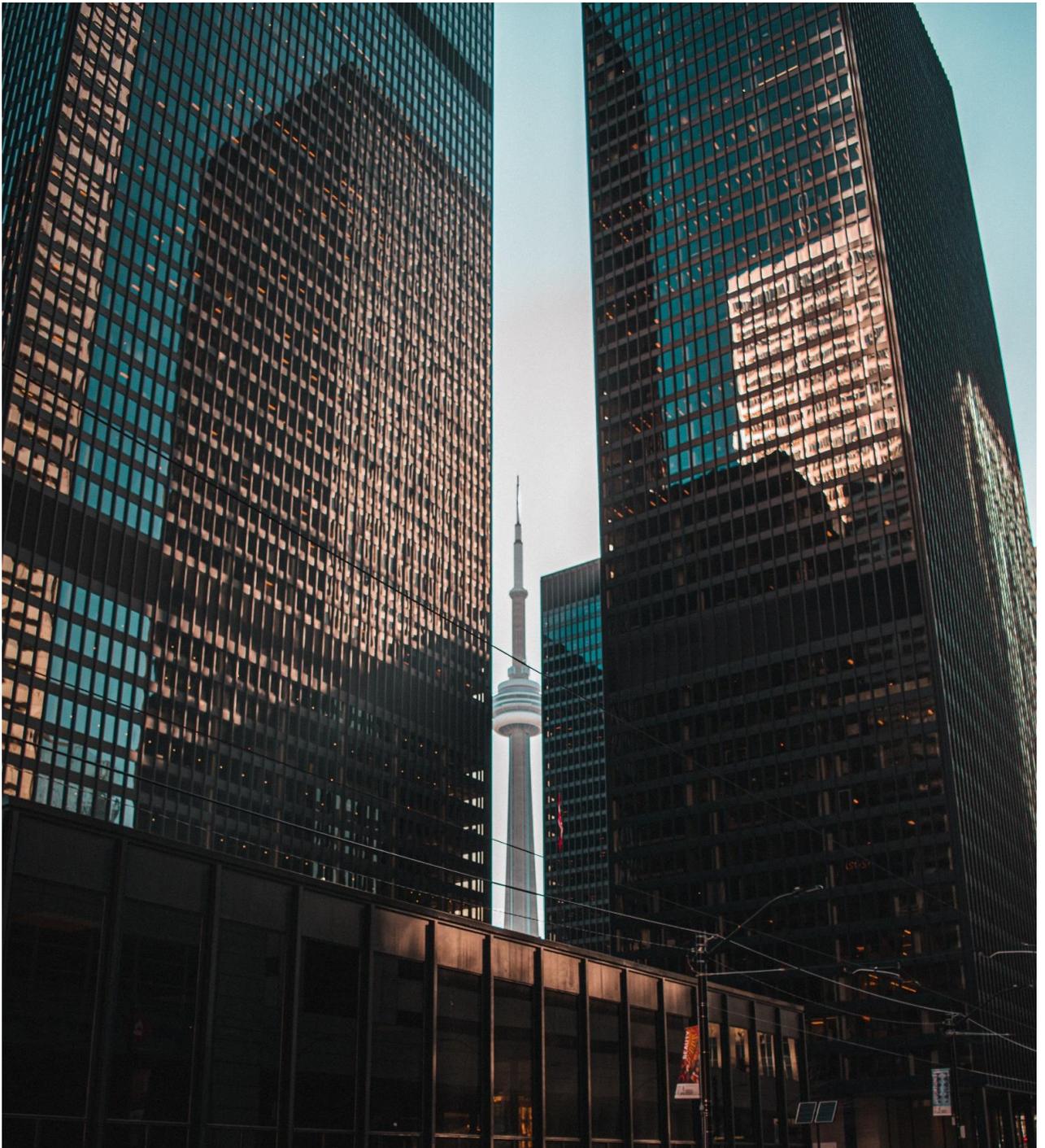


RISKCHECK

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LATEST NEWS ON OPERATIONAL RISK

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OPERATIONAL RISK NEWS

National Bank of Pakistan Fined \$55.4 Million for Alleged Repeated AML and Compliance Deficiencies

Mar 08th, 2022 – The New York State Department of Financial Services (“NYDFS” or “the Department”) published a press release on February 24, 2022 announcing the issuance of a Consent Order (“the Consent Order”) to the National Bank of Pakistan (“NBP” or “the Bank”).

