

Monday, August 21, 2017 / 28 Zul Qida 1438 Hijri

Market Today (August 17, 2017)

Opening	PSX	Gold Per 10 gm	KCA Spot Rate	Crude Oil USD /bbl.
	43,044.12	39,757.00	6,835.00	47.59

(Source: Express Tribune)

Exchange rates issued by the Treasury Management Division of National Bank of Pakistan. August 17, 2017

Country	Currency	Selling TT & OD	Buying TT Clear
USA	USD	105.5	105.3
UK	GBP	136.15	135.89
Euro	EUR	124.27	124.03
Canada	CAD	83.66	83.5
Switzerland	CHF	109.39	109.19
Australia	AUD	83.74	83.58
Sweden	SEK	13.21	13.18
Japan	JPY	0.9603	0.9584
Norway	NOK	13.34	13.31
Singapore	SGD	77.39	77.25
Denmark	DKK	16.71	16.68
Saudi Arabia	SAR	28.13	28.08
Hong Kong	HKD	13.63	13.6
China	CNY	16.16	16.13
Kuwait	KWD	349.45	348.79
Malaysia	MYR	24.58	24.53
New Zealand	NZD	77.31	77.16
Qatar	QAR	28.97	28.92
UAE	AED	28.72	28.67

(Source: Business Recorder)

Sectoral Share in GDP %

Sectors/Sub-Sectors	2014-15	2015-16 (p)
Commodity Producing Sector (Agriculture + Industrial Sector)	41.4	40.8
Agriculture	20.80	19.82
Crops	8.2	7.4
Livestock	11.7	11.6
Fishing	0.4	0.4
Forestry	0.4	0.4
Industrial Sector	20.6	21.0
Mining & Quarrying	2.9	2.9
Manufacturing	13.6	13.6
Construction	2.4	2.6
Electricity & Gas Distribution	1.7	1.9
Services Sector	58.6	59.2
Transport, Storage & communication	13.4	13.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	18.3	18.3
Finance & Insurance	3.2	3.3
Ownership of Dwellings	6.7	6.7
General Government Services	7.1	7.6
Other Services	9.9	10.1

(Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2015-16)

Lahore, Sialkot chambers to conduct joint studies

The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) have agreed to make joint efforts for the promotion of trade and industry. The decision was taken in a meeting between LCCI Acting President Amjad Ali Jawa, Vice President Nasir Hameed Khan and an SCCI delegation, led by Executive Committee member and Standing Committee on Martial Arts & Fitness Chairman Zaem Raza. It was agreed that both the chambers would evolve a unified strategy based on common interests, according to a statement released after the meeting. Both the chambers would also share and exchange all trade-related data for increasing the competitiveness of goods and reducing the cost of doing business. They would cooperate in the preparation of proposals for economic expansion of the country and would undertake joint research studies to help develop industries in Lahore and Sialkot. Jawa said both the chambers would present joint proposals to the federal government before budget finalisation, adding efforts would also be made for attracting investment in special economic zones. The LCCI vice president said the LCCI had already signed memoranda of understanding with the chambers of Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Sargodha and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. SCCI delegation head Zaem Raza said collaboration between the Sialkot and Lahore chambers would go a long way towards resolving the issues being faced by the business community. He stressed the need for increasing exports for economic growth of the country. **(Express Tribune)**

