



CPDI BUDGET WATCH

Sixth review to be presented to IMF board on Jan 12: Finance Ministry

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 23, 2021)

The sixth review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) would be presented to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board on January 12. In this regard, Finance Ministry

Spokesperson Muzzammil Aslam tweeted, "I am pleased to confirm 6th review will be presented to IMF Board on 12th January, 2022." Earlier on November 22, the Fund

and Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement on policies and reforms needed to complete the sixth review under the \$6 billion EFF which has been st...[Read More](#)

Foreign remittances fall by 6.6pc in Nov 2021

The News (December 23, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: Turkey's Lira against the US dollar achieved an overnight comeback and gained by almost 40 percent; however, in Pakistan the exchange rate has been

witnessing a persistent decline against the US dollar for the last several months. Despite claims by Pakistan's economic managers that the exchange rate would move in

two ways, the rupee is persistently on the decline against the dollar. The rupee got depreciated from Rs152 against a dollar to Rs180 in the last few mon.... [Read More](#)

China's economy to grow by 8pc in 2021: World Bank

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 22, 2021)

EIJING: The World Bank has projected that China's economy will expand by 8 percent in 2021, a downward revision of the group's June forecast at 8.5 percent.

Economic activity in the country cooled in the second half of this year after a strong rebound in the first half, the World Bank said in a report published on Wednesday.

China's economic growth in the third quarter slowed to 4.9 percent year on year from expansion at 7.9 percent in the second quarter and 18.3 percent in the ..[Read More](#)

PSX remains flat in low-volume session

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 22, 2021)

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a lacklustre and low-volume session on Wednesday ahead of the upcoming mini-budget, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index shedding 2.1 points to close at 44,174.97 points. The market opened on a positive note and remained volatile throughout the session, ending almost flat. The KSE-100 Index moved in a range of 201.71 points, showing an intraday high of 44,292.91 points and a low of 44,091.20 points. A total of 349 companies traded...[Read More](#)

US to show flexibility on Afghan financial sanctions: official

The Dawn (December 21, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: The United States would show greater flexibility on financial sanctions imposed on Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover to allow delivery of humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged country, a senior State Department official said on Monday. The official, who spoke to Islamabad-based journalists working with foreign media organisations, indicated that increased cash flow to Afghanistan would be allowed to put more liquidity in the country facing acute cash shortage. Sim...[Read More](#)

Food exports surge by 26.7pc in 5MFY22

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 21, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: Food exports from the country surged by 26.68 per cent during the first five months of the current fiscal year (5MFY22) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Tuesday. According to details, food group exports during the July-November period were recorded at \$1,947.414 million against the exports of \$1,537.317 million in July-November FY21, according to PBS data. The commodities that contributed ...[Read More](#)

Gas crisis aggravates: GUNVOR again backs out of LNG cargo delivery

The News (December 20, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: Singapore based LNG trading company -- GUNVOR has intimated the authorities in the government that it will not be able to deliver its term LNG cargo which is due on January 10, 2022 by claiming the force majeure. However, it has not yet informed Pakistan LNG Limited as to when this term cargo will be provided, a well-placed senior official at the Energy Ministry told The News. He said that technically it will be a second default by GUNVOR in a row in the current winter ...[Read More](#)

TRG Pakistan chooses to continue investment in TRGI

Business Recorder (December 20, 2021)

The Board of Directors of TRG Pakistan (TRGP) has decided to continue with their investment in TRG International (TRGI). The development was shared by

the company in its filing to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday. In its earlier disclosure, dated December 10, the BoD was considering the options offered to it by

TRGI: i) either to directly receive (by way of full or partial redemption) its share of TRGI's liquid assets namely cash and a certain number of shares of Ibex Li...[Read More](#)

Use of rupee increased in Afghanistan

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 19, 2021)

PESHAWAR: Circulation of the Pakistani rupee has increased in many provinces of Afghanistan after the collapse of banking system in the neighbouring country. In

this regard, Profit while speaking with Afghan currency dealers learnt that traders and the people have started using Pakistani currency in most provinces

over the past month due to the Taliban's restrictions on the banking and money exchange system in Afghanistan. "Due to fluctuations in dollar and Afghan curre...[Read More](#)

Pakistan warns of consequences from Afghan 'economic meltdown'