\$300 Million ADB Loan to Further Develop Pakistan’s Capital Markets

Mar 22nd, 2022 - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today approved a \$300 million loan to further develop Pakistan’s capital markets, promote private investment in the country, and help to mobilize domestic resources to finance sustainable growth.

Singapore investment banking fees drop 15.6% to US\$221.3m in Q1: Refinitiv

Mar 25th, 2022 - FEES generated from investment banking activities in Singapore fell 15.6 per cent to US\$221.3 million in the year so far, compared with Q1 2021.

President Biden Issues Executive Order on Digital Assets and “Whole-of-Government Approach” to Risks and Benefits

Mar 09th, 2022 - The Order outlines “the first ever, whole-of-government approach to addressing the risks and harnessing the potential benefits of digital assets and their underlying technology.

Japan's March economy report flags inflation risk from Ukraine war

Mar 25th, 2022 - [TOKYO] Japan needs to closely watch downside economic risks from rapid commodity inflation caused by the war in Ukraine and its disruption to the global energy supplies, the government said in a monthly report on Friday (Mar 25).

Blockchain funds face ESG risks in data privacy, security, human capital: report

Mar 25th, 2022 - DATA privacy and security, human capital, and business ethics are among the material ESG (environmental, social and governance) risks that investors should watch out for in the growing blockchain ETF (exchange-traded fund) market.

Bahrain Bourse Receives Handover of Presidency of the Arab Federation of Capital Markets for the Year 2022

Mar 28th, 2022 – Bahrain Bourse hosted the 47th Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM) Meeting on Monday, 28th March 2022 with the attendance of the federation’s members which includes CEOs.

Addition of the UAE to the FATF grey list

Mar 21st, 2022 - Following the addition of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Financial Action Task Force’s (FATF) list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring (the “grey list”) on the 4 March 2022, we have updated Appendices D1 and D2 of the AML/CFT Handbook.

Sheikh Mansour leads anti-money laundering and terrorist financing committee

Mar 14th, 2022 - Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, has led a high-level co-ordination meeting on tackling money laundering and the funding of terrorism.

Qatar’s sovereign wealth fund to pump \$5 billion into investments in Egypt

Mar 30th, 2022 - The Qatar Investment Authority, its sovereign wealth fund, will hold the proposed investments, Egypt’s Planning Minister Hala Elsaid said following the announcement.

OPERATIONAL RISK NEWS

Why the Bank of Canada is now 'talking tough' on inflation

Mar 29th, 2022 – Dennis Mitchell, CEO and CIO at Starlight Capital, talks with Financial Post's Larysa Harapyn about why the Bank of Canada is now 'talking tough' on inflation.

FBR registers 29% growth during July-March'22 despite massive tax relief

Mar 31st, 2022 - Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected net revenue of Rs4,382 billion during July 2021 to March 2022 of the current Financial Year 2021-22, which has exceeded the target of Rs 247 billion.

China sets lowest GDP target since 1991

Mar 05th, 2022 - BEIJING: China set its annual GDP growth target at 5.5% for 2022 on Saturday, making it the lowest target since 1991, as Premier Li Keqiang warned of a "grave and uncertain" outlook against the backdrop of the coronavirus, a property slump and uncertainty over the war in Ukraine.

Pakistan's Islamic banking to maintain growth in 2022: Moody's

Mar 10th, 2022 - Moody's has said that Islamic finance sector, an integral part of Pakistan's National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS), will continue growing in 2022.

