

### ST return filing date extended

The govt. has extended the last date for submission of sales tax and federal excise return for the tax period of Jul'19. The date has been extended due to Eidul Azha holidays. The date has been extended for submission of ST and federal excise duty until 21<sup>st</sup> Aug'19 while in case of payment of ST and FED the date has been extended till 19<sup>th</sup> Aug'19. *Dawn*.

### No tax returns, no new gas connection: FBR

In an effort to widen tax net, the FBR has slapped a condition of tax returns for new gas connections. In a letter to heads of gas companies, FBR Chairman Shabaar Zaidi has said that applications of non-filers for gas connection should not be processed. Zaidi has asked the gas companies to provide complete data of commercial and domestic gas consumers. FBR has said that non-filer businessmen are not allowed to deduct sales tax from customers and has urged people to identify unregistered traders. *Daily Times*.

### FBR receives 2.5Mn tax returns showing 47% growth

FBR has received 2.5Mn income tax returns for TY18, depicting over 47% growth in number of filers as compared to 1.7Mn returns received in TY17. Around 750,000 new people have filed their income tax returns. The FBR has set a target to receive 4Mn income tax returns by the end of Dec'19. *The Nation*.

### Senate body recommends study before signing FTAs

Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile has recommended to conduct a thorough study as to what are Pakistan's requirements from the FTAs, which countries fulfil our requirements best and then sign FTAs with those countries. Members of the Committee were of the view that whenever those in position of making policy decisions are in consultations with foreign delegations on the matters of exports and imports all commitments should be based on informed opinions and they should not give statements off the cuff and should give consideration to consulting the stakeholders first. *The Nation*.

### SBP imposes penalties on banks

The SBP has imposed PKR 184.6Mn penalties on 4 banks for violation of laws. The violations are related to foreign exchange operations, anti-money laundering, know your-customer and asset quality. Soneri Bank Limited has been fined the highest PKR 55.4Mn, followed by Bank Al Habib (PKR 51.7Mn), JS Bank Limited (PKR 48.2Mn) and Bank of Punjab (PKR 29Mn). *The News*.

### PKR 284Bn fresh currency notes issued

The SBP, through 16 field offices of its subsidiary SBP Banking Services Corporation (SBP BSC), has issued fresh banknotes of various denominations aggregating to PKR 284Bn during days leading to Eidul Azha. This includes PKR 274Bn via commercial banks and PKR 10Bn via cash counters of SBP BSC. Out of the total, PKR 12Bn of lower denominations (up to PKR 100), fresh notes have been provided for onward distribution among general public and account holders. *The News*.

### Sale of gas: Ogra notifies up to 39% hike in minimum charges

OGRA has notified in SRO 795 an increase of up to 39% in the minimum charges for gas consumers, other than domestic consumers, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> Jul'19. The various categories include general industry, CNG, cement, power, IPPs, zero rated registered exporters/ manufacturers and their captive powers. Minimum sale gas price for general industry consumers, who are engaged in the processing of industrial raw material into value-added finished products, has been increased from PKR 26,301.60 to 36,449.70 per month. The regulator also increased the minimum charges of registered manufacturers or exporters of 5 zero-rated sectors and their captive power from PKR 20,232 per month to PKR 28,060.20 per month. The minimum charges for commercial consumers has been increased by 9%. However, the regulator has decreased minimum charges on gas sale by 16% for bulk domestic consumers. *BR*.

### Gwadar Free Zone set to win tax relief

National Development Council has decided to grant tax concessions to business units that would be set up at the Gwadar Free Zone under CPEC — an issue that has remained in limbo for the last three years over fears that the move would adversely impact other economic zones of the country. Advisor on commerce A.Razzak Dawood wanted that the Gwadar Free Zone should only be granted concessions offered to other economic zones. However, the Gwadar Free Zone does not fall under the Special Economic Zone Act of 2011. It is being set up under a special arrangement with Beijing. *Tribune*.

### Commerce ministry issues SRO for suspension of trade ties with India

With the approval of the federal cabinet, the Ministry of Commerce has issued a SRO for suspending trade ties with India including banning all kinds of imports and exports. Pakistan has taken this step in order to oppose India's move for removal of special status to Indian Held Kashmir (IHK). Pakistan's export to India stood at \$ 263Mn in FY19 and imports from India were \$1.49Bn. *The News*.

### Pakistan wants China's help to skirt terror-financing blacklist

Pakistan is looking to China and two other developing nations for support in avoiding tough financial sanctions, amid signs it is running out of time to meet global anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing standards. The govt. expects that it may fail to comply with enough of the 27 action items set by the FATF before a final review in Oct'19. *The News*.