Aljazeera.com (December 19, 2021)

Member nations of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are holding a special meeting in Pakistan's capital Islamabad to discuss solutions to address

the humanitarian crisis in neighbouring Afghanistan. Envoys from 57 Islamic nations and observer delegations gathered on Sunday for the biggest

conference on Afghanistan since the United States-backed government in Kabul fell in August. After the Taliban's lightning return to power, billions of...[Read More](#)

FDI rises 12pc to \$798mln in July-Nov

The News (December 18, 2021)

KARACHI: Pakistan's foreign direct investment increased 12 percent in the five months of the current fiscal year, with major inflows going into the oil and gas explorations,

communications, and the financial sectors, the central bank data showed on Friday. The country attracted \$798 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) in July-

November FY2022, compared with \$710 million in the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. In November, the FDI came in at \$136 million. Net FDI...[Read More](#)

IMF programme approval to reduce uncertainty in Pakistan's financial markets'

Business Recorder (December 18, 2021)

Approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement reached with the Pakistani authorities would bring in much-needed clarity to the market, said Mohammed Sohail, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Topline Securities. Last month, Pakistani authorities and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement on policies and reforms needed to complete the sixth review under the \$6-billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that started in 2019. However, the agreement is sub...[Read More](#)

US notes Islamabad's efforts to meet FATF demands

The Dawn (December 17, 2021)

WASHINGTON: The annual US report on terrorism acknowledged on Thursday that Pakistan took steps in 2020 to counter terrorism financing, restrain India-focused militant groups and to meet demands of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Pakistan continued to experience terrorist attacks last year, said the report. Pakistani military and security forces undertook counterterrorism operations against groups that conducted attacks within Pakistan, such as the banned[Read More](#)

Tiger Global backs Pakistan's CreditBook in \$11m round

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 17, 2021)

KARACHI: Digital bookkeeping startup Fintech startup CreditBook today announced it has closed a \$11 million pre-Series A round led by US-based Tiger Global and UK-based firstminute capital. This marks the first investment for both funds in the country. Previous investors include Better Tomorrow Ventures, who led the earlier round, VentureSouq, Ratio Ventures and i2i Ventures also took part in the current round. Angel investors who participated in th...[Read More](#)

Another body set up to solve economic problems

Tribune.com.pk (December 16, 2021)

The government has decided to set up the Economic Executive Council (EEC) in an attempt to shore up efforts to arrest downward trend in the economic indicators. According to a finance ministry notification, the nine-member council held its first meeting on Wednesday. The council, formed with Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance Shaukat Tarin in the chair, included five ministers, two advisers, finance secretary and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) governor. The notified scop...[Read More](#)

Shabbar Zaidi believes Pakistan has gone bankrupt, says govt making false claims

The News (December 16, 2021)

Brushing aside the government's tall claims about economic achievements, Shabbar Zaidi, the former chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), has expressed the belief that the country has gone bankrupt. Zaidi made the remarks during his recent speech at the Hamdard University. The former FBR chairman, however, took to Twitter to say that "only three minutes of his speech have been cherry-picked" and circulated. He said he spoke about the solutio...[Read More](#)

Pakistan looking for economic ties with US: Qureshi

The Dawn (December 15, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that Pakistan desires a stable and broad-based relationship with the United States that is driven by economic interests. Speaking at the Margalla Dialogue hosted by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Tuesday, Mr Qureshi said: "We value our longstanding relations with the United States. Looking towards the future, we do not want a transactional relationship with the US. We want multifaceted tie...." [Read More](#)

Current account deficit will decrease gradually, says SBP governor

Geo.tv (December 15, 2021)

Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Reza Baqir Tuesday said that the current account deficit (CAD) is expected to increase for the next two months and will then decrease gradually. The SBP governor was speaking to journalist Shahzeb Khanzada on Aaj Shahzeb Khanzada Kay Saath where he delved into Pakistan's economic situation. Baqir said Pakistan was not headed towards a situation where the interest rate in the country could surge to 13.52%. The last time Pakistan faced [Read More](#)

SOEs: PC sets sell-off target

Business Recorder (December 14, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission has set a target to complete the privatisation of one dozen state-owned entities (SOEs) including the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) in the next couple of years. The government had projected to generate Rs252 billion from the privatisation proceeds in the current fiscal year. Officials informed privatisation of the SME Bank, the First Women Bank Limited, the Jinnah Convention Centre, and the House Building Finance Corporation Limi..[Read More](#)

