



CPDI BUDGET WATCH

‘No threat to Pakistan’s financial system from global banking crisis’

The News (March 16, 2023)

KARACHI: The failure of three American banks has no relevance or impact on the lenders doing business in Pakistan as they are well-capitalised, but the banks'

sizable holdings of government debt securities are raising red flags in the financial system of the country, a financial services company stated in a report.

Within a week, the Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank, and Silvergate Bank all collapsed, shattering public confidence and raising significant quest... [Read More](#)

‘Dollar-starved’ Pakistan struggles to pay international airlines: report

The Dawn (March 16, 2023)

RAWALPINDI: The global air transport body has warned of an ‘aviation crisis’ in Pakistan as airlines are struggling to recover \$290 million due to a severe financial crisis,

the Financial Times reported on Thursday. Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has said it was trying to pay the airlines on time and has been in contact with relevant

authorities over the issue. The Financial Times, while quoting the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said it has become “very challenging” for c... [Read More](#)

Recession risks flare up for Pakistan amid political, economic crises

The News (March 15, 2023)

Pakistan faces the renewed risk of recession amid a deepening political and economic crisis and a delay in the revival of the International Monetary

Fund’s (IMF) bailout programme. Bloomberg survey showed that the probability of the economy slipping into recession stands at 70%, according to the median

forecast of 27 economists. In the last few months, the cash-strapped nation has failed to meet several deadlines to secure funds to stave off a default, which ha... [Read More](#)

Pakistan, US reaffirm commitment to promote cooperation in diverse sectors

Dunyanews.tv (March 15, 2023)

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Pakistan and the United States on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to promoting economic growth, energy security, partnership

in long-term flood rehabilitation efforts, and strengthening their overall relationship. The bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif and visiting Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources at the US Department of State Geoffery Pyatt, a PM Office news release said... [Read More](#)

Pakistan must enhance infrastructure spending by five times: Maheen Rehman

Business Recorder (March 14, 2023)

InfraZamin CEO Maheen Rehman said in a discussion on Tuesday that despite a massive population of 220 million, Pakistan has been spending less than 2% of its GDP on developing its infrastructure when it should be spending around 10%. She highlighted the need for rigorous development in the areas of education, health and agriculture. InfraZamin collaborated with Nutshell Group to jointly host the Infrastructure Summit here at a local hotel. "The purpose of this summit was ... [Read More](#)

‘Political situation delaying IMF deal’

The Dawn (March 14, 2023)

WASHINGTON: The political situation in Pakistan has become a factor in delaying a deal with International Monetary Fund (IMF) that may stabilise the national economy, diplomatic sources told Dawn. Sources say that global lenders, particularly the IMF, are seeking assurances from Pakistan that the future political setup in the country will respect any deal they sign with Islamabad. Pakistan and the IMF have been negotiating the resumption of an installed \$7bn IMF progra ... [Read More](#)

Finland Pakistan Business Summit held

Business Recorder (March 13, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The Finland-Pakistan Business Council (FPBC) organised the 10th edition of its legacy Finland Pakistan Business Summit 2023 on Monday to focus on expanding cooperation in the energy and education sectors for boosting trade, investment, and exchange of technical expertise for shared growth and development. The summit was inaugurated by Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan Hannu Ripatti while former prime minister of Pakistan Shahid Khaqan Abbasi chaired a ... [Read More](#)

Global rating downgrades deter foreign Investors from investing in Pakistani market

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 13, 2023)

Writing for Express Tribune, author Faraz Ahmed explains that Pakistan's stock market has been facing a range of challenges for several years, including political chaos, extreme flooding, and geopolitical crises, the latest being the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Despite hopes of the KSE-100 index crossing 50K or even 60K following the International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal, it has remained stagnant. The lack of a staff-level agreement with the IMF has kept investors on the sidelines, and th... [Read More](#)

Pakistan to produce a unicorn by 2025: Endeavor Managing Partner Allen Taylor

Business Recorder (March 12, 2023)

Pakistan, the fifth most populous country in the world, is struggling to revive its International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme to unlock a \$1.1-billion tranche to respond to its short-term economic woes. As rupee depreciated to historic low levels and inflation touched a fresh peak, there's little expectation that this distress will alleviate anytime soon. These problems have jointly brought the country's economy to almost a standstill. If surveys with a few thousands re... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's famous fashion retail brand forays into UAE

