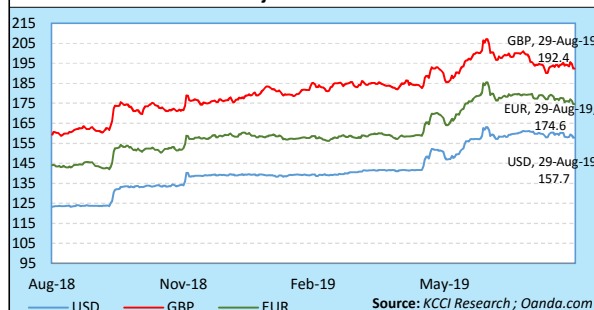


Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	29-Aug	PKR	157.22	-0.04%
USD-Open MKT	29-Aug	PKR	157.28	0.05%
KSE-100 index	29-Aug	Pts.	30,159	-1.56%
FIPI	29-Aug	\$ Mn	-0.98	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	29-Aug	\$/bbl	56.64	1.32%
Gold (MA'19)	29-Aug	\$/oz	1,529.9	-0.83%
Gold (10g) Local	29-Aug	PKR	77,160	0.00%
Silver (MA'19)	29-Aug	\$/oz	18.14	-2.45%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	29-Aug	PKR	8,574	0.00%
Kibor-6M	29-Aug	%	14.08	0.00%
Forex Reserves	23-Aug	\$ Bn	15.63	0.16%
	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

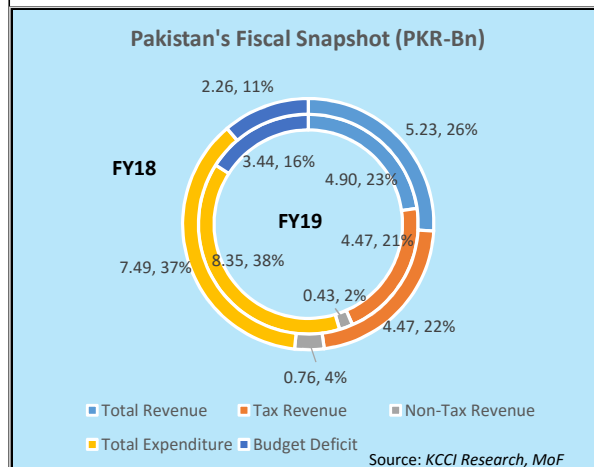


Quote of the Day

"When the country's indebtedness is so colossal and where the budget deficit is so huge, there is a moral obligation on people to pay their fair and reasonable dues."

John Caudwell

Chart of the Day



Disclaimer

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Pakistan outlook 'stable': S&P

The Standard & Poor's rating agency has affirmed Pakistan's 'B-' long-term and 'B' short-term sovereign rating while maintaining long-term outlook at stable rating. The New York-based rating agency also affirmed 'B-' long-term issue rating on Pakistan's senior unsecured debt and Sukuk trust certificates. It said Pakistan's rating remained constrained by a narrow tax base and domestic and external security risks, which continue to be high. It forecast Pakistan's economy to slow down to 2.4% of the GDP during FY20 a 12-year low. *Dawn*.

Govt unveils gas sector overhaul to spur investment

The govt. has offered another amnesty to powerful industrialists and opened up the LNG sector from much of the govt. control that it is currently permeated with. In addition, it has also been decided to cut the number of laws, regulations and approvals relating to the energy sector and offer better incentives to investors so as to improve country's ranking in EoDB index and revive investor confidence. Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan has said that the govt. had promulgated a presidential ordinance for out-of-court settlement of PKR 417Bn dispute with the industry over Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC). Five international companies Shell, ExxonMobil, Mitsubishi, Trafifigura and a French firm have been cleared by the govt. to set up a terminal for the processing of imported LNG without any govt. permission or involvement. *Dawn*.

PKR 228Bn cess to fertiliser, CNG, power sectors waived

The govt. has extended the amnesty of PKR 228Bn in the head of Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC) to industries, fertilizer plants, CNG and Captive Power Plants, K-Electric, Gencos and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) through a presidential ordinance enforced with immediate effect from 28th Aug'19. The said players will pay half cess of the amount collected from 22nd May'15 to 21st Dec'18. The ordinance also has reduced to zero the rate of cess for some sectors. The total amount collected by these sectors in GIDC stands at PKR 751Bn. *The News*.

