

Prime minister seeks economic revival plan

Amid a sharp economic slowdown, PM Imran Khan has given directives for drawing up a new economic revival plan – giving an uphill task to his team to find avenues for growth and job creation in the midst of an unprecedentedly harsh IMF loan program. PM Imran has asked his economic managers to rewrite the recently approved macroeconomic framework, which has been stamped by the IMF Executive Board hardly two months ago. However, the economic managers have very little room left to tinker with the design of the \$ 6Bn IMF program due to stringent conditions such as the limit on spending, increase in taxes, and ban on printing currency notes and restrictions on issuing new sovereign guarantees. Large-scale manufacturing activity contracted for the first time in 10 years by 3.6%. *Tribune*.

CM sets 48-hour deadline to drain water out of each street of Karachi

Sindh CM, Syed Murad Ali Shah, has given 2 days to all local bodies and the district administration to drain out water from each and every street of Karachi. He said that clearing water from the streets is the first important task that needs to be done before Muharram processions. The second task will be to improve the drainage system of the city and third will be improving the condition of roads and places where Majalis and processions will be held during Muharram. The CM will personally visit the city during the next 48 hours to check various problems the people were facing in various areas. *The News*.

PM orders quick removal of waste in Karachi

Intervening in Karachi's worsening cleanliness problem, PM Imran Khan has issued directives for early removal of waste and garbage from the city, urging elected representatives of PTI to vehemently take part in Clean Karachi campaign. PM Khan took serious note of shortage of garbage transfer stations in Karachi and directed to increase their numbers under a comprehensive strategy to ensure proper disposal of waste in the metropolis. *Dawn*.

PM orders crackdown on benami assets

PM Imran Khan has ordered all deputy commissioners and heads of development authorities to launch a nationwide crackdown against benami assets. All officers have been directed to submit a report to the FBR chairman by 30th Sept'19 and a copy to the PM Office. Earlier during the month, the FBR set up an Anti-Benami Initiative Directorate General to step up its crackdown on white-collar crime. The FBR notified that the directorate and its officers would be authorized to seize luxury vehicles, offshore investments, bank accounts, stocks and shares. *Tribune*.

FBR talks with traders remain inconclusive

FBR and traders' representatives met in search of an agreement on implementation of a fixed tax regime for traders, as well as continuing discussions on newly imposed requirement for traders to retain a CNIC copy of all parties with whom they transact. The meeting agreed to form a sub-committee to discuss the issue further as it remained largely inconclusive. *Dawn*.

NAB not to pursue sales, income tax cases against businessmen

NAB Chairman Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal has announced that NAB will not pursue sales and income tax related cases against the business community and existing ones would be transferred to the FBR. The development comes two days after Law Minister Farogh Naseem announced that laws would be amended to strip NAB of the powers to take action against private individuals – particularly the business fraternity. *Tribune*.

UAE help in tracing people with 'illegal' wealth sought

Pakistan has formally requested UAE to provide information about all Pakistani nationals who have obtained iqama (work permit) in a bid to hide their illegal wealth. The first exchange of bank and financial account information under the agreement will take place on 30th Sep'19. The UAE law allows foreign nationals to obtain iqama on the basis of investment beyond a certain threshold. The issue gained importance in Pakistan in the wake of information received from the UAE in which 3,620 accounts have been reported to Islamabad. However, the number of accounts with substantial balance is negligible. *Dawn*.

Centre announces PKR 125Bn Sindh barrage project

The federal govt. has announced an ambitious PKR 125Bn Sindh barrage project on River Indus, winning support from provincial govt. to build a huge structure 45km from sea in south of Thatta and east of Karachi to address environmental issues of sea intrusion and land degradation. *Dawn*.

Industry concerned over ban on polyethylene bags

Plastic Bags Association has expressed concerns over overnight blanket ban on polyethylene bags instead of going towards regulation for sustainable environment protection. The ban would lead to closure of 8,000 factories that would ultimately render millions of people unemployed. Plastic bags association has advised minimum 45 micron thickness and size 12x"15" that can be easily re-used, collected and recycled. *The Nation*.

APG places Pakistan on enhanced monitoring list for at least one year

The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering has placed Pakistan on its enhanced monitoring list after Islamabad's performance was found unsatisfactory on three-fourths of FATF recommendations. In its Mutual Evaluation Report, the regional body observed that the effectiveness of Pakistan's AML/CFT regimes were of low level. Islamabad now has six months to show progress as the first enhanced monitoring report will be submitted in Feb'20 to APG. *Tribune*.

