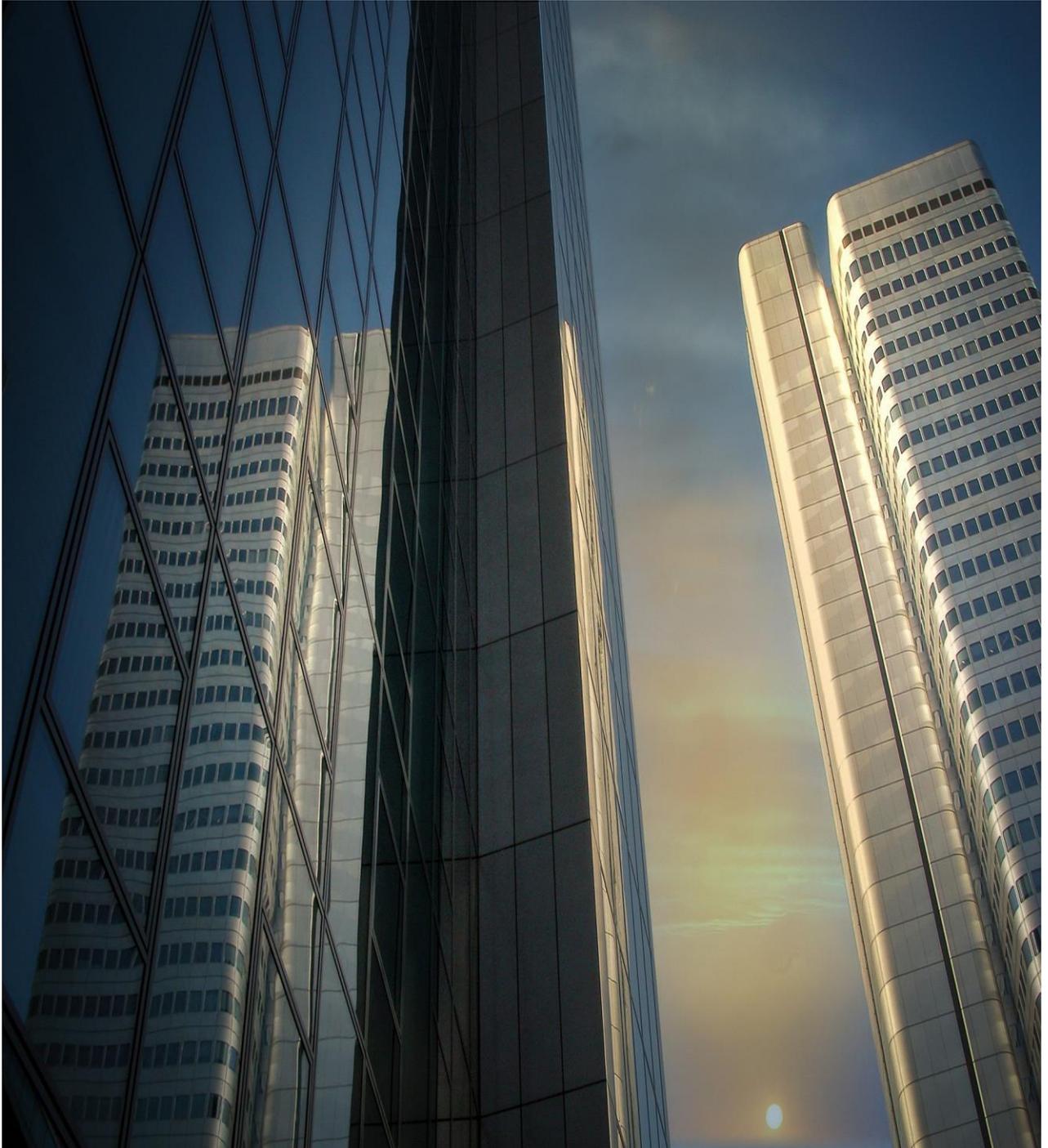


RISKCHECK

September 2021

LATEST NEWS ON OPERATIONAL RISK

explore@benchmatrix.com | www.benchmatrix.com



SUMMARY OF NEWS

1. SBP announces digital cheques clearing, unified QR code for payments initiatives
2. A Karachi bank's vaults were raided for gold worth Rs790 million
3. Internet Gateway payment services: MCB Bank, Alchemotive enter into alliance
4. JS Bank & Emaar collaborate to provide home financing to customers
5. April-June 2021: SBP imposes penalties of over half-a-billion rupees on banks
6. HBL launches an industry first, fully ERP integrated QR payment solution
7. ABL pursues strategy of consistent growth through robust risk management framework, enhanced digitization
8. Pakistan receives additional \$2.7 billion in Covid-19 support funds from IMF
9. Police detain two brothers for facilitating cash van robbery
10. Robbers loot bank in capital, take away Rs12m
11. Three sent to jail in online credit card scam case
12. Scheme introduced for SMEs to get loans without collateral
13. Pakistan's FATF panel ranking gets better
14. Agriculture credit target missed by banks in FY21
15. Roshan Digital Accounts: Deposits reach cumulative \$1.87 billion in 11 months, says SBP
16. 2Q2021: Despite drop in net interest income, Pakistan's banking sector posts Rs70bn profit
17. U Bank wins ABF Retail Banking Awards 2021
18. SBP launching 'Roshan Apna Ghar' scheme for expats
19. Eight people, three companies convicted for cyber fraud and money laundering crimes in Dubai
20. UAE issues new guidelines for Hawala providers
21. Forty jailed in UAE for money laundering and fraud
22. UAE and China pledge AML/CFT cooperation
23. Crores Stolen Through Internal Fraud at Mumbai Provident Fund Office: Report
24. ValueWise CEO Michael Mann Sentenced to 144 Months in Prison for \$100 Million Fraud
25. Crypto Hackers Are Nice Now
26. T-Mobile says hackers stole data of more than 40 million people
27. Chicago Man Sentenced to Nine Years in Prison for Bank Fraud and Identity Theft
28. To Combat Billions In Unemployment Benefit Fraud, Startup SentiLink Raises \$70 Million
29. Indian national arrested for USD 2.3 million fraud scheme
30. Hackers steal \$97m from Japanese crypto exchange
31. Wards Road Bank of America robbed Friday
32. Westpac and Sumitomo among four banks hit by \$359m fraud
33. Microsoft warns thousands of cloud customers of exposed databases
34. AT&T database of 70 million users sold on hacker forum

OPERATIONAL RISK NEWS

SBP announces digital cheques clearing, unified QR code for payments initiatives

Aug 04th, 2021 -

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has announced two new initiatives to facilitate the introduction of digital financial products and services by financial institutions, including a facilities for digital cheques clearing, and a unified QR code for payments.....

[Read full story](#)

A Karachi bank's vaults were raided for gold worth Rs790 million

