



CPDI BUDGET WATCH

Microfinance: Accountholders can invest in govt securities, says SBP

Business Recorder (March 17, 2022)

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has allowed microfinance account holders to invest in government securities, a move aimed at providing them more investment opportunities. In order to enhance the scope of Investor Portfolio Securities (IPS) Account to a wider set of institutions and investors and to promote diversification of marketable government securities, the SBP has decided to enable microfinance accountholders to invest in the government securities. The Sta...[Read More](#)

Shock waves from war in Ukraine threaten to swamp Sri Lanka

Bloomberg.com (March 17, 2022)

Russia's war in Ukraine, which has caused a humanitarian crisis and convulsed global financial markets, is now threatening to crush an \$81 billion economy more than 4,000 miles away in the Indian Ocean. Hit by soaring oil import costs and a dip in tourism revenue, Sri Lanka is racing to avert a default amid dwindling foreign-exchange holdings. With inflation already at 15% -- the worst in Asia -- the conflict is only making it harder for the tropical island ...[Read More](#)

Global oil supply disruptions leave Pakistan reeling

Business Recorder (March 16, 2022)

Supply disruptions caused by the ongoing Ukraine Russia crisis have become a bane for Pakistan, which is struggling to secure diesel supplies due to a global crunch, reported Bloomberg. Sanctions imposed on Russia by the West amid its Ukraine invasion has pushed traders to focus on European markets, leaving companies like Pakistan State Oil (PSO) wanting oil supplies. As per the report, PSO has not been able to secure additional shipments from its main supplier Kuwait... [Read More](#)

Pakistan to resolve \$2.6b PTCL-Etisalat deal by June: Finance Minister Tarin

Khaleej Times (March 16, 2022)

Pakistan will resolve the \$2.6 billion PTCL-Etisalat deal by June as both the parties have agreed to complete the evaluation process of disputed properties on fast track to settle an outstanding amount of over \$800 million, Khaleej Times has learnt. Pakistan Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said Etisalat Group will explore more investment opportunities in the country's telecom and information technology sectors once the 16-year old privatisation deal of Pakistan Tele ...[Read More](#)

Pakistan presses ahead with Russian-built gas pipeline

Financial Times (March 15, 2022)

Pakistan plans to finalise a Russian-built gas pipeline despite international pressure to isolate Moscow economically, as the US ally searches for alternatives to ease a domestic energy crunch. Finance minister Shaukat Tarin told the Financial Times that a deal with Russia to build the multibillion-dollar Pakistan Stream pipeline “is almost done”. Also known as the “North-South” project, it will transport liquefied natural gas from the southern port city of Karachi to...[Read More](#)

ECC allows payment of PDC on sale of petroleum products

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 15, 2022)

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has allowed reimbursement of the Price Differential Claims (PDCs) of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and refineries on the sale instead of procurement of the petroleum products. ECC on Tuesday approved a mechanism under which the Price Differential Claims (PDCs) of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and refineries will be applicable on the sale instead of procurement of the petroleum products. According to the ... [Read More](#)

KSE-100 down 0.66% amid thin trading

Business Recorder (March 14, 2022)

Pakistan equities extended losses from last week amid thin market participation, as the benchmark KSE-100 Index closed on a negative note, registering a drop of 0.66%. Volume and value of shares declined from the previous session. During the trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday, the Index swung both ways between an intraday high of 43,767.77 (up by 114 points) and a low of 43,324.94 (down by 328 points). At close, it ended with a drop of 286.44 ... [Read More](#)

PSO communicates inability to import petroleum products for OMCs

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 14, 2022)

Pakistan State Oil (PSO) has expressed its inability to ensure the import of petroleum products for other Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the country. PSO General Manager (Supply), Asad Faiz, in a letter to the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), has raised voice against OGRA for suggesting it (PSO) to import petroleum products for other Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). He said that PSO currently has only one fuel supply contract under a government-to-g...[Read More](#)

PDP chief demands govt take steps aimed at containing inflation

Business Recorder (March 13, 2022)

KARACHI: Unbridled inflation is a very serious threat to our fragile economy and it would shake the very socioeconomic foundations of the country if not controlled on war footing basis, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor. He said the most severe effect of inflation is on our foreign loans. With a free fall of Pakistani rupee these foreign loans and their neck breaking interest further rise, putting even more pressure on our budgetary allocations. He said the lion's share of our budget already.... [Read More](#)

