



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

## Rating Report

### AHM Securities (Pvt.) Limited | BFR

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#### Rating History

Dissemination Date	Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
14-Jun-2022	BFR 3	Stable	Initial	-

#### Rating Rationale

Factor	Comment
<b>Ownership</b>	The Company is owned by the members of same family. Majority stakes are owned by Mr. Adam Haji Muhammad.
<b>Governance</b>	The board is comprised of three members all representing the shareholder family members. Room for improvement exist in the board structure.
<b>Management and Client Services</b>	The Company has a lean organisational structure. The management possess the relevant experience and educational profile.
<b>Internal Controls and Regulatory Compliance</b>	Presence of internal auditor is noted. Compliance function could be improved further. Independent risk management department is encouraged.
<b>Business Sustainability</b>	Brokerage revenue has improved over the period; however, reliance on a single income stream exposes results in increased risk exposure.
<b>Financial Sustainability</b>	The Company has an adequate capitalization level with the Net Capital Balance standing at ~PKR 115mln at end-Dec'21.

#### Key Rating Drivers

AHM Securities (Pvt.) Limited's ("AHM" or "the Company") is engaged in the provision of equity brokerage services. The rating accounts for the strong business acumen of primary sponsor having a sound financial profile. The governance structure may be improved further with the on-boarding of independent directors. The assigned rating incorporates the sound management team and adequate internal control framework. Formation of an independent compliance function and separate risk management may align the internal control framework with the best practices. The rating incorporates the sound client services including an online trading platform, real-time transaction alerts and complaint management facility. Formation of a research department may further enhance the level of client services. The brokerage revenue has shown improvement in the recent years; however, decline is observed in 9MFY22. The uncertainty prevailing in the equity market amid ongoing political tension may have an adverse impact on topline going forward. Improvement in equity has been noted, while low leverage capital structure provides comfort.

#### Disclosure

<b>Name of Rated Entity</b>	AHM Securities (Pvt.) Limited   BFR
<b>Type of Relationship</b>	Solicited
<b>Purpose of the Rating</b>	Broker Fiduciary Rating (BFR)
<b>Applicable Criteria</b>	Methodology   Broker Fiduciary Rating(Jan-22)
<b>Related Research</b>	Sector Study   Brokerage & Securities(Jan-22)
<b>Rating Analysts</b>	Ayesha Qasim   ayesha.qasim@pacra.com   +92-42-35869504

## Profile

**Background:** Established in 2005, AHM Securities (Pvt.) Limited (“AHM” or the “Company”) is working in Pakistan’s financial services industry for over 15 years. The Company is a TREC holder of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

**Operations:** With its head office based in Karachi, main activities of the Company are limited to equity brokerage.

## Ownership

**Ownership Structure:** Ownership of the Company lies within the same family. The Chairman, Mr. Adam Haji Muhammad owns ~99.6% of the total shares. Rest of the shareholding lies with Mr. Anis Haji Muhammad and Mr. Feroz Haji Muhammad.

**Stability:** The successors have been identified within the family; however, a formal succession plan is encouraged.

**Business Acumen:** The Chairman, Mr. Adam Haji Muhammad possesses enormous experience in capital markets, he has been working as a stock broker for over 25 years.

**Financial Strength:** Mr. Adam Haji Muhammad has a sizeable net worth. Further capital may be injected in the Company with increasing quantum of operations and on need basis.

## Governance

**Board Structure:** The board of directors comprises of three members all of whom are the shareholder family members. The board may be enhanced further by more induction.

**Members’ Profile:** The Chairman, Mr. Adam Haji Mohammad is part of the board as well. He possesses the necessary skills and experience required for capital markets and is the primary source of expertise at board level.

**Board Effectiveness:** The Company at present comprises of two board committees namely Audit committee and Risk Management Committee at the board level; the presence of independent director may further improve the effectiveness.

