

NAB won't probe tax evasion, bank default cases

NAB Chairman Javed Iqbal has announced that none of the bureau's officials would call any businessman directly for questioning and the NAB would not investigate cases of tax evasion and those related to bank default except the cases referred to it by banks. He said that all under-investigation cases of tax evasion would be forwarded to FBR so that the board itself could deal with such cases, while NAB would first send a questionnaire to businessmen involved in corruption before calling them in case they failed to give a satisfactory reply. The announcement was made by NAB chief days after some business tycoons had shared their concerns regarding the accountability process with PM Imran Khan and the COAS. *Dawn*.

Businessmen upbeat after meeting army chief: minister

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Hammad Azhar has said that businessmen who recently met the army chief to share their reported concerns on the economic conditions, are upbeat after their meeting. The army chief had assured them that no one would be allowed to jeopardize national stability. He said that at present all state institutions were on the same page and in harmony to achieve national objectives. *Dawn*.

Prime Minister leaves for China today

PM Imran Khan is expected to pay an official visit to China from Monday (7th Oct'19) to discuss issues of regional and bilateral significance with Chinese leadership. During his visit, the PM will hold separate meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. PM Imran Khan will also discuss expansion of projects under CPEC framework besides cooperation in agriculture, industrial and socio-economic sectors. *BR*.

New projects offered to China as part of CPEC: minister

Amid a perceived slowdown on CPEC, Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtyar has said that Pakistan would engage China at the highest level for talks on several big projects. Regarding PM Imran Khan's 3-day visit to Beijing, Mr Bakhtyar said that Pakistan would start formal negotiations on additional projects, including a major overland LNG terminal, 7,000-mw Bunji hydropower project, Pakistan Steel Mills, oil refineries as well as joint ventures in businesses and science and technology. Technical discussions would follow later in Oct'19 at joint working group level and then during the Joint Coordination Committee meeting in Nov'19. *Dawn*.

PM, team held meetings with global financial leaders during US visit

During recent visit to the US, PM Imran Khan and his delegation met with global financial leaders, bankers and investors to share with them the economic vision and reforms undertaken by the govt. The PM and his adviser discussed business incentives and proposals for investment in Pakistan. Particular sectors that were highlighted related to telecom, investment, equity market, banking, IT Industry, energy and tourism etc. The PM also invited delegates to visit Pakistan for a Global Business Leaders conference that is being planned later in 2019. *The News*.

Distributors urge FBR to reduce WHT to 0.25%

A segment of the distributors responsible for supplying goods of multinational companies across the country has urged the FBR to reduce the 2.5% withholding tax (which has been implemented from 1st Oct'19) to 0.25%, saying if the measure is not taken they would be forced to wind up their businesses. They said that the handling distributors get 1.5% margin of which 1% is the operational cost and 0.5% profit thus terming the 2.5% WHT baseless. By closure of business, over 3,000 people in the country would be laid off. *Tribune*.

Significant improvements in fight against money laundering, terror financing

A Mutual Evaluation Report released by the APG — a regional affiliate of FATF — showed that Pakistan was non-compliant on 4 out of 40 recommendations of the APG on effectiveness of the AML/CFT system. The report based on Pakistan's performance as of Oct'18 showed that the country was fully compliant only on one aspect relating to financial institutions secrecy laws. It was found partially compliant on 26 recommendations and largely compliant on 9 others. The report comes a week ahead of FATF's review meetings in Paris (13th-18th Oct'19) that would determine whether Pakistan should remain or move out of the grey list or be put on the blacklist. *Dawn*.

Action against tax frauds gains momentum: Shabbar

FBR Chairman Shabbar Zaidi has said that the enforcement action against persons involved in fake and flying invoices to commit sales tax frauds has gained momentum. Regional Tax Office (RTO), Faisalabad has busted an organised gang involved in business of fake and flying invoices, causing huge loss to the national kitty. The gang was using seven banks accounts to carryout benami transactions for committing tax fraud. *BR*.