Khaleej Times (March 12, 2023)

The more than 100 years old business group inaugurated its maiden fashion retail store — Ideas by GulAhmed — at City Centre Sharjah to introduce multiple brands such as GulAhmed, Kaaj ready-to-wear, Ideas Home, Ideas Fragrances, Ideas Pret, Ideas Man, Ideas Kids and more. "Our fashion retail store brand, named Ideas by GulAhmed in City Centre Sharjah, is the group's first official physical presence in any country outside Pakistan," Mohamed Bashir, chairman, GulAh ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan will come out of economic crisis: Dawood

Business Recorder (March 11, 2023)

LAHORE: Former advisor for commerce and investment to PM and leading businessman Abdul Razak Dawood has expressed optimism that the country would come out of prevailing difficult economic situation. "No doubt the country is facing difficult economic situation, but I am optimistic that we would come out of the current phase. However, definite time frame could not be given." Talking to Business Recorder on Friday, Dawood ruled out any possibility that the country would bankrupt [Read More](#)

'IMF doesn't trust Pakistan's finance ministry'

Geo.tv (March 11, 2023)

Former finance minister Miftah Ismail — who managed to revive the stalled International Monetary Fund (IMF) last year during his tenure at the Q Block — has claimed that Washington-based lender doesn't trust Pakistan's Ministry of Finance. In an exclusive interview with Geo.tv, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader dissected the main issues which — evolved during the last year — conked out the critical deal with the IMF, steeping the cou ... [Read More](#)

'Trust deficit' delayed deal with IMF: Dar

Dunyanews.tv (March 10, 2023)

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Thursday said a delay in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme in the tenure of previous government created a 'trust deficit' that is continuing to impact. He said the PTI government failed to fulfill IMF commitments. However, Dar said the incumbent government was trying its best to put the economy back on track and complete the IMF programme at any cost. Talking to reporters in the federal capital, [Read More](#)

Foreign Minister Bilawal says Pakistan in 'perfect storm' of crises

Khaleej Times (March 10, 2023)

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Thursday his country is facing "a perfect storm" of troubles — an economic crisis, the consequences of catastrophic flooding, and terrorism "that is once again rearing its ugly head" as a result of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the 34-year-old son of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, said in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press that Pakistan, like other countries, is also [Read More](#)

US urges Pakistan to continue working with IMF on reforms to improve business environment

The Dawn (March 09, 2023)

The US State Department has urged Pakistan to "continue working" with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), especially on reforms that will improve the country's business environment, highlighting that it would help Pakistan attract "high-quality investment". State Department spokesperson Ned Price made the remarks in response to a query at a weekly press briefing on Wednesday. "We encourage Pakistan to continue working with the IMF, esp.... [Read More](#)

Economic support by Gulf countries: Pakistan hopes for positive outcome: FO

Business Recorder (March 09, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday commended the economic support extended by friendly countries, including China and Middle Eastern countries and expressed the hope for a positive outcome of the ongoing engagements with many Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar with regard to financial assistance and massive investments. In her weekly media briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the financial and economic su.... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's Honda Atlas shuts production to end-March on import difficulties

Arabnews.pk (March 08, 2023)

KARACHI: Honda Atlas Cars Pakistan Ltd has announced the longest plant shutdown to date in the current economic crisis amongst the country's automakers, which are struggling to obtain raw materials due to import difficulties. The company, a unit of Japanese car giant Honda Motor Co Ltd, said its plant would shut from March 9, 2023, to March 31, 2023. "The company is not in a position to continue with its production," it said in a notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) [Read More](#)

IMF getting confirmation from Pakistan's creditors

The News (March 08, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The IMF is getting confirmation from multilateral and bilateral creditors on all avenues of external financing for moving towards the signing of the Staff Level Agreement (SLA). Some other minor issues remain unresolved so far but the Pakistani authorities seem confident about the signing of the agreement this week. "Without getting 200 per cent confirmation on external financing from all possible avenues, the SLA could not be struck. This has proved the most crucial issue... [Read More](#)

Pakistan improves risk score on global AML index

The Dawn (March 07, 2023)

