



CPDI BUDGET WATCH

Open-market: rupee sees improvement against USD

Business Recorder (September 14, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: After weakening a day ago, the Pakistan rupee registered some improvement against the US dollar in the open market on Thursday. Currency dealers Business Recorder reached out to said the rupee was being quoted at 298 for selling and 295 for buying purposes for customers in the open market, stronger from Wednesday's levels. At close of trading on Thursday, the rupee closed at the same levels, according to data provided by the Exchange Companies Asso ... [Read More](#)

IFC commits \$1.5bn for Pakistan

The Dawn (September 14, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The International Finance Corporation (IFC) — a commercial arm of the World Bank Group — on Wednesday announced that it would double its investments in Pakistan to \$1.5 billion during the current fiscal year. "IFC has committed approximately \$1.5bn in short and long-term investments in Pakistan in FY23, doubling its investments from the previous year amidst a backdrop of economic challenges in the country", the IFC said in a state... [Read More](#)

PIA on verge of collapse, says airline director

Geo.tv (September 13, 2023)

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is on the verge of collapse as a top official of the national flag carrier has warned that flight operations are feared to be suspended by September 15 if emergency funds are not provided, Geo News has learnt. Speaking to Geo News on Wednesday, a senior director of the national flag carrier said the number of operational planes had been reduced to 16 from 23 which led to the cancellation of several flights. The official said aircraft ma ... [Read More](#)

International Finance Corporation doubles investments in Pakistan

The Dawn (September 13, 2023)

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a global financial institution, has committed about \$1.5 billion in short- and long-term investments in Pakistan in fiscal year 2023, doubling its investments from the previous year against a backdrop of economic challenges in the country. The IFC — a member of the World Bank — describes itself as the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Its projects in Pakistan aim to ... [Read More](#)

PIA's financial tailspin grounds number of flights

The News (September 12, 2023)

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) financial crisis turned ugly as number of domestic and international were cancelled due to serious cash flow problems, Geo News learnt on Tuesday. The sources said that a number of domestic flights to and from Karachi were cancelled as the national flag carrier failed to pay Pakistan State Oil (PSO) for fuel supply. A number of flights have been called off including two Karachi-Muscat, and two-way domestic ones [Read More](#)

High interest rates adversely affecting exports, other economic activities: TMA

Business Recorder (September 12, 2023)

KARACHI: Syed Usman Ali, Senior Vice Chairman of the Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan, has raised significant alarm and voiced deep apprehension regarding the prevailing high interest rates which are badly damaging the economic activities as well as hurting the growth of industrialization in the country. He has underscored the fact that these elevated interest rates are having a profoundly adverse impact on the export sectors as well in Pakistan. On the [Read More](#)

PIA risks grounding 15 planes amid dues worth Rs20 billion

Geo.tv (September 11, 2023)

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is in deep waters as it risks grounding 15 planes amid a significant financial crisis due to growing dues owed by the national carrier. According to well-placed sources privy to the development, PIA has to clear dues worth up to Rs20 billion. Any delay in timely payment of the dues pertaining to fuel, federal excise duty (FED) and lease payments, might lead to 15 planes being grounded. More than 30 national flights will be suspended if the ... [Read More](#)

Out of the box solutions needed to overcome financial woes, urges President of Pak-Africa Business Forum

Pakistantoday.com.pk (September 11, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to address Pakistan's pressing financial challenges, President of the Pak Africa Business Forum, Omar Shahid Butt, has called for innovative and unconventional solutions to bolster the nation's foreign currency earnings. Emphasizing the urgency of this matter, Butt echoed the sentiments of the Prime Minister, highlighting the imperative need for "out of the box" thinking. In a recent statement, Omar Shahid Butt outlined a multifaceted approach to reju [Read More](#)

Govt takes steps for financial relief to PIA

Business Recorder (September 10, 2023)

KARACHI: The Pakistan government has taken steps to extend financial relief to the national carrier, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), which has been facing severe difficulties due to burdensome loans and interest payments. The airline has reported losses of Rs 64 billion during the first six months of the ongoing calendar year, substantially higher than the Rs 43.5 billion loss reported in the same period last year. The current dismal finances stem from high administrat ... [Read More](#)

World Bank and Pakistan discuss how to get \$2bn funds released

Dunyanews.tv (September 10, 2023)