Foreign SEZ investors to enjoy full ownership benefit in Pakistan

The federal govt. has decided in principle that foreigners who invest in SEZs will be entitled to 100% ownership and there will be no condition regarding the minimum amount of investment. A high-level committee has also been set up to review a proposal that non-resident Pakistanis be given a tax holiday on all kinds of income on investments including property, capital gains, dividends and profits on loans. It has also been decided that investors in SEZs will be allowed to take abroad 100% of their profit money. *Tribune*.

SBP to launch faster payment gateway next year

SBP has said that a new, faster payment gateway will be launched next year to facilitate instant transfer of funds. SBP organized a workshop titled 'Digital Payments Reforms' in collaboration with the World Bank. The objective was to share the draft National Payment Systems Strategy and solicit the input of key stakeholders involved in its implementation. *Dawn*.

e-Commerce: SBP urged to come up with clear-cut policy

Federal Cabinet has urged SBP to come up with clear-cut policy on e-Commerce to facilitate interested foreign companies. These instructions were issued during discussion on the e-Commerce policy of Commerce Division, which the cabinet felt still needs improvements. According to SBP, excluding Cash-on-Delivery (CoD) sales, e-Commerce sales stood at PKR 18.7Bn by end of Jun'18 while the total size of Pakistan's e-Commerce market in 2018 was PKR 99.3Bn. The number of registered e-Commerce merchants has risen 2.6 times and e-Commerce payments have surged 2.3 times in a span of just 12 months. PM had assigned the Commerce Division to frame a comprehensive e-Commerce policy in consultation with the stakeholders. *BR*.

SECP Listed Companies Regulations 2019: Financial firms must change external auditors after every 5 years

SECP has made it mandatory for listed companies in the financial sector to change their external auditors after every five years. All inter-related companies/ institutions, engaged in business of providing financial services shall appoint the same firm of auditors to conduct audit of their accounts. *BR*.

Motorcyclists reject Sindh govt.'s decision of installing trackers

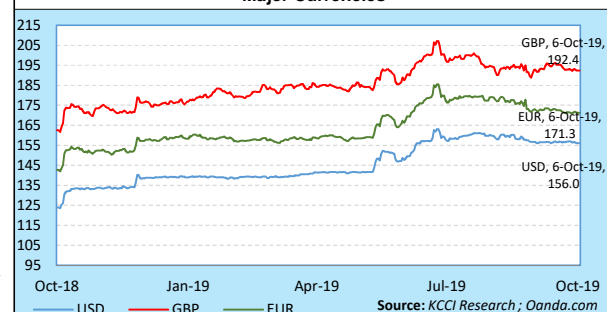
Sindh govt. is likely to make it mandatory to install tracking device in all motorcycles across the province costing an additional PKR 4,000 to 5,000 on unwanted tracker service. Motorcyclists lamented the proposal, saying that if authorities cannot provide convenience then they have no right to consider such proposals. *BR*.

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)	4-Oct	\$/bbl	52.95	1.20%
Gold (MA'19)	4-Oct	\$/oz	1,505.9	-0.09%
Gold (10g) Local	4-Oct	PKR	74,074	0.00%
Silver (MA'19)	4-Oct	\$/oz	17.53	-0.16%
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



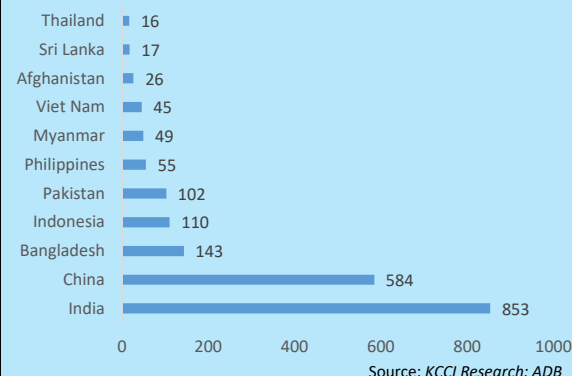
Quote of the Day

"Opportunities don't happen. You create them."

Chris Grosser

Chart of the Day

Population without Access to Clean Cooking (Asia - Mn)



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