

PAKISTAN WEEKLY

13 – 19 July 2026

POLITICS · ECONOMY · FOREIGN AFFAIRS · INTERNAL SECURITY · DEFENCE · HEALTH · EDUCATION · SOCIETY

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WEEKLY OVERVIEW | POLITICS · ECONOMY · FOREIGN AFFAIRS · INTERNAL SECURITY

POLITICS

- Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz orders province-wide high alert (21-23 Jul) as monsoon batters the province; WASA/PDMA placed on 24/7 flood watch across 41 districts
- Fallout from Mahrang Baloch's life sentence continues to dominate opposition and civil-society commentary; defence confirms appeal filed in Balochistan High Court
- Government continues to face pressure over PTI/opposition criticism of the 'hard state' approach in Balochistan and AJK
- Federal government maintains close coordination with Punjab/KP/Sindh administrations on monsoon emergency response and NDMA alerts

ECONOMY

- KSE-100 swings sharply on Iran-US war escalation: 179,927 (13 Jul, -1.27%) → 173,519 (14 Jul, -3.56%) → 175,286 (15 Jul, +1.02%) → 178,124 (16 Jul, +1.62%) → 175,803 (17 Jul, -1.3%); weekly decline ~3.5%
- Rupee holds firm near 19-month high, closing at 277.96-278.02 through the week despite global risk-off sentiment
- SBP policy rate remains unchanged at 11.5% (held since 15 Jun) as MPC weighs oil-driven inflation risks from the Middle East conflict
- Analysts (Topline/AKD) reaffirm bullish KSE-100 targets of 203,000-263,800 by December 2026 despite the week's volatility

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Iran-US war escalates sharply: US reimposes naval blockade on Iran (14 Jul), strikes Chabahar port infrastructure (17 Jul); Strait of Hormuz traffic collapses
- Pakistan's mediation efforts (PM Shehbaz, DPM/FM Ishaq Dar) continue as Islamabad-brokered ceasefire framework unravels amid renewed Gulf hostilities
- Karachi Rangers HQ attack (27 Jun) probe concludes attack was planned from Afghanistan; mastermind 'Qari Bashir' arrested (15 Jul)
- Pakistan continues to press Kabul over Jamaat-ul-Ahrar/TTP safe havens as cross-border tension with Afghanistan persists

INTERNAL SECURITY

- CTD/Rangers confirm Karachi Rangers camp (Gulistan-e-Jauhar) attack was directed by Afghan-based handlers of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar; mastermind and facilitators arrested (15 Jul)
- Security operations continue against TTP/Jamaat-ul-Ahrar networks amid rising 2025-26 attack tallies flagged by PIPS and independent monitors
- Legal fallout from Mahrang Baloch verdict continues; Balochistan Bar Council and rights lawyers press appeal before Balochistan High Court
- Authorities maintain heightened alert nationwide as monsoon flooding strains civil administration alongside counter-terror operations



WEEKLY OVERVIEW | DEFENCE · HEALTH · EDUCATION · SOCIETY

DEFENCE

- ISPR maintains posture along the Afghan border as cross-border tension continues following the Karachi Rangers HQ attack investigation
- Regional security establishment closely tracking the widening Iran-US war; Pakistan reinforces western border monitoring amid Strait of Hormuz campaign
- Analysts (regional security desks) note Pakistan is more likely to reinforce border security and share intelligence than open a direct front in the Gulf conflict
- Counter-terrorism operations against TTP/Jamaat-ul-Ahrar networks continue in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan

HEALTH

- Monsoon 2026 intensifies: NDMA/PDMA report nationwide death toll climbing through the week, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the worst-hit province (35+ deaths since late June)
- Punjab records heavy rainfall (Gujranwala 250mm, Sialkot 139mm) with roof/wall collapses causing multiple fatalities; Rescue 1122 mobilised province-wide
- NDMA issues high alert for flash floods, urban flooding and landslides across GB, KP, AJK, Punjab and northeastern Balochistan
- Punjab CM orders 'Clinic on Wheels' deployment for snakebite treatment and waterborne-disease prevention in flood-hit districts

EDUCATION

- Out-of-school children crisis (25.1-26 million, per Civil Services Academy review) continues to dominate education policy debate more than two years after the National Education Emergency
- Provincial disparities persist: Punjab ~9.6-10.4m, Sindh ~7.4m (44% of school-age population), KP ~4.9m out-of-school
- Weak governance, fragmented administration and low financing remain cited as core barriers under NEAP 2026, rather than an absence of policy
- HEC continues rollout of the National Digital University and paperless e-attestation system

