

#### US hails Pakistan's role in 'progress' on Afghan peace

US President Donald Trump has hailed Pakistan's help in advancing peace talks in Afghanistan to end to almost 18 years of war. President Trump's comments came during a historical meeting with PM Imran Khan at the Oval Office. A readout of the meeting by the White House said Trump hoped to revive all aspects of the bilateral relationship, including new trade deals. *The News*.

#### IMF Managing Director meets PM Imran in Washington

David Lipton, Acting MD of IMF called on PM Imran Khan at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington. The PM pointed out that the reforms implemented under the IMF Program will be instrumental in stabilizing the economy and reviving growth. The PM underscored that his govt. is determined to minimize the initial adverse impact of the reform process on the vulnerable social groups through enhanced allocation for social sectors and social protection initiatives including the Ehsaas Program. The Managing Director assured the PM of the Fund's continued support for reform implementation process in Pakistan. *The News*.

#### PM invites Pakistani-American businessmen to invest in country

PM Imran Khan has invited Pakistani-American businessmen to explore new encouraging environment in Pakistan that offered ease of doing business and encouraged attractive profit-making. Addressing a Trade and Investment Conference, PM said the govt. had introduced a new mindset of wealth creation and promoted foreign investment. This is the mindset of Naya Pakistan where facilitation of businessmen is a priority. Also, he said Pakistan's tourism potential offered gateway to sufi shrines, Buddhist monasteries, Hindu temples and Sikh Gurdwaras. *The Nation*.

#### US senator for Pak-US free trade agreement

Leading Republican Senator Lindsey Graham has said that tremendous business opportunities existed between Pakistan and US through a free trade agreement tied to mutual security interests. The PM and Senator Graham discussed bilateral relations and regional situation. PM appreciated Senator Graham's efforts and support for strengthening Pakistan-US relations. He said Pakistan desired a broad-based relationship with the United States that safeguarded the two countries' interests and promoted win-win cooperation in areas ranging from the economy to trade and investment to energy and education. *The Nation*.

#### Pakistan seeks convening of TIFA meeting

Pakistan will seek engagement with the US in the economic and trade arena, while emphasizing the need for early convening of the next round of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting during the ongoing visit of PM Imran Khan to the USA. Pakistan and the US began negotiating a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) in 2004 and closed the text in 2012, but the agreement has not been signed due to reservations from Pakistani stakeholders. Pakistan has opted to use TIFA to deal with issues that may surface as no talks on BIT have taken place since 2012. Pakistan and the US signed TIFA in 2003, which provides a forum for discussion of bilateral trade issues and BIT comes under preview of the forum. *BR*.

#### Axle load limitation to hurt economy, business community

The govt.'s decision to reduce axle load limit by 50% will have severe impact on Pakistan's economy as industry estimates that at least 200,000 additional trucks are needed to cater timely transportation of heavyweight or bulk products and raw materials. Currently Pakistan has approximately 330,000 trucks on the road. Pakistan's domestic truck production is approximately 10,000 units per annum and at that rate it will take at least 20-25 years to meet Pakistan's trucks demand domestically. Else, it would take around \$ 12.5Bn and at least 2 to 3 years to import the required unit of trucks, resulting in a huge slowdown of economic cycle that would affect every economic and social sector. *The Nation*.

#### Unregistered buyers: FBR issues procedure for provision of CNICs

FBR issued a detailed procedure for provision of CNICs by unregistered buyers, and clarified several issues relating to the CNICs of the unregistered buyers. According to the FBR circular, there has been countrywide demand for decades to bring all people in the tax system and gradually convert CNIC as a National Tax Number (NTN). In the Finance Act'19, the first step towards this ultimate goal has been adopted by requiring provision of CNIC number in very few transactions and the law has been amended. FBR has issued a Sales Tax general order in this respect. *BR*.

#### KCCI lauds exemption of WHT

KCCI has appreciated the FBR for holding meetings with KCCI and taking into consideration its suggestion pertaining to exemption of WHT on yarn traders, as they are overburdened with additional taxes. KCCI President, Junaid Esmail Makda, has pointed out that under Section 45A of ITO about exemption from Specific Provisions, the sales, supplies and services made by traders of yarn to taxpayers from various related sectors will not be subjected to deduction of WHT. He hoped that misinterpretation and incorrect application of Section 113 of Income Tax Ordinance, which was against the spirit of SRO 333 (I) 2011, would not be repeated again. He also expressed hope that the FBR would continue to take more steps which were needed to provide a level playing field and make Pakistani goods competitive. *The News*.

#### Sindh govt signs MoU with Kuwaiti firm for launching power projects

The Sindh govt. and Enertech Holdings of Kuwait have signed a MoU to invest in power sector in Sindh. The Kuwaiti company in collaboration with the provincial govt. will invest in Waste to Energy projects. *Daily Times*.