**Transparency:** The external audit of the Company is being carried out by M/s UHY Hassan Naeem & Co Chartered Accountants. The auditors have expressed unqualified opinion on the financial statement for FY21. The firm falls in the Category 'B' of SBP’s panel of auditors.

## Management and Client Services

**Organizational Structure:** The Company has a lean organizational structure where all the departmental heads report to the CEO. The functions of AHM are mainly divided into 1) Operations 2) Finance 3) Internal audit and Compliance 4) Equity Trading.

**Management Team:** The CEO - Mr. Hammad Tahir, Mr. Nauman Yousaf, Mr. Muhammad Faraz, and Mr. Javaid Akhtar are integral part of the senior management. All members of the senior management boast creditworthy educational credentials. Mr. Hammad Tahir holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration and Economics. He has been with the Company since its inception and serves as the Chief Executive Officer.

**Client Servicing:** The Company offers multiple accounts opening mediums. Similarly, various channels, including a mobile app, are available to customers to execute and monitor their transactions.

**Complaint Management:** An adequate complaint management system is in place. Complaints can be made via e-mail, SMS and calls. Contact number and designated email is provided to lodge the complaints.

**Extent of Automation / Integration:** AHM has a technology driven trading platform that allows seamless and secure trading. It facilitates the market participants to connect from across the globe and trade virtually. The system provides real time portfolio updates and trade executions along with the real time market quotes.

**Continuity of Operations:** AHM has a disaster recovery plan in place to ensure business continuity at the time of disaster. Off-site data backup facility is also in place.

## Internal Controls and Regulatory Compliance

**Risk Management Framework:** The risk management framework revolves around the risk management committee. The committee review, measure and assess risk practices of the Company and review risk measurement and assessment, risk mitigation, risk reporting and monitoring.

**Regulatory Compliance:** The compliance department is being headed by Mr. Mahmood Hameed Moten, who is also acting as company secretary. Segregation of compliance from other functions is encouraged.

## Business Sustainability

**Operating Environment:** Pakistan's economy during CY21 made a recovery, with the market volumes reaching historic high levels; however, during the first 10 months of FY22, the market volumes have decreased resulting in pressure on brokerage revenue. The rebalancing of MSCI gives an indication to a hopefully better upcoming quarter with expectations of greater international investment; however, the escalating tension and supply chain constraints due to the Russia and Ukraine war have destabilized the capital markets, creating an uncertain future for the market. The recent political turmoil inside the country have further derailed the market conditions, making it difficult to ascertain the future of the market moving forward. Going forward, the recent increase in interest rate should help moderate the demand to more sustainable pace while keeping inflation expectations anchored and containing risks to external stability. During 3QFY22, the traded volumes of the market reduced due to the political turmoil and low investor confidence in the stock market.

**Performance:** AHM's operating revenue is concentrated to equity brokerage. Operating revenue comprises of commission income and unrealized/realized gain/loss on re-measurement of investments. During FY21, brokerage commission stood at ~PKR 64mln (SPLY: ~PKR 7mln) and contributed ~57% to the total revenue. However, revenue is reduced to ~PKR 16mln in 1HFY22 in line with the market volumes. AHM reported net profit of ~PKR 57mln in FY21 compared to a loss of ~PKR 2mln in FY20. The Company has reported net loss of ~PKR 3mln for the 1HFY22.

**Strategy:** Going forward, AHM plans to increase the institutional clientele. The Company also has plans to initiate the Commodity Brokerage.

## Financial Sustainability

**Credit Risk:** Credit risk is managed through detailed KYC/CDD procedures in place for the assessment of client creditworthiness. The entire CDD process is comprehensive and well documented, especially in the account opening and client risk assessment stages. At end-FY21, trade debts stood at ~PKR 51mln (FY20: ~PKR 13mln).