SOCIETY

- Balochistan tensions persist: BYC-led strikes and civil society mobilisation continue over Mahrang Baloch's life sentence and appeal process
- Rights bodies (Amnesty International, HRCP) continue pressing for release of Mahrang Baloch and Sibghatullah Shahji, citing an unfair, in-camera trial
- Punjab government intensifies public-safety messaging amid monsoon: bans on canal/river bathing, drone monitoring, evacuation of unsafe buildings
- Press-freedom groups report continued PECA-related arrests and financial strain across Pakistan's media sector



NEWS HEADLINES | 13 – 19 JULY 2026 (1/2)

No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1	13 Jul	Economy	KSE-100 sheds over 2,300 points as Iran-US tensions escalate and Strait of Hormuz fighting intensifies	Business Recorder
2	14 Jul	Economy / Foreign Affairs	KSE-100 plunges 3.56% (6,408 pts) as US reimposes naval blockade on Iran; rupee holds firm at 278.01	Business Recorder
3	15 Jul	Economy	KSE-100 rebounds 1,767 points (+1.02%) to close at 175,286 as renewed buying interest emerges across key sectors	Business Recorder
4	15 Jul	Internal Security	Karachi Rangers HQ attack mastermind Qari Bashir arrested; CTD confirms attack was planned in Afghanistan	Aaj English TV
5	16 Jul	Economy	KSE-100 gains 2,838 points (+1.62%) to close at 178,124 on renewed optimism over possible US-Iran dialogue	Business Recorder
6	16 Jul	Economy	Pakistani rupee strengthens to 19-month high, closing at 277.97 against the US dollar	Business Recorder
7	17 Jul	Economy	KSE-100 sheds over 2,300 points to close at 175,803 as US-Iran conflict widens; weekly decline of 3.5%	Business Recorder
8	17 Jul	Foreign Affairs	US widens Strait of Hormuz campaign, strikes Chabahar port infrastructure as Pakistan continues mediation efforts	Hormuz Strait Monitor
9	17 Jul	Economy	Rupee gains 14 paise in early trade before settling at 277.96 against the dollar	Business Recorder
10	13-19 Jul	Society / Internal Security	Mahrang Baloch's conviction called a 'Pyrrhic victory' for the state; lawyers press appeal at Balochistan High Court	The Diplomat



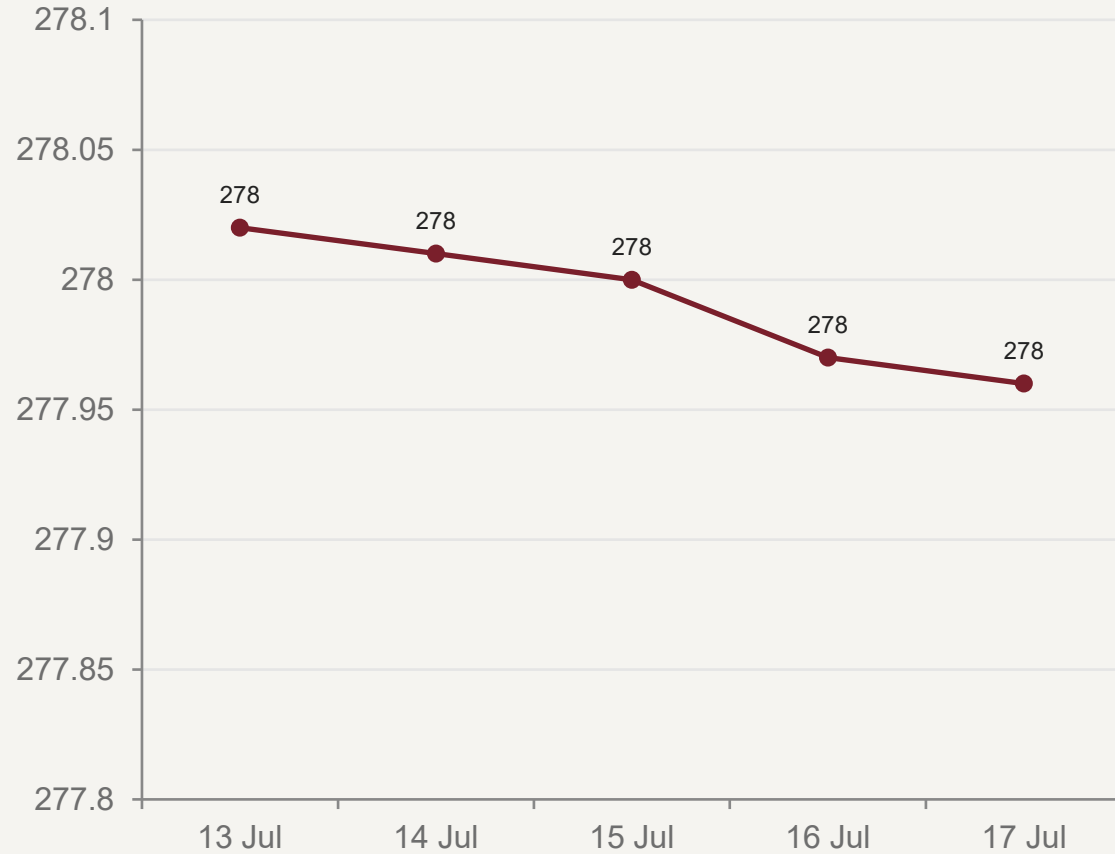
NEWS HEADLINES | 13 – 19 JULY 2026 (2/2)