Punjab looks to expand service tax net

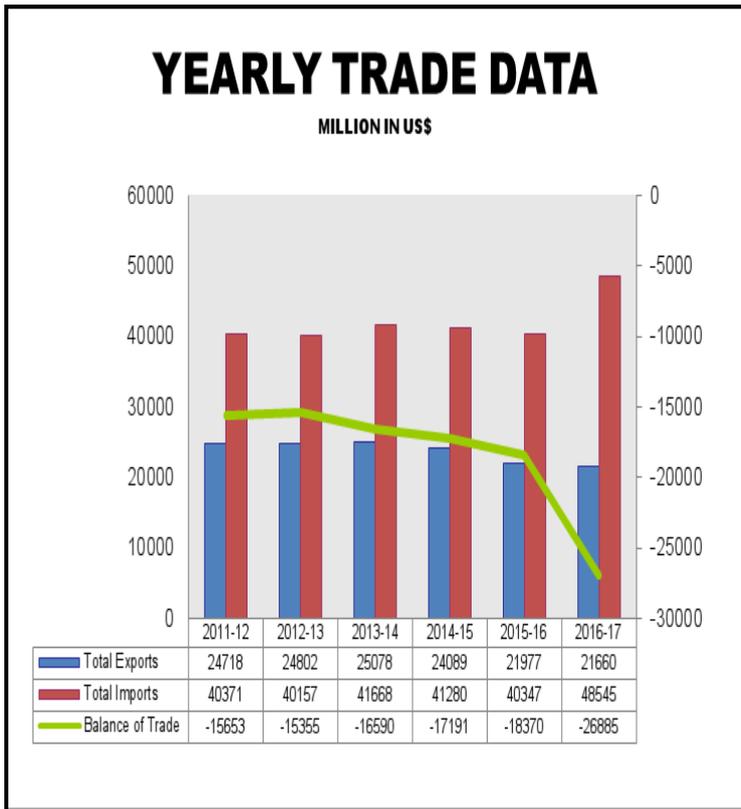
The Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) is implementing a programme to expand its organisational network across the province in order to bring potential taxpayers from the districts into the tax net. The move aims to collect provincial GST (general sales tax) on services, which has in the last few years emerged as a major source of the province's own tax resource. "We are considering setting up smaller field offices across the province. In the first phase of the plan, we are going to create our offices in Sahiwal, Bahawalpur and Gujranwala," PRA Chairman Dr Raheel Ahmed Siddiqui in an interview. "We have already recruited 20 officers and plan to induct as many in the next phase for expanding our network coverage." The authority with its headquarters in Lahore has already established its collectorates in Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Multan along with a sub-office in Murree. In the rest of the districts, the PRA registers taxpayers and collects tax with the help of the local administration. Dr Siddiqui is also hopeful of doubling the provincial services tax in the next two to three years. "We have almost doubled our tax collection from Rs43.6 billion in 2015 to Rs82.4bn in 2017. We are trying to repeat our performance in the next couple of years." The Punjab government targets to raise a hefty Rs130bn in provincial services tax during the present financial year to June 2018, up by almost 58pc from what it had collected last fiscal year. "It is indeed an ambitious target. You never know we may achieve it or get quite close to it," the chairman noted. **(Dawn)**

Commerce minister rules out major changes before polls

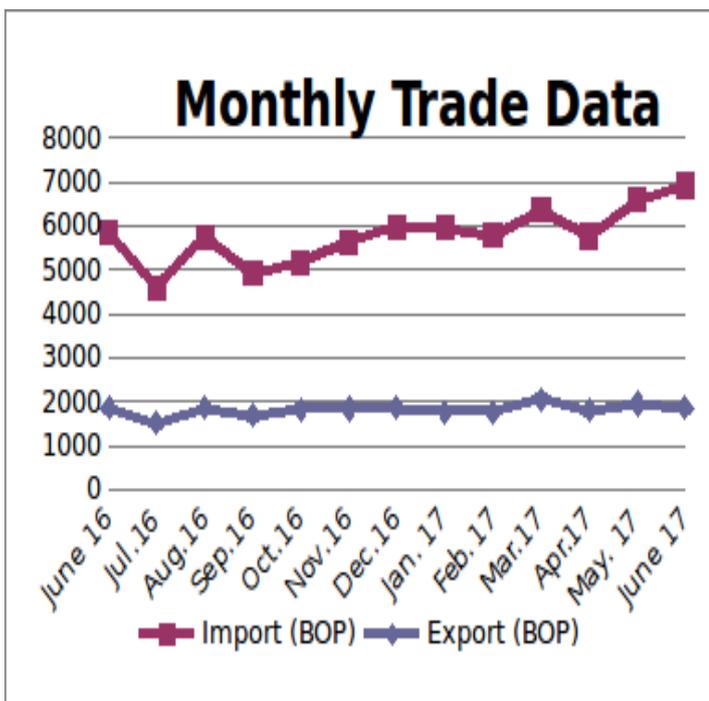
As Pakistan's exports continue to fall for the fourth consecutive year, posting a decline of 12 per cent, the need for a fresh policy is now badly felt. The newly-appointed Commerce Minister, Pervaiz Malik, finds himself hamstrung by the daunting task of re-framing the policy. The decline in exports is unprecedented in the recent history of national exports and warrants major structural reforms. One of the major concerns expressed by Prime Minister Khaqan Abbasi, since he took over the government, was the declining exports against the immense opportunities which were being missed. "Until the next election in 2018, I may not be able to bring structural changes in the time

