

### Businesses offered scheme by SBP to avert layoffs

SBP has introduced a temporary refinance scheme to incentivize businesses to not lay off their workers during COVID-19 Pandemic. The scheme will provide financing for wages and salaries expense for three months from Apr'20 to Jun'20 for those businesses which do not lay off their employees for these three months. The mark-up on the loans under this scheme will be up to 5%. Borrowers that are on the active taxpayers list, will be able to get loans at a further reduced mark-up rate of 4%. SBP will provide refinance to Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) at service charges of 1% per annum for financing to SME clients, allowing PFIs to charge maximum spread of 4% per annum. For financing to corporate and commercial borrowers, SBP will provide refinance to PFIs at service charges of 2% per annum, allowing PFIs to charge maximum spread of 3% per annum. *BR.*

### Businesses reject Sindh emergency relief ordinance

KCCI President Agha Shahab Ahmed and BMG Chairman Siraj Kassam Teli, in a joint statement, have said that the draft of Sindh COVID-19 emergency relief ordinance is not acceptable and urged the Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah to take the business and industrial community into confidence prior to implementing any such law. Businessmen said they are not willing to expel workforce but they have been facing severe liquidity crunch due to suspension of business activities. They said that the relief ordinance must guarantee that SRB will be barred from collecting all types of taxes for a period of at least 6 months. Funds being collected by EOBI and Sindh Employees Social Security Institution for registered workers could be utilized to support the workers who are already registered with them, the businessmen said. *The News.*

### Remittances increase to \$ 16.9Bn in July-March

Workers' remittances increased 6% to \$ 16.9Bn in 9MFY20 compared with \$ 16Bn in 9MFY19. Larger amounts of workers' remittances were received from KSA (\$ 452.3Mn), UAE (\$ 420.4Mn), USA (\$ 352.4Mn) and UK (\$ 248.5Mn). *The News.*

### PKR 21.32Bn released for textiles, non textiles sectors: Razak

Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood has said that that Drawback of Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) refunds of PKR 20.5Bn for textiles sector and PKR 0.83Bn for non-textiles sector have been released by the Ministry of Commerce. He further said that the Ministry has decided for regularly interacting with Chambers of Commerce and Industries to proactively engage and solve the problems faced by trade and industry during COVID-19 crisis. *The Nation.*

### Tax on donations to 'Covid-19 Pandemic Relief Fund 2020' exempted

FBR has exempted income tax on donations/payments made to PM's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund, 2020. The provisions of Section 151 (profit on debt); 231A (cash withdrawal from a bank); 231AA (advance tax on transactions in bank) and 236P (advance tax on banking transactions otherwise than through cash) shall not apply to the Relief Fund-2020. *BR.*

### World Bank working on repurposing \$ 2Bn to help combat Covid-19

World Bank (WB) Country Director in Pakistan, Illango Patchamuthu, has said that WB is working on repurpose of up to \$ 2Bn, to make available to support Pakistan's recovery initiatives of the pandemic through building on safety net programme, supporting employment through public works programme and micro-enterprises, and addressing the looming food security issue. The bank board recently approved \$ 200Mn pandemic responsive fund facility for Pakistan, which was part of the \$ 14Bn global fund facility for coping with the pandemic. *BR.*

### Export orders: MoC effort to reach exact number hits snag

Ministry of Commerce (MoC) is reportedly facing a difficult situation with respect to getting the exact number of confirmed export orders as exporters are hiding clients' information fearing that the data of their clients can be accessed by their competitor. Commerce Ministry recently advised exporters to approach appointed Trade and Investment Officers of concerned country and share their buyers' information so that they can be contacted and convinced not to cancel orders. *BR.*

### IHC bars banks from collecting debt settlements during lockdown

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has barred all private banks from collecting debt settlements during the lockdown and sought reply from the federal govt., finance ministry, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), SBP and others in this regard. *The News.*

### Car sales plunge 71.8% amid lockdown

Passenger car sales have plunged by 71.8% to 5,796 units in Mar'20, as compared to 19,897 in Mar'19 amid lockdown against the novel coronavirus. Decline in Mar'20 is the largest ever decline in any month's sales. *The News.*

### Govt to issue fortnightly LPG price notifications

The govt. has agreed to LPG distributors' demands for fortnightly price notifications and fixing of margin for marketing companies at PKR 15,000 per ton while PKR 10,000 per ton each for distribution and transportation. The decision, taken at a meeting presided over by Special Assistant on Petroleum Nadeem Babar, also concluded that the transportation cost for far-flung and hilly areas would be notified separately. *Dawn.*

