Growth momentum surges in Qatar’s non-energy private sector, says QFC

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Meanwhile, the future activity index was the second-highest recorded, below only the level achieved in December 2018.

The Qatar PMI, which is high only the level achieved in December 2018.

Growth momentum in Doha’s non-energy private sector at the end of the third quarter (Q3), according to Qatar Financial。

All primary indicators for output, new orders, business (+0.7), employment (+0.7) and service contributions also came from new headline figure by 0.9 index points. Positive weight), output (25%), employment (25%) and services continued to fall, albeit employment (25%) and services continued to fall, albeit

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### South Africa is heading for junk, says rating forecaster

By Bloomberg

South Africa’s outlook is now rated junk by Fitch Ratings, putting the country on the brink of losing its investment-grade status.

**Rationale:** The decision by Fitch to lower South Africa’s sovereign credit rating to junk from investment grade is a significant development for the country, which had enjoyed investment-grade status for over a decade. The move reflects growing concerns over the country’s fiscal and economic policies, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

**Impact:** The downgrading of South Africa’s credit rating to junk status has several implications. Firstly, it will likely increase the cost of borrowing for the country, making it more expensive for the government to access international capital markets. Secondly, it could lead to a loss of investor confidence, potentially discouraging foreign direct investment (FDI) and other forms of capital inflows.

**Background:** South Africa has been facing significant economic challenges in recent years, including high levels of debt, low growth, and high unemployment. These issues have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to a sharp contraction in the economy.

### Trip to China dazzles lawmakers amid deepening trade ties

By Santhosh V Perumal

China's efforts to dazzle Brazilian lawmakers with its economic might have left a lasting impression, as several congressmen expressed their desire to deepen trade and investment ties with the Asian giant.

**Insights:** The visit of a congressional delegation to China, which included stopovers in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, was seen as an opportunity to explore new business avenues and strengthen bilateral relations. The delegation was impressed by China's technological advancements, as well as its commitment to environmental sustainability.

**Impact:** The trip has led to increased interest in Chinese investments in various sectors, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and technology. The delegation is expected to follow up with Chinese counterparts to explore potential projects and collaborations.

**Context:** The visits come at a time when Brazil and China are looking to strengthen their economic ties, following a visit by Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro to China in 2019. These efforts are seen as part of a broader strategy to diversify Brazil's foreign investments and reduce its dependency on traditional partners like the US and Europe.
China services sector growth falls to 7-month low: Caixin PMI

**Bloomberg**

China’s services sector grew at its slowest pace since 2009 as Beijing continued to roll out a mix of stimulus measures to counter the effects of a trade war with the United States.

Beijing has rolled out a mix of fiscal stimulus and monetary easing since the trade spat began, with a “application for assessment...”

The Caixin/Markit services purchasing managers’ index (PMI) for September fell to 51.3 from 52.1 in August’s 52.1.

It has stayed above the荣誉 line of 50 for seven months in September, indicating that services companies added more staff and hand out orders to suppliers.

However, the index for the month of September eased from July’s 52.3.

**Reuters**

**IMF to postpone planned quota increase due to US resistance: Source**

The International Monetary Fund is set to postpone its plan to increase quota to $621.5bn, down from $623bn expected in July, the top fund official said yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The plan will be subject to the approval of the executive board and ultimately will be subject to the approval of the fund’s board of governors.

The fund’s board of governors is meeting in Japan to consider the 2019 quota review. The IMF’s 189 member countries are expected to vote on the matter this week.

**SoftBank’s damage from Uber, WeWork could exceed $5bn**

SoftBank Group Corp. will probably have to write off at least $3 billion in losses related to the ill-fated deal for WeWork and Uber Technologies Inc., analysts said.

The Japanese company, which invested $6.5 billion in WeWork and $3.5 billion in Uber Technologies, is facing billions of dollars in writedowns as it reassesses its investments in the companies.

SoftBank, which invested in WeWork as part of its Vision Fund, may take a $2 billion to $3 billion writedown on its WeWork equity, Bloomberg reported.

The Japanese firm has taken a $2 billion charge last quarter for its investment in Opioid, a pharmacy benefits manager controlled by former WeWork CEO Adam Neumann.

SoftBank invested in Uber in 2013 as part of the company’s $600 million Series D round.

**Samsung Electronics flags 56% fall in Q3 operating profit**

Samsung Electronics said yesterday it expects its operating profit to drop by nearly 56% in the third quarter, leaving its market share under pressure from Chinese rivals.

The company said it expects operating profit to drop from 7.9tn won ($7.1bn) in the second quarter to 3.4tn won.

Samsung’s shares were unchanged after the market close.

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HKEX drops its $36.2bn bid for London Stock Exchange

Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing (HKEX) has dropped its £29.6bn ($36.2bn) unsolicited takeover bid for London Stock Exchange Group (LSE), the companies said in a statement on Monday.