#### Seventh Schedule: SECP unveils revised fee structure for different companies

SECP will charge a registration fee of PKR 10,000, irrespective of the amount of share capital, on formation of a company wholly-owned by the govt. and notified in the official gazette. The SECP has issued revised fee structure for different companies under 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Companies Act 2017, updated as on 15<sup>th</sup> Jul'19. *BR*.

#### Immovable property valuation rates finalized

FBR has finalized immovable property valuation rates for different cities and increased them up to 85% of the market value and forwarded the same to Ministry of Law for vetting before issuance of an official notification. A notification in this respect will also be issued during the current week. *BR*.

#### Cement, steel manufacturers: Builders urge govt. to take action against cartelization

Builders have urged the govt. to take stern action against cartelization of cement and steel manufacturers. They said that prices of steel bars and cement has risen sharply and in this situation, the dream of PM Imran Khan for building 5Mn affordable houses would never come true as the cost of construction has reached to all time high in Pakistan. They demanded that the govt. should take swift action through CCP to stop cartelization of cement and steel. *BR*.

#### Govt must revisit Afghan Transit Trade Agreement to curb tea smuggling: CCP

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has urged the govt. to revisit Afghan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA) to reduce smuggling of product. A preliminary study on tea highlights that competition in branded tea market has remained fierce as consumers have a choice to switch to unbranded and unpackaged loose tea over branded packaged tea. However, there should be well-justified explanations for prices increases, the study said. *Dawn*.

#### Frenzied debut of China's Nasdaq-style board adds \$ 44Bn in market cap

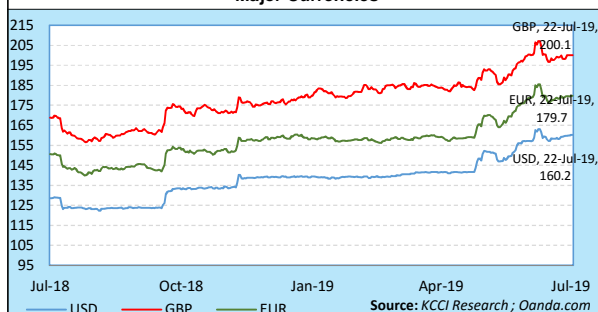
Trading on China's new Nasdaq-style board, STAR Market, for homegrown tech firms hit fever pitch on Mon (22<sup>nd</sup> Jul'19), with shares up as much as 520% in a wild debut that more than doubled the board's combined market capitalization and beat veteran investors' expectations. In total, the day saw the creation of around 305Bn yuan (\$ 44.3Bn) in new market capitalization on top of an initial market cap of around 225Bn yuan. *The News*.

#### Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	22-Jul	PKR	160.53	0.21%
USD-Open MKT	22-Jul	PKR	160.30	0.12%
KSE-100 index	22-Jul	Pts.	32,585	0.39%
FIPI	22-Jul	\$ Mn	342,872.00	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	22-Jul	\$/bbl	56.24	0.55%
Gold (MA'19)	22-Jul	\$/oz	1,425.1	-0.09%
Gold (10g) Local	22-Jul	PKR	71,914	-2.38%
Silver (MA'19)	22-Jul	\$/oz	16.29	0.90%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	22-Jul	PKR	9,056	1.20%
Kibor-6M	22-Jul	%	13.97	-0.01%
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



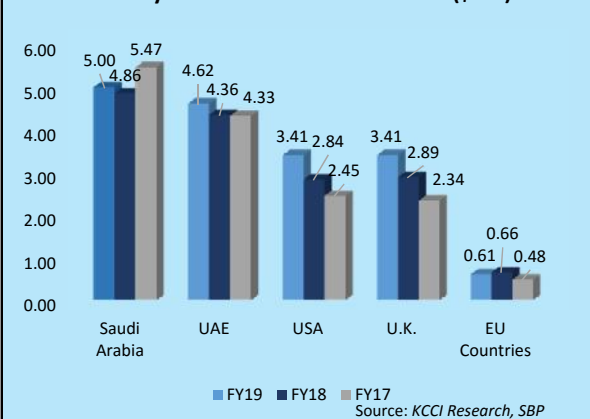
#### Quote of the Day

*"There is a powerful driving force inside every human being that, once unleashed, can make any vision, dream, or desire a reality."*

**Anthony Robbins**

#### Chart of the Day

#### Country-Wise Workers' Remittances (\$ Bn)



#### Disclaimer

*This report has been prepared by KCCI Research & Development Cell. The information contained herein have been compiled or arrived at based upon information obtained from sources believed to be reliable and in good faith. Such information has not been independently verified.*

*KCCI View icon represents the sole viewpoint of the KCCI R&D Cell, and is stated to enrich the readers' understanding of the news item. The*