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• **Asaan Karobar launched**

President Arif Alvi on Friday launched the Asaan Karobar Programme saying innovative strategies by incorporating digital technology was essential to ensuring sustainable business activities specially to lessen the compliance burden on businesses particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

• **Gwadar Port to be utilized for Afghan transit trade**

The Pak-Afghan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PACCI) and Gwadar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCII) on Friday agreed to utilize Gwadar Port for Afghan transit trade. The chambers also agreed to take measures for boosting bilateral trade. It was decided that steps in this regard would be taken in consultation with the concerned authorities so that Gwadar Port becomes a trade and economic hub between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

• **Punjab govt, ADB agree to enhance cooperation**

The Punjab government and Asian Development Bank have agreed to enhance cooperation in housing, skills development, social, women empowerment and small industries sectors. During the meeting, ongoing projects (in collaboration with ADB) and the current government's priorities for future investments came under discussion.

• **Big industry output grows 8.2pc in January**

The large-scale manufacturing (LSM) grew 8.2 per cent year-on-year in January, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

• **Minister terms cloud policy major milestone**

Appreciates PM Imran for introducing Digital Pakistan vision. The first Cloud Policy of the country, formulated by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, is greatest milestone achieved by Pakistan and efforts are being made to connect the country to rest of the globe, said Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Aminul Haque.

• **Kazakhstan To Host Summit for Pakistani Companies in May This Year: Ambassador**

Kazakhstan will host a trade summit for Pakistan in Atakent Expo Centre, Almaty in May this year to provide opportunity to Pakistani companies to showcase their products to business community of Kazakhstan.

• **Rs5 reduction in power tariff notified**

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday allowed the Power Division to notify Rs5 per unit reduction

in electricity rates for domestic and commercial consumers announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Feb 28.

• **IT sector, freelancers and startups: FBR 'drafting' ordinance aimed at extending incentives**

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is drafting a Presidential Ordinance to extend grant incentives, including tax exemptions, to facilitate the IT sector, freelancers and startups as announced by the Prime Minister Imran Khan.

• **'Wrong' sales tax calculations: Top 10 retailers of branded garments approach PM Imran Khan**

Pakistan's top 10 retailers of branded garments have approached Prime Minister Imran Khan against the wrong sales tax calculations of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Portal, denying legal right of sales tax adjustment against the credit notes.

• **PSEB Appoints AKD Securities as Financial Advisor for Enlistment Of IT/ITES Companies on GEM Board Of PSX**

As per the mandate given by the Ministry of Information Technology, Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) has launched its initiative to provide easy access to capital markets for small and medium IT based enterprises via initial offering on Growth Enterprise Market Board (GEM) of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

• **Next IMF tranche hangs in the balance**

While a staff mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised more questions over the financing of a relief package announced by the prime minister last month, Pakistan may not be able to draw the next tranche of the \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for over a month.

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD- Interbank	March-19	PKR	180.70	0.56%
USD- OPEN MKT	March-19	PKR	180.75	0.31%
EUR- Interbank	March-19	PKR	199.49	-0.27%
EUR- OPEN MKT	March-19	PKR	199.55	-0.14%
GBP- Interbank	March-19	PKR	237.21	0.38%
GBP- OPEN MKT	March-19	PKR	237.29	0.16%
AED- Interbank	March-19	PKR	49.19	0.14%
AED- OPEN MKT	March-19	PKR	49.20	0.28%
CNY- Interbank	March-19	PKR	28.40	0.01%
CNY- OPEN MKT	March-19	PKR	28.42	0.04%
KSE- 100 Index	March-19	PTS.	43029.97	-1.81%
Crude Oil (WTI)	March-19	\$/ bbl	105.70	2.12%
Gold	March-19	\$/ oz	1921.92	0.30%
Silver	March-19	\$/ oz	24.99	0.02%
Cotton (KHI)-40 kg	March-19	PKR	122.40	1.32%
Kibor-6 MONTHS	March-19	%	12.02	-
Exports	July - February 2022	\$Bn	20.55	25.88%
Imports	July - February 2022	\$Bn	52.51	55.08%
Trade Balance	July - February 2022	\$Bn	-31.96	-82.26%

Sources: Tres Mark, PBS, PSX

“Everything you’ve ever wanted is on the other side of fear.”
— George Addair

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