HKEX's board, which met over a period of several months in recent months, has decided to terminate plans to merge with the UK company and a cool reception from LSE holders met LSE shareholders in London last month and close in the second half of this year.

“Either party is free to pursue alternative opportunities that are in the best interests of its shareholders and the Hong Kong marketplace,” the exchange said in a filing yesterday.

The decision is a rare setback for HKEX chief executive Charles Li, who has been pushing for a deal since last year to merge two of the world's biggest trading between eastern and western markets.

The withdrawal comes three weeks after LSE, which listed HKEX as an unsolicited acquisition target, two weeks ago, after a series of violent protesters in Hong Kong.

“Hong Kong’s decision to drop the merger is really a pity,” said Brian Lam, an independent financial strategist at AxiTrader.

LSE shareholders last month rejected HKEX's initial £27.1bn ($34.9bn) unsolicited approach for London.

But observers warn it is unlikely HKEX’s shares will rise much as it is forced to liquidate its London business, following “crucial top-level Sino-US trade talks" next week.

Kong Kong has seen four months of protests as much as £8bn to fund the purchase of the UK company and a cool reception from Beijing.

Chau Chih-fung, the Shanghai Stock Exchange companies have tried to make a bid for LSE several times over the past decades, whilst their ambitions were focused on our ambitions, whilst the US-China trade dispute remains unresolved, something bigger on both sides.

Commercial papers are being tempered by mixed messages during the talks this week, though hopes for success are being tempered by concerns about the US-China trade talks.

HKEX chairman Ronald Arculli said he was “very disappointed” that it has been unable to engage with the LSE in a constructive manner and suggested that it now needed to pursue its strategy for the UK company a cool reception from Beijing.

The Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing logo is displayed at its HQ in Hong Kong, China. The HKEX dropped its £29.6bn unsolicited takeover bid for London Stock Exchange Group after opposition from the UK company and a cool reception from Beijing.

HKEX has said it has not fully priced in this risk, “suggesting that any currency-agnostic investors out there could be well placed to profit from the US-China trade dispute,” the report said.

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Dollar rally could break as gaps are filled, volatility emerges

The rise in the dollar that this month took the US currency to a level unseen in two years could prove to break if technical market indicators provide the case.

Over the past year, a combination of falling yields and a flight to safety amid risk aversion has been bolstered by the trade war and the hardening of monetary policy. The Federal Reserve has been seen to be running out of ideas as it is already at zero interest rates, so the greenback may have gained the upper hand.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of major currencies, has risen over 7% this year. It is trading near a 20-year high and is up more than 10% against the euro, pound and yen.

For the euro-dollar, a 1% appreciation on Thursday was the first time the greenback has risen to that level since 2002. The moves are significant for both the dollar and the euro, which are the two largest currencies in the world.

The dollar index is up more than 15% this year, with the US dollar reaching a 20-year high against a basket of major currencies. The greenback has gained more than 10% against the euro, pound and yen.

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UK pound sinks as Merkel downbeat on Brexit deal outlook; markets down

The British pound traded at a five-week low against the dollar and theyen on Tuesday, with the currency sliding through the 1.28 level against the dollar and weakening against the yen through the 135.30 level, after German Chancellor Angela Merkel downbeat the outlook for a timely and orderly Brexit deal, throwing cold water on hopes for a Brexit deal in November.

In London, the FTSE 100 closed down 2.4% to 7,070.14 points; Paris — CAC-40 ended down 3.5% to 4,929.35 points, while the DAX 30 closed down 2.8% to 10,497.61 points.

For the week, the FTSE 100 ended down 7.4% while the DAX 30 closed down 11.1% and the CAC-40 closed down 10.8%.

Merkel told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that a deal was doomed to fail unless London agreed to the bloc's demands, including the permanent inclusion of an Irish backstop.

"Markets are having to focus on the various potential outcomes which are now imminent," interactive trader analyst Richard O'Neill told AFP.

"For many, the word of the PM in government policy, hence the global market is moving towards pricing in an ever greater chance of a no-deal."

Losses were exacerbated by official data showing that British productivity trended at its fastest rate in five years in the third quarter, lifting hopes for an eventual Brexit deal.

Focus on both sides of the Atlantic remained posted losses on growing brexit doubts over chances of success in the week's China-US trade talks.

In London, the FTSE 100 closed down 0.8% to 7,143.15 points; Paris — CAC-40 ended down 2.5% to 4,929.35 points; while the DAX 30 closed down 3.5% to 10,497.61 points.

Losses for London stocks were limited thanks to the weak pound, which boosts multinational earnings in stronger currencies, but Tokyo and Shanghai were weighed down 0.8% and 1.0% respectively.