KARACHI: Following Pakistan's exit from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list, a global body of banking supervisory authorities has acknowledged the progress made by the country in the overall regulation of the financial affairs slightly lowering the risk score of the country. However, experts believe that the recently-released Basel AML [anti-money laundering] Index briefing on Pakistan would hardly benefit the country's overall economy amid larger challenges [Read More](#)

Concerns grow over Pakistan's economic crisis and govt leadership

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 07, 2023)

Uzair Younus explains that in March, 2023, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decided to raise interest rates by 300 basis points, taking the policy rate to 20 percent, the highest level since October 1996. This decision was expected to be one of the final capitulations to secure an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and unlock much-needed dollar inflows. The other was the depreciation of the rupee, which had slid to Rs 285.09 to the dollar. Briefings conducted by the governor of a central bank are... [Read More](#)

Economy has nosedived due to poor policies, mismanagement: BMP

Business Recorder (March 06, 2023)

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) on Sunday said that the country's economy has nosedived partly due to external factors but majorly due to non-serious and poor domestic policy decisions and mismanagement of the economic managers, as the rupee saw yet another dramatic fall in just over a month, plummeting 6.66% while the key interest rate have been escalated by the central bank by 3.... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's top economic body approves Hajj Policy 2023 — finance minister

Arabnews.pk (March 06, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top economic body has approved the Hajj Policy for the year 2023, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar confirmed on Monday, saying the government has resolved to provide "maximum facilitation" to pilgrims. The Hajj is an obligatory religious ritual for adult Muslims with physical and financial means, requiring them to visit the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah at least once in their lifetime. Muslims from all over the world undertake the journey to perform pilgrima... [Read More](#)

Pakistan receives \$500m financing from Chinese bank

Business Recorder (March 05, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has received \$500 million from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC), Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar confirmed late Friday. The friendly country has extended the tranche after Islamabad fulfilled almost all the tough conditions for the revival of the IMF loan programme. Taking to Twitter, the finance minister announced that the Chinese Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) has completed all for.... [Read More](#)

China to deepen financial reform, open to more foreign investment

Dunyanews.tv (March 05, 2023)

BEIJING/SHANGHAI Reuters) - China will deepen financial reform and improve its regulatory regime to guard against risks to the economy, and further open up to foreign investment, Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday. The government will fend off risks for high-quality property firms and reduce the burden of interest payments for local governments, the outgoing premier said in his work report to the opening of the annual meeting of China's parliament. "We need to deepen reform of... [Read More](#)

Rubbishing talk of default, Dar warns against 'splitting polls'

The Dawn (March 04, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Quashing rumours about a financial emergency or sovereign default, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday counted a series of financial, legal, security and constitutional challenges to suggest that holding polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa before the general election was impossible. Speaking at a news conference, the minister said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was now helping Pakistan fill a \$5bn to \$7bn external financing gap for ... [Read More](#)

Portuguese tech firm S4 Digital acquires 70% stake in Pakistan's Bramerz

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 04, 2023)

Portugal-based business and technology consulting firm S4 Digital announced on Friday that it had acquired a 70% stake in Pakistan's digital marketing and advertising firm Bramerz for an undisclosed amount. A day earlier, S4 Digital announced acquisition of a majority stake in Karachi-based HR Ways, an HR outsourcing company. Between the two companies, S4 Digital would be making a multi-million dollar (but short of double-digit millions) investment into Pakistan. The acquisition mark... [Read More](#)

West behind Pakistan's economic crisis: China

The News (March 03, 2023)

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Thursday said that the financial policies of certain developed countries were the main reason behind the financial difficulties of a large number of developing countries, including Pakistan, and called for concerted efforts of all parties to play a constructive role in the economic and social development of Pakistan. "It must be pointed out that the financial policy of a certain developed country is the main reason behind th ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan expects \$1.3bn financing from China's ICBC in coming days: Dar

The Dawn (March 03, 2023)

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said that Pakistan was expecting \$1.3 billion in financing from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) in the coming days to help shore up its foreign exchange reserves. Addressing a press conference on the country's prevailing economic situation in Islamabad, Dar said he was doing the press conference to clear "ambiguity" amid the current scenario. "All our formalities with the ICBC are complete as of last night. We returned them \$... [Read More](#)

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