



Weekly Business Newsletter

06th to 12th February, 2017

Business News

Work on PQ Grid Station begins with \$71m investment

K-Electric on Thursday initiated construction of Port Qasim Grid Station and transmission lines with an estimated investment of \$71 million. The ground breaking of 220KV Port Qasim Grid Station - spread over an area of 11 acres - was performed by KE Chief Generation and Transmission Officer Dale Sinkler, a press release said. The grid station is expected to commence commercial operations by the first quarter of 2019 and is a part of \$450 million project TP-1000 (Transmission Enhancement Plan).

SBP signs agreement with Nepal

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with its Nepalese counterpart, Nepal Rastra Bank, to cooperate in the field of supervision and exchange of supervisory information. The agreement was signed in a ceremony here on Thursday. Habib Bank has an affiliate in Nepal, Himalayan Bank, with a 20 per cent shareholding. The MoU will enhance bilateral relationship and sharing of information to accomplish convergence towards common modalities and standards in cross-border supervision of banks operating in both countries.

Prime Minister motivates visiting CEOs to invest in special zones

Pakistan's economy was developing rapidly and was targeted to grow at a rate of 5.5 per cent during the current fiscal year, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Thursday. Speaking at a meeting with the heads of international companies at Prime Minister Secretariat, he said the country was facing acute financial and power crises when the current government came into power, but "the country is now on the development track".

Pakistan could become 16th largest economy by 2050: PwC

Pakistan's economy could become the 16th largest by 2050 based on its gross domestic product (GDP) at purchasing power parity (PPP), said a report prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), a multinational professional services network headquartered in London and considered among the 'Big Four' auditors. This means the country would overtake Italy and Canada, which currently rank at 12th and 17th places, respectively.

Government, ADB sign agreements for clean energy, transport policy

With the mul-ti-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) already under way, Pakistan has engaged the services of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to prepare a master plan for the transport sector and a scheme for development of clean energy. The federal government and ADB signed an agreement on Tuesday, with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in attendance. Under the agreement, the Manila-based agency would provide a \$325 million loan to facilitate the 'Access to Clean Energy Investment Program'. The plan would mostly finance off-grid renewable energy sources in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.



International News

UK economic outlook brightens as Brexit looms

Britain's industrial output grew and the trade deficit improved in December, official data showed on Friday, signaling a brighter economic outlook ahead of Brexit. The news comes as The Times newspaper reported that the government has divided British industries into high, medium and low priorities in terms of its upcoming EU exit negotiations. Industrial output climbed 1.1 per cent compared with activity in November, with particularly strong activity in the pharmaceutical and metal sectors, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) revealed in a statement.

OPEC countries complying with agreed output cuts: IEA

OPEC countries are largely complying with a landmark deal to reduce the global oil glut, the IEA said on Friday, as it predicted that oil demand was likely to be more vigorous than anticipated this year. In its latest monthly report, the International Energy Agency estimated "a record initial compliance rate of 90 per cent" to the landmark deal that came into effect in January. Indeed, some producers, notably Saudi Arabia, appeared to cut by more than required, it noted, adding that "this first cut is certainly one of the deepest in the history of OPEC output cut initiatives."

Ford spending \$1b on AI from ex-Google, Uber leaders

Ford Motor Co. is investing \$1 billion (Dh3.67 billion) in a months-old start-up founded by two pioneers in the nascent autonomous vehicle sector. The Pittsburgh based artificial intelligence company Argo AI will develop the brains specifically, a virtual driver system for the fully autonomous vehicles Ford has promised to bring to market in 2021. Founders Bryan Salesky and Peter Rander are former leaders of the self-driving car teams at Uber Technologies Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google.

Dubai index re-tests 2-week high as positive momentum continues

Dubai index rose on Sunday after US markets re-tested earlier peak, bringing back traders in bluechips like Emaar Properties, in addition to other small stocks like Gulf Finance House and others. The Dubai Financial Market (DFM) General index closed 0.53 per cent higher at 3,702.16, still near its previous day's high of 3,738.69, a level last seen on January 25. Gulf Finance House and HITS Telecom were a few small stocks that cornered traded volumes. In addition DFM shares witnessed renewed buying, along with Emaar shares.

QP joins consortium to develop LNG project

State-owned energy company Qatar Petroleum (QP) has joined an international consortium of major US, European and Japanese energy companies to develop a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import project in Pakistan. The consortium, which includes US ExxonMobil, France's Total, Japan's Mitsubishi and Norway's Høegh, will develop a project that includes a floating storage and regasification unit, a jetty and a pipeline to shore to provide natural gas supply to Pakistan, QP said in a statement on Tuesday.

UAE credit growth projected to remain in single digits in 2017

The UAE's credit growth eased to 6 per cent in 2016, from 7.8 per cent in 2015 and is expected to remain in single digits in 2017, according to the Institute of International Finance (IIF), the Washington based association of global banks and financial institutions. The slowdown lending, according to the IIF, reflects the economic slowdown and developments in Abu Dhabi where large borrowers such as IPIC, Taqa, and Mubadala have been deleveraging significantly.

Up-Coming Events Pakistan

Emotional Intelligence for Leadership Excellence Workshop

Date: 21st February, 2017

Venue: Karachi

Karachi Health Products Fair 2017

Date: 24th February, 2017

Venue: Liaquat National Hospital & Medical College, National Stadium Road, Karachi

Up-Coming Events UAE

10th International Conference on Healthcare

Date: 22nd February, 2017

Venue: Flora Grand Hotel, Near Al Rigga Metro Station, Deira, Dubai

Middle-East Asia Leadership Summit And Awards - 2017

Date: 23rd February, 2017

Venue: The Address Dubai Marina, Dubai



PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

as on 10th February, 2017

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	74.63	821,500
EFU General Insurance	152.79	7,400
IGI Insurance	360.20	35,900
Premier Insurance	19.85	3,000
Pak Reinsurance	53.95	69,500



CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 13th February, 2017

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	107.40	108.20
Euro	115.50	116.45
UK Pound Sterling	135.00	136.00
UAE Dirham	29.45	29.65



WEATHER FORECAST

as on 13th February, 2017

Karachi	29/18 ^o C	Fair	
Islamabad	23/10 ^o C	Haze	
Lahore	24/08 ^o C	Smoke	