No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
11	13-19 Jul	Health	Monsoon 2026 death toll climbs sharply through the week; KP reports 35+ deaths since late June, worst-hit province	Arab News
12	13-19 Jul	Health	NDMA issues nationwide flood alert for flash floods, urban flooding and landslides across GB, KP, AJK, Punjab and Balochistan	Arab News
13	9-19 Jul	Politics / Health	Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz orders 24/7 flood monitoring and WASA drainage mobilisation across 41 districts	Pakistan Today
14	ongoing	Education	Civil Services Academy review: 25.1-26 million children remain out of school despite 2024 National Education Emergency	Pakistan Today
15	ongoing	Education	Report flags Punjab (9.6-10.4m), Sindh (7.4m, 44% of school-age population) and KP (4.9m) as worst-hit by OOSC crisis	Pakistan Today
16	13-19 Jul	Foreign Affairs	Pakistan's deputy FM Ishaq Dar urges renewed diplomacy as Iran-US ceasefire framework collapses	Hormuz Strait Monitor
17	ongoing	Internal Security	Balochistan trader strikes and civil-society protests continue over the Mahrang Baloch verdict; rights groups seek her release	Amnesty International
18	ongoing	Journalism / Society	Press freedom groups report continued arrests, PECA probes and financial strain across Pakistan's media sector	Journalism Pakistan
19	13-19 Jul	Economy	SBP policy rate held at 11.5% since 15 June as MPC weighs oil-driven inflation risk from the Gulf conflict	Trading Economics
20	1 Jul	Economy	Topline/AKD strategy notes project KSE-100 could reach 203,000-263,800 by December 2026 on policy continuity	Profit by Pakistan Today

