



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

Rating Report

Escorts Investment Bank Limited

Report Contents

1. Rating Analysis
2. Financial Information
3. Rating Scale
4. Regulatory and Supplementary Disclosure

Rating History

Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
09-Apr-2020	A-	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
18-Oct-2019	A-	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
18-Apr-2019	A-	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
26-Oct-2018	A-	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
18-Apr-2018	A-	A2	Stable	Upgrade	-
06-Apr-2017	BB	B	Developing	Maintain	YES
14-Nov-2016	BB	B	Negative	Downgrade	-
16-Mar-2016	BBB	A3	Stable	Maintain	-
20-Mar-2015	BBB	A3	Stable	Maintain	-

Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

The ratings reflect the financial strength of the bank. The strength was embodied hitherto in the subordinated loan given to the bank and lately of which the intended amount has been converted into equity, pursuant to the right issue exercise undertaken by the bank. As a consequence, the equity base of the bank has been augmented manifold. The financial strength is also reflected in that the bank has strong liquidity available in the form of TDR's, deposits, debt instrument and government securities. The bank has been following a strategy of focusing on mortgage finance in which, given the market condition, asset deployment has witnessed slower rate. The bank has entered into micro lending wherein which the size is evolving though small at the moment. Going forward targets are aligned to the size of the bank. During 1HFY20 the bank significantly reduced its operational loss from the same period of last year. The management has represented that the bank has already ventured into cash profit. The distance to accounting loss has also been narrowed. Going forward, it is expected that soon the bank will be reporting profits. The bank is funding its needs through equity at the moment. CODs base is limited with small amounts mobilized from the corporate segment. No aggressive deposit mobilization drive is planned. Branch network for micro lending is being expanded and it is expected that with addition of 2 branches, the network will reach consolidation point for some time. This will support the revenue generation.

The ratings are dependent on the continuous financial strength and maintained liquidity position. Immaculate financial discipline and corporate governance is important. Any discrepancy in achieving its targets remains critical to the ratings.

Disclosure

Name of Rated Entity	Escorts Investment Bank Limited
Type of Relationship	Solicited
Purpose of the Rating	Entity Rating
Applicable Criteria	PACRA_Methodology_NBFC(Jun-19),Methodology Correlation Between Long-Term And Short-Term Rating Scale(Jun-19),Criteria Rating Modifier(Jun-19)
Related Research	Sector Study Modaraba & NBFCs(Mar-19)
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Profile

Structure Escorts Investment Bank Limited (EIBL), a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), started its commercial operations in 1996. The Bank is licensed to carry out investment finance services, as Non-Banking Finance Company under the Companies Ordinance 1984 and Non-Banking Finance Companies Regulations 2008.

Background Bahria Town is a privately owned real-estate development company which owns, develops, and manages properties across Pakistan. It is the leading private real estate company in Pakistan.

Operations EIBL under new management has started its operations with one head office and two branches. Currently it is operating with 13 branches. The head office is in Lahore. EIBL caters to corporate and individual customers through housing finance and loan for working capital need. The bank has entered into micro lending therein which the size is evolving though small at the moment.

Ownership

Ownership Structure Bahria Town (Pvt) Limited (BTL) acquired Escorts Investment Bank Limited (EIBL) in 2018. The major shareholding is held by Bahria Town and its associates (~89%) while the other is owned by the public sector companies and general public. Major ownership of Bahria Town is held by its Chairman & CEO, Mr. Malik Riaz Hussain.

Stability Leadership of EIBL is simple with appropriate succession planning and clearly identifiable “man at the last mile” – Mr. Malik Riaz. His Son Mr. Ahmed Ali Malik is engaged in the real estate business while Chairperson of EIBL’s Board, Ms. Zainab Malik is the only representation of the sponsoring family.

Business Acumen Bahria Town’s Mr. Malik Riaz is a renowned entrepreneur who has delivered many real estate projects, which is also relevant to the business model of EIBL.

Financial Strength Bahria Town has the financial muscle to support and stands behind EIBL in case of need. The sponsors have other businesses as well besides Bahria Town including real estate properties and housing schemes. Subordinated loan from BTL to the Bank has been converted into shares. Right issue of PKR 915mln during the period under review has provided strength to equity base of the Bank raising its paid up capital from PKR 441mln to PKR 1,356mln.

Governance

Board Structure EIBL’s board (BoD) comprises seven members including the CEO, out of which two are independent directors. All board members are non-executive members except the CEO.

Members’ Profile Ms. Zainab Malik is the Chairperson of the board, the only representation of the sponsoring family. She carries experience of corporate governance during her period of directorship for last 7 years over different companies and holds a master degree in Economics from Karachi University. The board plays an important role in imparting strategic direction to EIBL. The other board members also bring rich industry experience to the board.

