

KCCI chief urges govt to simplify procedures for starting a business

President KCCI Agha Shahab Ahmed Khan has urged the govt. to take concrete steps for simplifying the cumbersome procedures of starting a business. While sharing his opinion at the 3rd meeting of the steering committee on Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative (PRMI) via video link, President KCCI requested the govt. to look for ways and means to reduce the number of departments as excessive departments create hurdles in way of simplifying procedures. He was of the opinion that as Karachi Chamber better understands the business infrastructure, therefore a think tank should be established with participation of relevant stakeholders including Karachi Chamber of Commerce, which was in a perfect position to give valuable inputs after evaluating the ground realities. *BR.*

Finance Bill, 2020: No new sales tax on mobile phone SIM imposed: FBR

FBR has clarified that it had not imposed any new sales tax of PKR 250 per new mobile phone SIM through amendments in the Finance Bill, 2020. Under the Bill, the previous table has been split into two tables without any changes in the sales tax rates. The first category is the imposition of the sales tax on supply. The second table specify rate of sales tax on cellular mobile phones in CKD/CBU form. *BR.*

2019-20: Goods worth PKR 8, 351Mn seized by Customs North Region

In line with the vision of PM Imran Khan to curb the menace of smuggling, FBR Customs Region (North) seized goods worth PKR 8,351Mn during FY20, which is PKR 1,189Mn (17%) higher than the assigned target of PKR 7,162Mn. The seized goods included non-duty paid (NDP) vehicles, dry/fresh fruits, jewellery (gold bars/ ornaments), smuggled oil/ diesel, dry milk, foreign origin fabric, narcotics, tyres, cigarettes, electronics and other miscellaneous goods. *BR.*

Covid-19 curbs extended for 15 days in Sindh

The Sindh govt. has extended curbs on business and other activities of daily life, which were imposed to contain the coronavirus, for another 15 days (till 15th Jul'20), directing the people across the province to follow the defined standard operating procedures (SOPs). *Dawn.*

New State Bank rules for PKR 40,000 bonds

SBP has advised all commercial banks to accept requests for conversion/redemption of PKR 40,000-denominated national prize bonds, till 31st Dec'20. It also made it clear that the cash payments against encashment of these bonds were not allowed. However, the bond holder(s) shall have some options for the replacement of these bonds such as conversion of premium prize bonds (registered) etc. *The News.*

Manual issuance of IT refunds allowed

According to FBR's new instructions, currently there is no mode or mechanism to issue income tax refunds other than manual issuance as, centralized issuance was only in respect of refunds to be issued under PM's Covid-19 Relief Package, therefore, all income tax refunds to be issued by the Commissioner are to be issued manually. *BR.*

Ban on furnace oil import lifted to meet power demand

The govt. has formally lifted a ban on import of furnace oil to meet peak electricity demand in the country, including Karachi, and has asked at least seven oil companies to make arrangements for its import. *Dawn.*

Duty waived on oxygen gas

The govt. has exempted duty on import of oxygen gas, its cylinder and cryogenic tank for a period of three months. The exemption will apply in respect of the letter of credit opened or goods declaration form filed on and from 23rd Jun'20. *Dawn.*

Defer repayment plea of principal loans amounts: Three-month extension to NBMFCs allowed

SECP has allowed 3 months extension till 30th Sep'20, to the non-bank micro-finance companies (NBMFCs) for accepting borrowers request to defer repayment of principal loans amounts by one year. All other conditions of circular number 9 of 2020 would remain the same. *BR.*

June inflation rate edges up slightly to 8.59% YoY

CPI-based inflation has registered an increase of 8.6% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in Jun'20 as compared to an increase of 8.2% in May'20, and 8% in Jun'19. In FY20 CPI recorded at 10.74% compared with 6.8% in FY19. *BR.*

Regulator approves 59 M&A applications

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) processed and granted approval to 59 merger and acquisition (M&A) applications in FY20 to facilitate local and foreign investors. Major sectors where M&A took place include automotive, household products, food and sugar. *Dawn.*

SRB collects PKR 105.9Bn during 2019-20

SRB has collected PKR 105.9Bn during FY20 as compared to the collection of PKR 100.3Bn made in FY19, depicting 5.6% growth. It includes record receipts of PKR 100.3Bn of Sindh sales tax, representing a growth of 8% over the collection of PKR 93.1Bn and the collection of Sindh Workers Welfare Fund has also been up to PKR 5.6Bn. *BR.*

