



CPDI BUDGET WATCH

Pakistan hails EU's decision to remove high-risk label, sees it as a positive step

Geo.tv (March 30, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed its appreciation for the European Union's decision to remove the country from its list of high-risk countries, citing the

country's constant efforts to effectively tackle anti-money laundering and terrorism financing as the reason for the removal. The European Union (EU) removed the

country from the "List of High-Risk Third Countries" after which country's businesses and individuals will no longer be subjected to "Enhanced Customer Due Di.... [Read More](#)

Stocks lose 202 points on political tensions

The Dawn (March 30, 2023)

KARACHI: Investors sold stocks on Wednesday to book profits, leading the representative index of the share market to close on the lower side. Topline Securities

said buying interest was visible in selected blue-chip stocks during the early trading hours. But the news of the arrest warrant for PTI chairman Imran Khan dented

the momentum. The news flow compelled the stock market to shed its early gains and close the day on a negative note. According to Arif Habib Ltd, th... [Read More](#)

'IMF verifying external financing from China, UAE and Saudi Arabia'

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 29, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ayesha Ghous Pasha, stated that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is verifying external

financing from friendly countries such as China, UAE and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. She claimed this in a briefing at the senate's Finance and Revenue

Committee under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla which was met to discuss IMF program and foreign exchange dollar [Read More](#)

Pakistani finance minister meets UAE envoy amid IMF push for external financing commitments

Arabnews.pk (March 29, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The top United Arab Emirates diplomat in Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, held a meeting with the federal finance minister, Muhammad

Ishaq Dar, on Wednesday, as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) pushed the South Asian nation to get external financing commitments from friendly countries before it

releases bailout funds. The lender has been negotiating with Islamabad since early February to resume \$1.1 billion in funding held since November. Part [Read More](#)

Pakistan removed from EU's High Risk Third Countries list

The Dawn (March 28, 2023)

The Ministry of Commerce on Wednesday announced that the European Commission has removed Pakistan from its "High Risk Third Countries" list, which poses significant threats to the European Union's financial system. In a statement, the ministry stated that Pakistan was added to the EU's list in October 2018, which imposed undue regulatory burdens on "Obligated Entities" within the Union and created obstacles in legal and financial transactions with individuals and entities base... [Read More](#)

Agreement between IMF, Pakistan will be subject to financial support by KSA, UAE

Dunyanews.tv (March 28, 2023)

LAHORE (Web Desk) - The confirmation of financial support from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will lead to the signing of the staff level agreement (SLA) between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), sources said. Sources told Dunya News that the IMF was awaiting the support confirmation from two countries. Finance and Revenue Minister Ishaq Dar also informed diplomats during an Iftar dinner in the federal capital on Sunday that the issues with [Read More](#)

World Bank warns of 'lost decade' in global growth without bold policy shifts

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 27, 2023)

WASHINGTON: Average potential global economic growth will slump to a three-decade low of 2.2% per year through 2030, ushering in a "lost decade" for the world's economy, unless policymakers adopt ambitious initiatives to boost labor supply, productivity and investment, the World Bank warned on Monday. Failure to reverse the expected broad-based slowdown in potential gross domestic product (GDP) growth would have profound implications for the world's ability to tackle [Read More](#)

Pakistan joins 'Happiness Project' in partnership with Wall's Ice Cream and Project Everyone

Business Recorder (March 27, 2023)

Wall's Ice Cream and Project Everyone have announced the expansion of their joint initiative, The Happiness Project, in Pakistan. The project aims to teach children about the fundamental elements of happiness and wellbeing through five learning modules: Connections, Creativity, Movement, Kindness, and Gratitude. The program was created in partnership with a panel of global advisory teachers, students, and clinical psychologists. The initiative aims to... [Read More](#)

Govt making all-out efforts to put economy on path of sustainable growth

Geo.tv (March 26, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is making all possible efforts to steer the country out of a difficult situation and put the economy on the path of sustainable growth, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has said. Addressing an Iftar dinner hosted by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in honour of foreign diplomats, he said that friendly countries are expected to materialise their commitments Pakistan that would pave the way to close the deal with the ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's exports to Middle East fall 12pc

