

PM Imran, finance team answer questions about asset declaration, taxes

The PM and his finance team responded to questions from Chambers of Commerce of Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Balochistan directly on live television. PM Imran Khan two assurances that tax will be spent on welfare of the people and that nobody will be allowed to harass the taxpayers. Adviser on Finance, Dr Hafeez Shaikh, said after declaring the assets, one can pay the tax on them in installments. He said that the govt. wants to widen the coverage of tax system, adding that it is a chance for those holding benami (unnamed) assets to come in the tax net. Chairman FBR Shabbar Zaidi said transferring the ownership of assets including house to others' name is also benami, adding that holding benami assets may cause a 5-year imprisonment. *The News.*

Tax amnesty scheme: It's an opportunity for those who have benami properties

Adviser on Finance Hafeez Shaikh has said that the govt. wants to give an opportunity to those who have benami properties and accounts to legalise all that wealth prior to the action that will be taken according to the Benami law. The law allows confiscation of all such properties and wealth. *The News.*

PM says Amnesty deadline won't be extended: 'undeclared assets will be confiscated'

PM Imran Khan has said that the govt. will not extend the deadline of the tax amnesty scheme ending on 30th Jun'19 and has appealed to the people to declare their assets or face confiscation and punishment. The PM has said that the govt. has collected unprecedented data that had never been done in the past. He said that Pakistan currently stands at the crossroads of do or die. The country is among the lowest taxpayers nations and half of the collected tax goes to the repayment of the interest on foreign loans. He has directed to establish a special helpline to receive complaints against any harassment by the FBR. Responding to the questions from the representatives of chambers of commerce he said that the new budget focuses mainly on the alleviation of poverty and uplifting the business sector. *BR.*

Tax offices open till midnight

FBR has issued instructions to all the customs field offices to remain open and observe extended working hours till 10:00pm on 29th Jun and till 12:00pm on 30th Jun'19 for collection of duty and taxes. The chief collector of customs has been instructed to liaise with the SBP and scheduled commercial banks in their respective jurisdictions to ensure transfer of the duties/taxes collected the same day. *Dawn.*

PM Imran forms body to ease business registration

PM Imran Khan has approved the constitution of a steering committee on Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative (PRMI) to help devise a regulatory framework for simplifying the process of business registration. The govt. said that the high-powered body will support the business community to start new ventures and attract investments by improving the ease of doing business ranking of the country. PRMI steering committee would be jointly headed by Advisor on Establishment Shahzad Arbab and Advisor on Commerce Razzak Dawood, FBR chairman, chairman SECP, chairman BOI, presidents of KCCI, FPCCI, LCCI and FCCI. *Dawn.*

Senate seeks abolishment of amnesty scheme, minimum wage at Rs30,000

The Senate has adopted all of the 61 recommendations of its standing committee on finance and revenue, asking the National Assembly to delete the much-talked Asset Declaration Scheme from the Finance Bill FY20. The committee has specifically suggested deleting from the finance bill a new clause 6A in Section 175 of the Income Tax Ordinance that empowered tax commissioners to raid any premises over information of undeclared gold, bearer security or foreign currency and confiscate them. *Dawn.*

KCCI report sees IMF imprints in federal budget 2019-20

A report prepared by the Research department of KCCI, titled 'A Stranglehold on the Economy', has declared the federal govt.'s financial budget FY20 an IMF budget that totally ignores how badly it will affect the common man and wreak havoc with the industries. Burdened with a huge tax revenue target, the budget is set to unleash inflation, incessantly increase cost of doing business and stifle all forms of economic growth. It states that one can appreciate that the budget has been made in testing times and that interest payments will eat up PKR 2.9Tn or 35% of the total outlay. However, killing the goose that lays the golden egg will not help the govt. in any manner, yet it has done the same. The govt. has sought to tax every sector of the economy on one hand and on the other it has withdrawn all exemptions necessary for maintaining industrial competitiveness. *BR.*

Clearance of export consignments: Submission of bank-registered contract, LC made mandatory

The clearance of all export consignments based on letter of credit (LC) or contract will now be subjected to the submission of bank registered contract and LC from today (25th Jun'19). All exporters whose exports are on LC or contract based, in addition to documents certificates already required under the law, shall further scan/upload bank registered contract and letter of credit in terms of paragraph 3 of the Export Policy Order 2016 dated April 18, 2016 read with section 155 M of the Customs Act 1969 and Foreign Exchange Rules and Regulations notified by SBP. *BR.*

Afghan transit trade damaging domestic industry: Dawood

PM's Advisor on Commerce, Abdul Razak Dawood, has termed the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) as anti-domestic industry. He said this in a meeting convened to discuss and prepare a strategy for trade talks with the Afghan delegation headed by President Ashraf Ghani scheduled to visit Pakistan on 27th-28th Jun'19. It was argued that whatever the position the govt. takes, it cannot stop transit trade. Pakistan will propose that Afghani importers deposit their due duties and taxes in Pakistan and be reimbursed after the consignment crosses Pakistan. Pakistan will also propose that Afghanistan's tariffs should not be higher than whatever tariff is being charged in Pakistan. *BR.*

