

Imran-Trump decisive meeting today

PM Imran Khan is set to meet US President Donald Trump alongside Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa today (22nd Jul'19). The PM has investors to benefit from the economic and business opportunities afforded by Pakistan's strategic location and connectivity to the broader region. The investors appreciated improved security environment in Pakistan and identified areas of interest with regard to investment in key sectors including energy and tourism. He also met with WB's new president David Malpass and acting MD of IMF, David Lipton. WB group has assumed a pivotal role in Islamabad's revival efforts since Pakistan signed a bailout package with IMF. *The News-Mon.*

Investment opportunities: US govt. releases commercial guide on Pakistan

The US govt. has released commercial guide on Pakistan for US investors. Pakistan has enough potential for trade and investment and Pakistan can become supplier of agri-related products, it said. Pakistan software market has immense potential for US companies and US companies can tap Pakistan's waste management sector. Pakistan telecommunication sector growing speedily and investment could be made in renewable projects in Pakistan, the report added. It further said about 80 companies from the US are working in Pakistan. *BR.*

Banks allowed to do foreign currency business with public

SBP has allowed banks and their entire branches to buy and sell foreign currencies with public across the country. SBP issued revised chapters of Foreign Exchange (FE) Manual providing details about currency business while assigning role of exchange companies to banks. Currency dealers said that allowing banks to conduct day-to-day currency business with general public means there is no need for exchange companies. Banks are paid PKR 12-14 per remittance from abroad while exchange companies provide this service without this cost. *Dawn-Sun.*

Energy tariffs for export sectors to be issued soon

Finance Secretary Naveed Kamran Baloch has assured textile mills that a notification about gas and electricity tariffs for 5 major export sectors will be finalized and issued on 22nd Jul'19(Today). Clarification was being sought from the Ministry of Finance for continuing electricity supply at 7.5 cents per kWh to the 5 major export sectors, which were previously zero-rated, from Jul'19 onwards. Textile mills also held a meeting with Adviser on Commerce A. Razak Dawood and FBR Chairman Shabbir Zaidi where it was decided that withholding tax on the import of machinery would be fixed at 1% as was previously applicable under SRO 1125. The new tax refund mechanism for exporters has been drafted and the FBR will post a notification on its website to seek comments and input of the stakeholders. *Tribune.*

Additional duty on edible oil slashed by 5 %.

The Cabinet has reduced Additional Custom Duty from 7% to 2% on the import of edible oil with immediate effect. An amount of PKR 7.6Bn, approximately, will be borne by the govt. on account of this relief measure. *BR.*

Pakistan seeks access to Sher Khan port

Pakistan has offered, albeit conditionally, to allow Afghan cargo vehicles to Wagah with devising mechanism and giving similar dispensation for its access to Sher Khan Bandar of Herat province for linkage with Central Asian Republics and Europe. The conditional offer was made during the recent Technical Meeting on Economic Cooperation between Pakistan and Afghan held in Islamabad with Advisor to PM, Razzaq Dawood. *BR.*

Around 20 uplift schemes completed under Karachi package: CM

Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that 20 different schemes including Manzil Pump flyover, University Road, Tariq Road, Mosmiyat Road, Hub River Road, Drig Road underpass, bridge at Intersection of Sunset Boulevard and others have been completed at PKR 16.59Bn under the Karachi Package. He said that Blue Line BRTs project has not been abandoned or canceled but the private party interest in the project has withdrawn from the work. Therefore, his govt. was exploring an alternate source to launch it. He said that Yellow Line and Red Line BRTs projects are being launched with the assistance of ADB and World Bank. The CM said that he has launched 7 new schemes in the city with an estimated cost of PKR 1.71Bn. *BR.*

IMF rep to meet customs, SBP officials on Tuesday

IMF Resident Representative Teresa Dabam Sanchez will visit Large Taxpayers Unit Karachi and the Pakistan Customs House Karachi on 23rd Jul'19 to review compliance with the IMF bailout package conditions. IMF team in Pakistan will visit the FBR subordinate institutions as part of the agreement to review the implementation of its conditions. *Tribune.*

Getting assistance from friendly countries: There was no IMF precondition: Sanchez

IMF resident representative Teresa Sanchez has said that IMF has not imposed any precondition on Pakistan to get assistance from friendly countries for the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program and there may be some misunderstanding about it. Sanchez clarified that the IMF wants to ensure that international community's help is available to Pakistan in a sustainable way even beyond the IMF program of 3 years. *BR.*

Ogra granted licences to nine companies to establish new OMC

OGRA has granted licences to nine companies to establish new Oil Marketing Company (OMC), which will bring investment of around PKR. 4.5Bn on construction of oil storage infrastructure in the next three years. OGRA also granted a license for construction of a new Oil Refinery (20,000 barrel/ day capacity) for a period of five year. *The Nation-Sun.*

