



FBR launching campaign to get consumers registered for income tax

FBR chairman Shabbar Zaidi has said that FBR would launch aggressive campaign from 15th Oct'19 to get industrial and commercial consumers registered for income tax. All industrial and commercial consumers are necessarily required to be registered for income tax purposes. FBR had been using persuasive modus operandi to get this registration. FBR had given an opportunity to non-taxpayers to file their income tax returns by extending the deadline for one month. *The Nation*.

Builders, developers: Simplified fixed tax scheme finalized

The govt. has finalized a simplified fixed tax scheme for developers and builders, offering a 90% reduction in tax for low-cost housing schemes, particularly the Naya Pakistan Housing Authority (NPHA). FBR has given final touches to the proposed scheme to be notified in a few days. The broad contours of the scheme include: national (central) jurisdiction of developers and builders; simplified return form; income computation on 'project-by-project' basis; dispute resolution committee; no requirement for developers/builders to operate as withholding agent; tax rate of PKR 210 per square feet for commercial builders in Karachi, and other big cities; tax rate of PKR 210 per square feet for commercial developers (commercial plots) and requirement of independent certificate from NESPAK. *BR*.

CNIC misreporting no more a punishable offence for suppliers

The govt. has decided to relax a condition of sales tax act under which the misreporting of buyer's CNIC number was a punishable offence. FBR said that CNIC or NTN of the buyer with respect to taxable supplies to an unregistered person shall be deemed to have been reported in good faith by the supplier subject to certain conditions. It added that the step has been taken keeping in view the problems reported by the registered persons in ensuring proper identity of the buyer to fulfil the requirement of reporting NTN/NIC of the buyer in terms of section 23 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990. *Dawn*.

Exporters lament delay in release of tax refunds

Textile Exporters have said that the commitment of the FBR to instantly release exporters' tax refund claims seems to be just an eyewash. They voiced dismay over the imposition of 17% GST on the previously zero-rated textile sector coupled with delay in release of tax refunds despite introduction by the FBR of the new Fully Automated Sales Tax e-Refund (FASTER) system. The industry has termed the new system slower, arguing that nothing has changed in the newer system. They pointed out that the FBR earlier claimed that it would disburse sales tax refunds through the FASTER system to the exporters of 5 export-oriented sectors within 72 hours of the submission of refund claims but even after a lapse of hundreds of hours, refunds had not been received. They demanded that the govt. honor its commitment and ensure swift payments to exporters of their refund claims or restore the zero-rated sales tax system. *Tribune*.

Gwadar free zone exempted from provincial taxes

The Balochistan govt. has exempted Gwadar Free Zone from provincial taxes for 5 years and decided to set up SEZs and new industrial estates in the province. The cabinet has decided to develop mineral resources of Balochistan. It also decided to set up a modern laboratory to analyse minerals. *Dawn*.

Nissan revisits investment project

The Ghandhara Nissan Ltd (GNL) is reviewing its plans to assemble Datsun vehicles in the country as company feels that under the prevalent volatile economic conditions and exchange rates, it cannot afford to go for a project of this magnitude especially with that level of uncertainty. GNL had earlier planned to invest PKR 6.5Bn in next 4 years to launch 1,200cc Datsun Cross by the 2020 and roll out 1,200cc Datsun Go and Datsun Go Plus at the plant located in the Port Qasim area. *Dawn*.

Money sent abroad cannot be brought back: Shabbar

FBR Chairman Shabbar Zaidi has said that \$ 6Bn is remitted out from Pakistan per annum in last 20 years out of which 85% was sent out legally so it could not be brought back. He said that the major cause for low investment was money laundering. He said that the wealthy people considered their money not fully protected in the country. He said that now this concept is changing as people started discussing money laundering, under-invoicing and hundi/hawala. *The News*.

PM briefed about PSM ahead of China visit

The PSM revival discussed during PM's meeting with his economic team where he was informed that Chinese companies are interested in taking the PSM on lease. The concerned ministry is directed by PM to come up with a comprehensive plan regarding the proposed lease of PSM. The plan may be discussed with the interested Chinese companies during Premier's visit to China starting from 7th Oct'19. *BR*.

UAE decides to invest \$ 5Bn in oil refinery project in Pakistan

UAE Ambassador Hamad Obaid has said that UAE will launch one of the biggest investments in a refinery project in Hub very soon. He said that it is going to be a \$ 5Bn investment between Mubadala Petroleum Company of Abu Dhabi, PARCO and OMV Pakistan Exploration Gesellschaft. The project was finalized during Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's Pakistan visit earlier this year. *The Nation*.