Board Effectiveness The board has two committees in place – Audit Committee and HR Remuneration Committee. EIBL has hired an audit firm for its internal audit. The board keeps stringent checks on the operations of EIBL.

Financial Transparency Financial Transparency Tariq Abdul Ghani Maqbool and Company Chartered Accountants, who are QCR rated, expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for year ended June 30, 2019 and half yearly ended December 31, 2019.

Management

Organizational Structure Being an evolving NBFC, EIBL has adopted a hierarchical structure, albeit lean and flat.

Management Team The CEO, Mr. Naveed Amin, possesses profound experience of 29 years including financial sector work experience. The other personnel in the management are experienced and competent professionals with praiseworthy credentials.

Effectiveness Since EIBL is still evolving and in an expansion phase, policies and procedures for best practices are being adopted. Management committees play an integral role in the management’ effective running of business operations.

MIS EIBL has purchased new Management Information System software “Almanac”. The software is specialized for Housing finance and Micro-financing and currently being used by number of entities in the NBFCs sector.

Risk Management Framework The BoD is responsible for establishing the risk management framework in order to ensure an effective and sound internal control and compliance system. An independent internal audit team is assisting the Audit Committee, which in turn reports to the Board.

Business Risk

Industry Dynamics The business environment in the country remained challenging, measures taken by the Government towards economic stabilisation has impacted overall business sentiments. The cost of doing business has risen and investment finance companies continued to face stiff competition from banks.

Relative Position Although there are other NBFC’s and FI’s which lend to customers for housing finance, EIBL is first private sector company at the moment concentrating solely on providing housing finance to the public especially prospective Bahria Town residents.

Revenues As a result of Bank’s focus on increasing the business through market penetration and capitalisation of business opportunities, the Bank’s Net Interest Revenue during 1HFY20 clocked-in at PKR 59mln (1HFY19: PKR 13mln) considerably up by ~354% Year on Year basis. Of this increase, profit on financing constitute a major chunk increasing by 10 times to PKR 20mln (1HFY19: PKR 2mln) followed by return on investments increasing by 42% to PKR 25.5mln (1HFY19: PKR 18mln).

Performance Non-markup expense increased by 23% YoY basis (1HFY20: PKR 75mln; 1HFY19: PKR 61mln) underpinned by higher personnel cost. Loss before tax of the Bank has substantially decreased by ~86% over the same period of last year and was reported at PKR -4.5mln (1HY19: PKR -32mln). During 1HFY19, recovery against provisioning expense has improved during the period and was reported at PKR 8.2mln against PKR ~0.3mln during the same period of previous year. The management has represented that the bank has already ventured into cash profit of PKR 3.6mln against the loss of PKR 26mln last year. The distance to accounting loss has also been narrowed.

Sustainability Going forward, management’s focus is on revival of business operations with primary target of micro finance with spread of branch network. Key objective of the management is to achieve break-even. EIBL would fund its financing needs through equity and CoDs from corporate segment.

Financial Risk

Credit Risk EIBL’s financing book mainly comprised of Loans (Dec19: 61% Jun19: 47%) and remaining includes TFC’s. EIBL has controlled its credit risk to some extent as its financial assets are diversified in organizations of sound financial standing covering various sectors and segments. NPL coverage ratio has remained 100% over past few years and Infection ratio has improved from 37% as at Jun19 to 23% as at Dec19 due to cautious business approach and extensive risk assessment.

Market Risk The bank’s investment portfolio constitutes 22.5% of total asset base (PKR 335mln) and government securities continue to dominate the overall investment book (91%). As the recent interest rate environment has been changing amid economic instability, EIBL has significantly altered its investment portfolio, investing in short term Market Treasury Bills. (1HFY20: PKR 317mln; FY19: PKR 100mln).

Liquidity And Funding EIBL’s main source of funding remains borrowings and Certificates of Deposit, Certificates of Deposit (CoD) stood at PKR 164mln at Dec19 (FY19: PKR 190mln) and borrowings stood at PKR 199mln at Dec19 (FY19: PKR 1,033mln). Out of this loan PKR 841mln along with interest accrued thereon amounting to PKR 31mln has been converted into right issue shares during the period under review.

Capitalization EIBL’s leveraging as of Dec-19 significantly declined on account of twofold impact of debt conversion into rights shares. Debt of Sponsors and associated companies amounting to PKR 872mln has been converted into shares and PKR 43mln was raised from general public making total injection of PKR 915mln in equity. (Total Debt / Equity: Dec19: 0.4x; FY19: 39.7x).