The Dawn (March 26, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to the Middle East shrank 11.87 per cent on a year-on-year basis to \$1.491 billion in the first eight months of FY23 mainly driven by a substantial decline in exports to the United Arab Emirates. The exports to the region saw a mixed trend with an increase to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, while a decline to other countries of the region, data compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan showed on Saturday. The UAE has emerged as the leading country for Paki [Read More](#)

No plan B other than IMF: Miftah Ismail

The News (March 25, 2023)

As Pakistan's economy continues to dwindle amid financial woes and the authorities struggle to strike a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), former finance minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Miftah Ismail said matters with the global lender seem to have come at a standstill. The cash-strapped country has faced growing economic challenges, with high inflation, low forex reserves, a widening current account deficit a [Read More](#)

US to help strengthen Pakistan's economy

The Dawn (March 25, 2023)

WASHINGTON: A senior US official pledged on Friday to mobilise the whole US government to support the alliance with Pakistan and to strengthen the Pakistani economy. Dr Dafna Rand, Director of the Office of Foreign Assistance, made this pledge at the Pakistan Day reception at the embassy while speaking on behalf of the US secretary of state. The reception brought officials from various US departments, including the State and the Pentagon. "We want to strengthen clim ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's new fuel subsidy scheme needs to be agreed before deal

The Dawn (March 24, 2023)

A long-awaited loan agreement between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be signed once a few remaining points, including a proposed fuel pricing scheme, are settled, an IMF official confirmed on Friday. The coalition government and IMF have been negotiating since early February on an agreement that would release \$1.1 billion to the cash-strapped country of 220 million people. The latest issue is a plan, announced by Prime Minister [Read More](#)

IMF seeks financial assurances before taking 'next step with Pakistan'

Business Recorder (March 24, 2023)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said it needs to ensure financing assurances are in place in order to take "the next step with Pakistan". In a press briefing on Friday, Julie Kozack, the IMF's Director of Strategic Communications, stated: "Timely financial assistance from external partners will be critical to support the authorities' policy efforts and ensure the successful completion of the review [with Pakistan]. "Ensuring that there is sufficient finance ... [Read More](#)

No requirement in Pakistan programme that interferes with polls: IMF

The Dawn (March 23, 2023)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday that decisions regarding the constitutionality, feasibility and timing of provincial and general elections "rest solely with Pakistan's institutions", clarifying that there was "no requirement under Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility-supported programme which could interfere with the country's ability to undertake constitutional activities". The statement from the international monetary lender comes a day after the Election Commis... [Read More](#)

Despite international pressure, Pakistan proceeds with the second phase of CPEC

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 23, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to go ahead with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) amid the watchful eyes of international entities. The federal cabinet has approved the commencement of the second, and most important, phase of the CPEC project for industrial development of Pakistan. Sources claim that the federal cabinet has granted its approval for signing the draft Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) ostensibly to promote industrial coope... [Read More](#)

Govt bonds fail to attract dollars despite record returns

The Dawn (March 22, 2023)

KARACHI: A record increase in returns on treasury bills and Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) has failed to attract a single dollar. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) increased the interest rate by 300 basis points to 20 per cent and the discount rate to 21pc on March 2 to counter high inflation. Before announcing the interest rate hike, the government had already increased the treasury bill returns to 21pc. Banking experts said the decision favoured investors, mostly banks, but was [Read More](#)

‘Pakistan is running out of time,’ warns PBC as IMF programme hangs in balance

Business Recorder (March 22, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Business Council (PBC), one of the country's largest corporate advocacy platforms, has warned that time is running out for the country as it struggles to resume the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. “As stakeholders contest short-term power, Pakistan's long-term future is in jeopardy,” said the PBC in a tweet on Wednesday. “Drip feed and hope will not suffice. Without IMF's programme and debt re-profiling, help from friendly nat... [Read More](#)

