



**Banks should lend more money to SMEs**

The small and medium enterprises (SMEs) sector is considered the backbone of an economy, as it plays a pivotal role in accelerating economic growth, creating jobs and taming inflation. The sector's role is even more significant in lower-middle-income countries like Pakistan. The SME sector is responsible for 60 percent of total jobs in Pakistan, and its contribution in GDP and export revenues is 30pc and 25pc, respectively. It is an integral part of the supply chain, and plays a crucial role in achieving sustainable economic growth.

**ECNEC approves Rs261bn development projects**

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) on Monday approved six development projects with a total estimated cost of Rs216.4 billion, including a hefty 47 percent increase in the cost of Tarbela 4th Extension Project. The Ecneec meeting was presided over by Adviser to the PM on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. Majority of the projects approved by committee pertained to the World Bank funding. The meeting gave a go ahead for the Tarbela 4th Extension Hydropower Pro-ject with a revised total cost of Rs122.9bn, according to an official statement.

**10 banks sign pact to create Pakistan Corporate Restructuring Company Limited**

The country's 10 banks signed an agreement on Friday to establish Pakistan Corporate Restructuring Company Ltd (PCRCL). Under the provisions of Corporate Restructuring Companies Act 2016 with an initial paid-up capital of Rs500 million, the banks have decided to establish the Corporate Restructuring Company (CRC) first of its kind company in the country. The shareholder agreement was signed by presidents and representatives from Habib Bank, National Bank of Pakistan, United Bank, MCB Bank, Allied Bank, Meezan Bank, Bank Alfalah, Bank Al-Habib, Habib Metropolitan Bank and Faysal Bank at the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) headquarters. The CRC will help the government revive sick industrial units.

**Auto part vendors lambaste assemblers over low localization, high prices**

For the first time in 15 years, auto parts vendors have finally spoken out against local vehicle assemblers over low localization and high prices. They pointed out various SROs especially 655(I)/2006 which have only benefited local assemblers instead of auto vendors and consumers. On the one hand, vendors are blaming assemblers for low localization and high vehicle prices whereas on the other, the Pakistan Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (Paapam) body representing vendors' interest -- proudly claims achieving localization of 70 percent in production in putting all responsibility on assemblers.

**Market regulator launches one-stop-shop in KP, Balochistan**

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) will extend its One-Stop-Shop (OSS) facility for company registration in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. SECP Commissioner Shaukat Hussain announced the facility for the provinces while speaking at the launch ceremony of Balochistan's Trans-formation of Traditional Businesses into Corporate Bodies.

**Six-month remittances rise to \$11.4bn**

Remittances received by the country edged up 3.3 percent to \$11.394 billion during the first half of 2019-20 as compared to \$11.03bn in the same period last year, the SBP reported on Saturday. Inflows during December showed a healthier trend as they surged 19.89pc year-on-year to \$2.097bn, from \$1.748bn in corresponding period last year and 15pc month-on-month from \$1.819bn in November 2019.

**US, China agree to semi-annual talkst**

The United States and China have agreed to hold semi-annual talks aimed at pushing for reforms in both countries and resolving disputes, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday. The negotiations will be announced on January 15 as part of the signing of a Phase 1 trade deal between the US and China, but will be separate from any second-phase trade negotiations, the Journal reported, adding the effort will be lead by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. The two sides have been undergoing a trade war for well over a year. Treasury officials were not immediately available to confirm the report. The talks would revive a practice begun under former President George W. Bush as a way for the world's two largest economic powers to discuss a wide array of topics and try to resolve disputes.

**Ousted Boeing CEO to still get over \$62m**

Former Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg, who was criticized for his handling of the 737 MAX crises, will receive no severance package, the company disclosed on Friday. Muilenburg also will not garner 2019 compensation under an annual bonus plan, the company said in a securities filing. Muilenburg was ousted last month as the grounding of the MAX has dragged on after two deadly crashes. "Mr Muilenburg is not entitled to and did not receive any severance or separation payments in connection with his retirement after more than 30 years with the company," Boeing said in the filing. Muilenburg, who worked at Boeing for 34 years, also forfeited \$14.6 million in 2019 performance awards the company said.

**Tesla presents first car batch**

Tesla CEO Elon Musk presented the first batch of made-in-China cars to ordinary buyers on Tuesday in a milestone for the company's new Shanghai "giga-factory", but which comes as sales decelerate in the world's largest electric-vehicle market. The eccentric entrepreneur danced awkwardly, gave out high-fives, and mugged on a stage as sleek Model 3 sedans - the company's mid-price, mass-market offer - were driven up one by one and presented to buyers who jumped into the back seats before being driven away at the plant.

International News

**Three years after \$1bn Venezuela deal, US oilfield firm shuts doors**

An Oklahoma oilfield company that played a central role in Venezuela's high profile attempt to convince the world it could halt production declines at its dilapidated oilfields has shut its doors, according to three people familiar with the matter. In 2016, Horizontal Well Drillers, a closely held US driller, won a \$1.29 billion contract to drill 191 wells in Venezuela's Orinoco Belt, part of an unusual plan to sharply boost output and halt Venezuela's economic collapse. It and two other drilling contractors were asked to finance the work themselves and be paid in future production, according to documents obtained by Reuters at the time.

**Nord Stream 2 to be completed early next year: Putin**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that he hopes work on the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline will be finished by early next year. "I hope that by the end of this year, or in the first quarter of next year, work will be finished and the gas pipeline will start operating," Putin told a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel after talks at the Kremlin. The United States last month imposed sanctions on firms working on the almost-completed pipeline, which will double gas shipments to Germany and is a key part of Moscow's export strategy for state energy giant Gazprom. Washington believes the 9.5-billion-euro (\$10.6bn) project will give Russia too much influence over security and economic issues in Western Europe.

**EU-UK deal unlikely by year end**

It will be "basically impossible" to negotiate all aspects of the future relationship between the European Union and Britain by the end of this year, the head of the European Commission said on Wednesday, adding that both sides must pick priorities. Speaking at the London School of Economics before meeting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Ursula von der Leyen cast doubt on his timetable for an agreement defining the long-term post-Brexit relationship by the end of 2020. "The transition time is very, very tight so it is basically impossible to negotiate all that I have been mentioning, so we will have to priorities," she said. Johnson has said that Britain will not extend the transition period, and will not seek a deal based on close alignment with EU rules, although his spokesman said trade talks did not need to be completed all at once.

## Up-Coming Events Pakistan

### International Property Expo

Date: 14th January, 2020

Venue: Expo Centre, Karachi

### Strategic Business Development Program

Date: 15th January, 2020

Venue: Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM),  
Sharah-e-Iran, Clifton, Karachi

## Up-Coming Events UAE

### Dubai Exhibition

Date: 14th January, 2020

Venue: World Trade Centre, Dubai

### Digital HR Middle East Africa (MEA)

Date: 15th January, 2020

Venue: The Ritz-Carlton, Dubai



## PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

as on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	43.81	1,707,000
EFU General Insurance	112.00	2,100
IGI Insurance	8.05	100
Jubilee Gen Ins.	56.71	2,500
Pak Reinsurance	30.15	20,000



## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	155.03	155.35
Euro	173.05	173.00
UK Pound Sterling	204.00	204.00
UAE Dirham	42.45	42.03



## WEATHER FORECAST

as on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

Karachi	20/07 <sup>o</sup> C	FAIR	
Islamabad	10/05 <sup>o</sup> C	RAIN	
Lahore	12/07 <sup>o</sup> C	RAIN	