Economic Indicators	
Annual (2015/16)	
Foreign Debt	\$62.649bn
Per Capita Income	\$1,512
GDP Growth	4.24%
Average CPI	8.6%
Monthly (June, 2017)	
Trade Balance	\$-3,189 mln
Exports	\$1,865 mln
Imports	\$5,054 mln
Weekly (July 14, 2017)	
Reserves	\$20.830 mln

(Source: SBP)



(Source: SBP)



(Source: SBP)

remaining? the new commerce minister told Dawn. However, he said he will focus on some facilitating measures. He listed few areas where he said the business community needs facilitation. Instead of trying to prepare a viable action plan for the promotion of the export sector, he said that he would take up the issue of stuck sales tax refunds with the relevant authorities. This will resolve the industry cash flow problems. He admitted that industries did not reap the benefit of falling petroleum product prices because of rising cost of other utilities in the country. However, the minister was not sure about the exact amount of refunds withheld by the Federal Board of Revenue. The second important area was to pursue the industry demand of unconditional cash subsidy on exports proceeds in 2017-18, under the prime minister's Rs180 billion support package. (Dawn)

Pakistan-Indonesia trade volume to grow to \$2.5b this year

Bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan is expected to reach \$2.5 billion this year, said Indonesian Consul General in Karachi Dempo Awang Yুদ্ধie. Speaking at a ceremony held to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia on Thursday, he said that the two countries had tried to improve both political and economic ties since 2015. Resultantly, a number of Pakistani parliamentarians, trade delegations and military personnel visited Indonesia recently to further enhance the bilateral relationship. Trade between Pakistan and the Southeast Asian giant has been growing strongly for the last couple of years. The volume of bilateral trade grew from \$700 million in 2010 to \$2.3 billion in 2016, an increase of 229%. Pakistan's major exports to Indonesia include textiles and clothing, vegetables and fruits (mainly oranges) while its major import item from Indonesia is palm oil. (Express Tribune)

Chinese firm wants to set up truck production plant

Sinotruk Jinan Truck Co Ltd, the third largest truck manufacturer in mainland China, has shown interest in purchasing heavy vehicle components from Pakistani automobile part manufacturers. In this regard, a 10-member delegation recently met members of the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (Paapam) in Karachi to discuss possibilities of collaboration between companies of the two countries. Sinotruk Group is principally engaged in the manufacture and distribution of heavy-duty vehicles and spare components. The company has also shown interest in setting up a production plant for trucks in Pakistan, according to a Paapam press release. Paapam members invited the Chinese executives to visit their plants so that the companies of both sides could collaborate for joint ventures. Paapam Chairman Mashood Ali Khan briefed the delegation about the technologies, resources and expertise of Pakistani parts manufacturers. He also spoke about the growing auto industry of Pakistan and how it was already heavily involved in the production of motorcycles, cars, buses, trucks and their auto parts. (Express Tribune)

Decentralising the power sector

As soon as he took over, the new prime minister has made major changes in various ministries and divisions. A key change is the setting up of a new Energy Ministry which will have two divisions — Power and Petroleum. It is expected that this will help harmonise all energy-related affairs and result in improved efficiencies in the supply, distribution and usage of power and petroleum products. The move may, however, lead to another type of disconnect as the work on major hydropower projects, such as Dasu and Diamer Bhasha, are expected to begin in the near future and it's hoped that these organisational changes will not impact their timely implementation. The newly segregated ministries of energy and water need to develop a coordination mechanism to ensure that there is complete alignment among them, especially on the Dasu and Diamer Bhasha HPPs. The developing water scarcity, which has major implications for Pakistan is another reason for the close coordination between the ministries. It seems that in spite of the government's sincere efforts in the form of huge financial outlays for new power generating stations, the electricity problem continues to persist. (Dawn)