



Guddu plant to undergo \$72m up-gradation

The 747 megawatts combined-cycle Guddu power plant is all set to be upgraded to Advance Gas Path (AGP) a modern technology meant for a massive reduction in the scheduled annual maintenance of such projects. The technology is expected to enhance efficiency and generation capacity of the plant by 1 per cent and 5pc respectively, Dawn has learnt. According to Muhammad Imran of Gencos Holding, the total cost of shifting the plant to this technology is \$72 million.

Pacts signed for two coal projects

The government signed implementation agreements on Thursday with two coal-based private power projects of 990 megawatts for commercial operations in 2021. The agreements were signed between the Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB) on behalf of the government, the 660MW Lucky Electric and the 330MW Siddiq Sons involving a total investment of \$1.490 billion. The implementation agreements is the final stage to kick-start physical work and enable investors to achieve the financial closing.

Rs93bn approved for energy sector

The government on Wednesday approved more than Rs93 billion worth of financing plan, mostly through loans, for the energy sector to avoid load shedding and 6.1 million tons of procurement target for wheat season 2017-18. The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet that also noted that there were no sellers for public sector sugar stocks at official rates as farmers suffered. The meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

Ease of Doing Business: Pakistan goes into high gear

According to a recent perception and investment survey released by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), nearly 75 percent of respondents consider Pakistan a potential market for fresh investment. This shift in perception is a welcome one from the earlier wariness of international investors at the prospects of investing capital in Pakistan.

Investments picking up momentum: UN report

The economy of Pakistan needs to further lift its potential growth, and lay the foundation for more sustained and inclusive growth in the medium-term, a new report of the United Nations on the world economic situation and prospects says. A briefing paper issued by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) says the investment demand in Pakistan has gained further momentum recently, supported by healthy economic activity.

CPEC industrialization phase opens new avenues

Industrialization phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened new avenues of value-addition in textile garment sector instead of sticking to the export of raw or semi-finished products and Pakistan should work under a comprehensive and planned strategy to exploit one belt one road to cater to the garment needs of the countries from Gulf up to Europe.

Asia's biggest exporters bristle over US tariffs, fanning trade war fears

Major Asian nations reacted sharply on Friday to US President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, warning of damage to relations amid industry calls for retaliation. Japan said the move would have a 'big impact' on the countries' close bilateral ties, while China said it was 'resolutely opposed' to the decision and South Korea said it may file a complaint to the World Trade Organization. Trump last Thursday pressed ahead with the imposition of 25 per cent tariffs on steel imports and 10pc for aluminum last Thursday, though he announced exemptions for Canada and Mexico, and said exceptions could also be made for other allies.

Trade options for UK financial services after Brexit

A stand-off between Britain and the European Union over the future of London's vast financial services industry is shaping up as one of the key Brexit battlegrounds of this year. The EU said on Wednesday that there will be no special deal for one of Britain's most important industries, delivering a blow to hopes of a trade agreement that maintains current flows of staff and services. But British government officials believe that the EU will change its mind, partly because European countries risk damaging their own economies if they are cut off from its markets.

Oil sector needs \$20tr investments

The global oil and gas industry needs to invest more than \$20 trillion over the next 25 years to meet expected growth in demand and compensate for the natural decline in developed fields, Saudi Aramco Chief Executive Officer Amin Nasser said on Tuesday. Speaking at the CERWeek conference in Houston, Nasser said the industry has already lost \$1tr of investments since the oil price downturn from 2014 to 2016. Future investments needed "will only come if investors are convinced that oil will be allowed to compete on a level playing field, that oil is worth so much more, and that oil is here for the foreseeable future," Nasser said.

Bangladesh, Vietnam aim to raise trade to \$2bn by 2020

Bangladesh and Vietnam aim to raise their two-way annual trade to \$2 billion over the next three years from nearly \$1bn, a business association official said on Monday. We had a meeting with the visiting president of Vietnam today and focused on trade and investment, Mohammad Shafiul Islam, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries, told Reuters. Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang arrived in Bangladesh for a state visit on Sunday.

China calls for fair treatment on its overseas investment

China's top state-owned enterprises (SOE) regulator on Saturday called on other countries to treat Chinese investment fairly and equally. "It's understandable that all countries conduct investigations into foreign investment, but they should give equal treatment to all foreign investors, not discriminate," Xiao Yaqing, head of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), told a press conference on the sidelines of the first session of the 13th National People's Congress

No breakthrough for EU, Japan in US trade row talks

The EU's top trade official said the US failed on Saturday to provide full clarity on how Europe and Japan could be spared from Washington's controversial steel and aluminum tariffs, but said talks would continue next week. European Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström made her statement after crunch talks with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in an effort to defuse a bitter row that many fear could turn into an all-out trade war.

Up-Coming Events Pakistan

3rd Annual Digital Payments @ Innovations summit

Date: 15th March , 2018

Venue: Marriott Hotel, Karachi

ITIF Asia Karachi 2018

Date: 15th March , 2018

Venue: Expo Center, Karachi

Up-Coming Events UAE

Strategy and Performance Excellence Conference

Date: 20th March , 2018

Venue: Dubai

Fire Safety Middle East Conference

Date: 21st March , 2018

Venue: Dubai



PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Karachi Stock Exchange as on 09th March, 2018

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	55.00	11,500
EFU General Insurance	144.72	400
IGI Insurance	306.92	2,000
Jubilee Gen Ins.	79.00	100
Pak Reinsurance	41.06	3,500



CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 12th March, 2018

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	112.20	112.10
Euro	138.90	138.70
UK Pound Sterling	158.55	158.45
UAE Dirham	30.60	30.50



WEATHER FORECAST

as on 12th March, 2018

Karachi	29/21 ^o C	FAIR	
Islamabad	28/16 ^o C	FAIR	
Lahore	32/17 ^o C	FAIR	