Aug 07th, 2021 -

The staff members of the Karachi private bank took gold from two branches in the eastern district for Rs790 million. The teams of the bank said that during the audits on the nights of August 2 and August 4, lockers were found empty.....

[Read full story](#)

Internet Gateway payment services: MCB Bank, Alchemative enter into alliance

Aug 04th, 2021 -

LAHORE: MCB Bank Limited has entered into an alliance with Alchemative, an innovative and customer-centric technology company, for providing progressive financial and digital services to ecommerce companies.....

[Read full story](#)

JS Bank & Emaar collaborate to provide home financing to customers

Aug 04th, 2021 -

KARACHI: JS Bank, as a leading home financing institution in the banking industry has partnered with Emaar, a prestigious developer brand to provide easy and convenient home financing solutions at flexible mark-up rates.....

[Read full story](#)

April-June 2021: SBP imposes penalties of over half-a-billion rupees on banks

Aug 05th, 2021 -

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said that it has imposed penalties to the tune of Rs525.244 million on banks during the quarter ended June 30, 2021 for non-compliance with different legal or regulatory requirements.....

[Read full story](#)

HBL launches an industry first, fully ERP integrated QR payment solution

Aug 06th, 2021 -

KARACHI: HBL becomes the first bank in Pakistan to launch the Dynamic QR code transaction process. In partnership with Visa and Confiz, the new transaction process offers a seamless, safe and convenient payment mechanism.....

[Read full story](#)

ABL pursues strategy of consistent growth through robust risk management framework, enhanced digitization

Aug 18th, 2021 -

LAHORE: Allied Bank Limited (ABL) remained fully aware of the high downside risks to the economic and operating environment and pursued its strategy of consistent growth through robust risk management framework.....

[Read full story](#)

Pakistan receives additional \$2.7 billion in Covid-19 support funds from IMF

Aug 24th, 2021 -

The government received \$2.75 billion from the International Monetary Fund under a Special Drawing Rights programme to support low-income countries hit by the coronavirus.....

[Read full story](#)

Police detain two brothers for facilitating cash van robbery

Aug 24th, 2021 -

Police officials investigating what might be the country's biggest robbery of the year claimed to have taken two suspects into custody for facilitating the driver who allegedly made off with a security company's van carrying Rs205 million a fortnight ago.....

[Read full story](#)

OPERATIONAL RISK NEWS

Robbers loot bank in capital, take away Rs12m

Aug 13th, 2021 -

ISLAMABAD - A gang of seven armed robbers took away Rs12 million cash from a bank located in fruit/vegetable market in capital here on Thursday, informed sources.....