Cabinet sets 12-month deadline to replace currency notes

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 14, 2021)

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry revealed that the federal Cabinet has only granted a 12-month extension for the replacement of currency notes of Rs10, Rs50, Rs100 and Rs1000. It is pertinent to mention here that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had sought a six-year extension for the replacement. “Those who want to get currency notes changed should get it done in a year,” he added. Chaudhry was addressing a post-Cabinet meeting press conference in the... [Read More](#)

Pakistani aviation authority hopes to resume licensing in February

Business Recorder (December 13, 2021)

KARACHI: Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) hopes it can resume licensing pilots in February with the release of an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) audit after a scandal over fake licenses, an authority official said. The ICAO, the UN Aviation body, advised Pakistan in September 2020 to undertake immediate corrective action and suspend the issue of any new pilot licenses after false licenses came to light following the crash of a Pakistan Intern.... [Read More](#)

SBP likely to raise policy rate by 100-150bps tomorrow

Geo.tv (December 13, 2021)

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is scheduled to meet tomorrow (December 14) to determine the benchmark interest rate for the next one month at a time of dull economic activity, higher inflation reading, and the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant – Omicron. This will be the first monetary policy meeting after Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the sixth review on November 22, 2021. Moreover ... [Read More](#)

FBR likely to shower tax benefits on SPVs

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 12, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: Contrary to the disseminated perception of withdrawing Rs348 billion tax exemptions, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is likely to extend income tax exemptions to Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) created by Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) under REIT Regulations, 2015, in the upcoming mini-budget. Sources said that FBR had proposed to do so in the Finance Supplementary Bill 2021, tabled in the National Assembly (NA) after approval of the federal cab ..[Read More](#)

SBP to launch Asaan Mobile Account scheme tomorrow

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 12, 2021)

LAHORE: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) announced today that it will be launching the Asaan Mobile Account (AMA) scheme on Monday under its National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) to bank the country's sizably unbanked population. In a statement, the central bank said that the initiative (AMA) has been developed under the NFIS with the objective to bring further ease in remote account opening under branchless banking. The AMA scheme will allow..[Read More](#)

Pakistan banks on common goals in ties with US

Triubne.com.pk (December 11, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: The top civil-military leadership on Saturday told a group of visiting US lawmakers that Pakistan's interests are compatible with the interests of the US as both the countries believe in democracy, rule of law, and striving for the provision of security at the regional and world level. Members of the US Senate committees on armed services and intelligence, headed by Senator Angus King, held back-to-back meetings with Prime Minister Imran and Chief of..[Read More](#)

FPCCI asks SBP to leave interest rate on hold

The News (December 11, 2021)

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) on Friday urged the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to avoid further increase in policy rate, fearing any rate hike would lead to stagflation and adverse effects on industrial growth in the country. Use of the instrument of policy rate for controlling inflation has been counter-productive as Pakistan's economy is less integrated with the financial sector, FPCCI president Nasir Hayyat Magoo stated in ...[Read More](#)

Pakistan's economy did not overheat, says Shaukat Tarin

The Dawn (December 10, 2021)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy did not overheat as commonly believed but faced challenges due to international commodity prices that are now coming down, Finance Adviser Shaukat Tarin said on Thursday. This ease in the prices of global commodities will minimise external sector vulnerability of the country in the next three to four months, said Mr Tarin while speaking at the concluding session of SDPI's 24th Sustainable Development Conference titled 'Beyond the...[Read More](#)

IFC urged to increase investment in Pakistan

Dunya News (December 10, 2021)

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – increase investment in Von Friedeburg, the adviser
Adviser to the Prime Minister Pakistan to make private said the government had
on Finance and Revenue, sector an engine of growth taken various steps to attract
Shaukat Tarin here on Friday and development. In a investment opportunities
invited the International meeting with Senior Vice especially foreign investment
Finance Corporation (IFC) to President of IFC, Stephanie and in this regard ...[Read More](#)

Budget Study Centre

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Pakistan

Tel: +92 (0) 51-8312794, 8312795

URL: www.cpdi-pakistan.org

