



**Pakistan slips to 107th on Global Competitiveness Index**

Pakistan slipped by one position in the Global Competitiveness Index 2018 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Wednesday as compared to last year, ranking 107 out of 140 countries, with a score of 4.0. With an overall ranking of 107 out of 140 countries, Pakistan was at 109 for institutions; 93 for infrastructure; 127 for ICT adoption; 103 for macroeconomic stability; 109 for health; 125 for skills; 122 for product market; 121 for labor market; 89 for financial system; 31 for market size; 56 for business dynamism; and 75 for innovation capacity. In 2017, Pakistan ranked 106 out of 135 countries. GDP per capita stands at \$1,541.1; 10-year average annual GDP growth at 3.6 percent; five-year average FDI inward flow as percentage of GDP at 0.7 percent.

**Stocks rebound as investors pick attractive values**

Stocks staged strong rebound in last three days of the outgoing week which helped the KSE-100 index to close with healthy gains of 912 points (2.4 percent) to settle at 38,430. Investors rushed to build positions in stocks trading at attractive valuations, leading the market to bounce back from its June 2016 low of 36,496 points.

**Finance minister stresses need for liquidity in banking sector**

Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Asad Umar has said there is an urgent need to enhance banks' deposits to boost their lending capacity to the private sector for achieving higher economic growth rate. Speaking at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Saturday, the minister stressed upon the banking sector to increase its cash-to-deposit ratio to enhance liquidity in the economy.

**KP to spend Rs180bn on development**

Finance Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra on Monday unveiled Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Rs180 billion Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the ongoing fiscal year. The budget document shows that the previous ADP was pitched at Rs208bn but was revised down to Rs147bn. The provincial component of the previous ADP decreased to Rs108bn from original Rs126 in the revised estimates while foreign aid reduced to Rs38bn from the original Rs82bn. The development outlay for the ongoing fiscal year includes provincial component of Rs108.9bn (61 percent) and Rs71.1bn (39pc) as foreign assistance.

**Tough economic decisions ahead: HBL CEO**

The government has to make some difficult decisions to narrow the fiscal deficit, increase exports and improve the country's tax base, said Habib Bank Ltd President and Chief Executive Muhammad Aurangzeb. This he said in an interview with Bloomberg on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in Bali. "With dwindling reserves a breathing space is required ... that is where the IMF comes in," he observed, adding that the "the devaluation will ultimately help exports and Pakistan."

**Five export sectors to get priority in gas supply during winter**

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Tuesday amended the natural gas load management policy for winter shortages to upgrade five zero-rated export sectors on the priority list after domestic and commercial consumers. The meeting of the ECC was presided over Minister for Finance Asad Umar that deferred a proposed increase in electricity rates for the eighth time since the PTI came to power around two months ago.

**Chinese economy grows at slowest pace since 2009**

China's economic growth cooled to its weakest quarterly pace since the global financial crisis, with regulators moving quickly to calm nervous investors as a years-long campaign to tackle debt risks and the trade war with the United States began to bite. Chinese authorities are trying to navigate through numerous challenges, as the trade war fears have sparked a blistering selloff in domestic stock markets and a steep decline in the value of the yuan versus the dollar, heightening worries about the growth outlook. The economy grew 6.5 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, below an expected 6.6 percent rate, and slower than 6.7 percent in the second quarter, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Friday.

**Saudi Arabia to meet India's oil demand, says Falih**

Saudi Arabia is committed to meeting India's rising oil demand and is the "shock absorber" for supply disruptions in the oil market, Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said on Monday. India, the world's third biggest oil importer, is grappling with a combination of rising oil prices and falling local currency. Retail prices for gasoline and diesel fuel in India are at record highs and the government has cut its excise tax on fuel to ease some of the pain for consumers. While there are many factors that could influence global oil prices, Saudi Arabia and other major producers will continue to act to cushion the market from oil price shocks, Falih said at the IHS CERA conference.

**Xi vows 'unwavering' support for private sector**

Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed "unwavering" support for the country's private sector, the latest response from Beijing to concern over the outlook for the economy. "Any words and practices that negate and weaken the private economy are wrong," Xi said in a letter to private entrepreneurs, Xinhua News Agency reported Sunday. "Supporting the development of private enterprises is the Party Central Committee's consistent policy," Xi said. The remarks came after top officials moved to shore up confidence with a rare show of coordinated comments on Friday. Among them, Vice Premier Liu He said China would support the development of private enterprises.

**Euro may take lower path into ECB as Draghi to maintain rhetoric**

The euro could revisit its year-to-date low as persistent political risks may lead Mario Draghi to refrain this week from painting a rosier picture for the bloc's economy. Market dynamics have shifted only slightly since the European Central Bank's last meeting, yet not in a supportive way for the common currency. Data may be suggesting the forecasts for growth are broadly on track with the Governing Council's projections, but on the other hand subdued inflation, early signs of contagion in peripheral bonds, deadlocked Brexit negotiations and a hawkish Federal Reserve could mean the euro could test its \$1.1301 mid-August low.

**EU, Singapore sign free trade deal**

The European Union and Singapore signed a landmark trade deal on Friday on the sidelines of a Europe-Asia summit that Brussels hopes can be a rebuke to protectionism in Washington. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong signed the accord in Brussels with European Council President Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose country currently holds the EU Presidency. Hailing the Singapore agreement, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said "we can make it clear that the world is about creating win-win situations."

**Goldman names new Asia investment banking head**

Goldman Sachs Group Inc has named veteran banker Todd Leland as Asia investment banking head, a person with knowledge of the matter said on Sunday, adding to leadership changes at the bank since Chief Executive Officer David Solomon took over this month. In the new role, Leland, an American who joined Goldman in 1992, will replace Andrea Vella and Kate Richdale as the head of the Asia investment banking unit excluding Japan. Vella and Richdale were appointed co-heads of the unit in 2015.

International News

## Up-Coming Events Pakistan

### Conference on The Convergence of Financial & Cyber Crimes

Date: 24th November, 2018

Venue: Mövenpick Hotel, Karachi

### IDEAS (10th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar)

Date: 27th November, 2018

Venue: Expo Centre, Karachi

## Up-Coming Events UAE

### Smart City Expo Dubai 2018

Date: 26th November, 2018

Venue: Metropolitan Hotel, Dubai

### Metropolitan Hotel

Date: 03rd December, 2018

Venue: Dubai



## PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Karachi Stock Exchange as on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	41.52	52,500
EFU General Insurance	113.99	15,300
IGI Insurance	79.94	100
Jubilee Gen Ins.	65.01	7,000
Pak Reinsurance	30.95	500



## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	135.15	132.05
Euro	156.00	154.00
UK Pound Sterling	176.75	174.00
UAE Dirham	36.85	36.02



## WEATHER FORECAST

as on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018

Karachi	35/25 <sup>o</sup> C	HAZE	
Islamabad	28/15 <sup>o</sup> C	FAIR	
Lahore	30/15 <sup>o</sup> C	HAZE	