

KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

June 20, 2020 KCCI - eBulletin

Unchecked movement of people makes smart lockdown ineffective

The smart lockdown imposed by the Sindh govt. to contain the spread of coronavirus has been rendered largely ineffective as, while the local administration and law enforcement agencies succeeded to close down business centres to a large extent, they failed to stop people's movement in the neighborhoods identified as Covid-19 hotspots. Traders and businessmen have said that the smart lockdown is creating confusion and only affecting businesses while failing to serve its original purpose. Dawn.

FDI jumps 90.6% to \$ 2.40Bn in 11 months

Foreign direct investment in Pakistan surged 90.6% to \$ 2.40Bn in 11MFY20 compared with \$ 1.259Bn in 11MFY19. FDI in the power sector attracted \$ 749.6Mn foreign while the communications sector inflows stood at \$ 583.8Mn. Net FDI from China increased 695% to \$ 855.6Mn, while investments from Norway increased 212.6% to \$ 346Mn. The News.

IMF allows Pakistan to utilize its resources for BoP, budgetary support

IMF has allowed Pakistan for utilizing its resources as balance of payment as well as budgetary support in next FY21. IMF granted its permission keeping in view massive budgetary requirements of Pakistan. Pakistan's budget deficit is envisaged at PKR 3,195Bn, equivalent 7% of GDP, for FY21. The News.

Fitch says Pakistan's budget goal overly ambitious

Global credit rating agency Fitch Ratings said Pakistan fiscal targets for the next fiscal year will be challenging to meet amid the economic shock and health crisis associated with the coronavirus pandemic. It said that public finances are a key credit weakness, as it noted even before the health crisis took hold when we affirmed Pakistan's rating at 'B-' with a stable outlook in Jan'20. Fitch's forecasts are more conservative than the govt.'s and it expected deficits of 9.5% of GDP in FY20 and 8.2% in FY21, pushing the public debt-to-GDP ratio up to 89% of GDP. The News.

Govt asked to restore budget documents

The Senate Standing Committee on Finance, which was deliberating the Finance Bill 2020 in detail, has directed the govt. to restore the budget documents in their original form and has rejected a proposal that would require a taxpayer to submit his profile before seeking income tax registration. It also rejected a proposal of depositing 10% of the disputed tax demand by a taxpayer before filing appeal with the appellate tribunal. Tribune.

Banks sanction PKR 107.5Bn loans under SBP Rozgar Scheme

As of 12th Jun'20, banks have approved loans worth PKR 107.5Bn, under the risk sharing facility of SBP Rozgar Scheme, introduced to save jobs during pandemic, while of that total financing amounting PKR 23.5Bn is for SMEs and small corporates. JS Bank maintained its top position by approving PKR 3.78Bn, followed by HBL with PKR 3.62Bn for SMEs. The News.

Govt automates tax return assessment in major policy shift

The govt. has automated tax return assessment in a major policy shift for FY21, bringing to an end decade-old manual procedure. Under the new mechanism the filed return would be subject to an automatic review and adjustment within 6 months of filing of return for rectification of any numerical errors or incorrect claims, losses, deductible allowances or tax credit, or wrongful carry-forward of losses that are apparent from the return of income. The News.

SNGPL, SSGC to supply gas to SEZs, industrial parks

The two state companies, SNGPL and SSGC, would provide gas to SEZs and industrial parks, during FY21, aimed at boosting industrial production in the country. SSGC would lay a 9-KM pipeline for supply of 13.5 MMCFD gas to Dhabeiji SEZ, Sindh, besides laying a 3.5-KM supply line to supply 13 MMCFD gas to Bin Qasim Industrial Park at TBS, Sindh. The Nation.

Pakistan, ADB ink \$ 235Mn agreement to develop Karachi's Red Line BRT project

ADB has inked \$ 235Mn loan agreement with the federal govt. for development of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Karachi. The loan was initially approved by the bank in Jul'19. The Project will restructure the entire width of the Red Line BRT corridor, including construction of 29 stations and dedicated lanes along the 26.6km stretch. Tribune.