PTA extends VPN registration deadline

In order to facilitate businesses and general public for registration of virtual private networks (VPNs), the PTA has decided to extend the VPN registration deadline for one month to 31st Jul'20. The legitimate VPN users have been asked to approach their internet service provider for initiating VPN registration process. For resolution of any related queries and facilitation, PTA can be approached at following email: . *The News.*

Centre asks provinces to announce their own finance commission awards

PM Imran Khan, during a cabinet meeting, has directed the provincial governments to announce Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) awards to end any "disparity" in distribution of funds among districts. *Dawn.*

Fresh projects put on hold till finalization of power capacity expansion plan

Rebuffing the power regulator's advice, Power Division has put on hold making fresh commitments for new power projects until a consensus is reached on Pakistan's first Integrated Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (2020-2047) awaiting approval of Nepra. *Dawn.*

FBR collects PKR 82Bn more than revised target

FBR has collected PKR 3,989Bn revenue in FY20, which is PKR 82Bn more than the revised revenue target of PKR 3,907Bn set for FY20. Despite outbreak of coronavirus, there was growth of 5% in income tax, 9% in sales tax, 7% in excise duty and negative growth of 8.4% in customs duty. In FY20, FBR has issued refunds of PKR 235Bn, which were PKR 69Bn in FY19 showing an increase of 340%. *The News.*

Sindh turns down withholding agent duty for motor vehicles

The Sindh govt. has stopped collecting withholding tax on vehicles on behalf of the FBR with the start of FY21, commensurate with the provincial cabinet decision. Among others it identified PKR 10Bn as recoverable amount from Sindh excise department. *The News.*

Airlift raises \$ 10Mn

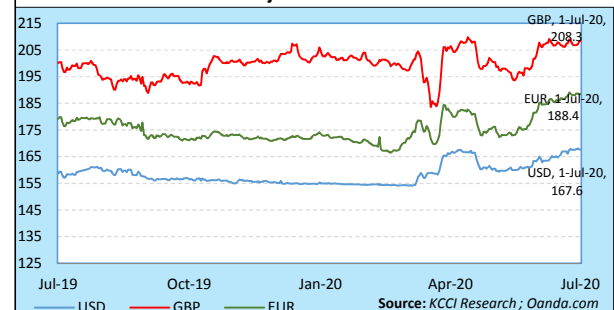
Airlift has raised \$ 10Mn in Series A-1 financing, which took the startup's total investment to \$ 24.1Mn. It also introduced Airlift Grocer — a 45-minute delivery service for household essentials. *Dawn.*

Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	30-Jun	PKR	168.05	-0.08%
USD-Open MKT	30-Jun	PKR	168.40	-0.09%
KSE-100 index	1-Jul	Pts.	34,889	1.36%
FIPI	1-Jul	\$ Mn	-3.39	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	1-Jul	\$/bbl	39.64	-0.15%
Gold (MA'19)	1-Jul	\$/oz	1,798.4	0.78%
Gold (10g) Local	1-Jul	PKR	95,200	-0.83%
Silver (MA'19)	1-Jul	\$/oz	18.52	2.63%
Cotton(KHI) -40 kg	1-Jul	PKR	9,002	2.44%
Kibor-6M	30-Jun	%	7.24	0.02%
Forex Reserves	19-Jun	\$ Bn	16.73	-0.30%
	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-May 20	\$ Bn	-3.29	73.60%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-May 20	\$ Bn	2.40	90.60%
LSM Growth*	Jul-Apr 20	%	-8.96	
Avg. CPI	Jul-Jun 20	%	10.74	
Discount Rate	Jun-20	%	8.00	

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

Major Currencies

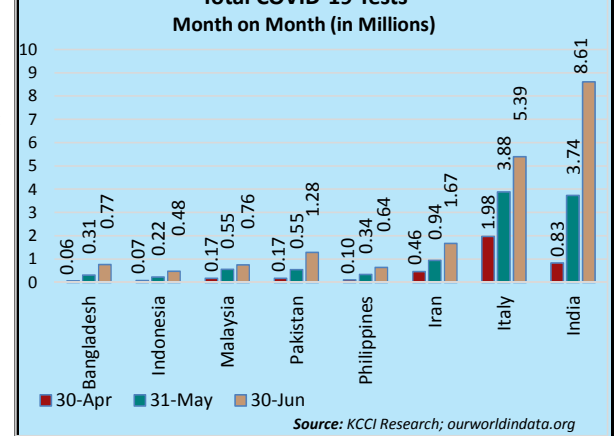


Quote of the Day

"Forecasts may tell you a great deal about the forecaster; they tell you nothing about the future."

Warren Buffett

Total COVID-19 Tests



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