First vessel of Saudi oil on deferred payment reaches Karachi port

Saudi Arabia has begun supplying oil on deferred payment to Pakistan, as the first vessel carrying Arab Light Crude Oil cargo berthed at the Karachi Port. Pakistan will start receiving monthly oil supplies worth \$ 275Mn from Saudi Arabia with effect of 1st Jul'19. These supplies will continue over the next three years, with a total value of \$ 9.98Bn. *Daily Times-Sun.*

ECNEC raises many "ifs" and "buts" on CASA-1000

Executive Committee of ECNEC headed by Finance Advisor Dr A.Hafeez Shaikh has reportedly raised many ifs and butts on Central Asia South Asia-1000 (CASA-1000), meant to import 1300MW electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyz republic to Pakistan and Afghanistan. The meeting observed that 1000 MW electricity would be available through CASA project for only 5 months of summer (from May to September) and for remaining 7 months there will be no utility of the project. The meeting further observed that project would be financially viable only if operated throughout the year. *BR.*

Pakistan grants 10-year license to Trafigura for RLNG sale

Pakistan has granted a 10-year license to an international independent energy and commodity trading company, Trafigura Pakistan, for import of RLNG and its sale to consumers in the country. This is the country's first license in private sector for LNG import, aimed at improving availability of gas to different industries and also optimal utilization of LNG terminal. *The News-Mon.*

PTA invites applications for trial run of 5G network

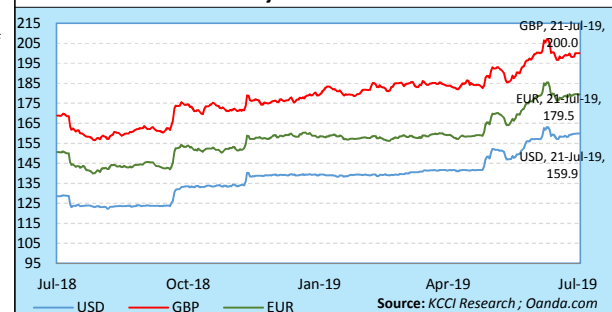
PTA has invited applications for trial of 5th Generation (5G) wireless network in the country. The PTA has already unveiled framework for test and development of future technologies, particularly 5G wireless network, in the country. *BR.*

Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	19-Jul	PKR	160.19	0.10%
USD-Open MKT	19-Jul	PKR	160.10	0.13%
KSE-100 index	19-Jul	Pts.	32,459	0.46%
FIPI	19-Jul	\$ Mn	2.27	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	19-Jul	\$/bbl	55.93	0.45%
Gold (MA'19)	19-Jul	\$/oz	1,426.4	-1.37%
Gold (10g) Local	19-Jul	PKR	73,668	3.99%
Silver (MA'19)	19-Jul	\$/oz	16.14	-0.79%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	19-Jul	PKR	8,949	0.61%
Kibor-6M	19-Jul	%	13.98	0.04%
Forex Reserves	12-Jul	\$ Bn	15.25	6.94%
	FY19			YoY
Remittances	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	21.84	9.68%
Exports*	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	22.98	-1.00%
Imports*	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	54.80	-9.86%
Trade Balance*	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	-31.82	15.33%
Current Account	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	-13.59	31.71%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-Jun 19	\$ Bn	1.74	-49.96%
LSM Growth*	Jul-Apr 19	%	-3.51	
Avg. CPI	Jul-Jun 19	%	7.34	
Discount Rate	Jul-19	%	13.25	

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

Major Currencies

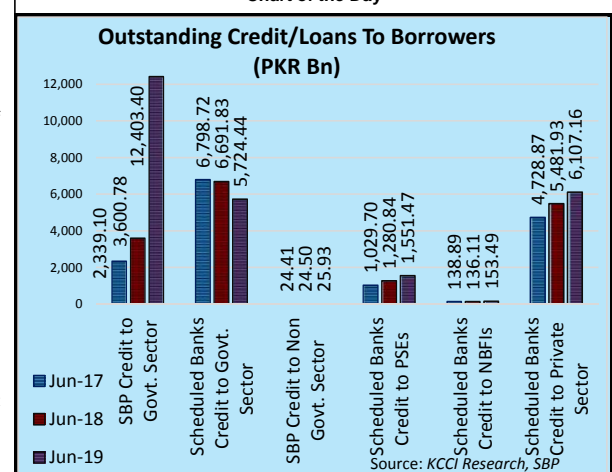


Quote of the Day

"Exploration is the engine that drives innovation. Innovation drives economic growth."

Edith Widder

Chart of the Day



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