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- **‘National e-commerce portal’ launched: PM Imran Khan says IT export boost can help reduce fiscal deficit. Government has decided to reduce tax for registered IT freelancers to zero.**

While inaugurating the “national e-commerce portal” on Monday, Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that there is potential to increase IT exports to \$50 billion in the next few years that can be very helpful in dealing with the economic problem of trade deficit. He said that Bill Gates was invited by him to Pakistan with the intention to get him involved in the IT sector.

- **1.6 trillion rupees earmarked to Small and medium enterprises**

The PTI administration has earmarked 1.6 trillion rupees over the next three years under the Kamyab Pakistan Programme (KPP) envisaging credit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), poor farmers and house loans at zero interest rate with the express objective of supporting productivity and ownership at the grassroots level. Specifically, the government has already disbursed around 30 billion rupees to SMEs, a policy thrust supported by previous administrations, albeit unsuccessfully.

- **Rupee strengthens against dollar**

SBP has injected \$1.2 billion into the inter-bank market. The rupee strengthened against the US dollar at Rs175.75 in the inter-bank market on Monday compared with Friday’s close of Rs175.86, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

- **Over Rs2.5b disbursed under KPP**

Tarin discusses inclusion of overseas Pakistanis in programme. The Kamyab Pakistan Programme (KPP) is a milestone project that has massive potential to transform lives of the lower strata of society, remarked Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin.

- **Raast: can we bank on it?**

What that means is now you can transfer money to anyone through Raast. If you are wondering, how does that change anything since the same task can be done via 1LINK’s Interbank Funds Transfer (1IBFT)? For starters, the former is currently absolutely free “in spirit to promote financial inclusion in Pakistan”

- **Electronic/online brokers: SECP decides to introduce concept**

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has decided to introduce the concept of electronic/online brokers in the stock market to provide investors with worldwide access to a variety of financial services.

- **Saudi crown prince likely to visit Pakistan in March**

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are in talks to finalize the dates for the much-awaited visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman to Islamabad likely to take place in March, official sources told The Express Tribune on Sunday.

- **PRA launches complaint management system**

The Punjab Revenue Authority has launched a complaint management system to allow taxpayers to register complaints/suggestions. Chairperson PRA Zain-ul-Abidin Sahi said it would also enable the organization to obtain feedback from stakeholders to improve its services.

- **Country set to become net phone exporter**

Exports picking up gradually, supported by increase in assembly plants. Pakistan’s telecom sector is witnessing a paradigm shift and as a result the country is on its way to become a net exporter of handsets from being an importer at present.

- **Smuggled goods perturb FMCG sector**

Companies say they pose threat to profits, forex reserves. The fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies in Pakistan have stated that smuggled or illegally imported products from Iran were posing significant threat to their profits and sales.

- **Contraband steel threatens local industry**

Sector urges govt to place checks. Large steel producers of the nation have said that smuggled steel from Afghanistan and

“If you are not willing to risk the usual, you will have to settle for the ordinary.” ~ Jim Rohn

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List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD- Interbank	22-Feb	PKR	176.11	0.31%
USD- OPEN MKT	22-Feb	PKR	176.24	0.18%
EUR- Interbank	22-Feb	PKR	199.12	0.43%
EUR- OPEN MKT	22-Feb	PKR	199.27	0.22%
GBP- Interbank	22-Feb	PKR	239.46	0.34%
GBP- OPEN MKT	22-Feb	PKR	239.67	0.14%
AED- Interbank	22-Feb	PKR	47.93	0.06%
AED- OPEN MKT	22-Feb	PKR	47.99	0.13%
CNY- Interbank	22-Feb	PKR	27.77	0.02%
CNY- OPEN MKT	22-Feb	PKR	27.80	0.05%
KSE- 100 Index	22-Feb	PTS.	45324.33	-0.08%
Crude	22-Feb	\$/ bbl	93.34	3.13%
Gold	22-Feb	\$/ oz	1910.53	6.35%
Silver	22-Feb	\$/ oz	24.31	0.35%
Cotton (KHI)-40 kg	22-Feb	PKR	121.39	-1.28%
Kibor-6 MONTHS	22-Feb	%	10.83	-
Exports	July- January 2022	\$Bn	17.67	23.96%
Imports	July- January 2022	\$Bn	46.47	58.84%
Trade Balance	July- January 2022	\$Bn	-28.80	-91.97%

Sources: Tres Mark, PBS, PSX