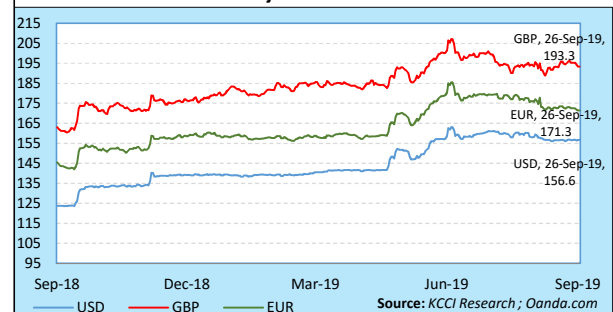


Economic Indicators

| List of Indicators | Date / Period | Unit | Value | Change Daily |
|---------------------|---------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| USD-Interbank | 26-Sep | PKR | 156.19 | 0.01% |
| USD-Open MKT | 26-Sep | PKR | 156.30 | 0.35% |
| KSE-100 index | 26-Sep | Pts. | 31,434 | -0.42% |
| FIPI | 26-Sep | \$ Mn | -2.76 | NM** |
| Crude (AP'19) | 26-Sep | \$/bbl | 56.52 | 0.02% |
| Gold (MA'19) | 26-Sep | \$/oz | 1,508.5 | 0.31% |
| Gold (10g) Local | 26-Sep | PKR | 75,874 | 0.68% |
| Silver (MA'19) | 26-Sep | \$/oz | 17.84 | -0.28% |
| Cotton(KHI)-40 kg | 26-Sep | PKR | 9,217 | 0.00% |
| Kibor-6M | 26-Sep | % | 13.90 | 0.00% |
| Forex Reserves | 20-Sep | \$ Bn | 15.77 | -0.79% |
| | FY19 | | | YoY |
| Remittances | Jul-Aug 19 | \$ Bn | 3.73 | -8.35% |
| Exports* | Jul-Aug 19 | \$ Bn | 3.75 | 10.06% |
| Imports* | Jul-Aug 19 | \$ Bn | 7.68 | -21.56% |
| Trade Balance* | Jul-Aug 19 | \$ Bn | -3.92 | 38.47% |
| Current Account | Jul-Aug 19 | \$ Bn | -1.29 | 54.67% |
| Foreign Direct Inv. | Jul-Aug 19 | \$ Bn | 0.16 | -58.42% |
| LSM Growth* | Jul-19 | % | -3.28 | |
| Avg. CPI | Jul-Aug 19 | % | 9.44 | |
| Discount Rate | Jul-19 | % | 13.25 | |

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

Major Currencies

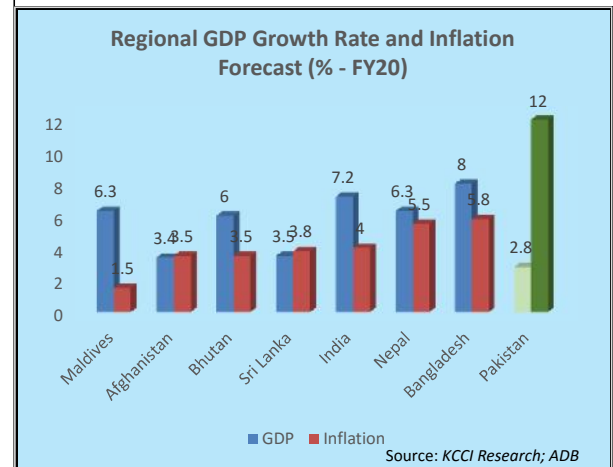


Quote of the Day

"Inflation is the one form of taxation that can be imposed without legislation."

Milton Friedman

Chart of the Day



Disclaimer

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The 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

FBR calls traders for talks as deadline looms

FBR has offered talks to representatives of trade bodies today (27th Sep'19) to settle all issues ranging from big retailers sales tax registration, CNIC condition and fixed tax regime for small shopkeepers. On the other hand, traders have planned a sit-in in Karachi at M. A. Jinnah Road today after talks failed between the FBR and trade bodies over the budgetary measures and fixed tax system. Traders say they have not received any call or invitation from the FBR for a meeting. *Dawn*.

Tax offices, banks open on 30th

FBR has announced that all the large tax units/corporate tax offices/regional tax offices will be working for extended hours till 12 midnight on 30th Sep'19 to facilitate payment of duties and taxes and filing of income tax returns/statements. *Dawn*.

Undue tax refunds: SC asks FBR chief to file report on steps taken

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed FBR to submit a detailed report within two weeks on measures taken to recover money from individuals who received undue tax refunds through fraud. PKR 90Mn went missing from the national kitty and no one knows about it, SC questioned. SC came down hard on FBR for its poor performance, saying that the board is protecting its employees who are suspected to be complicit in the matter. *BR*.