1.400MW additional electricity for Karachi approved

The Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCOE) on Friday approved 1,400MW of additional power supply from the national grid to Karachi and directed submission of draft Alternative & Renewable Energy Policy (AREP) to the cabinet. The AREP policy 2019 envisages protection of the environment by increasing the share of green energy in the overall energy mix. Dawn.

International flights resume today

The govt. has allowed resumption of international flight operations to and from all international airports in the country — except Gwadar and Turbat airports — from today (20th Jun'20). Dawn.

\$ 1.5Bn loan agreements signed to fight virus

PM Imran Khan has witnessed the signing ceremony of \$ 1.5Bn loan agreements with the World Bank (WB), ADB and Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB) for combating the Covid-19 crisis. ADB is extending \$ 500Mn under the Covid-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program, and AIIB is extending co-financing of \$ 500Mn under the same program. Another agreement relates to the Securing Human Investments to Foster Transformation worth \$ 500Mn. Dawn.

Lockdown measures hurting existing projects, says report

Global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows are forecast to decrease by up to 40% in 2020 from 2019's value of \$ 1.54Tn, according to UNCTAD's 'World Investment Report 2020'. This would bring FDI below \$ 1Tn for the first time since 2005. In addition, FDI is projected to decrease by a further 5-10% in 2021 and to initiate a recovery in 2022. The pandemic is a supply, demand and policy shock for FDI. The lockdown measures are slowing down existing investment projects. Dawn.

Strict actions ordered to check poultry price hike

The govt. has taken cognizance of price hike of poultry products, directing Provincial govt.s to take strict actions where undue price hike is being made and urged to take comprehensive measures for smooth supply of poultry products. The News.

Visa launches 'WYSM' initiative to support small businesses

Visa, the world's leader in digital payments, has launched their 'Where You Shop Matters' (WYSM) initiative in Pakistan with Daraz, the country's leading online marketplace. The campaign aims to support small businesses adversely affected by COVID-19 pandemic . The

ATTENTION:

1-All manufacturers and traders of medical equipment like PPE Suits, ventilators, protective kits, masks, plastic shields, sanitizers and other PPEs are requested to share their business profiles and contact details with KCCI (Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry) at the earliest. Engineering Development Board (EDB) Ministry of Industries & Production is organizing an exhibition titled 'Safety-Comes First' to display locally manufactured Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) and other medical devices during the 1st week of July 2020 at

2-Members who have availed opportunity in any CPEC project are requested to share their contact, business and project details with KCCI for assessment of potential and to enable KCCI improve its business facilitation.

List of	Date /	Unit	Value	Change
Indicators	Period	01	value	Daily
USD-Interbank	19-Jun	PKR	167.00	0.63%
USD-Open MKT	19-Jun	PKR	167.50	0.60%
KSE-100 index	19-Jun	Pts.	33,439	-0.30%
FIPI	19-Jun	\$ Mn	-0.79	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	18-Jun	\$/bbl	37.72	-0.79%
Gold (MA'19)	18-Jun	\$/oz	1,731.6	0.10%
Gold (10g) Local	19-Jun	PKR	91,820	0.00%
Silver (MA'19)	18-Jun	\$/oz	17.72	0.51%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	19-Jun	PKR	8,574	0.87%
Kibor-6M	19-Jun	%	7.67	0.02%
				WoW
Forex Reserves	12-Jun	\$ Bn	16.78	0.45%
	FY20			YoY
Remittances	Jul-May 20	\$ Bn	20.65	2.74%
Exports*	Jul-May 20	\$ Bn	19.80	-6.87%
Imports*	Jul-May 20	\$ Bn	40.85	-18.96%
Trade Balance*	Jul-May 20	\$ Bn	-21.06	27.77%
Current Account	Jul-Apr 20	\$ Bn	-3.34	70.80%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-May 20	\$ Bn	2.40	90.60%

-8 96

10.94

8.00

Economic Indicators

Jul-May 20 Jun-20 Sources: KCCI Research, PMEX , NCCPL, KSE, SBP, PBS*

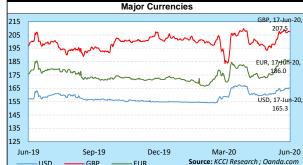
Jul-Apr 20

Not Meaningful on week

_SM Growth*

Discount Rate

Avg. CPI



%

%

Quote of the Day

"A big business starts small."

Richard Branson



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