



Moody's maintains stable outlook for five banks

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday maintained its forecast for stable outlook of five leading Pakistani banks over the next 12-18 months. The rating agency had changed outlook of these banks from negative to stable in December 2019 and had affirmed their B3 long-term local currency deposit ratings. The banks include Allied Bank Ltd (ABL), Habib Bank Ltd (HBL), MCB Bank (MCB), National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and United Bank Ltd (UBL), according to an announcement by the New York-based rating agency.

Vestas to set up wind turbine unit

Vestas, the energy industry's global partner on sustainable energy solutions, has expressed keen interest in establishing a wind turbine manufacturing unit in Pakistan. A delegation of the Denmark-based company, led by Danish Ambassador in Pakistan Rolf Holmboe, held a meeting with Minister for Power and Petroleum Omar Ayub on Thursday to discuss the feasibility of setting up the proposed unit. Vestas designs, manufactures and installs wind turbines and currently has operations in 81 countries.

High interest rates hurting consumer financing

Higher interest rates have badly damaged consumer financing during the first half of this fiscal year as its key driver car purchasing remained dormant. The consumer financing increased by just Rs23 million which pushed the total amount to Rs555.8m in December 2019, from Rs532.7m in June same year. The State Bank of Pakistan's latest report showed that car financing has posted no sign of life as it failed to move from June 2019 levels. Elevated interest rates have damaged not only the domestic investment on large scale but also dealt a blow to consumer financing; a reflection of an economic slowdown.

Divestment procedures for six entities finalized

Showing concern over poor progress on documentation of economy, high interest rates and devaluation, the foreign investors operating in the country have expressed cautious optimism of the future growth potential. This was found by the Perception and Investment Survey 2019 conducted by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

Germany keen to strengthen trade ties

Germany is keen to strengthen mutual trade ties with Pakistan, German envoy said on Thursday during a meeting with local exporters. German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck visited several industrial units in Sialkot and as well as visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

SBP takes measures to boost digital payments

The State Bank of Pakistan on Monday issued instructions to banks for further proliferating the use of cards in the country. Specifically, three steps have been taken: banks are now bound to offer the domestic card scheme, PayPak, to customers as a first priority whereas international options like Visa, MasterCard and UnionPay may be issued on the request of customer; merchant discount rate, i.e. the fee charged by banks to the merchants, will now be in the range of 1.5-2.5 per cent (earlier they had discretionary power); and the distribution of revenues generated from a merchant among the players including card issuer, card machine deploying entity and the payment scheme company has also been rationalized to keep the incentives equitable among all.

US, Europe could team up on 5G

The United States and the European Union could team up to counter the dominance of China's Huawei Technologies in next-generation 5G telecoms technology, but not if Washington continues to threaten tariffs against Brussels, a senior German conservative lawmaker said late on Friday. Norbert Roettgen, a member of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, said he told US officials during a visit to Washington that he saw opportunities for greater transatlantic cooperation on 5G that would benefit both sides.

Coronavirus shuts world's largest auto plant

The most productive car factory in the world fell quiet on Friday as South Korea's Hyundai suspended operations at its giant Ulsan complex, hamstrung by a lack of parts with the coronavirus outbreak crippling China's industrial output. The five-plant network can make 1.4 million vehicles annually, in a coastal location facilitating importing components and exporting cars globally. But supply lines are crucial in an ever more interconnected worldwide economy and the coronavirus outbreak in China has seen Beijing order factories closed in several areas as it seeks to contain the epidemic. As a result, Hyundai which with its affiliate Kia ranks as the world's fifth-largest auto manufacturer has run out of the wiring harnesses that connect vehicles' complex electronics. It has to suspend production at its factories across South Korea, putting 25,000 workers on forced leave and partial wages, healthy victims of the disease outbreak across the Yellow Sea.

India may issue \$5bn bonds with no foreign cap

India is likely to issue at least \$5 billion worth of bonds with no limits on foreign investment next year, in a bid to list the bonds on global indices and attract more foreign funds, according to two finance ministry sources. India's government is likely to issue the bonds in several tranches of at least \$400 million each, one source said. "We have spoken to major index operators and we will start pushing these bonds in tranches very early in the first half of the next fiscal year itself," the first official said. The bonds would be rupee-denominated, said the officials, who asked not to be named as the discussions were still private.

Etihad sells 38 planes for \$1bn

Abu Dhabi's long-troubled Etihad Airways said Tuesday it would sell 38 aircraft to an investment firm and a leasing company in a deal valued at \$1 billion, the latest cost-cutting measure by the United Arab Emirates' national carrier. Etihad said it would sell 38 aircraft 22 Airbus A330s and 16 Boeing 777-300ERs in the deal with investment firm KKR and leasing firm Altavair AirFinance. KKR said the Boeing 777-300ERs will be leased back to Etihad upon purchase in early 2020, while the Airbus A330s will go to international clients. Etihad described the move as being in line with the third year of its transformation programme. The deal offers us flexibility while ensuring we stand by our sustainability targets and maintain a fleet of the most fuel-efficient, technologically advanced aircraft, the firm said in a statement.

Visa, Mastercard could be the next \$1tr companies

TECH and internet titans were the first to reach \$1 trillion in stock market value, but the next US companies that could do so are better known for their plastic. Soaring stock prices are propelling credit and debit card companies Visa Inc and Mastercard Inc up the market value charts, where they currently rank 7th and 11th among companies in the benchmark S&P 500 index. The stock prices of both Visa and Mastercard have gained roughly 50pc in the past year. While the stocks may not keep up that torrid pace, Visa and Mastercard would each be worth over \$1tr by 2023 if their average annual gains of the past three years were to continue, surging past the likes of Facebook Inc and Berkshire Hathaway Inc, if they also maintain their recent pace.

ADIB ends several banking services in UK branch

Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank said on Monday its UK operations would halt several of its banking services as the branch looks to focus squarely on commercial real estate financing. ADIB (UK) Ltd board has approved a decision to start the process of changing the business to a "non-regulated branch" of ADIB Group, the lender said in a statement. "According to the decision, ADIB will maintain its presence in the UK, with the focus on developing the successful commercial real estate financing but will refrain from providing regulated services to customers," it said, which includes account services, savings, deposits and safe deposit boxes.

International News

Up-Coming Events Pakistan

8th Pakistan CIO Summit @ 6th IT Showcase Pakistan 2020

Date: 7th April, 2020

Venue: Marriott Hotel, Karachi

1st National Youth Peace Conference @ Award 2019 (Karachi)

Date: 18th April, 2020

Venue: Karachi

Up-Coming Events UAE

International Conference on Business Management, Innovation@ Sustainability

Date: 13th April, 2020

Venue: Amity University, Dubai

Finance Middle East 2020

Date: 15th April, 2020

Venue: Dubai



PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

as on 10th February, 2020

Company Name	Closing Value	Volume
Adamjee Insurance	41.84	572,000
EFU General Insurance	108.00	8,400
IGI Insurance	8.05	100
Jubilee Gen Ins.	58.00	1,500
Pak Reinsurance	28.22	3,000



CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES

as on 11th February, 2020

Currency	Current Week	Last Week
U.S.Dollar	154.07	154.08
Euro	170.65	171.65
UK Pound Sterling	201.65	204.15
UAE Dirham	42.03	42.03



WEATHER FORECAST

as on 11th February, 2020

Karachi	28/15 ^o C	FAIR	
Islamabad	18/09 ^o C	CLOUDY	
Lahore	21/10 ^o C	HAZE	