



## Weekly Business Newsletter

6th to 12th March, 2017

## Business News

### Making CPEC inclusive and sustainable

The CPEC project has the potential to change the country's economy. However, viewed in the current global rejection of elite economics, some areas need to be addressed so its impact benefits a broader segment of our society. Ecological: One estimate often heard is that of 7,000 long haul container trucks passing, every day, through ecologically sensitive areas, such as those of Gilgit Baltistan. These will spew an estimated annual 36.5m tone of CO2 into the atmosphere, equal to 25pc of Pakistan's current overall emissions.

### Government to boost investment: Finance Minister

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday said the government has plans to expand investment in various fields through the Pakistan Development Fund (PDF). In a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), he said the fund would focus on financing commercially viable public sector projects. The PSX delegation, led by its chairman Muneer Kamal, expressed interest in partnering with the government to expand the fund's outreach.

### Talks with IMF start from 28th in Dubai

The finance ministry announced on Saturday that consultations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under Article IV will begin in Dubai on March 28. A spokesman of the finance ministry stated that an IMF delegation was invited to Islamabad for consultations but in view of the prevailing security situation, consultations have now been scheduled to take place in Dubai.

### Sindh okays Rs271billion for KCR revival

The Sindh Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) on Thursday approved six projects costing Rs273.213 billion which included Rs271 billion for the revival of Karachi Circular Railway (KCR). At a PDWP meeting, chaired by Additional Chief Secretary for Development Muhammad Waseem, these development schemes related to health, local government, transport and irrigation were given a go-ahead. These include restoration of road from Bashirabad Phatak to Salhani Check Post worth Rs59.7 million, establishing the 200-bed Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto Hospital at Mominabad, Metroville Site Town in Karachi worth Rs766m, surface drainage scheme near Alam Khan Odho Village (left over pocket) worth Rs436.6m

### Rs36billion LNG terminal, pipeline approved

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Thursday approved 17 projects worth Rs99.4 billion in transport and communication, energy, water resources, physical planning and food and agriculture sectors. The biggest project, worth Rs36bn, was Gwadar-Nawabshah liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal and pipeline project. Prime minister's programme for construction of 46 new hospitals across Pakistan at the cost of Rs1.3bn was also approved. Moreover, a Rs19.9bn project to dualise and improve the Pindigheb-Kohat road was also approved.

### FPCCI, Commonwealth body to sign accord

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) is going to sign a strategic partnership agreement with the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) in the forthcoming council meeting. FPCCI President Zubair Tufail, who has left for London to attend the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' meeting on March 9-10, will sign the strategic partnership agreement with the CWEIC.

## International News

### UK faces tougher Brexit challenge after good 2017

Britain's economy is likely to feel the pain of Brexit more sharply in the coming years despite holding up well so far, according to finance minister Philip Hammond's latest plan to steer the economy through its split from the European Union. Hammond, announcing an annual budget shortly before Britain is due to launch its Brexit divorce process, said the world's fifth biggest economy had so far "continued to confound the commentators" by withstanding the referendum shock. The economy is on course to grow by 2.0 per cent in 2017, up from a forecast of 1.4pc made in November, according to official forecasts.

### G20 plan to stave off debt crises stalls

Global efforts to create a market for growth-linked bonds that could help avert debt crises have stalled because none of the wealthy economies backing the drive are willing to take the lead and be the first to issue, sources told Reuters. Growth-linked, or GDP-linked, sovereign bonds allow a country's repayments to fluctuate depending on its level of economic growth or contraction meaning, for example, a government would pay less if its revenues were hit by recession.

### IMF warns Sri Lanka of adverse impact on growth, inflation

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday warned that prolonged drought in Sri Lanka could raise food and oil imports, with adverse impact on growth, inflation as well as balance of payment. The warning came as the fund's team led IMF Mission Chief for Sri Lanka Jaewoo Lee concluded its visit after meeting government authorities. The meetings were held in the backdrop of reports that IMF managing director Christine Lagarde would not visit the country on March 21 as initially expected.

### Australian PM to continue free trade talks in Indonesia

Australia's prime minister said on Monday that he was looking forward to discussing a free trade deal with Indonesia while attending a regional forum in Jakarta. PM Malcolm Turnbull on Tuesday will attend the first Indian Ocean Rim Association leaders' summit in the 20 year history of the 21 nation organisation. Turnbull's one day visit to Jakarta comes nine days after Joko "Jokowi" Widodo ended his first Australian visit as Indonesia's president.

### DIB saves the day for Dubai index

Buying on Dubai Islamic Bank helped the Dubai index to maintain positive momentum until mid-session, wiping off intra-day gains. DIB recovered from a previous low of Dh5.50, and touched an intra-day high of Dh5.62. The Dubai Financial Market General Index touched an intra-day high of 3,588.17, before closing flat at 3,554.69. "Markets from here on would be mixed bag between investors who want to book profit and exit, especially institutions who would want to realise profits and investors who want to allocate more money to take benefit from dividends," said Tariq Qaqish, head of asset management at Al Mal Capital.

### Du plans to cancel 0.84 per cent of the share capital

Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company PJSC (du) said on Sunday it plans to cancel 0.84 per cent of the previously allocated to its long term incentive plan. The proposed transaction will involve nominally cancelling 38.52 million shares held by du, the company said in a statement. du's total issued share capital is currently 4.57 billion shares.

## Up-Coming Events Pakistan

### Social Media Summit 2017

Date: 21st March, 2017

Venue: Arts Auditorium, University of Karachi

### All Pakistan CPEC Youth Conference

Date: 26th March, 2017

Venue: Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi



## PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

as on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	76.34	1,157,000
EFU General Insurance	152.50	141,400
IGI Insurance	366.92	11,500
Premier Insurance	22.00	2,500
Pak Reinsurance	56.32	158,000



## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	106.70	107.50
Euro	114.10	113.70
UK Pound Sterling	130.50	133.25
UAE Dirham	29.25	29.45

## Up-Coming Events UAE

### SME World Summit 2017

Date: 22nd March, 2017

Venue: Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai

### Gulf Print and Pack Exhibition 2017

Date: 26th March, 2017

Venue: Dubai



## WEATHER FORECAST

as on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

Karachi	30/18 <sup>o</sup> C	FAIR	
Islamabad	20/10 <sup>o</sup> C	HAZE	
Lahore	23/10 <sup>o</sup> C	FAIR	