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) – As cash-starved Pakistan is striving hard to ensure foreign reserve inflow through international financial institutions and friendly nations in the shape of loans and investment, the World Bank has reportedly stressed the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the disbursement of \$2 billion during the current fiscal year. The amount to be disbursed in programme and project loans, according to sources, has been made conditional to the ability of federal ... [Read More](#)

US agency mulls big investment in Pakistan, says envoy

The Dawn (September 09, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador in Pakistan Donald Blome said on Friday that the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) was eager to make large-scale investments in Pakistan. During a meeting with Shahid Ashraf Tarar, the caretaker minister for communications, railways and maritime affairs, Blome said the United States was ready to help Pakistan create a business-friendly environment to boost investments. He said Pakistan had an excellent opportunity to attract foreign... [Read More](#)

World Bank indicates \$2bn disbursement to Pakistan during FY24

Business Recorder (September 09, 2023)

World Bank country director for Pakistan Najy Benhassine met with caretaker Minister for Finance Dr Shamshad Akhtar on Saturday and indicated that "joint efforts are targeting disbursements of around US\$2.0 billion during the current financial year," according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. The meeting's participants, according to the statement, "discussed and reviewed the overall performance of the World Bank's ongoing portfolio in Pak ... [Read More](#)

Interim set-up told to step up SOEs' privatisation

Tribune.com.pk (September 08, 2023)

ISLAMBAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked the caretaker government to implement the terms of the \$3 billion standby arrangement, including reducing costs and speeding up the process of privatisation of public entities. The Washington-based lender has also demanded that 203 government companies should be removed from the ministries and placed under the finance ministry as per the pact. In July this year, Pakistan secured a badly-needed \$3 billion short-term.. [Read More](#)

Inter-bank market: rupee's merry run continues against US dollar

Business Recorder (September 08, 2023)

The Pakistani rupee market on Friday. At close, the rupee was up Rs1.99 or 0.66%, as per the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Cumulatively, the rupee has appreciated 1.4% in the last three sessions. Its increase in the open market, however, has been much more drastic. On Thursday, the Rupee had strengthened 0.67% to settle at 302.95 in the inter-bank market ... [Read More](#)

'Fake news': Info minister dismisses false notification of ban on Rs5,000 note

The Dawn (September 07, 2023)

Interim Information Minister Murtaza Solangi on Thursday dismissed a 'notification' circulating online that falsely claimed the government had imposed a ban on Rs5,000 currency notes, terming it "fake news". The minister's statement came after the fake notification, which claimed to have been issued by the Finance Division, surfaced on social media. The 'notification' stated that the government had announced a "significant policy change aimed at strengthening the financial system and curbing ... [Read More](#)

Pakistani investors set up 3,395 new companies in Dubai

Geo.tv (September 07, 2023)

DUBAI: In the first half of 2023, Dubai has reported a spike in company registrations from overseas investors, with Pakistan ranking third with 3,395 new companies, according to a foreign media report. This is an increase of 59% compared to H1 2022, bringing the total number of Pakistani companies to 40,315. Dubai Chamber of Commerce has revealed that Indian investors topped the list of nationalities behind new companies joining the chamber during the first half of ... [Read More](#)

Shamshad briefs WB team on govt's revenue steps

The News (September 06, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: With the possibility of approval for \$350 million under the Resilient Institutions for Sustainable Economy (RISE-II) programme in the second quarter (Oct-Dec) period, Pakistan underscored the need for more financial support to strengthen social safety nets, aimed at providing much-needed relief to the masses during the challenging economic circumstances. World Bank (WB) Country Director Najy Benhassine called on caretaker Finance...[Read More](#)

Pakistan rupee appreciates by Rs7 against US dollar in open market

Dunyanews.tv (September 06, 2023)

KARACHI (Web Desk) - The Pakistan rupee substantial gains against the rival US dollar in open market during early trading on Wednesday, with the exchange rate hovering around Rs315, as the continuous slide in its value has crippled the economy while pushing the prices even higher. It means the rupee has received a Rs7 during the session so far - a development that would install confidence in the business community which suffers from rising cost of doing business [Read More](#)

SIFC held interaction with business community to improve business climate in country

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (September 05, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) on Tuesday held interaction with the business community to improve business climate in the country. According to details, SIFC arranged an interaction with the Business Community of Karachi on 5 September 2023 as part of outreach strategy. SIFC's Team led by Dr Jehanzeb Khan made detailed presentations encompassing various aspects of SIFC Initiative. Pakistan's latent potential and investment oppo ... [Read More](#)

