | BR:** Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guaranteed (CPPA-G) and K-Electric (KE) have sought increase of PKR5 per unit and PKR3.45 per unit in their tariffs, respectively for February 2022 under monthly Fuel Charges Adjustment (FCA) mechanism. National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is to hold a public hearing on CPPA-G's request on March 31, 2022 whereas K-Electric petition will come under consideration on April 4, 2022. According to CPPA-G, the key reason for the proposed increase in FCA for the month of February 2022 is higher cost of imported fuels.

Market Indices			
	18-Mar-22	17-Mar-22	30-Jun-21
KSE 100	43,030	43,807	47,356
KSE 30	16,434	16,825	18,962
KMI 30	69,140	70,837	76,622
KSE All Shares	21,254	29,930	32,480
Volume (mn Shares)			
	18-Mar-22	FYTD (Average)	
KSE 100	92.3	118.2	
KSE 30	59.0	50.9	
KMI 30	41.6	48.0	
KSE All Shares	180.3	315.6	
Commodity Rates			
	18-Mar-22	Daily Change	FYTD Change
Crude Oil-Brent (USD/BBL)	107.9	1.2%	43.7%
Crude Oil-Arab Light (USD/BBL)	104.5	1.8%	44.5%
Coal (USD/Tonne)	330.0	4.8%	187.3%
Copper(USD/Lbs)	4.7	0.8%	10.6%
Cotton (USD/Lbs)	124.6	4.1%	53.0%
Gold (USD/Tonne)	1,921.1	-1.1%	8.6%
Currency (Interbank)			
	18-Mar-22	Daily Change	FYTD Change
US Dollar	180.5	0.5%	14.6%
UK Pound	237.8	0.8%	9.9%
Euro	199.4	0.2%	6.8%
UAE Dirham	49.3	0.5%	14.3%
Chinese Yuan	28.4	0.3%	16.3%
Fund Flows (USD mn)			
	18-Mar-22	FYTD	
FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL	-0.01	4.27	
FOREIGN CORPORATES	-2.48	-313.46	
OVERSEAS PAKISTANI	-0.11	52.94	
FIPI NET	-2.61	-256.24	
Economic Data (USD mn)			
	FY22E	FY21	FY20
GDP Growth	4.6%	5.4%	-0.5%
	Jan-21	Dec-21	
Exports	2,618	2,764	
Imports	6,053	7,580	
Remittances	2,144	2,520	
Foreign Exchange Reserves	22,084	23,882	
Money Market Data			
	18-Mar-22	17-Mar-22	30-Jun-21
SBP Policy Rate	9.75	9.75	7.00
CPI Inflation	12.20	12.20	9.70
3 Month T-Bill	11.29	11.25	7.28
6 Month T-Bill	11.87	11.75	7.53
12 Month T-Bill	12.06	11.95	7.81
3 Year Government Bond	11.84	11.71	8.99
5 Year Government Bond	11.77	11.67	9.49
10 Year Government Bond	11.73	11.67	9.94
3 Month KIBOR	11.53	11.39	7.45
6 Month KIBOR	12.02	11.89	7.69

Data Sources : Reuters, PSX, NCCPL, PBS, SBP