Conditions eased for solar panel import to clear stuck containers

The govt. has relaxed some conditions for an extended period in a bid to clear and release hundreds of containers carrying solar panels and related equipment stuck at the port. The Ministry of Commerce has delayed the application of SRO 604, which pertains to the quality standards required to be followed for the import of solar panels and related equipment, up to 31st Aug'19. *Tribune*.

New scheme for used vehicles import likely

The govt. may introduce a new scheme or regulatory framework to allow import of used vehicles by the commercial importers with imposition of certain quantitative restrictions. Dr A.Hafeez Shaikh, Adviser on Finance, will chair a meeting on issues relating to the import of vehicles under personal baggage, transfer of residence and gift schemes for overseas Pakistanis on 26th Aug'19. *BR*.

Govt. levies 3% regulatory duty on cotton import

The govt. has levied 3% a regulatory duty on the import of cotton to facilitate the growers blighted by high production cost and low market prices. FBR has issued SRO 949(I)/2019 in compliance to the decision taken by the ECC in its meeting held on 31st Jul'19. *The News*.

Naqvi to chair SECP policy board

The federal govt. has appointed S. Masoud A. Naqvi as Member as well as Chairman of the SECP Policy Board. Masoud will replace Khalid Mirza, who was removed by the govt. from both these positions earlier in Aug'19. *The News*.

China to impose new tariffs on \$ 75Bn of US imports

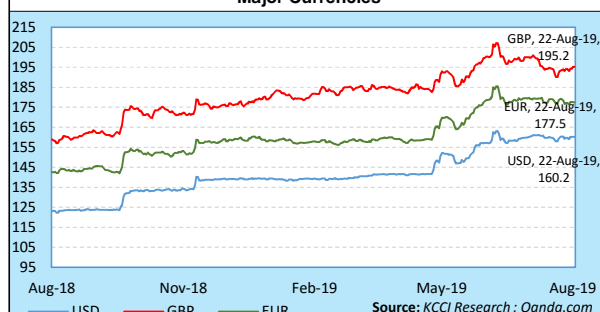
China has announced that it will hit US imports worth \$ 75Bn with new tariffs starting 1st Sept'19 and 15th Dec'19, as retaliation for Washington's planned tariff hikes in a bruising trade war. US President Donald Trump has imposed steep tariffs on \$ 250Bn worth of Chinese goods, with a further \$ 300Bn in imports targeted for new duties in two more rounds, 1st Sept'19 and 15th Dec'19. *Tribune*.

Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	23-Aug	PKR	157.52	-0.45%
USD-Open MKT	23-Aug	PKR	157.40	-0.63%
KSE-100 index	23-Aug	Pts.	31,350	-1.68%
FIPI	23-Aug	\$ Mn	0.76	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	22-Aug	\$/bbl	55.32	-1.02%
Gold (MA'19)	22-Aug	\$/oz	1,498.3	-0.27%
Gold (10g) Local	23-Aug	PKR	75,360	0.00%
Silver (MA'19)	22-Aug	\$/oz	17.03	-0.47%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	23-Aug	PKR	8,359	0.00%
Kibor-6M	23-Aug	%	14.08	0.00%
Forex Reserves	17-Aug	\$ Bn	15.60	0.17%
	FY19			YoY
Remittances	Jul-19	\$ Bn	2.04	5.70%
Exports*	Jul-19	\$ Bn	1.88	14.63%
Imports*	Jul-19	\$ Bn	4.15	-15.13%
Trade Balance*	Jul-19	\$ Bn	-2.27	30.15%
Current Account	Jul-19	\$ Bn	-0.58	72.82%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-19	\$ Bn	0.11	-21.64%
LSM Growth*	Jul-Jun 19	%	-3.64	
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



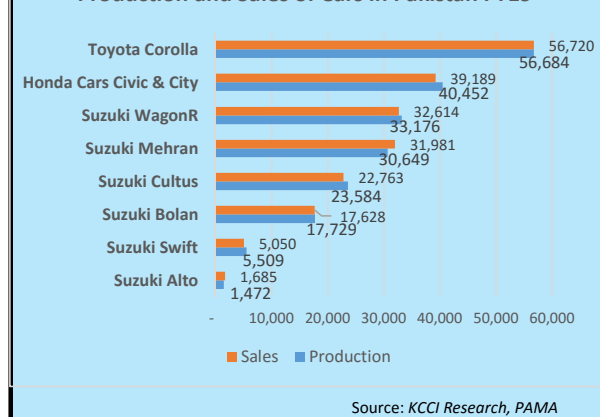
Quote of the Day

"Its fine to celebrate success but its more important to heed the lessons of failure."

Bill Gates

Chart of the Day

Production and Sales of Cars in Pakistan FY19



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