Escorts Investment Bank Limited

BALANCE SHEET

	31-Dec-19	30-Jun-19	30-Jun-18	30-Jun-17
	6MFY20	FY19	FY18	FY17
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Assets				
Investments (Others)	18	18	21	44
Equity	6	6	8	10
Cards and Rooms	13	13	13	33
Advances & Finances	198	115	13	128
Other Earning Assets	599	689	1039	287
Fixed Assets	172	120	103	86
Net Non-Performing Advances	0	0	0	0
Other Non Earning Assets	385	380	357	486
Total Assets	1,484	1,435	1,520	997
Liabilities				
Deposits	164	190	283	448
Borrowings	248	1033	964	154
Other Liabilities	128	163	173	132
Equity				
Equity (including surplus on revaluation)	945	50	100	263
Total Liabilities & Equity	1,484	1,435	1,520	997

INCOME STATEMENT

Net Interest / Mark Up Revenue	57	54	(30)	(35)
Other Operating Income/ (Loss)	4	19	4	2
Total Revenue / (Loss)	61	73	(27)	(32)
Administrative and General Expenses	(73)	(122)	(92)	(62)
Pre-provision Profit	(13)	(49)	(140)	(94)
Provisions	8	(0)	(93)	-
Pre-tax Profit / (Loss)	(5)	(50)	(233)	(94)
Net Income / (Loss)	(5)	(50)	(154)	(120)

Ratio Analysis

Performance

ROA	-1% *	-3%	-14%	-11%
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Coverages

Liquid Assets / Total Debt	174%	66%	83%	15%
Finances / Total Assets	28%	85%	82%	61%

Loan Loss Coverage

Impaired Lending / Gross Finances	23%	37%	84%	27%
Net Impaired Finances / Equity	0%	-1%	0%	0%

Escorts Investment Bank Limited

Mar-20

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Credit Rating Scale & Definitions

Credit rating reflects forward-looking opinion on credit worthiness of underlying entity or instrument; more specifically it covers relative ability to honor financial obligations. The primary factor being captured on the rating scale is relative likelihood of default.

Long Term Ratings		Short Term Ratings	
AAA	Highest credit quality. Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments	A1+	The highest capacity for timely repayment.
AA+ AA AA-	Very high credit quality. Very low expectation of credit risk. Indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.	A1	A strong capacity for timely repayment.
A+ A A-	High credit quality. Low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions.	A2	A satisfactory capacity for timely repayment. This may be susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
BBB+ BBB BBB-	Good credit quality. Currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.	A3	An adequate capacity for timely repayment. Such capacity is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
BB+ BB BB-	Moderate risk. Possibility of credit risk developing. There is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as a result of adverse economic or business changes over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.	B	The capacity for timely repayment is more susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
B+ B B-	High credit risk. A limited margin of safety remains against credit risk. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.	C	An inadequate capacity to ensure timely repayment.
CCC CC C	Very high credit risk. Substantial credit risk “CCC” Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. “CC” Rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. “C” Ratings signal imminent default.		
D	Obligations are currently in default.		



Outlook (Stable, Positive, Negative, Developing) Indicates the potential and direction of a rating over the intermediate term in response to trends in economic and/or fundamental business/financial conditions. It is not necessarily a precursor to a rating change. ‘Stable’ outlook means a rating is not likely to change. ‘Positive’ means it may be raised. ‘Negative’ means it may be lowered. Where the trends have conflicting elements, the outlook may be described as ‘Developing’.

Rating Watch Alerts to the possibility of a rating change subsequent to, or in anticipation of, a) some material identifiable event and/or b) deviation from expected trend. But it does not mean that a rating change is inevitable. A watch should be resolved within foreseeable future, but may continue if underlying circumstances are not settled. Rating Watch may accompany Outlook of the respective opinion.

Suspension It is not possible to update an opinion due to lack of requisite information. Opinion should be resumed in foreseeable future. However, if this does not happen within six (6) months, the rating should be considered withdrawn.

Withdrawn A rating is withdrawn on a) termination of rating mandate, b) cessation of underlying entity, c) the debt instrument is redeemed, d) the rating remains suspended for six months, e) the entity/issuer defaults, or/and f) PACRA finds it impractical to surveil the opinion due to lack of requisite information.

Harmonization A change in rating due to revision in applicable methodology or underlying scale.

Disclaimer: PACRA's ratings are an assessment of the credit standing of entities/issue in Pakistan. They do not take into account the potential transfer / convertibility risk that may exist for foreign currency creditors. PACRA's opinion is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a security, in as much as it does not comment on the security's market price or suitability for a particular investor.

