Pakistan's 2020 exports to Qatar 'healthy', tops other countries in Mena, says envoy

By Peter Alagos

Pakistan's exports to Qatar in 2020 "were healthy," and domestic "was the main driver of Pakistan's exports" to Qatar, according to experts. The Embassy of Pakistan, in a virtual roundtable with Qatari businesses, highlighted the country's strong business presence and its potential as a key destination for Pakistani products.

A growing number of new retail outlets opened at City Centre West following the elimination of negative fair value adjustments made in the first half of 2020. The ìnvestor profile survey for 2021 (IPSS 2021) conducted by the Pakistan Investment Board (PIB) revealed that investors from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were the top three sources of investment in Pakistan during 2020.

"Despite the pandemic, Pakistan continues to be a top destination for investment," said HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, chairman of Aamal. "We have received more than 1,470 inquiries from investors inquiring about the possibility of setting up businesses in Pakistan. This is a clear indication of the country's strong business potential and its continued appeal as a destination for investment."
Shale's prudence wins over debt-market, with $42bn of bonds

By Forum

Bloomberg

June 30

The Italian government may receive UniCredit shares in a deal without voting rights as part of a possible takeover by the lender of nationalised Banco Monte dei Paschi di Siena and the government is reviewing options for a deal, the people familiar with the matter said.

The Monti government, which is a member of the single currency zone and has been at odds with the European Commission over its capital-boosting strategy, is yearto-year on its plan to recapitalise the lender, which was first looked at in 2014. After two state rescue and more than €10bn of public money, the lender is still struggling to return profitability while the worst may not be over.

The ITALIAN government has floated the idea of a possible UniCredit stock deal as part of a recapitalisation package that would include a write-down of the bank's bad loans and be Italy’s favoured solution.

It is premature to discuss any UniCredit and Monte Paschi deal, the finance ministry declined to comment.

UniCredit recently offered to acquire Monte dei Paschi di Siena at a price of more than 20% above its October 2019 stock price.

UniCredit could generate extra cash flows in the event of a possible deal as its stock price has fallen by 22% since the start of the year. A UniCredit stake in Monte Paschi could help UniCredit to reduce its reliance on market funding and improve its capital adequacy ratio.

UniCredit’s core Tier 1 capital ratio, which excludes a €8bn of public money, the bank has received from the Italian government, is at 7.9%.

UniCredit said last month it would reduce its capital, the exclusion of the state funds, in line with the necessary conditions of the Monte dei Paschi deal, based on our analysis, though the lender’s ability to consider a possible deal will depend on the outcome of the bankruptcy court's capital-boosting objective implies the lender’s capital strength remaining constant.

UniCredit’s capital strength remaining constant.

UniCredit’s capital strength remaining constant.

UniCredit’s capital strength remaining constant.
Asian markets mostly up as recovery hope offsets virus and Fed worries

**Temasek sells longest-ever bond with 50-year offering**

Temasek, the Singapore state investment company, sold a new bond with a record 50-year maturity on Tuesday, in a sign of global investors’ appetite for long-term assets.

The offering, which sold $2.5 billion, is Singapore’s largest ever bond issuance and comes as central banks around the world continue to stimulate economies recovering from the pandemic.

Temasek’s move is part of a global trend of longer-term bond issuance as governments and companies look to lock in low funding costs for decades to come.

The offering includes a 40-year part.

Temasek’s offering comes after a three-day week-end.

JPMorgan analysts said they were “astonished” with Temasek’s offering and added that it may push up funding rates ahead.

Temasek’s bond was the first of its kind from a Singaporean issuer, and analysts said it could set a new benchmark for the country’s financial market.

**Japan’s SoftBank Group ‘cautious’ on its investments in China**

Japan’s SoftBank Group has said it is facing “tough challenges” , as concerns about the impact of the Delta variant on its Chinese operations rise.

The company, which has large investments in China through its SoftBank Vision Fund, said it was “cautious” about its investments in the country.

SoftBank’s Vision Fund has invested billions of dollars in Chinese companies, and that has been a major driver of its overall performance.

However, with the Delta variant spreading in China, SoftBank has said it is taking a “cautious” approach to its investments.

The company has also said it is looking at new opportunities in other parts of Asia.

**Tesla China shipments of locally made cars plunge in July**

Tesla China, the electric car maker’s joint venture with Chinese auto giant Changan Auto, has seen a sharp decline in its July deliveries of locally made cars.

The company’s Beijing plant, which produces the Model 3 and Model Y models, delivered just 11,065 cars in July, down from 21,851 in June.

Tesla’s production slowdown could be a concern for the company as it aims to ramp up its production capacity in China.

The decline in July sales comes as the company announced plans to increase its production capacity in China to meet growing demand.

**Other news**

- **Bloomberg**
  - Singapore’s longest ever bond sale in its currency market was a success, with investors snapping up $2.5 billion of bonds with a 50-year maturity.
  - The offering, which is Temasek’s first, comes as the Singaporean government continues to stimulate the economy following the pandemic.
  - The bond sale was part of a broader effort by the government to improve the country’s financial market and attract more foreign investors.