Abolishing BTB Zones raises many questions

Abolishing of Broadening of Tax Base (BTB) Zones by FBR has raised important questions how the broadening of narrowed base will be done by overburdened operational wings whose attentions were stuck up for materializing an ambitious tax collection target of PKR 5,503Bn. FBR's BTB zones have been established with approval of Board in Council. The BTB undertook important task by undertaking plaza mapping in important metropolitans, collected data from key housing societies and built up hundreds of thousands of potential cases where information was collected in such shape that could be converted into taxability. The questions arises as BTB zones gathered key information about potential non-filers, who is owner of this important data. *Tribune*.

FBR initiates scrutiny of giant sectors to maximise tax collection

In order to maximize tax collection, FBR has started scrutiny of special audits of giant sectors including sugar, cement, oil refineries, beverages and others to identify loopholes and gaps for the purpose of effective enforcement. Domestic GST has so far showed impressive growth in the range of 50% in first two months and now the FBR identified sectors and started conducting in depth analysis in a bid to maximize collection in months ahead. *The News*.

Pakistan, Gates Foundation ink MoU on poverty alleviation

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has signed a MoU with Pakistan for its Ehsaas initiative on poverty alleviation, assisting the govt. with a range of activities including supporting financial inclusion initiatives and investing in public health systems. The foundation plans to spend about \$ 200Mn in Pakistan in 2020. *The Nation*.

Deal signed for supply of LNG to transport sector

Singapore-based firm Trafigura has signed an agreement with Universal Gas Distribution Company (UGDC) for utilization of its surplus capacity at Pakistan Gas Port Limited (PGPL) terminal for supplying LNG to transport sector. Trafigura had 5% equity participation in the terminal and acquired surplus re-gasification capacity of 150Mn LNG at the PGPL terminal about two years ago. *Dawn*.

Honda shutdowns rise, Suzuki output stable

Honda Atlas Cars Ltd has reduced working days to 11 in Sep'19 due to rising unsold stocks and depressed demand. Working days were 13 in Aug'19 and 20 in Jul'19. However, the situation at Pak Suzuki Motor Company Ltd (PSMCL) is less critical, as it had not observed any non-production days as the new Alto 660cc has seen continued demand. *Dawn*.

NA body approves 'Naya Pakistan Housing Bill, 2019'

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat has unanimously approved the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority Bill, 2019 for passage by the National Assembly. An Ordinance was promulgated by the President on 20th May'19. *BR*.

KE awards \$ 425Mn contract for 900MW power plant

K-Electric has awarded around \$ 425Mn of contract to a consortium of Siemens and Harbin Electric International of China for building a combined cycle power plant with an installed capacity of 900 MW at Bin Qasim. *The News*.

Maize, paddy production feared to drop 20% on extreme heat

Production of maize and paddy in Punjab are likely to drop by around 20% as extreme heat during pollination stage and diseases have wreaked havoc with the two major summer crops. Maize occupies an area of 1.33Mn hectares with production of 6.13Mn tons in the country with an impressive yield of average 4.59 tons per hectare. *The News*.

North-South gas pipeline: Russia to provide sanction-free structure to Pakistan

In a major development, Russia has extended commitment to Pakistan that it will provide sanction-free structure for laying down North-South gas pipeline worth \$ 2Bn by 15th Oct'19. Pakistan has been asking Russia since long for sanction-free structure and pleading not to make ROSTEC, the mother company of the RT Global, the part of the project as it is facing sanctions. Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan may visit Russia from 2nd-5th Oct'19 primarily for road shows of blocs in Pakistan for exploration and production activities as the govt. wants to hold auctioning for 10 blocs in Dec'19. *The News*.

90 named in Panama leaks avail PTI govt amnesty scheme

90 among 400 Pakistanis – who were found to be holding offshore assets in international tax havens according to the 2016 Panama Papers leaks – have benefited from the tax amnesty scheme offered by the current govt. The FBR has managed to trace 140 of these 400 Pakistanis and has once again sent notices to the rest of 50 people. The FBR has also approached OECD seeking financial information of the remaining offshore company owners and money launderers after countries including British Virgin Islands, Panama and Bahamas did not respond to its letters. A total of 184 people named in Panama leaks did not even file income tax returns while some others are not submitting their returns for the past few years. *Tribune*.

NEPRA says K-E installed 'dynamites' in Karachi

Nepra has said that K-Electric has installed 'dynamites' in the city in the name of improving its distribution network. K-Electric invested billions of rupees worth of wiring systems but still people are dying from electrocution. Nepra has never taken KE to task in the past but now it has been served with a show-cause notice. *Tribune*.

Finance ministry clarifies news item

Ministry of Finance has contradicted a news report published claiming that the IMF has barred Pakistan from extending sovereign guarantees till Dec'19. In a statement, Finance Division has termed the report and its headline false and contradictory to an official response provided to the newspaper in advance of the published report. *Tribune*.

Bol clarification

Bol has clarified, a news item "Senate panel on CPEC told: SEZs law being amended to trim CA deficit" published in BR, on 26th Sep'19, that after the proposed amendments to the SEZ Law, certain new SEZs will be designated outside the Customs territory of Pakistan and Zone Enterprises situated therein shall not be allowed to sell their products in Pakistan. *BR*.