### New SECP chairman appointed

The federal cabinet has appointed eminent financial sector's professional Aamir Khan as Chairman of the SECP. Khan has been appointed for 3 years with immediate effect. The cabinet has also approved removal of Farrukh Sabzwari from the SECP chairmanship. Previously, Khan served as Commissioner Specialized Companies Division in the SECP. *The News*.

### PM given briefing on SEZs

The PM while chairing a briefing on provision of facilities to SEZs has appointed Chairman Board of Investment Zubair Gillani as focal person for provision of facilities and effective coordination between the federal and provincial govt.'s to make SEZs operational. The chairman BOI was directed to set a timeline to provide gas, electricity and water in the special economic zones and he would not only submit report to the PM but would also ensure that these facilities are provided in set time frame. *BR*.

### Public debt skyrockets to PKR 31.8Tn in FY19

In a dangerous development, the federal govt. added PKR 7.6Tn to public debt in FY19, which skyrocketed to PKR 31.8Tn and it was equal to 71% of the total debt that the last govt. had taken in its 5-year term. The central govt.'s debt increased at an alarming pace of 31.3% due to shortfall in tax collection, uncontrolled expenditures on debt servicing and defense, and depreciation of the currency. *Tribune*.

### Remittances rise 24% in July 2019

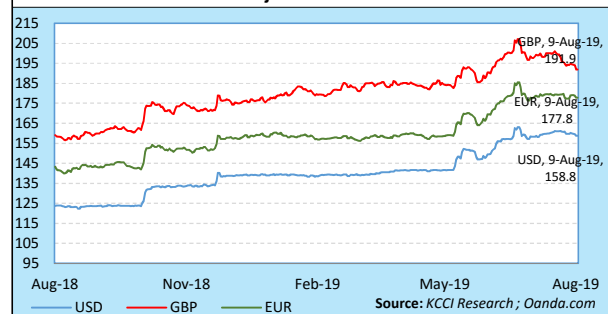
Pakistan's remittances from overseas workers increased 24% to \$ 2.04Bn in Jul'19 from \$ 1.65Bn in Jun'19. The figures for Jul'19 are slightly higher than the \$ 1.98Bn recorded in Jul'18. A month-on-month increase in remittance flows reflects economic recovery in source markets and the govt.'s efforts to encourage overseas Pakistanis to remit through legal means. *The News*.

### Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	9-Aug	PKR	158.45	0.12%
USD-Open MKT	9-Aug	PKR	159.00	0.44%
KSE-100 index	9-Aug	Pts.	29,429	-1.04%
FIPI	9-Aug	\$ Mn	-0.79	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	8-Aug	\$/bbl	52.94	1.24%
Gold (MA'19)	8-Aug	\$/oz	1,503.2	0.00%
Gold (10g) Local	9-Aug	PKR	74,588	0.23%
Silver (MA'19)	8-Aug	\$/oz	16.93	-1.17%
Cotton(KHI) -40 kg	9-Aug	PKR	8,306	0.00%
Kibor-6M	9-Aug	%	14.08	0.00%
Forex Reserves	26-Jul FY19	\$ Bn	15.06	-1.23% 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-May 19	%	-3.50	
Avg. CPI	Jul-19	%	10.34	
Discount Rate	Jul-19	%	13.25	

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

### Major Currencies

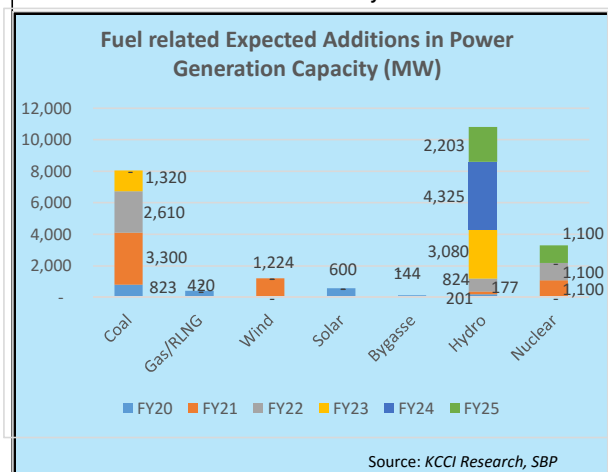


### Quote of the Day

"Big results require big ambitions."

**Heraclitus**

### Chart of the Day



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