- **QSE Market Watch**
  - A women wearing a protective face mask sits in front of a SoftBank Corp store in Tokyo. SoftBank will raise a record $2.5 billion from Japanese investors through a secondary offering on the QSE.
  - The offering comes as SoftBank seeks to raise funds to support its ongoing business and invest in new technologies.
  - The offering is one of the largest in the company’s history and is expected to boost its financial position.

- **Tesla China**
  - Tesla China, the electric car maker’s joint venture with Chinese auto giant Changan Auto, has seen a sharp decline in its July deliveries of locally made cars.
  - The company’s Beijing plant, which produces the Model 3 and Model Y models, delivered just 11,065 cars in July, down from 21,851 in June.
  - Tesla’s production slowdown could be a concern for the company as it aims to ramp up its production capacity in China.
  - The decline in July sales comes as the company announced plans to increase its production capacity in China to meet growing demand.
China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) said on Tuesday that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China's central bank, outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlook fuels calls for policy easing

The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) largely remained cautious about excess liquidity and any risks to its economic growth outlook.

China’s central bank outlined in the recent report that inflation pressures are “controllable,” while highlighting risks to the economic growth outlook.
CFA pass rate falls to record low as sellers flex pricing power

Bloomberg

US consumer prices probably jumped again in July after a slowdown in June, adding to pressure for the Federal Reserve to keep tightening monetary policy.

The pace of US inflation probably accelerated in July after cooling in June, adding to pressure for the Federal Reserve to continue raising interest rates to combat soaring prices.

Consumer prices excluding food and energy rose 8.5% from a year earlier in June, the most in more than three decades, according to government data. The gain in July may have slowed but probably remained above 8%.

Data from the Labor Department due Wednesday are likely to show that inflation climbed in July, possibly pushing the annual rate above 8.5% for the first time. The increase would mark the highest inflation since 1981, according to economists.

Inflation at the consumer level typically doesn’t fall below 1% for long, but the Federal Reserve wants to see prices set to rise by an annual rate of 2%.

The Fed’s target is to get inflation under control to help stabilize the economy and keep turbulence in financial markets at bay. Anticipating higher rates, the US dollar has been strengthening, helping to pull down prices in the US.

The central bank has raised interest rates by a cumulative 225 basis points this year and indicated further increases are likely.

The July data are expected to show inflation remained high even as the Fed has raised rates by 75 basis points three times this year.

Fed officials have signaled that rates need to rise to at least 3% by year-end to convince markets that inflation is moving to trend levels.

In July, consumer prices rose more than 8% from a year earlier, according to economists. The median projection was for 8.6%.

Inflation has been rising since February, driven by the pandemic, Russia’s war in Ukraine, labor shortages and rising energy costs.

The consumer price index rose 1.1% for the month, according to the median estimate.

The Fed is so focused on inflation that it has already started to reduce its bond holdings, known as quantitative tightening, in an effort to slow inflation.

Economists expect the central bank to boost its benchmark rate by another 75 basis points at its next policy meeting on Sept. 21.

The US dollar has climbed against most major currencies since mid-June, fueled by expectations of more Fed rate hikes.

The Bloomberg Dollar Index, a gauge of the greenback against 10 major rivals, is up 8% this year.

The dollar’s rise has dampened the inflation outlook for the US and other countries.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has signaled that rising rates will be higher than previously projected. That’s because inflation remains high, even as Fed officials have raised rates aggressively.

The dollar is now up 12% against the euro, 15% against the yen and 7% against the British pound.

“Market participants have been so bullish on the dollar, and that has been driving inflation expectations,” said Clabo Bird, chief global economist at Credit Suisse Group AG. “It could be the single biggest factor driving US inflation expectations.”

He expects the Fed to raise rates by 1.5 percentage points at its next meeting and then hold rates at that level in December.

Bloomberg
Ooredoo sets out bright future for Internet of Things

Our IoT whitepaper is now available!

Compromised for Successful IoT Deployment! Is it that easy?

A new, published report paints the importance of both the service and customer engagement support to the sector's continued success.

Ooredoo, the leading state-owned telecommunications provider in Qatar, has released its new whitepaper, "Internet of Things: Components for Successful IoT Deployment." The report aims to provide insights into the current state of IoT in the telecom sector and the importance of customer engagement in achieving successful IoT deployment.

The report highlights the growing importance of IoT in various sectors, including healthcare, retail, and manufacturing. It also emphasizes the need for strong customer engagement to ensure successful deployment of IoT solutions.

The whitepaper outlines the key components required for successful IoT deployment, including infrastructure, connectivity, and data management. It also provides case studies of successful IoT deployments in various industries.

"The report provides valuable insights into the critical factors for successful IoT deployment," said Zaid al-Kuwari, executive director for Business at Ooredoo. "It highlights the importance of strong customer engagement and underscores the need for a comprehensive approach to IoT deployment.

The report is available for download on Ooredoo's website. For more information, please contact Ooredoo's communications department at info@ooredoo.com.