US investment coming to Pakistan more and more every year, says Blome

The Dawn (March 21, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome has said that the US is Pakistan's largest export market, and the US investment is seen coming to Pakistan more and more every year. He was speaking at the US-Pakistan Innovation Expo in Islamabad that showcased the success stories of US government-sponsored Pakistani startups. Ambassador Blome said that one of the top priorities of the US government was promoting inclusive economic growth and increasing trade and investment [Read More](#)

Pakistan's economic crisis and China's strategic interests in the region

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (March 21, 2023)

Bloomberg economists Ankur Shukla and Abhishek Gupta on Tuesday noted that China is likely to assist Pakistan if the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fails to release funding. While the IMF is expected to deliver the remaining \$2.6 billion in aid to Pakistan under the current bailout program by June, Shukla and Gupta warn that the country could be facing a potential default as soon as June unless it secures aid. If the aid from the IMF does not materialise, China is expected to step in to plug [Read More](#)

IMF denies any condition attached to Pakistan's missile or nuclear programme

Bolnews.com (March 20, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Resident Representative for Pakistan Esther Perez Luiz has dismissed the speculation about any condition attached to Pakistan's missile or nuclear programme for the ninth review. In response to a query by a local journalist, Ms Esther Perez Luiz said the discussions between them had exclusively focused on economic policies to solve Pakistan's economic and balance of payments problems, in line with the IMF's mandate [Read More](#)

In testimony to Senate, US commander reposes confidence in Pakistan's nuclear security

Arabnews.pk (March 20, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The commander of the US Central Command (CENTCOM) has said that he is confident about the safety procedures in place for Pakistan's nuclear program, days after the finance minister said Islamabad would not compromise on its nukes for reviving a stalled International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan facility. General Micheal Kurilla's comments came during a testimony before the US Senate's armed services committee, in which a Senate member asked him if Pakistan's nuclea... [Read More](#)

PIAF seeks serious measures as Pakistan exports continue to decline

Dunyanews.tv (March 19, 2023)

LAHORE (Web Desk) - Raising grave concern over the continued falling trend of Pakistan exports, the Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said the country's textile exports dipped for the fifth consecutive month as shipments dropped by almost 30% year-on-year to \$1.20 billion in Feb 2023. The drop in exports indicates that the government has failed to win the confidence of the business community due to continued rupee depreciation and uncertainty. PIA.... [Read More](#)

Pakistan, China vow to further enhance bilateral ties

Tribune.com.pk (March 19, 2023)

Pakistan and China have reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and expressed resolve to enhance ties in diverse sectors, the Foreign Office said in a statement on Sunday. The resolve follows the third round of Pakistan-China bilateral political consultations (BPC), a regular institutional mechanism between the two brotherly countries, held in Beijing on March 18 (Saturday). According to the Foreign Office, the two sides agreed to expand and reinf... [Read More](#)

Closure of SME Bank approved

The Dawn (March 04, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Friday approved wrapping up of the SME Bank on the recommendations of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), but issued directives to ensure the protection of consumers' deposits. The cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif fixed the support price of 40 kilograms of cotton crop. In another decision, the meeting approved a bill concerning protection of lawyers. According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Mr Sharif directed [Read More](#)

Pakistan receives \$500m from China's ICBC bank

Business Recorder (March 18, 2023)

KARACHI: Pakistan has received a loan tranche from China of \$500 million that will help the country shore up its depleting foreign exchange reserves as the government battles an ongoing economic crisis. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar confirmed the receipt of the \$500m by the State Bank of Pakistan from the Chinese Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) in a tweet on Friday evening. "State Bank of Pakistan has received today in its account from Chinese Bank ICBC US \$ 500 million. It wil... [Read More](#)

'No threat to Pakistan's financial system from global banking crisis'

The News (March 17, 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 questi... [Read More](#)

'Dollar-starved' Pakistan struggles to pay international airlines: report

The Dawn (March 17, 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 ... [Read More](#)

Budget Study Centre

Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), Pakistan

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

URL: www.cpdipakistan.org

