



**Pakistan needs infusion of \$12 billion in loans immediately: Asad Umar**

Faced with an acute financial crisis left behind by the previous government, Pak-istan's incoming finance minister estimates the economy may need more than \$12 billion infusion of loans within six weeks. The minister designate Asad Umar, a former head of Pakistani conglomerate Engro Corporation said the nation's financing gap is somewhere between \$10bn to \$12bn, though the new government would need a bit extra so it doesn't "live on the edge," he said in an interview with Bloomberg news.

**Corporate sector's external debt rises to \$7.4bn**

Pakistan corporate sector's total external debt climbed to \$7.4 billion as 2017, up 41.5 percent, from \$5.2bn in December 2016, said the State Bank's Financial Stability Review 2017 on Friday. Corporate sector's external debt during 2017 swelled to 15.8 pc of the sector's total obligations including both domestic and foreign debt clocking in at \$2.2bn. Foreign borrowing by country's corporates went up by 41.5pc from the December 2016 tally. Pay-back for foreign financing could lead to a spike in demand for dollars in the country already facing an acute shortage for green-back amid volatile exchange rate.

**Engro's 660MW plant connected to national grid**

The National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) on Wednesday connected Engro's 660MW coal-fired power plant (Thar) with national grid after it completed a mega project of laying 500kV double circuit quad bundle transmission line originating from Jamshoro. "We have laid a 282km long transmission line within two and half years," NTDC's Managing Director Zafar Iqbal told Dawn. "The line, after starting from Jamshoro, passes through Matiari (near Hyderabad) and finally in the Tharparkar district, enabling us to connect this plant. At present, it is fully energized," he added.

**Honda defers plan to launch new car**

The management of Honda Atlas Cars Pakistan (HACP) has deferred the introduction of a new locally-assembled car owing to the country's uncertain economic condition. The company had already given the drawings of dies, tools and moulds to local vendors some six months back. "HACP has now asked local vendors to cancel their activities for parts development," a number of vendors for Honda cars said on the condition of anonymity. The company has also asked the vendors to give back the drawings, they added.

**Building Brand Pakistan**

Pakistan needs to carefully look at the export areas it must focus on for the next decade. Our trade deficit of \$37.67 billion can only be bridged by focusing on export segments that offer a tremendous growth rate. Pakistan is currently trying to bring Chinese investment into the industrial sector to develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs). We should focus on areas that offer the best export potential and can fulfil China's domestic demand. China is investing billions of dollars in building artificial intelligence parks. It has built huge cities just for IT and IT-enabled services in the last two decades. Similarly.

**SBP moves to boost housing finance**

After announcing 'Policy for Promotion of Low-Cost Housing Finance' on July 18, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has taken the government and Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company (PMRC) on board for provision of cheap financing to help solve the problem of housing shortage. The SBP had earlier released a detailed study which highlighted the problems faced by housing sector and suggested possible measures to solve the crisis with the initiation of housing finance policy.



International News

**Apple hits \$1 trillion mark**

Apple became the first \$1 trillion publicly listed US Company on Thursday, leading a rebound in technology stocks and pushing the benchmark S&P 500 and the Nasdaq higher. Market sentiment was also lifted by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's comment, who said the tariffs that United States is threatening to impose on Chinese goods would not be disastrous for the Asian nation. "It's not something that's going to be cataclysmic," he said in an interview with Fox Business Network, explaining that a 25 percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of goods would equal to less than 1pc of China's economy.

**Oil exports through Bab-el-Mandeb begins**

Saudi Arabian authorities on Saturday announced that the country was resuming oil shipments through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, ending the 10-day suspension triggered by rebel attacks off the Yemeni coast. The decision came after Saudi-led military coalition forces were accused of carrying out air strikes in the region bombing the largest hospital on the Red Sea port. Saudi authorities announced their plans to resume oil shipments after coalition "ensured the security of navigation in the strait and in the Red Sea", said Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khaled al-Falih, quoted by the official Saudi press agency.

**China unveils proposed tariffs on \$60bn of US goods**

China proposed retaliatory tariffs on \$60 billion worth of US goods ranging from liquefied natural gas (LNG) to some aircraft on Friday, as a senior Chinese diplomat cast doubt on prospects of talks with Washington to solve their bitter trade conflict given current US behaviour. The Trump administration ratcheted up pressure for trade concessions from Beijing this week by proposing a higher 25 per cent tariff on \$200bn worth of Chinese imports. China immediately vowed to retaliate though at the same time urged the US to act rationally and return to talks to resolve the dispute.

**Sri Lanka secures \$1bn Chinese loan**

Sri Lanka's central bank on Friday announced that it had secured a \$1 billion loan from China as the island a key link in Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road initiative (BRI) develops closer relations with Asia's largest economy. Central bank Governor, Indrajit Coomaraswamy, said that the first half of loan will be released later this month and the balance will be received in October. "During consultations with Chinese for the loan it was clear that they see us as a key strategic partner as far as the BRI is concerned, given our location," Coomaraswamy told reporters in Colombo.

**Germany tightens cash transfer rules as Iran seeks funds**

Germany's central bank is changing its terms and conditions to provide for deeper scrutiny of cash transfers, a move that comes as Iran seeks to repatriate cash held in a Hamburg-based bank and the US presses allies to get tough on Tehran. Iran wants to bring home 300 million euros (\$347m) it has in the European-Iranian Trade Bank ahead of new US sanctions. German authorities have been examining the request for weeks, and the US has made clear its concerns about potential terrorist financing and money-laundering.

**Turkey's banks sell project finance loans as they look to free up cash**

Some Turkish banks have started to sell project finance loans to foreign lenders, three sources said, to free up cash as they face both higher funding costs and pressure to lend more cheaply from President Tayyip Erdogan. The deals, which could see US and Chinese banks taking over government-backed loans for energy and infrastructure projects, come as Turkey's lenders are also being squeezed by a rise in bad loans, reflecting the economic impact of a weakening lira and double-digit inflation.

## Up-Coming Events Pakistan

### Pakistan National Youth Conference @ Educational Exhibition

Date: 11th August, 2018

Venue: Expo Center, Karachi

## Up-Coming Events UAE

### Business Development Training

Date: 19th August, 2018

Venue: Dubai



## PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Karachi Stock Exchange as on 03<sup>rd</sup> August, 2018

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	49.50	39,000
EFU General Insurance	127.51	3,400
IGI Insurance	305.38	1,000
Jubilee Gen Ins.	76.13	3,000
Pak Reinsurance	31.68	22,500



## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 06<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	123.09	121.90
Euro	142.00	142.20
UK Pound Sterling	162.00	159.00
UAE Dirham	33.70	31.50



## WEATHER FORECAST

as on 06<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

Karachi	30/27 <sup>o</sup> C	HAZE	
Islamabad	33/25 <sup>o</sup> C	PARTLY CLOUDY	
Lahore	33/26 <sup>o</sup> C	SMOKE	