US pays \$2m a month to protect Pompeo from 'credible' Iran threat

Arabnews.com (March 13, 2022)

WASHINGTON: The State Department says it's paying more than \$2 million per month to provide 24-hour security to former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and a former top aide, both of whom face "serious and credible" threats from Iran. The department told Congress in a report that the cost of protecting Pompeo and former Iran envoy Brian Hook between August 2021 and February 2022 amounted to \$13.1 million. The report, dated Feb. 14 and marked "sensitive but un...[Read More](#)

Sri Lanka to start talks with IMF as economic crisis worsens

Business Recorder (March 12, 2022)

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka will begin talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) next month on a plan to help the crisis-hit country, where a foreign exchange shortage has squeezed essential imports amid looming debt payments, three sources said on Friday. Sri Lanka is facing its worst financial crisis in years. With foreign exchange reserves standing at a paltry \$2.31 billion, the country is struggling to pay for critical imports including fuel, food and medicines. ... [Read More](#)

World Bank approves \$435mn in loan for low-cost housing projects

The News (March 12, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: World Bank (WB) has approved \$435 million loans for three projects including Pakistan Housing Finance Project, Punjab Urban Land Systems Enhancement, and Punjab Affordable Housing programme to facilitate low income groups. However, independent economists have opposed WB's estimates over shortages of housing units in Pakistan. Moreover, the land record projects in Punjab, already implemented in the province, have actually created more diffi...[Read More](#)

Engro signs Rs4 billion financing facility with HBL for expansion of telecom tower business

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 11, 2022)

Engro Enfrashare has entered a financing arrangement amounting to PKR 4 billion with HBL, Pakistan's largest bank, for the development of telecommunication tower sites for various mobile network operators (MNOs). As per terms of the financing arrangement, the tenor of the financing will be seven years, including a grace period of two years. In 2021, Engro had announced to enhance its total equity investment in the Telecom Infrastructure Vertical to PKR 21.5 billion and formed a de ... [Read More](#)

US lawmakers seek sanctions against Pakistan

The Dawn (March 11, 2022)

WASHINGTON: A US lawmaker has called for the designation of Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism while two others sought a probe into Ambassador Masood Khan's alleged links with Kashmiri and Pakistani groups. The initiator of the move is Scott Perry, a Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania. The bill moved by him seeks to "provide for the designation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism, and for other purposes". The bil... [Read More](#)

US Pakistan agree to revitalize trade, economic ties

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 10, 2022)

The United States and Pakistan agreed to reinvigorate and revitalize trade and business relationships to enhance bilateral trade and investment. It was decided during a meeting under the Pakistan-United States Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) held in Islamabad, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce. Federal Secretary Commerce, Muhammad Sualeh Ahmad Faruqi, co-chaired the meeting along ... [Read More](#)

Shaukat Tarin hopes for IMF leniency over PM's subsidy package

The Dawn (March 10, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Ahead of formal talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a \$6 billion rescue package, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said on Wednesday the Fund had been asked to take a lenient view of the recent subsidy package that was announced to prevent people from taking to the streets. Speaking at a news conference, Mr Tarin said the consultation had been down with the IMF before the announcement of the subsidy package "to the extent necessary". He.... [Read More](#)

Pakistan to exceed revenue target in FY22: Shaukat Tarin

Geo.tv (March 09, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will exceed the revenue target set in the annual budget for the current financial year, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said on Wednesday.

Tarin said revenue would hit Rs6.1 trillion (\$34.2 billion), compared to a target of Rs5.8 trillion. "Despite that, I gave the target of 5.8 trillion, I'm going to hit at 6.1 trillion, and

I'm tracking," he told a news conference in Islamabad. He said a recent fuel and electricity subsidy package announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan would ... [Read More](#)

Budget deficit to surpass IMF's target

Tribune.com.pk (March 09, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's revised estimates show that its primary budget deficit will breach the recently agreed limits with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and

inflation will remain high but there is positivity in economic growth rate trajectory. The government has shared its initial assessment of the economy with the IMF during

ongoing talks, sources said. However on Tuesday, it postponed a scheduled meeting between the finance minister and Nathan Porter, new Mission Chief in Islamabad. ... [Read More](#)

