



Pakistani banks playing against giants

Much is being said about what needs to be done and what goodies will be gotten because of the CPEC. As 'a game changer', it may be a combination of aid with trade and investment at its best. What comes through the course is difficult to forecast. Pakistan's banking sector is flexing its muscles to have its share of the pie in the upcoming mega projects. Contrary to the anticipation, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in its second quarterly report for FY2016-17, has admitted that a large chunk of power machinery from China is being imported without using the Pakistani banking channel.

Finance Minister set to unveil budget on May 26

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has formally sent advice to President Mamnoon Hussain to summon National Assembly and Senate sessions on May 24 and 26, respectively, for the presentation of the federal budget 2017-18. According to official sources, the prime minister has also sent a summary to the president requesting him to summon a joint session of both houses of parliament on June 1 for the mandatory annual presidential address. This will be the fourth address of President Hussain to parliament since his election in September 2013.

Chinese investors seek joint ventures

China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project will benefit Pakistan and the local business community must take advantage of it, trade representatives told a Chinese delegation during its visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Saturday. A 20-member Chinese delegation led by Song Zhihui, professor and director of the Pakistan Study Centre at Sichuan University visited the RCCI to explore business opportunities regarding joint ventures and trade partnerships in construction, building materials, agriculture, transportation, furniture and real estate.

Hyundai, Al-Haj to assemble vehicles in Pakistan

Hyundai of South Korea has joined hands with Al-Haj Group to introduce top of the line heavy commercial vehicles (HCV) through a technology transfer contract (TTC) under the subsidiary of Al-Haj Hyundai Ltd. Al-Haj Hyundai will initially introduce a heavy duty truck Xcient, Universe Luxury buses and Mighty medium and light duty trucks. Later on, Al-Haj Hyundai also plans to introduce other products of Hyundai in cargo and passenger handling segments.

Centralized eIPO system launched

The second Initial Public Offering (IPO) of this year, scheduled to be floated on May 23 and 24, will be available for subscription through the Centralized eIPO System. The electronic system of IPO has been launched after the approval of the regulators, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and the State Bank of Pakistan. The Centralized eIPO System will be available for the upcoming IPO of Ittefaq Iron Industries Ltd. The book building for the company's IPO was completed on May 18.

Rs2.1tr development spending approved for next year to boost growth rate

With substantially higher allocations for special regions AJK, Fata, Gilgit-Baltistan and Baluchistan the National Economic Council on Friday set country's total development budget for next year at Rs2.140 trillion with focus of investments on roads and energy to boost economic growth rate to six percent. Shown signs of popular moves, the prime minister's two new initiatives worth Rs25 billion were made part of the development plan including Rs12.5bn each for 'Electricity to All' and 'Clean Drinking Water for All'.



International News

Lloyds Bank back in private hands

British bank Lloyds, bailed-out by the UK government at the height of the financial crisis, said Wednesday that it had returned to full private ownership. "Lloyds Banking Group has notified the market that the government's stake in the group has been reduced to zero; as such, the group has returned to full private ownership," it said in a statement. The government had been steadily offloading its stake as LBG recovered, resulting in 21.2 billion (\$27.4bn) returning to the taxpayer.

Saudi Arabia, Russia push to extend oil output cut

Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world's two top oil producers, agreed on Monday on the need to extend oil output cuts for a further nine months until March 2018 to rein in a global crude glut, pushing up prices. Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih and his Russian counterpart Alexander Novak said in a statement they would "do whatever it takes" to reduce the inventory overhang, using a phrase coined by European Central Bank President Mario Draghi five years ago in his successful bid to defend the euro. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets in Vienna on May 25 to consider whether to extend output cuts agreed in December last year between OPEC and 11 non-member countries, including Russia.

Softbank, Saudi tech fund becomes world's biggest

The world's largest private equity fund, backed by Japan's Softbank Group and Saudi Arabia's main sovereign wealth fund, said on Saturday it had raised over \$93 billion to invest in technology sectors such as artificial intelligence and robotics. "The next stage of the Information Revolution is under way, and building the businesses that will make this possible will require unprecedented large-scale, long-term investment," the Softbank Vision Fund said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia turns to Trump for investments

Just a few years back, the business relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia was pretty simple: the Americans bought oil, and the Saudis spent much of what they earned on equipment to keep the crude flowing and on planes, tanks and missiles to protect their borders. With crude prices down by half over the past three years, US domestic oil production went up dramatically, and the kingdom embarking on unprecedented economic reforms including the sale of a stake in its state-owned oil company the leverage is shifting toward the Americans as the United States emerges as a rival energy exporter.

Indonesia offers 15 oil blocks

Indonesia is offering 15 conventional and unconventional oil and gas blocks to potential bidders, government officials said on Friday, hoping more flexible terms will help reverse flagging interest in the sector after lackluster performance in 2016. This year the government is applying new production sharing rules and will revise rules on recoverable costs and cut import duties on exploration equipment where possible, said deputy energy minister Arcandra Tahar, among efforts to incentivize new investment.

Malaysia GDP grows at fastest pace in two years

Malaysia's economy grew at its fastest pace in two years during the first quarter, the central bank said Friday, boosted by stronger domestic demand and a pick-up in exports. Southeast Asia's third-biggest economy expanded 5.6 per cent on-year in January-March period, compared with 4.1pc in the same period last year and 4.5pc in October-December. The result much better than the 4.8pc forecast in a survey by Bloomberg News marks the third consecutive quarter of improving growth and is the fastest since the start of 2015.

Up-Coming Events Pakistan

The Power of Leadership

Date: 10th July, 2017

Venue: National Stadium, Karachi

Health Safety & Security Expo 2017

Date: 26th July, 2017

Venue: Expo Center, Karachi



PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

as on 19th May, 2017

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	78.19	183,500
EFU General Insurance	159.00	100
IGI Insurance	380.00	7,600
Jubilee Gen Ins.	99.87	500
Pak Reinsurance	49.03	429,500



CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 22nd May, 2017

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	106.00	106.05
Euro	118.00	116.20
UK Pound Sterling	138.20	137.20
UAE Dirham	29.00	29.05

Up-Coming Events UAE

Nigeria Abuja Build & Construction Expo

Date: 17th July, 2017

Venue: Mex Group - Exports Business Directory, Bur Dubai, Dubai

8th World Congress on Pharmacology and Toxicology

Date: 24th July, 2017

Venue: Dubai

WEATHER FORECAST

as on 22nd May, 2017

Karachi	32/28 ^o C	Suuny	
Islamabad	35/24 ^o C	Sunny	
Lahore	36/26 ^o C	Sunny	