[Read full story](#)

Three sent to jail in online credit card scam case

Aug 08th, 2021 -

KARACHI: A local court on Saturday remanded in judicial custody three suspects detained for allegedly stealing information of credit/debit cards of Americans and using it to commit online fraud.....

[Read full story](#)

Scheme introduced for SMEs to get loans without collateral

Aug 17th, 2021 -

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday introduced a financing scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), enabling them to get loans without collateral.....

[Read full story](#)

Pakistan's FATF panel ranking gets better

Aug 14th, 2021 -

The Asia Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering has improved Pakistan's rating on four more of the 40 technical recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) against money laundering and terror financing (AML/CFT) but retained it on.....

[Read full story](#)

Agriculture credit target missed by banks in FY21

Aug 10th, 2021 -

KARACHI: Although the banking industry missed the agriculture credit target for FY21, it disbursed 12 per cent more loans year-on-year despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.....

[Read full story](#)

Roshan Digital Accounts: Deposits reach cumulative \$1.87 billion in 11 months, says SBP

Aug 05th, 2021 -

Inflows under the Roshan Digital Account (RDA), a banking solution for Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), have touched a cumulative \$1.87 billion during the first eleven months, said the country's central bank on Thursday.....

[Read full story](#)

2Q2021: Despite drop in net interest income, Pakistan's banking sector posts Rs70bn profit

Aug 30th, 2021 -

Despite the drop in Net Interest Income (NII), Pakistan's banking sector posted profits of Rs70 billion in the second quarter of the calendar year (April-June 2021), according to a report by a brokerage house.....

[Read full story](#)

U Bank wins ABF Retail Banking Awards 2021

Aug 30th, 2021 -

KARACHI: U Microfinance Bank Limited wins the ABF Retail Banking Awards 2021 for "Rural/Cooperative Bank of the Year-Pakistan." With a gross absence of banking facilities in rural areas, winning the Rural Bank of the Year award recognizes U Bank's efforts in ensuring the availability of.....

[Read full story](#)

SBP launching 'Roshan Apna Ghar' scheme for expats

Aug 26th, 2021 -

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will be launching this week a new product - Roshan Apna Ghar - for non-resident Pakistanis for acquisition of property in Pakistan.....

[Read full story](#)

OPERATIONAL RISK NEWS

Eight people, three companies convicted for cyber fraud and money laundering crimes in Dubai

Aug 21st, 2021 -

The Dubai Public Prosecution today announced that the Dubai Misdemeanor Court has convicted eight individuals and three companies for cyber fraud and laundering of stolen funds amounting to approximately AED14 million..... [Read full story](#)

UAE issues new guidelines for Hawala providers

Aug 23rd, 2021 -

The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) has issued fresh guidance on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) to Registered Hawala Providers (RHP) and Licensed Financial Institutions (LFIs) providing services to hawala providers..... [Read full story](#)

Forty jailed in UAE for money laundering and fraud

Aug 20th, 2021 -

Abu Dhabi Criminal Court has imprisoned 40 men after they conned investors into putting money into a digital trading platform and converting their clients' funds into a fake digital currency called Foin so the investors could not get their money back..... [Read full story](#)

UAE and China pledge AML/CFT cooperation

Aug 09th, 2021 -

The anti-money laundering agencies of the United Arab Emirates and China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost efforts in the anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) field.....

[Read full story](#)

Crores Stolen Through Internal Fraud at Mumbai Provident Fund Office: Report

Aug 17th, 2021 -

New Delhi: The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has reportedly become the victim of fraud as a sum of Rs 21 crore has allegedly been stolen from a common Provident Fund (PF) pool by a group of employees from within the organisation.....

[Read full story](#)

ValueWise CEO Michael Mann Sentenced to 144 Months in Prison for \$100 Million Fraud

Aug 04th, 2021 -

Michael T. Mann, age 51, was sentenced today to 144 months in prison for running a complex scheme that caused more than \$100 million in losses to banks, financing companies, and other businesses, and also involved his misappropriation of millions of dollar.....