Gas tariff hike to bring PKR 200Bn to state kitty

The Petroleum Division has proposed recovery of PKR 200Bn from gas consumers from 1st Jul'19 including PKR 100Bn from domestic consumers and PKR 100Bn from industrial, commercial, fertilizer, CNG and power sector. The domestic consumers will be given one slab benefit costing PKR 20Bn. In the domestic sector, 25% of the cost of delivered gas that standing at PKR 738 per MMBTU up to 155% has been proposed to the Economic Coordination Committee. *The News.*

Qatar promises \$ 3Bn bailout for Pakistan

Pakistan has received an assurance from Qatar for a \$ 3Bn package consisting of a foreign currency deposit and direct investment, according to the Adviser on finance. This is the fourth friendly support package of the sort for Pakistan and takes the combined bilateral loans during FY19 to more than \$ 12.7Bn before Pakistan formally enters an IMF program early in Jul'19 for \$ 6Bn financing. So far, Saudi Arabia, China and UAE have extended about \$ 9.7Bn in loans and cash deposits. *Dawn.*

Qatar to inject \$ 9Bn into Pak economy

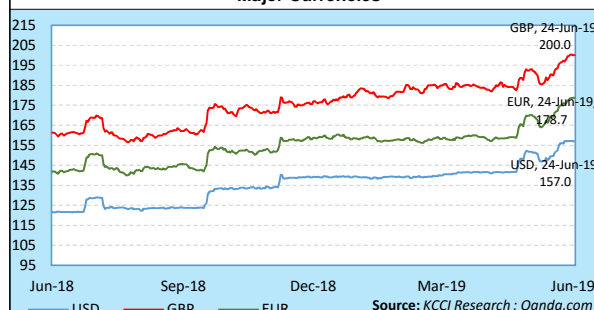
Qatar will provide more financial assistance in form of deposits and direct investments to boost Pakistan's forex reserves. While Pakistani officials and most of national and international media outlets put the amount at \$ 3Bn, the official Qatar news agency quoted the volume of assistance to be 3Bn Qatar Riyals - which is even less than \$ 1Bn. A later tweet by the same agency said that the Qatari-Pakistani economic partnership will amount to \$ 9Bn. *The Nation.*

Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	24-Jun	PKR	156.99	0.10%
USD-Open MKT	24-Jun	PKR	156.40	-0.06%
KSE-100 index	24-Jun	Pts.	34,472	-1.86%
FIPI	24-Jun	\$ Mn	0.80	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	24-Jun	\$/bbl	57.80	0.33%
Gold (MA'19)	24-Jun	\$/oz	1,419.2	1.39%
Gold (10g) Local	24-Jun	PKR	67,901	1.41%
Silver (MA'19)	24-Jun	\$/oz	15.43	0.62%
Cotton(KHI) -40 kg	24-Jun	PKR	9,324	0.00%
Kibor-6M	24-Jun	%	13.08	0.02%
Forex Reserves	14-Jun	\$ Bn	14.64	-1.68%
	FY19			YoY
Remittances	Jul-May 19	\$ Bn	20.19	10.42%
Exports*	Jul-May 19	\$ Bn	21.27	-0.30%
Imports*	Jul-May 19	\$ Bn	50.47	-8.47%
Trade Balance*	Jul-May 19	\$ Bn	-29.21	13.62%
Current Account	Jul-May 19	\$ Bn	-12.68	29.28%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-May 19	\$ Bn	1.61	-49.18%
LSM Growth*	Jul-Mar 19	%	-2.93	
Avg. CPI	Jul-Apr 19	%	7.00	
Discount Rate	May-19	%	12.25	

Sources: KCCI Research, PMEX, NCCPL, KSE, SBP, PBS*
** Not Meaningful on week;

Major Currencies

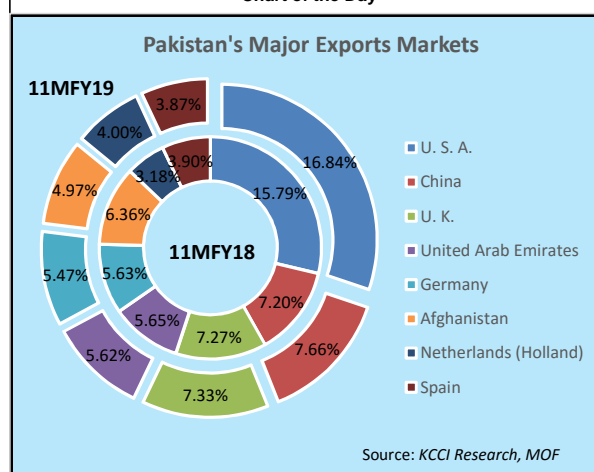


Quote of the Day

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

Walt Disney

Chart of the Day



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