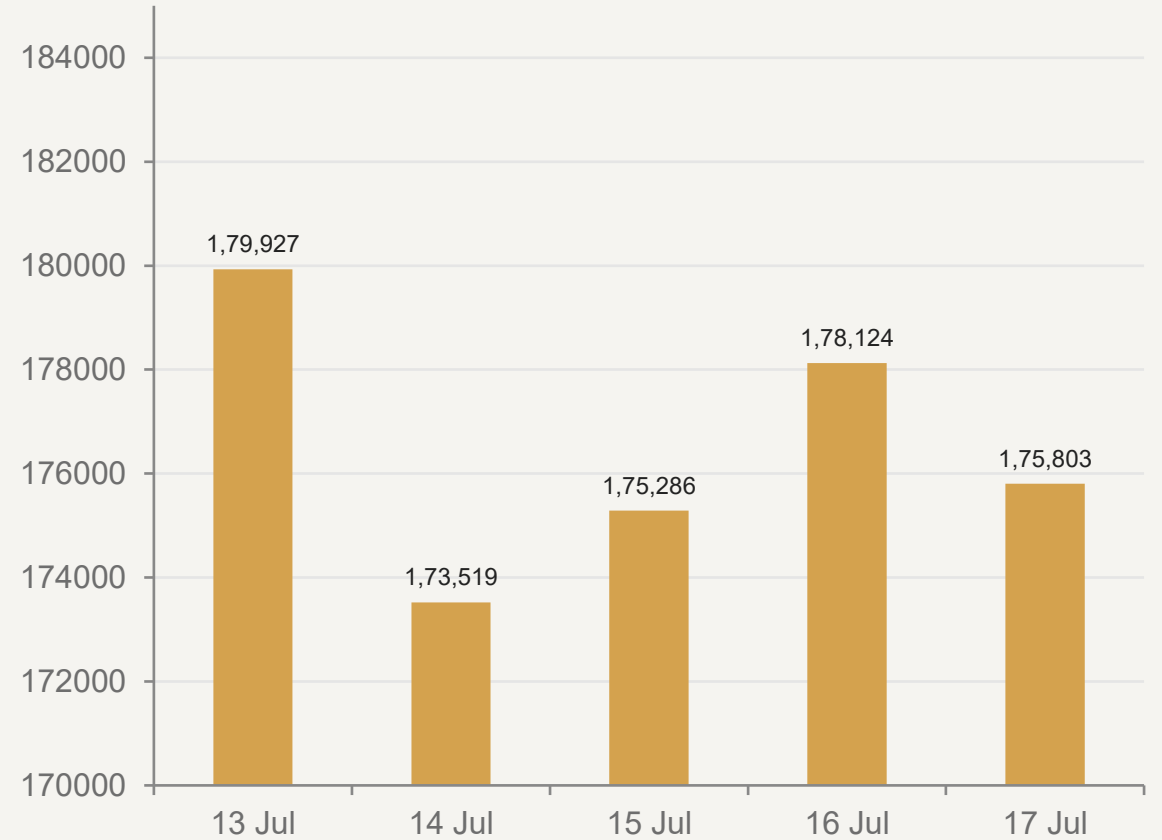


ECONOMIC INDICATORS | USD / PKR · KSE-100

USD / PKR Exchange Rate (Jul 13 – Jul 17, 2026)



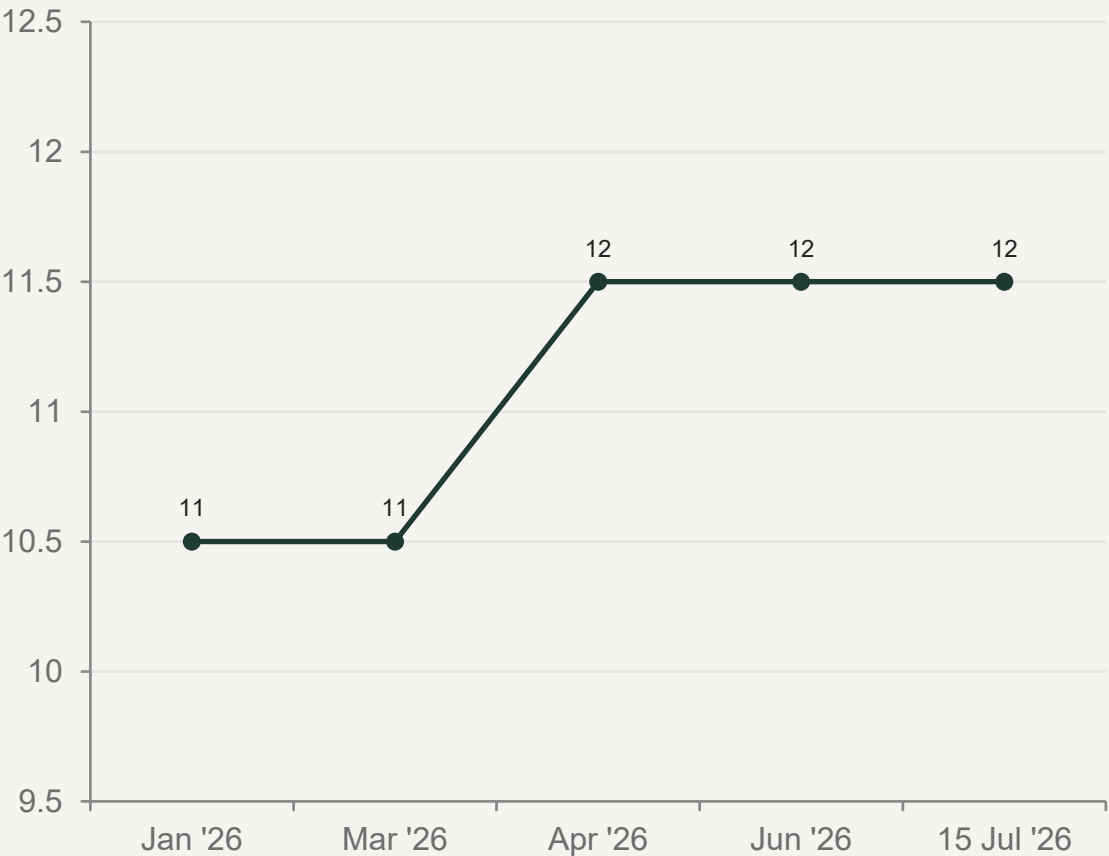
KSE-100 Index (Jul 13 – Jul 17, 2026)