[Read full story](#)

Crypto Hackers Are Nice Now

Aug 11th, 2021 -

Yesterday "hackers perpetrated what is likely the biggest theft ever in the world of decentralized finance, stealing about \$600 million in cryptocurrency from a protocol known as PolyNetwork that lets users swap tokens across multiple blockchains."..... [Read full story](#)

T-Mobile says hackers stole data of more than 40 million people

Aug 18th, 2021 -

The names, birthdays and Social Security numbers of millions of T-Mobile customers were stolen by hackers, the cellphone carrier said Tuesday as it continues to investigate a data breach disclosed earlier this week..... [Read full story](#)

Chicago Man Sentenced to Nine Years in Prison for Bank Fraud and Identity Theft

Aug 17th, 2021 -

Boyd Egan, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced on August 13, 2021, to nine years in federal prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release, for bank fraud and identity theft. Egan also was ordered to pay \$160,954.54 in

restitution..... [Read full story](#)

OPERATIONAL RISK NEWS

To Combat Billions In Unemployment Benefit Fraud, Startup SentiLink Raises \$70 Million

Aug 05th, 2021 -

At least \$63 billion in improper payments, much of it fraud, have been distributed by the Federal government since the pandemic struck in March 2020. In California alone, state officials admitted that as much as 27% of unemployment benefits payments may have been fraudulent..... [Read full story](#)

Indian national arrested for USD 2.3 million fraud scheme

Aug 04th, 2021 -

Law-enforcement agencies have arrested an Indian national in New Jersey on charges of fraudulently obtaining at least USD 2.3 million from elderly victims by impersonating fraud prevention representatives from the US..... [Read full story](#)

Hackers steal \$97m from Japanese crypto exchange

Aug 23rd, 2021 -

TOKYO: Japanese cryptocurrency exchange Liquid was scrambling Friday to recover stolen assets worth nearly \$100 million, in the second such major heist by hackers in recent days..... [Read full story](#)

Wards Road Bank of America robbed Friday

Aug 07th, 2021 -

LYNCHBURG, Va. (WSET) — Lynchburg police are looking for a man who robbed Wards Road Bank of America in Lynchburg Friday. According to police, the robbery was reported around 3:36 p.m. after the man obtained an undisclosed amount of money from an employee..... [Read full story](#)

Westpac and Sumitomo among four banks hit by \$359m fraud

Aug 06th, 2021 -

Westpac was defrauded of US\$255.1 million by Sydney-based equipment lease company Forum Finance. It was one of four financial institutions caught up in the scheme, which involved using false invoices and forged signatures to fraudulently obtain loans..... [Read full story](#)

Microsoft warns thousands of cloud customers of exposed databases

Aug 27th, 2021 -

Microsoft warned thousands of its cloud computing customers, including some of the world's largest companies, that intruders could have the ability to read, change or even delete their main databases, according to a copy of the email and a cyber security researcher..... [Read full story](#)

AT&T database of 70 million users sold on hacker forum

Aug 20th, 2021 -

Only days after the T-Mobile data breach, the same threat actor is selling 70 million AT&T users' records. The mobile service provider denied the data leak claim, saying the data didn't come from any of their systems..... [Read full story](#)

ABOUT BENCHMARKIX

BenchMatrix Private Limited is a Management Consultancy and Financial Solutions firm specialized in providing innovative, practical, and comprehensive solutions to its valuable clients. BenchMatrix is strengthened by renowned senior executives of the industry who have international working experience with global brands. We believe in understanding the complex needs of clients and delivering them tailor made solutions for their organizations.

RISKCHECK

RiskCheck Operational Risk newsletter is published monthly. It keeps you abreast with the latest news, events and external risk exposures which could potentially impact your organization. Both national as well as international potentially high risk events are covered in this newsletter.

[Click here](#) to subscribe

For more information, please contact:

Tel: (+92 21) 3562-0945

Email: explore@benchmarkix.com

Sources: Reuters, New York Times, The International News, BBC, Dawn News, Business Recorder, Tribune, The Nation, American Banker, Belleville News-Democrat, Bank for International Settlements, Harvard Business Review, Federal Reserve, Telegraph, Norman Transcript, Indian Express, Buffalo News, US news, Ottawa Citizen, LA Times, Chicago Tribune and ABC.

CONTACT US

Head Office, Bahrain

Office 63, Building 2317,
Road 2830, Block 428, Al Seef,
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
waqas.alam@benchmarkix.com
M: +973 3513 9689

Pakistan Office

A301-4, 3rd Floor, Lakson Square
Building # 3, Sarwar Shaheed Road,
Karachi, Pakistan
taimur.kaleem@benchmarkix.com
M: +92 332 5432689

Canada Office

53 Village Center Place,
Mississauga, ON, Canada
noman.zahid@benchmarkix.com
D: + 1 (647) 546-1985

UAE Office

Business Centre, Building C, 3rd Floor,
Dubai Logistics City, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates
asad.ali@benchmarkix.com
M: +971 50 8508325

Kingdom of Saudia Arabia Office

3373, Abdulaziz Alkhuraijy,
Alzahra District, Jeddah
sultan.malki@benchmarkix.ca
M: +966 50 666 0202

Kuwait Office

nadeem.mukaddam@benchmarkix.com
M: +965 9406 7607

Algeria Office

imed.ouitis@benchmarkix.com
M: +213 7714 78444