Rating Team Statements

(1) Rating is just an opinion about the creditworthiness of the entity and does not constitute recommendation to buy, hold or sell any security of the entity rated or to buy, hold or sell the security rated, as the case may be | Chapter III; 14-3-(x)

2) Conflict of Interest

- i. The Rating Team or any of their family members have no interest in this rating | Chapter III; 12-2-(j)
- ii. PACRA, the analysts involved in the rating process and members of its rating committee, and their family members, do not have any conflict of interest relating to the rating done by them | Chapter III; 12-2-(e) & (k)
- iii. The analyst is not a substantial shareholder of the customer being rated by PACRA [Annexure F; d-(ii)] Explanation: for the purpose of above clause, the term "family members" shall include only those family members who are dependent on the analyst and members of the rating committee

Restrictions

- (3) No director, officer or employee of PACRA communicates the information, acquired by him for use for rating purposes, to any other person except where required under law to do so. | Chapter III; 10-(5)
- (4) PACRA does not disclose or discuss with outside parties or make improper use of the non-public information which has come to its knowledge during business relationship with the customer | Chapter III; 10-7-(d)
- (5) PACRA does not make proposals or recommendations regarding the activities of rated entities that could impact a credit rating of entity subject to rating | Chapter III; 10-7-(k)

Conduct of Business

- (6) PACRA fulfills its obligations in a fair, efficient, transparent and ethical manner and renders high standards of services in performing its functions and obligations; | Chapter III; 11-A-(a)
- (7) PACRA uses due care in preparation of this Rating Report. Our information has been obtained from sources we consider to be reliable but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed. PACRA does not, in every instance, independently verifies or validates information received in the rating process or in preparing this Rating Report.
- (8) PACRA prohibits its employees and analysts from soliciting money, gifts or favors from anyone with whom PACRA conducts business | Chapter III; 11-A-(q)
- (9) PACRA ensures before commencement of the rating process that an analyst or employee has not had a recent employment or other significant business or personal relationship with the rated entity that may cause or may be perceived as causing a conflict of interest; | Chapter III; 11-A-(r)
- (10) PACRA maintains principal of integrity in seeking rating business | Chapter III; 11-A-(u)
- (11) PACRA promptly investigates, in the event of a misconduct or a breach of the policies, procedures and controls, and takes appropriate steps to rectify any weaknesses to prevent any recurrence along with suitable punitive action against the responsible employee(s) | Chapter III; 11-B-(m)

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- (12) PACRA receives compensation from the entity being rated or any third party for the rating services it offers. The receipt of this compensation has no influence on PACRA's opinions or other analytical processes. In all instances, PACRA is committed to preserving the objectivity, integrity and independence of its ratings. Our relationship is governed by two distinct mandates i) rating mandate - signed with the entity being rated or issuer of the debt instrument, and fee mandate - signed with the payer, which can be different from the entity
- (13) PACRA does not provide consultancy/advisory services or other services to any of its customers or to any of its customers' associated companies and associated undertakings that is being rated or has been rated by it during the preceding three years unless it has adequate mechanism in place ensuring that provision of such services does not lead to a conflict of interest situation with its rating activities; | Chapter III; 12-2-(d)
- (14) PACRA discloses that no shareholder directly or indirectly holding 10% or more of the share capital of PACRA also holds directly or indirectly 10% or more of the share capital of the entity which is subject to rating or the entity which issued the instrument subject to rating by PACRA; | Reference Chapter III; 12-2-(f)
- (15) PACRA ensures that the rating assigned to an entity or instrument is not be affected by the existence of a business relationship between PACRA and the entity or any other party, or the non-existence of such a relationship | Chapter III; 12-2-(i)
- (16) PACRA ensures that the analysts or any of their family members shall not buy or sell or engage in any transaction in any security which falls in the analyst's area of primary analytical responsibility. This clause shall, however, not be applicable on investment in securities through collective investment schemes. | Chapter III; 12-2-(l)
- (17) PACRA has established policies and procedure governing investments and trading in securities by its employees and for monitoring the same to prevent insider trading, market manipulation or any other market abuse | Chapter III; 11-B-(g)

Monitoring and review

- (18) PACRA monitors all the outstanding ratings continuously and any potential change therein due to any event associated with the issuer, the security arrangement, the industry etc., is disseminated to the market, immediately and in effective manner, after appropriate consultation with the entity/issuer; | Chapter III | 18-(a)
- (19) PACRA reviews all the outstanding ratings on semi-annual basis or as and when required by any creditor or upon the occurrence of such an event which requires to do so; | Chapter III | 18-(b)
- (20) PACRA initiates immediate review of the outstanding rating upon becoming aware of any information that may reasonably be expected to result in downgrading of the rating; | Chapter III | 18-(c)
- (21) PACRA engages with the issuer and the debt securities trustee, to remain updated on all information pertaining to the rating of the entity/instrument; | Chapter III | 18-(d)

Probability of Default

(22) PACRA's Rating Scale reflects the expectation of credit risk. The highest rating has the lowest relative likelihood of default (i.e, probability). PACRA's transition studies capture the historical performance behavior of a specific rating notch. Transition behavior of the assigned rating can be obtained from PACRA's Transition Study available at our website. (www.pacra.com). However, actual transition of rating may not follow the pattern observed in the past | Chapter III | 14-(F-VII)

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