### Byco resumes production

Byco Petroleum Pakistan has announced that due to improved POL demand across the country, it has resumed production at its oil refinery on Fri (10<sup>th</sup> Apr'20). This comes weeks after Ministry of Energy issued an order to stop all import of petroleum products to all oil marketing companies to ensure domestic refineries products are fully consumed. *Dawn.*

### 'Update WeBOC profiles'

FBR has asked exporters to update their profiles on the web-based computerized system of customs for electronic transfer of duty drawback payments. FBR has said that information needs to be updated as soon as possible to avail electronic transfer facility. In 9MFY20, FBR released customs duty drawbacks worth PKR 10.05Bn to exporters. *Dawn.*

### Pak-Afghan trade limited to food and medicines

Cargo movement between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been limited to food and medicines only amid the coronavirus outbreak and that too only thrice a week following the guidelines issued by the health ministry. A meeting of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Covid-19 was also informed that supply of food items from Iran to four border districts of Balochistan has also been permitted. *Tribune.*

### IMF projects negative per capita income growth in over 170 countries in 2020

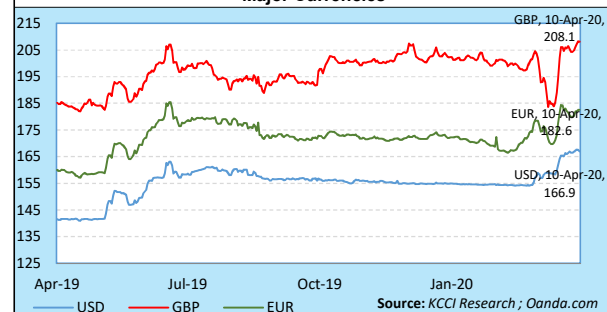
IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said that over 170 countries will experience negative per capita income growth this year. In her curtain raiser speech ahead of the Spring Meetings next week, she said that COVID-19 has disrupted social and economic order at lightning speed and on a scale that we have not seen in living memory. Just three months ago, IMF expected positive per capita income growth in over 160 of its member countries in 2020. *Tribune.*

### Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	10-Apr	PKR	166.79	-0.23%
USD-Open MKT	10-Apr	PKR	165.78	0.00%
KSE-100 index	10-Apr	Pts.	32,033	0.62%
FIPI	10-Apr	\$ Mn	-0.72	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	8-Apr	\$/bbl	24.42	-7.29%
Gold (MA'19)	8-Apr	\$/oz	1,670.2	-1.39%
Gold (10g) Local	10-Apr	PKR	87,110	0.00%
Silver (MA'19)	8-Apr	\$/oz	15.29	0.07%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	10-Apr	PKR	9,431	0.00%
Kibor-6M	10-Apr	%	10.21	0
Forex Reserves	3-Apr	\$ Bn	16.99	-2.31%
<b>FY20</b>				<b>YoY</b>
Remittances	Jul-Mar 20	\$ Bn	16.99	5.99%
Exports*	Jul-Mar 20	\$ Bn	17.45	3.65%
Imports*	Jul-Mar 20	\$ Bn	34.81	-14.06%
Trade Balance*	Jul-Mar 20	\$ Bn	-17.36	26.72%
Current Account	Jul-Feb 20	\$ Bn	-2.84	71.04%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-Feb 20	\$ Bn	1.85	184.81%
LSM Growth*	Jul-Jan 20	%	-3.37	
Avg. CPI	Jul-Mar 20	%	11.53	
Discount Rate	Nov-19	%	11.00	

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

### Major Currencies

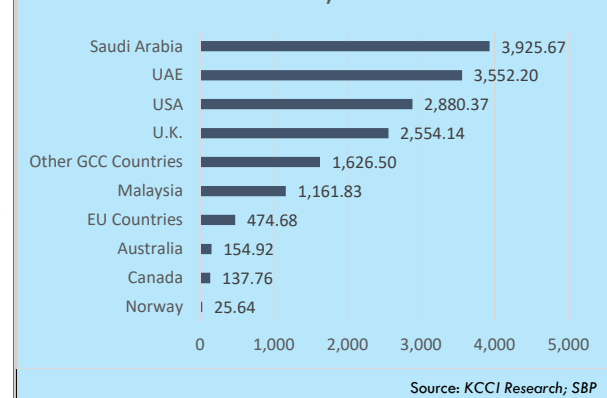


### Quote of the Day

"The road to success is always under construction."

Lily Tomlin

### Top Pakistan Remittance Destinations-9MFY20 (\$ Mn)



### Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by KCCI Research & Development Cell. The information contained herein has been compiled or arrived at based on information obtained from sources believed to be reliable and in good faith. Such information has not been independently verified.

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