SSGC to procure 3,000mt LPG for remote consumers

SSGC has invited bids from international suppliers for the provision of 3,000 metric tons of LPG on cost and freight basis in two parcels of 1,500 metric tons each, as the gas utility intended to supply synthetic natural gas as an alternate to piped gas. The bids would be opened on 3rd Dec'19. *The News*.

Pak-China FTA to become operational shortly: Ambassador Hashmi

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi has said that free trade agreement (FTA) signed between Pakistan and China would become operational in a few months. She said that all the procedures have been completed on the Pakistani side and it is on the Chinese side, where there are only a few procedures that are left. While commenting on increase in Pakistani export to China, she said with the FTA becoming operational, the prices will in any way go down, because the import duties will not apply then. *The Nation*.

OECD gives data of Pakistanis offshore accounts

Pakistan has received new information about offshore bank accounts from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) amid negligible progress on previously obtained information due to administrative flaws and negative fallout of 2018 tax amnesty scheme. Forty-four member countries of the OECD have shared information about the bank and financial accounts of resident Pakistanis. Last year 28 countries had shared information with Pakistan. The FBR had committed to the NA panel that it would complete the proceedings in all the pending cases by 31st Oct'19. But so far progress remains far below expectations due to non-resolution of operational issues and the notification of offshore commissioners as directors offshore has not been issued yet. *Tribune*.

PTCL directed to prepare surcharge slabs for consumers

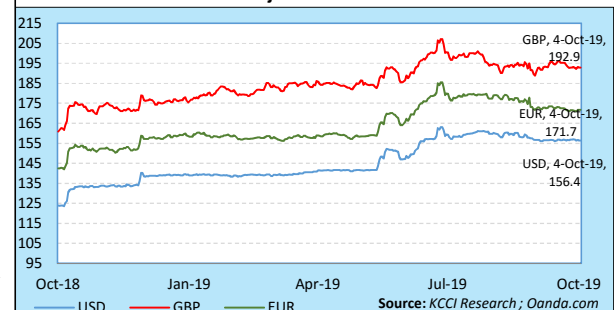
The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication directed PTCL to prepare slabs for extra surcharges on its consumer bills. The committee discussed complaints pertaining to delay in issuance of bills by PTCL to its consumers and the levy of surcharges on account of non-payment of bills within due date. It pointed out that the responsibility for delay in issuance of phone bills was on PTCL authorities, however, the general public was being burdened with surcharges, which were 10% of the total amount, for non-payment. They further lamented that there were several areas where bills were not received while e-bills could not be downloaded due to weak internet services. *Tribune*.

Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	4-Oct	PKR	156.53	0.11%
USD-Open MKT	4-Oct	PKR	156.35	0.00%
KSE-100 index	4-Oct	Pts.	33,033	0.86%
FIPI	4-Oct	\$ Mn	0.32	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	3-Oct	\$/bbl	52.32	-0.40%
Gold (MA'19)	3-Oct	\$/oz	1,507.3	0.33%
Gold (10g) Local	4-Oct	PKR	0	-100.00%
Silver (MA'19)	3-Oct	\$/oz	17.56	-0.05%
Cotton(KHI) -40 kg	4-Oct	PKR	9,324	0.00%
Kibor-6M	4-Oct	%	13.90	0.00%
Forex Reserves	27-Sep	\$ Bn	15.00	-4.87%
	FY20			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-Sep 19	%	10.08	
Discount Rate	Jul-19	%	13.25	

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

Major Currencies

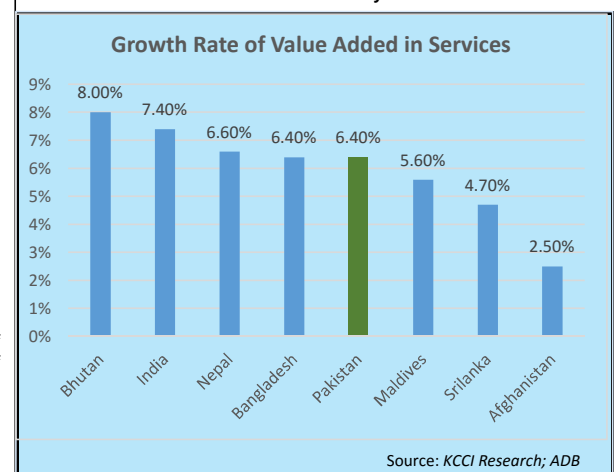


Quote of the Day

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of its self."

Henry Ford

Chart of the Day



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