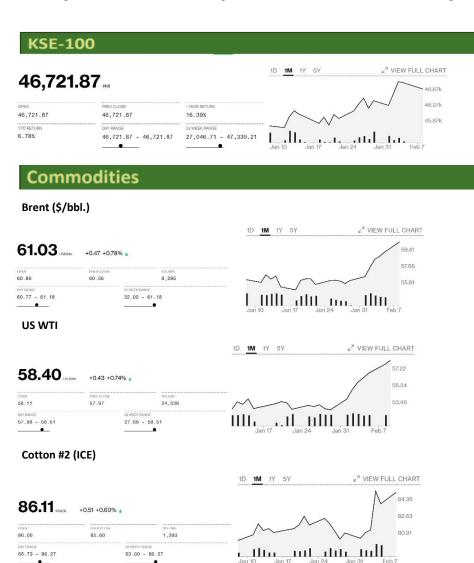
# Daily Economic Update – 9th February, 2021





#### **TOP MOST**

### Moratorium on gas supply to CPPs is no solution

In an endeavor to manage the country's acute gas shortage, the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCoE) has recently proposed a moratorium on gas supply to Captive Power Plants (CPPs) with effect from February. The underlying strategy is to encourage grid electricity consumption while reducing demand for gas. This article seeks to explain why, under the current circumstances, such a policy measure is short-sighted. Complete Story: <a href="https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/02/09/10-page/869141-news.html">https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/02/09/10-page/869141-news.html</a>

### Trade policy fit for Pakistan's productivity growth - Gonzalo J. Varela

Despite a rapid recovery from the COVID19 shock, a long-term examination of export performance reveals structural stagnation. In 1990, Pakistani firms served 0.19% of the world's import demand. By 2019, they served only 0.12% – a decline in their market share of almost 40%. Complete Story:

https://www.globalvillagespace.com/trade-policy-fit-for-pakistans-productivity-growth-gonzalo-j-varela/

### **Exports increase 5.53pc in seven months**

The exports from the country increased by 5.53 percent during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (2020-21) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, PBS reported Monday.

Complete Story: <a href="https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061421/exports-increase-553pc-in-seven-months">https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061421/exports-increase-553pc-in-seven-months</a>

## APTTA extension for 3 months as issues stay unresolved

Pakistan has reportedly decided to extend the effectivity of Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) for three months on interim basis, as both sides have not yet evolved a consensus on a couple of issues, well-informed sources told Business Recorder. Complete Story: <a href="https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061732/aptta-extension-for-3-months-as-issues-stay-unresolved">https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061732/aptta-extension-for-3-months-as-issues-stay-unresolved</a>

# How can Pakistan resolve its power sector woes?

Amongst the plethora of challenges inherited at the time of assuming power, one of the pressing challenges that the incumbent government had to deal with was a burgeoning circular debt in the power sector. Fast forward two and half-years, the issue has further aggravated to an extent that the national exchequer is at risk of losing billions of dollars in case of default of capacity payments to IPP's. Complete Story: https://tribune.com.pk/article/97282/how-can-pakistan-resolve-its-power-sector-

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New York Cotton	Open	Last	Volume
Mar '21	84.40	84.81	1,268
May '21	85.85	86.20	1,402
Jul '21	86.50	86.91	584

### **GENERAL NEWS**

### ECC clears report agreed with IPPs on Rs403bn payment

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has cleared Implementation Committee report agreed with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for payment of Rs403 billion and directed to present the report to the federal cabinet meeting for final approval Tuesday (Feb 9). Complete Story: <a href="https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061739/ecc-clears-report-agreed-with-ipps-on-rs403bn-payment">https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061739/ecc-clears-report-agreed-with-ipps-on-rs403bn-payment</a>

## Govt planning to launch country's first-ever IPG

The government is planning to launch Pakistan's first-ever "International Payment Gateway (IPG)" to advance the nation's digital infrastructure in order to provide ease of doing business to the digital users globally. Complete Story: <a href="https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061735/govt-planning-to-launch-countrys-first-ever-ipg">https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061735/govt-planning-to-launch-countrys-first-ever-ipg</a>

## Fiscal deficit: Govt plans to borrow Rs4.9trn in 3 months

In order to finance the fiscal deficit, the federal government has planned to borrow Rs 4.9 trillion from banking sector during the next three months (Feb-April) of 2021. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has issued two calendars for the sale of Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) and Market Treasury Bills (MTBs). Complete Story: <a href="https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061734/fiscal-deficit-govt-plans-to-borrow-rs49trn-in-3-months">https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061734/fiscal-deficit-govt-plans-to-borrow-rs49trn-in-3-months</a>

# **Cross-border movement of goods**

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to allow the subscribers of the Customs Computerized System (CCS) to get enrolment in the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) for availing the facility of the PSW for streamlining cross-border movement of goods and enhancing controls through integrated risk management.

Complete Story: <a href="https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061733/cross-border-movement-of-goods-fbr-to-allow-ccs-subscribers-to-get-enrolled-in-psw">https://www.brecorder.com/news/40061733/cross-border-movement-of-goods-fbr-to-allow-ccs-subscribers-to-get-enrolled-in-psw</a>

## **Experts discuss SROs impact on economy**

The National Tariff Commission (NTC) is proposing the government to bring out 500 to 600 tariff lines from fifth schedule of Customs Act to normal schedule in the upcoming budget 2021-22 in order to remove distortions from the SRO based concessionary regime. Complete Story: <a href="https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/787385-experts-discuss-sros-impact-on-economy">https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/787385-experts-discuss-sros-impact-on-economy</a>