PM seeks FBR briefing on tax reforms, documentation measures

PM Imran Khan has directed the FBR to brief him on tax reforms and implementation of the new reform initiatives and documentation measures during the 1st week of Sept'19. It is expected that the FBR will brief on the latest reform initiatives specifically documentation measures including condition of provision of CNIC numbers of un-registered buyers. *BR*.

Sales tax refunds for exporters to be paid within 72 hours, claims FBR

FBR is claiming that it will now pay sales tax refunds through newly installed Fully Automated Sales Tax e-Refund (FASTER) system to exporters of five sectors within 72 hours of submission of refund claims. In next couple of days, FBR will start paying sales tax refunds in range of PKR 15Bn to PKR 20Bn a month to five export-oriented sectors through FASTER system. The FBR said the data provided in monthly return will be treated as being in support of refund claim and no separate electronic data will be sought from exporters. *Dawn*.

Journey of economic revival not easy: Hafeez Shaikh

Adviser to PM on Finance, Dr. Hafeez Shaikh, has said that the journey for improvement of economy is not easy as tax receipts could not be increased. He also said that the govt. has added 10 new state-owned entities in the privatization list increasing the total number to 17. He said that it will be unfair to hold this govt. responsible for adding PKR 7.6Tn into debt burden. One should find out where the govt. made extra spending. *The News*.

PM directs 'guillotining' of regulatory drags

PM Imran Khan has directed officials to 'guillotine' unnecessary regulations to improve ease of doing business and facilitate businesses, especially start-ups. He directed the Board of Investment (BoI) for early completion of consultation process with the relevant stakeholders to streamline and simplify laws and regulatory framework relating to business in various sectors of economy. He said that special attention should be paid toward promoting digital economy. *The News*.

Circular debt: Govt. mulling issuing PKR 200Bn Sukuk: officials

The govt. is considering issuing Sukuk bonds worth PKR 200Bn to clear circular debt. The concerned ministries are currently negotiating with a consortium of Islamic banks to raise debt in a bid to pay off dues of energy firms. The consortium has asked the govt. to provide sovereign guarantee, but the Ministry of Finance as yet is reluctant to give them such a guarantee. *BR*.

Export surge registered outside the five supported sectors

Export data for Jul'19 shows that exports increased by 11%, but this surge was outside the 5 exporting sectors. Textile exports increased by only 4. Other exporting sectors were able to boost their exports on the strength of weaker PKR that has lost almost 40% of its value in last 18 months. Textile accounted for almost 55% of the total exports of the country in Jul'19. *The News*.

ADB to lend \$ 7.5Bn over three years

ADB has promised a \$ 7.5Bn assistance to Pakistan over the next three years (2020-24) under its next Country Assistance Strategy. Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiyar said that the bank's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for 2020-24 is under preparation and it may also consider supporting new areas including Clean and Green Pakistan Initiative, information and communications technology, higher education, housing sector, water supply for Islamabad and improving governance structures for achieving sustained development. *Dawn*.

Govt. adds PKR 46,000 debt burden on each Pakistani in one year

Breaking all previous records of adding debt burden, the current govt. has increased an additional debt of almost PKR 46,000 on each Pakistan. From 1947 till Jun'18, successive govts. had burdened each Pakistani with the total debt of almost PKR 136,000. This figure, during FY19, has jumped to around PKR 182,000. *The News*.

Ecneec gives go-ahead to projects worth PKR 579Bn

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has approved a total of 16 projects having an estimated cost of PKR 579Bn and enhanced financial powers of Central Development Working Party (CDWP). The meeting also approved construction of BRT Red Line Project Karachi at a cost of PKR 78.39Bn to develop a dedicated 24.2km corridor from Numaish to Malir Halt Depot and a common corridor of 2.4 km from Municipal Park to Merewether Tower along M.A. Jinnah Road. It also approved Karachi Water & Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP) Phase-I at a cost of PKR 16.71Bn. *Dawn*.

Distribution firms permitted to arrest power thieves

The cabinet has approved a plan designed to give unfettered powers to officials of power distribution companies for arresting consumers involved in power theft without a court warrant. Earlier, the courts had ruled that the direct registration of FIRs with police by the power distribution companies without first filing a complaint with the court was void and arrests made by the police in that regard were unlawful. *Tribune*.

Forex reserves rise to \$ 15.63Bn

Pakistan's forex reserves increased to \$ 15.63Bn during the week ended 23rd Aug'19 from \$ 15.60Bn in the previous week. Reserves held by the SBP rose by \$ 32Mn to \$ 8.27Bn while reserves of commercial banks fell to \$ 7.36Bn from \$ 7.37Bn in the previous week. *The News*.