

Govt to adopt well-monitored growth strategy

The govt. has in principle decided not to go for speedy growth. Rather it has decided to adopt a careful and well-monitored expansion growth strategy for economic revival, distancing slowly from the contraction policy. This decision was made in a high-level meeting of the economic team which met under PM Imran Khan. All the allied economic ministries have been directed to complete their respective policies and share them with Adviser to PM on Finance Dr. Hafeez Shaikh along with the implementation plan and stipulated timeframe. The commerce ministry has been directed to complete the CPEC-Vision II. The meeting decided to clear the refunds of business community at the earliest, and to this effect the FBR has been asked to do the task as early as possible. The FBR says it has to clear the refunds of PKR 150-175Bn yet. However, business community says refunds hover around PKR 700Bn. *The News-Mon.*

Economic indicators improve - govt working on giving benefits to masses: Shaikh

While hinting to pass on benefits of reduced oil prices in the international market to domestic consumers in Sep'19, Adviser to PM on Finance Dr. Hafeez Shaikh has said that the govt. is preparing an economic package for doling out relief through a quick decision-making process. However, it is not yet known that how the fiscal space will be created under tight nose scrutiny of the IMF. Subsidy allocated for businesses on provision of electricity and gas will be provided, provision of loans for private sector will be ensured and govt. will sit with the business sector to avoid burdening them with increased taxation. *The News-Sun.*

KCCI laments tax collection policy

KCCI President Junaid Esmail Makda has expressed skepticism at the revenue collection efforts of the FBR in the city, which already contributes more than 70% to the national exchequer. Appreciating the intentions of PM Imran Khan, Makda said that the FBR is responsible to implement the policies to enhance revenue all over the country, but it is confined only to Karachi instead. He said that loyal taxpayers should not be harassed and overburdened with exorbitant taxes. The solution is to broaden the tax net, which will subsequently bring down tax rates, encouraging business and industrial community to go for expansion, in turn maximizing production, sales, revenue collection, employment, poverty alleviation, and long-term economic prosperity. He reaffirmed that exorbitant tax rates along with cumbersome procedures and frequent issuance of anti-business and anti-taxpayers SROs/notifications will result in closure of massive number of industrial units, significantly dent government's revenue and render hundreds of thousands jobless. *The News-Sat.*

DMCs, not SSWMB, be given funds to dispose of garbage, says mayor

A fumigation campaign in all districts of Karachi is now in its full swing, said Mayor Wasim Akhtar. He said that fruitful results of the cleanliness drive in District Korangi can already be seen removing 7,500 tons of garbage in 4 days. He said that he raised issues in a meeting with CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah who showed seriousness and assured that sewerage issues will be resolved. Akhtar demanded funds from Shah and said that the DMCs should get funds, not the SSWMB, to remove garbage from the city. *The News-Sun.*

PM sets up body to help meet FATF targets

PM Imran Khan has set up a high-powered 12-member National FATF Coordination Committee to ensure execution of all FATF-related tasks till 1st Dec'19. Pakistan has also started bilateral engagements with key FATF and APG members to muster political support as India continues an adversarial campaign. Pakistan's existing ground realities would now be reviewed on the basis of its progress reports and APG evaluations in coming meetings in Bangkok starting from 5th Sep'19 and then finally in Paris from 18th - 23th Oct'19 to conclude if Islamabad has delivered on 27-point action plan committed to the FATF to get out of the grey list. *Dawn-Mon.*

PM Office mulls amnesty plan for tax evaders

PM has reportedly directed the Ministry of Finance and the FBR to submit a report based on the data analysis by the NADRA for an amnesty scheme-like plan for citizens who do not pay tax or pay less tax. However, the FBR said that the PMDU Wing of the PM Office has only sought a feasibility report on an amnesty scheme-like plan based on NADRA's data analysis about the citizens paying no or less taxes. *Tribune-Mon.*

Cabinet body likely to approve CPEC Authority establishment today

The Cabinet Committee on CPEC is likely to approve the establishment of CPEC Authority today (26th Aug'19). According to the agenda, the Cabinet Committee on CPEC will also review the progress on CPEC projects, discuss development agreement of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and prepare for upcoming Joint Cooperation Committee of CPEC meeting. The 9th JCC is scheduled to be held in Oct'19 in Pakistan. *The Nation-Mon.*