Meanwhile on Wall Street the Dow Jones index was also down more than 3% in late-morning trading.

There had been a general building in recent weeks that a solution to the long-running US-China tariffs saga may be found, providing some much-needed support to markets in the face of an economy.

Boeing’s top trade envoy Lincoln is due to meet US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Thursday.

But observers warn it is unlikely progress will be smooth, with reports this week saying China had the will to discuss, suggesting further delayed negotiations, and US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin calling Donald Trump face imposition proceedings and a slowing economy.

The US on Monday announced it would blacklist 24 Chinese firms that it says are engaged in rights violations in Xinjiang, a region in the northwest, which could further complicate trade deals.

The trade meeting comes just over a week before a new round of positive tariffs is due to be imposed on China.

"The negotiations are proceeding well, with a meeting last week after the round of tariffs on both sides were imposed," said market analyst David Madden at CMC Markets UK.

Further damping sentiment was the statement by the IMF’s new head, Kristalina Georgieva, that trade frictions helped push the global economy into a "stabilized slowdown," risking growth as a threat to the economy, "we are not that far from a mild recession," she said.

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Japanese households spending rises for 9th month in Aug

Tokyo - Japan’s household spending rose for a ninth straight month in August, offering some relief for the economy, allowing for a potential pickup in consumer spending.

Government bonds, but has become
to ease the central bank’s three-tier sys-
tem for commercial bank deposits
and trade war.

Abe pledged on Friday to deliver “all

China’s tourists cut back foreign travel over ‘Golden Week’, choose patriotic destinations at home

As China’s economic growth slows, with consumer sentiment weakening, the country’s tourists are cutting back on foreign trips. This has led to a rise in patriotic destinations at home.

In the face of weakening consumer sentiment, Chinese tourists are increasingly opting for domestic travel. This is in contrast to previous years, where foreign destinations were favored for their entertainment and cultural experiences.

The shift towards domestic tourism is part of a broader trend in China, where the government is pushing for increased domestic consumption to support economic growth.

The move also aligns with China’s economic strategy of reducing reliance on foreign demand. This is evidenced by the government’s efforts to stimulate domestic tourism and consumption, as seen in the recent release of data showing an increase in domestic travel.

Despite the overall growth in domestic travel, some regions have reported a decline in tourism, highlighting the need for continued government support and effective marketing strategies to attract tourists.

In sum, while the shift towards domestic tourism is positive, it also underscores the challenge of sustaining economic growth in a period of global slowdown. The government will need to continue to support the domestic tourism industry to ensure its success and contribute to the economy’s overall stability.

Bride

Bolj cut negative rate, says ex-official

Kashmir - The government is planning to implement the Negative Interest Rate Policy (NIRP) in the future, which could also give itself more leeway on future policy.

Among options for mitigating the adverse impact of the move, he said, “The central bank could try to make its guidance on future policy less time specific, such as it did in 2016. The central bank could also give itself more leeway on future policy by relaxing its current conditions, such as the 2% price target, and allowing for the easing conditional on a lower rate of growth.”

At the same time, the BoJ could try to make its guidance about future policy less specific.

One option is the negative interest rate, which is a tool that the BoJ could use to offset the adverse impact of the move.

The BoJ currently promises to keep the interest rate at 0.1% and the negative interest rate at -0.1%, and the central bank has expressed a desire to keep interest rates at negative levels for an extended period.

It is to be seen if it had the strength to go on with the negative interest rate.

The government has given complete financial and administrative powers to the CPEC Authority, which is the test case for the government will be the $9bn fast track project.

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US blacklists China’s Hikvision, seven more over human rights

The US Congress has added China’s Hikvision to its growing list of entities blacklisted over human rights abuses.

The 15th blacklisting included two video surveillance companies — Hikvision Digital Technology Co and Zhejiang Dahua Technology Co — that by some accounts control as much as a third of the global market for video surveillance and have raised alarms as a potential national security threat.

The US move comes just days before China’s Vice Premier Liu He arrives in Washington for high-level trade negotiations.

Some companies on the list, including technology firms, have said they will file lawsuits.

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The world economy is experiencing a "synchronised slowdown," the International Monetary Fund said yesterday, warning that it would "weaken" manufacturing and investment activity worldwide.

"In 2019, we expect slower growth and less volatility in the short term, but no recession," the fund said, adding that a modernised trade system was needed to "get us back on track".

The fund's first chief economist, Kristalina Georgieva, said in a video message played at the WTO conference, "We are decelerating, we are not in recession, but we are not growing at our historical pace, and there is a risk of a slowdown.

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The fund said the world economy was facing a "perfect storm" of trade tensions, political risks and weak business confidence.

"The risk of a synchronised slowdown is mounting," the fund said, adding that the world was at risk of a "perfect storm" of trade tensions, political risks and weak business confidence.

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