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• Raast P2P service: SBP relaxes transactional limits

In order to further facilitate users of Raast services, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has relaxed transactional limits for Raast Person-to-Person (P2P) Payment Service. "With effect from April 1, 2022, there will be no transactional limits on Raast system by SBP," a circular issue by the SBP said Wednesday.

SBP Facilitates MFBs To Lend for Low-Cost Housing, Small Enterprises

SBP has revised prudential regulations for Microfinance Banks (MFBs) with the goal of promoting access to finance for low-cost housing and microenterprises aimed to build on the measures taken in recent years to encourage financing to priority areas. The revised regulations are expected to bring down the cost of serving to borrowers from lower income groups to draw finance for low-cost housing and micro and small enterprises.

Small account holders permitted to invest in risk-free govt securities

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has allowed the account holders of the microfinance banks to invest in risk-free high yielding government securities. "The main attraction for investment in government securities is their secure nature and attractive profits, which are generally higher than the ones offered by banks on saving accounts," said the SBP.

Pak Embassy in Iraq Arranges Exhibition Displaying Pakistani Products

Embassy of Pakistan in Iraq organised first ever three-day exhibition in Baghdad in which about 84 leading Pakistani companies and more than two hundred businessmen participated and displayed Pakistani products. According to the press release, the opening ceremony of 'Pakistan single country exhibition' was inaugurated by Ayad Allawi, former Iraqi prime minister, and Adnan Dirjal, Iraqi Minister for Youth and Sports, on Wednesday.

• Rupee Slumps to Rs180.85 Vs Dollar

Exchange rate of the Pakistani rupee weakened by 22 paisas against the United States dollar in the interbank trading on Wednesday and closed at Rs179.43 against the previous day's closing of Rs179.21.

"If Opportunity doesn't knock, build a door".

—Milton Berle



PSX website down due to technical issues

Bourse says PSX is functioning as normal with all trading activities operating. The website of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) became unresponsive on Thursday during the opening hours of the trading session due to "technical hosting issues" and its Data Portal System are unavailable.

• \$21bn support request: Ministry seeks update from Pak envoy in Beijing

Pakistan had earlier requested China for financial support of about \$21 billion through rollover of existing loans of \$10.735 billion and \$10 billion as deposit fund. "Pakistan's proposals submitted to the Chinese leadership may be followed with the relevant Chinese authorities. Any initial response on the proposals may also be shared with the Finance Division," the sources quoted Finance Ministry as saying in its new communication of March 15, 2022 with Pakistan's envoy to China.

Pakistan Post unable to clear Rs. 40bn electricity bills

Pakistan Post has been unable to clear more than Rs40 billion in utility bills it has accumulated on behalf of electricity distribution companies (Discos), including K-Electric, and other public service agencies.

• Determination of uniform tariff: SC summons top govt official

The Supreme Court summoned Additional Director General Tariff, NEPRA, and secretary Ministry of Energy and Power Division today (Thursday) to assist with respect to the process applicable for the determination of uniform tariff.

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD- Interbank	March-17	PKR	179.68	0.18%
USD- OPEN MKT	March-17	PKR	179.82	0.10%
EUR- Interbank	March-17	PKR	198.08	-0.01%
EUR- OPEN MKT	March-17	PKR	198.24	-0.01%
GBP- Interbank	March-17	PKR	236.33	0.33%
GBP- OPEN MKT	March-17	PKR	236.58	0.14%
AED- Interbank	March-17	PKR	48.90	0.02%
AED- OPEN MKT	March-17	PKR	48.97	0.04%
CNY- Interbank	March-17	PKR	28.31	0.04%
CNY- OPEN MKT	March-17	PKR	28.34	0.15%
KSE- 100 Index	March-17	PTS.	44058.30	0.77%
Crude	March-17	\$/ bbl	96.84	1.68%
Gold	March-17	\$/ oz	1932.26	5.07%
Silver	March-17	\$/ oz	25.20	0.02%
Cotton (KHI)-40 kg	March-17	PKR	120.04	-0.94%
Kibor-6 MONTHS	March-17	%	11.91	-
Exports	July - February 2022	\$Bn	20.55	25.88%
Imports	July - February 2022	\$Bn	52.51	55.08%
Trade Balance	July - February 2022	\$Bn	-31.96	-82.26%

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Sources: Tres Mark, PBS, PSX