Govt seeks \$21bn support from China

Business Recorder (March 08, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has sought financial support of about \$ 21 billion from China through rollover of existing loans of \$ 10.735 billion and \$ 10 billion as deposit fund, to

meet future financial needs and deal with financial challenges, well informed sources in Finance Ministry told Business Recorder. Sharing the details, the

sources said several agenda items came under discussion during the Prime Minister's visit to China, including those submitted by the Ministry of Finance that include ... [Read More](#)

Banks directed to employ 20pc women

The Dawn (March 08, 2022)

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has directed banks to employ at least 20 per cent of women in the workforce by 2023. Gender diversity is a must for

economic development and inclusion of women in the financial system, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Dr Reza Baqir said on Monday at the launch ceremony of Asaan

Digital Account (ADA). The SBP in collaboration with Bank Alfalah, Standard Chartered Bank and UBL, hosted an event titled 'Asaan Digital Account: ... [Read More](#)

US-Pakistan TIFA talks to begin today

Business Recorder (March 07, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States (US) are all set to hold parleys on bilateral trade and investment under the umbrella of Trade and Investment Framework

Agreement (TIFA) on March 7-9, 2022. The US side is expected to be led by Assistant US Trade Representative (AUSTR) for South and Central Asia,

Christopher Wilson whereas Pakistan team will be headed by Secretary Commerce. Commerce Ministry, sources said, has finalized discussion points in consultation with ... [Read More](#)

Tarin hopeful of getting rid of IMF by September

The News (March 07, 2022)

DUBAI: Federal Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has pinned hopes on saying goodbye to IMF after completing the ongoing funding facility provided the country achieves six percent growth rate for the next fiscal year 22-23. Talking to Khaleej Times on Sunday, the finance minister said Pakistan's economy is on the right track to post 'an inclusive and sustainable growth' of up to five per cent this year that will help the country to get rid of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Sep...[Read More](#)

Economy on right track, 5pc growth to be achieved: Tarin

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 06, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin Sunday said that economy was on the right track to post an inclusive and sustainable growth up to 05 percent during current fiscal year that would help get rid on the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "We don't need the IMF if we achieve sustainable growth of six percent. I don't think we need another IMF program once we complete the ongoing extended fund facility (EFF) in September," Tarin told Khaleej Times in ... [Read More](#)

Audit finds irregularities in PID's financial affairs

The Dawn (March 06, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: The Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) has pointed out loopholes in the financial affairs of the Press Information Department (PID), disclosing various irregularities during the 2020-21 fiscal year. The ongoing audit for the fiscal year has found that Rs13.7 million was paid to 13 employees of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in terms of house rent. According to a memorandum of the Ministry of Housing and Works dated July 31, 2004, all payments must ... [Read More](#)

Service exports increase by 18.82pc to \$3944.91mn in seven months

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 05, 2022)

The exports of services from the country witnessed an increase of 18.82 per cent during the first seven months of the current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The exports of services during July-January (2021-22) were recorded at \$3944.91 million against the exports of \$3320.17 million during July-January (2020-21), showing growth of 18.82 per cent. The services' imports also rose by 39.49 per cent by ... [Read More](#)

'Powerful nations' influenced FATF to keep Pakistan on grey list, says Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin

Geo.tv (March 05, 2022)

DUBAI: Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin on Saturday said that Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) decision to retain Pakistan in its grey list is "politically motivated," Khaleej Times reported. In an interview with the Middle East publication, Tarin said: "FATF's decision was taken under the influence of some powerful nations to pressurise Pakistan over its strategic policy decisions." He, however, reiterated that Pakistan will exit ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan to remain on FATF's grey list

The News (March 04, 2022)

PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Friday announced Pakistan will continue to remain on the grey list while but did not that "significant progress" has been made in completing the required action items for removal from the list. The FATF has been holding a virtual session in Paris since March 1 that concluded today (March 4). As per reports, the task force reviewed the Asia Pacific Group's (AGP) report on Pakistan's compliance with the watchdog's prescribed action items. The ... [Read More](#)

Xiaomi inaugurates smartphone manufacturing facility in Pakistan

Business Recorder (March 04, 2022)

Chinese smartphone manufacturer Xiaomi Technology has inaugurated its manufacturing facility in Pakistan with Air Link Communication, informed Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar on Friday. With a planned investment of \$500 million, Xiaomi is entering a huge Pakistani market for mobile exports, added the minister in a tweet post. The development comes days after Air Link announced that its set to commence production of Xiaomi handsets in the ... [Read More](#)

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