Open market: rupee sees strong recovery against US dollar

Business Recorder (September 05, 2023)

The Pakistani rupee made significant recovery against the US dollar in the open-market, and was selling at 325 during trading on Tuesday, as gap with the inter-bank rate narrowed. Dealers Business Recorder reached out to said the rupee was being quoted at 325 for selling and 322 for buying purposes for customers in the open-market, down by Rs5 from Monday's levels of 330 and 327. The Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP) also quoted rates at Rs325 [Read More](#)

Rupee in freefall: Gen Asim promises transparency in exchange rate

Dunyanews.tv (September 04, 2023)

LAHORE (Web Desk) – As Pakistan rupee is experiencing a freefall producing multidimensional consequences for economy with everyone in the country already hit hard by the inflation, Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir promised transparency in exchange rate and bringing currency exchanges into tax net. The statement is of great significance as the difference between the Pakistan rupee and the US dollar in official exchange rate and open market is widen ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan eyes \$25b Saudi investment

Tribune.com.pk (September 04, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia will invest up to \$25 billion in Pakistan over the next two to five years in various sectors, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said on Monday, announcing that his interim government would also revive a stalled privatisation process. Speaking to journalists at his official residence, Kakar said that the Saudi investment would come in the mining, agriculture and information technology sectors, and was a part of the push to increase foreign direct in ... [Read More](#)

Rupee expected to remain stable after falling to record low

Geo.tv (September 03, 2023)

KARACHI: As the rupee's sharp depreciation moderated after hitting record lows last week, the Pakistani currency is expected to trade in a tight range against the dollar in the upcoming week, The News reported Sunday, citing traders and analysts. On Friday, the rupee closed at 305.47 per dollar, after losing 1.15% in the last five sessions, while last Monday, the local currency's interbank market closing price was 302 per dollar, losing more ground on Thursday as it dr ... [Read More](#)

Foreign banks seeking 10pc commission to endorse letters of credit

The Dawn (September 03, 2023)

KARACHI: Foreign banks are now demanding a 10 per cent commission to endorse letters of credit (LC) for importable consignments, banking insiders revealed on Saturday. They said the move came as the country grapples with economic challenges, diminishing the confidence of global financial institutions in its banking system. The rupee's depreciation, coupled with foreign exchange reserves and debt servicing issues, has elevated the business risks associated with the country ... [Read More](#)

Experts say Islamic finance to ease debt woes

The News (September 02, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can transform its external debts, by opting for Islamic financial modes of IMF and World Bank, and domestic debts, through mechanisms like Mudarabah, Musharakah, and Murabaha, provided that the necessary steps are taken in a timely manner and strict priorities are set by the legal authorities. Along with this, enabling an 'Islamic First' mindset at state and organizational levels is crucial to establish an Islamic economic system. This was emphasized by A ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan food inflation stays high at 38.5pc as 'IMF reforms' kick in

Dunyanews.tv (September 02, 2023)

KARACHI (Reuters) - Pakistan's inflation rate stayed above target at 27.4 per cent in August, data showed on Friday, as reforms set out as conditions for an IMF loan complicate the task of keeping price pressures and declines in its rupee currency in check. The South Asian nation is embarking on a tricky path to economic recovery under a caretaker government after a \$3 billion loan programme, approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in July, averted a sovereign debt [Read More](#)

PSX witnesses its second-worst day of year

The Dawn (September 01, 2023)

KARACHI: Bears tightened their grip on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday as the benchmark index plummeted by around 1,250 points, or 2.7 per cent, driven by concerns about the country's faltering economy, rumours of an impending interest rate hike, and the persistent depreciation of the rupee. It was the year's second-biggest overnight decline in the benchmark KSE-100 index in terms of points, with the largest drop seen on Jan 17 when the index lost 1,379 points [Read More](#)

Rapid rupee decline brewing 'a perfect storm' for Pakistan: PBC

Business Recorder (September 01, 2023)

The Pakistan Business Council (PBC), one of the country's largest corporate advocacy platforms, warned that the ongoing rapid decline of rupee against the US dollar is "a perfect storm" for Pakistan. Taking to social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, it said that the exchange rate decline is attributable to a combination of factors. This includes "premature relaxation of imports, weakening exports, diversion of home remittances to Hawala, which in turn feeds the [Read More](#)

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