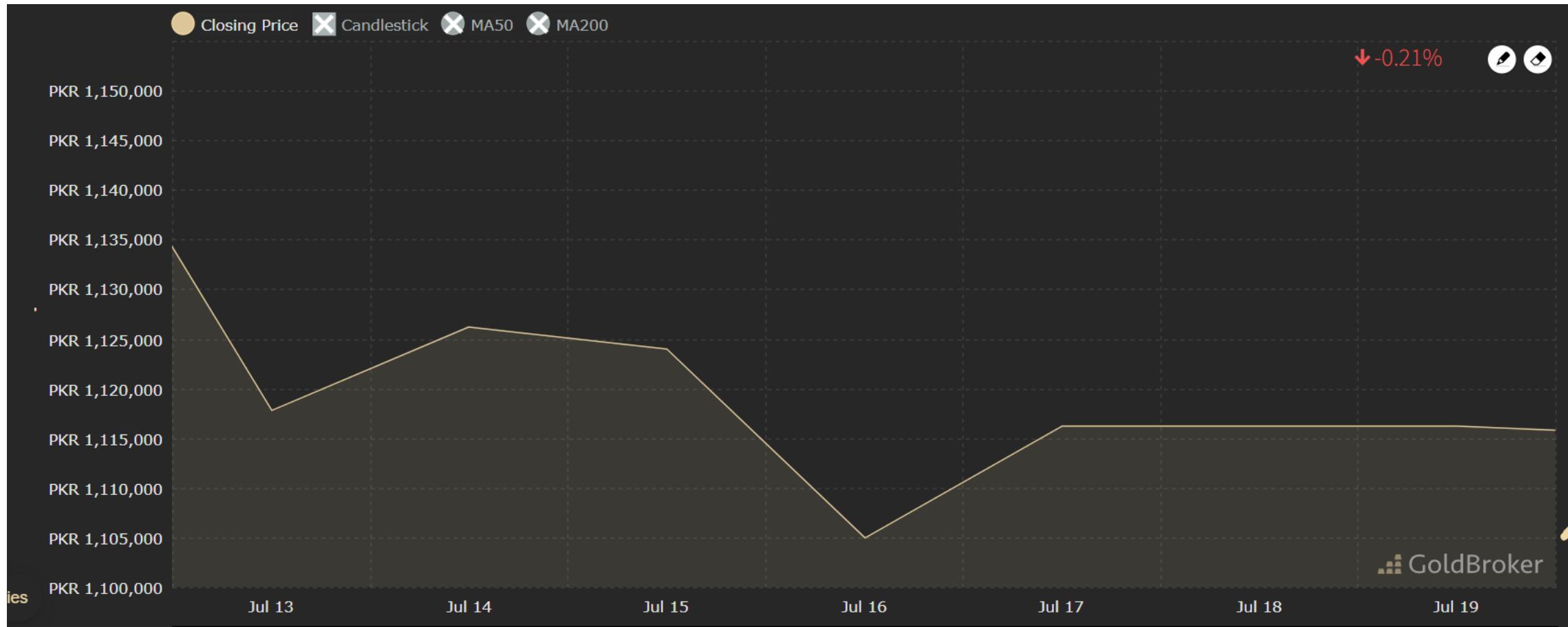


ECONOMIC INDICATORS | SBP POLICY RATE - SECTOR PERFORMANCE

SBP Policy Rate Trend (FY26)



Gold Price



Silver Price