U.S. recession unlikely despite bond market alarm: PIMCO, Amundi

Mar 31st, 2022 - (Reuters) - The United States is unlikely to face an economic recession in the next two years despite bond markets flashing warning signs, inflation at its highest in decades and rising geopolitical risks, portfolio managers at PIMCO and Amundi said.

Kuwait: NBK Launches Sustainable Financing Framework

Mar 29th, 2022 - National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched its Sustainable Financing Framework as it continues to build a market-leading position in sustainable development, enabling and promoting responsible business practices to help steer the economy towards long-term value creation, as well as supporting Kuwait National Adaptation Plan (NAP) addressing climate change.

Pakistan likely to remain on FATF's grey list for four more months: Report

Mar 04th, 2022 – Pakistan is now targeting the full completion of the 2021 action plan on anti-money laundering and combating terror financing by the end of January 2023.

The rush for digital banking licenses

Mar 21st, 2022 - In January 2022, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) announced that in line with its objective of financial inclusion and digitising financial transactions it would, in the first cohort, approve five digital banking licenses.

Majority of Middle East customers prefer digital banking, survey finds

Mar 10th, 2022 - Most Middle East residents prefer online banking, a trend accelerated because of the digital transformation of banking and payment industries in the past few years, new research shows.

SME loans hit new high amid Covid-19 pandemic, OECD says

Mar 30th, 2022 - Outstanding loans of small and medium enterprises in 48 countries surveyed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development jumped significantly in 2020 — the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, a report has shown.

OPERATIONAL RISK NEWS

Surge in bank scams leads to calls for caution from security experts

Mar 24th, 2022 – More than a dozen bank customers have spoken of unauthorized payments being made from their accounts in the UAE — sometimes while they were asleep.

PM Imran launches interest-free loan programme worth Rs407bn

Mar 02nd, 2022 - Addressing the programme's launching ceremony at Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, the premier said 4.5 million families would benefit from interest-free loans under this initiative to set up small businesses, construct homes, start farming and acquire technical education.

European Parliament publishes draft report on AML Regulation proposal

Mar 15th, 2022 - the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committees published a draft joint report on the European Commission's (Commission) proposal for a Regulation on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing (AMLR).

Canada's major lenders lift prime rates to 2.7% after central bank hike

Mar 03rd, 2022 - Royal Bank of Canada (RY.TO), Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD.TO) and Bank of Montreal said on Wednesday they will raise their prime lending rates for the first time since October 2018.

Pact for debt suspension with Saudi fund signed

Mar 04th, 2022 - ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday signed an agreement with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) for suspension of debt servicing of \$846 million for six years under the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

Financial Action Task Force Identifies Jurisdictions with Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Counter-Proliferation Deficiencies March 2022

Mar 10th, 2022 - FATF removed Zimbabwe from its list of Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring and added the United Arab Emirates (UAE), noting the UAE's significant progress in strengthening its AML/CFT regime as well as its February 2022 high-level political commitment to completing its FATF action plan.

Europe: Conflict-related sanctions continue to cause disruptions in Europe March 31 /update 31

Mar 31st, 2022 Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree March 31 requiring "unfriendly countries" purchasing gas from Russia to make payments in Russian rubles.

Bahrain's bank sector to benefit from higher rates, credit expansion - S&P

Mar 09th, 2022 - Bahrain's banking sector is set to benefit from the expected interest rate hikes and overall credit expansion on the back of an improving economic climate.

Major banks join in \$1bn loan to KPC: Kuwait

Mar 28th, 2022 Japan's three biggest banks are teaming up with major US and European lenders to loan \$1 billion to help Kuwait increase oil output, seeking to calm energy markets roiled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, reports Al-Anba daily quoting Nikkei Asia newspaper.

Ecobank Kenya pays the price for flouting forex regulations

Mar 29th, 2022 - CBK said that the tier-two lender failed to meet the rules that stipulate that a bank must match its foreign currency assets and liabilities and ensure that the difference between the two does not exceed 10% of core capital.

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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.

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