**Market Risk:** The Company is running prop-book with the market value of ~PKR 57mln which constitutes ~33% of the equity at end- Jun'21. The gain on Prop-book is ~48.6% of the total revenue at end-Jun'21 (SPLY: ~15%). Prop book stood at ~PKR 39mln, ~25% of the equity at end- Dec'21.

**Liquidity Risk:** AHM has adequate liquidity profile. The Company reported current assets of ~PKR 409mln for FY21 as compared to current liabilities of ~PKR 275mln.

**Capitalization:** The Net Capital Balance stood at ~PKR 105mln at end-Jun'21 and improved to ~PKR 115mln at end-Dec'21. The Company has an equity base of ~PKR 173mln at end-Jun'21 (SPLY: ~PKR 95mln) and declined to ~PKR 155mln at end-Dec'21.

PKR mln

**AHM Securities (Pvt.) Limited**

Dec-21	Jun-21	Jun-20	Jun-19
6M	12M	12M	12M

**A BALANCE SHEET**

1 Finances	-	-	-	-
2 Investments	62	95	81	69
3 Other Earning Assets	19	69	3	5
4 Non-Earning Assets	298	289	115	82
5 Non-Performing Finances-net	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>155</b>
6 Funding	0	24	22	50
7 Other Liabilities (Non-Interest Bearing)	223	256	82	2
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>103</b>

**B INCOME STATEMENT**

1 Fee Based Income	17	64	7	7
2 Operating Expenses	(20)	(49)	(22)	(23)
3 Non Fee Based Income	(0)	49	13	(14)
<b>Total Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(31)</b>
4 Financial Charges	(0)	(1)	(1)	(1)
<b>Pre-Tax Profit</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(32)</b>
5 Taxes	-	(5)	(0)	(0)
<b>Profit After Tax</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(32)</b>

**C RATIO ANALYSIS**

**1 Business Sustainability**

Pre Tax Margin	-18.9%	97.3%	-26.5%	-466.3%
EBITDA/ Revenue	-14.9%	99.5%	-11.1%	-454.3%
Profit / (Loss) Before Interest & Taxes / Total Assets	-0.8%	13.9%	-0.5%	-19.9%

**2 Financial Sustainability**

Total Investments / Equity	40.1%	54.9%	85.4%	66.9%
NCB / Equity	74.0%	81.9%	62.3%	67.9%
LCB/ Total Equity	102.0%	102.8%	103.2%	106.7%
( Cash & Cash Equivalents + Government Securities ) / Total Assets	82.4%	78.2%	57.8%	53.6%
Total Debt / Equity	0.1%	13.6%	23.1%	0.0%

### Broker Fiduciary Rating Scale & Definitions

An independent opinion on the quality of management and client services and sustainability of operations

Scale	Definition
<b>BFR 1</b>	<b>Very Strong.</b> Very Strong quality of management, client services and very high likelihood of sustaining operations.
<b>BFR 2++</b> <b>BFR 2+</b> <b>BFR 2</b>	<b>Strong.</b> Strong quality of management, client services and high likelihood of sustaining operations.
<b>BFR 3++</b> <b>BFR 3+</b> <b>BFR 3</b>	<b>Good.</b> Good quality of management, client services and above average likelihood of sustaining operations.
<b>BFR 4++</b> <b>BFR 4+</b> <b>BFR 4</b> <b>BFR 5</b>	<b>Adequate.</b> Adequate quality of management, client services and average likelihood of sustaining operations.
	<b>Weak.</b> Weak quality of management, client services and weak likelihood of sustaining operations.

**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 some material identifiable event with indeterminable rating implications. 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 rating 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 rating remains suspended for six months, or/and d) 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.

**Surveillance.** Surveillance on a publicly disseminated rating opinion is carried out on an ongoing basis till it is formally suspended or withdrawn. A comprehensive surveillance of rating opinion is carried out at least once every six months. However, a rating opinion may be reviewed in the intervening period if it is necessitated by any material happening.

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(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)

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- 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

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- (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)
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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)
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- (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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