\$ 100Mn more EU investments in petroleum sector likely

PM's Spokesman for Trade and Investment for UK and Europe Sahibzada Amir Jahangir has said that around \$ 100Mn new investment are expected to come in petroleum sector. Petro chemical, oil storage and oil infrastructure would be the major fields wherein the big energy sector companies are ready to invest. Recently a high level delegation of world largest private sector Oil Company 'VITOL' headed by senior director Chris Bake including had visited Pakistan for negotiation with local authorities on further plan of action. *The Nation-Mon.*

Vehicle token tax concession to end on Aug 31

Excise and Taxation Department has extended the date to avail 10% concession rate of token tax announced by the Motor Branch of the E&T to 31st Aug'19. Vehicles caught without token tax would be impounded and 100% fine would also be imposed, particularly on commercial vehicles. *BR-Mon.*

Further \$ 100Mn EU investments to come in petroleum sector

Spokesman of PM for Trade and Investment for UK and Europe Sahibzada Amir Jahangir has said that around \$ 100Mn new investment are expected to come in petroleum sector. He said that recently a high level delegation of world's largest private sector oil company, VITOL, had visited Pakistan for negotiation with local authorities on further plan of action. *BR-Sun.*

CDNS investors encash PKR 40,000 bonds worth PKR 65Bn

Investors have withdrawn PKR 65Bn out of total stock of PKR 259Bn investment from Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) after a federal govt. decision to discontinue PKR 40,000 prize bonds. Remaining PKR 40,000 prize bonds offered by the CDNS are worth PKR 194Bn which may decrease more in coming months after withdrawal from banks. *The Nation-Mon.*

Trump raises tariffs on Chinese goods as trade war escalates

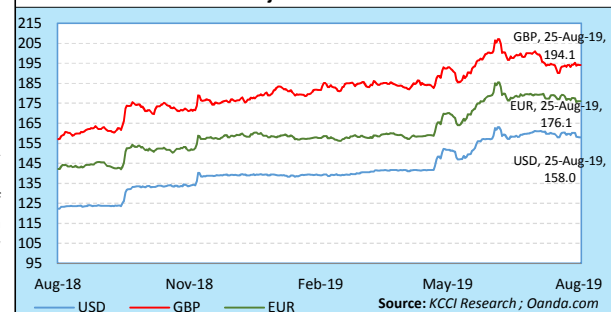
Escalating his trade fight with China, President Donald Trump has raised retaliatory tariffs and has ordered American companies to consider alternatives to doing business there. Trump's move came after Beijing announced it had raised taxes on US products. Trump said he will be raising planned tariffs on \$ 300Bn in Chinese goods from 10% to 15%. *Daily Times-Sun.*

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)	23-Aug	\$/bbl	53.88	-2.60%
Gold (MA'19)	23-Aug	\$/oz	1,526.1	1.86%
Gold (10g) Local	23-Aug	PKR	75,360	0.00%
Silver (MA'19)	23-Aug	\$/oz	17.40	2.17%
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

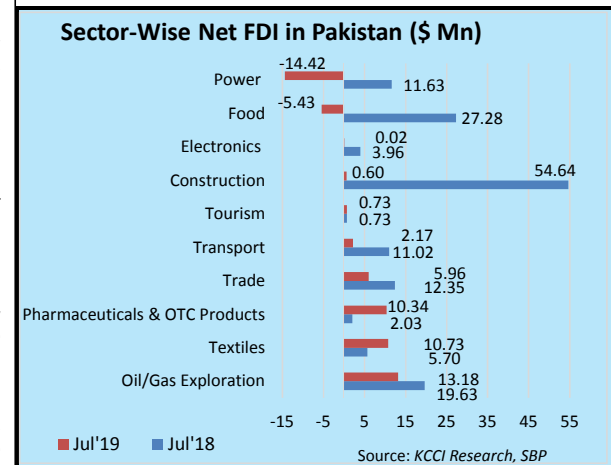


Quote of the Day

"Investing money is the process of committing resources in a strategic way to accomplish a specific objective."

Alan Gotthardt

Chart of the Day



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