Qatar Airways among airlines committed to ‘25by2025’ campaign

Qatar Airways, and five other Middle Eastern and African airlines, have already committed to the 25by2025 campaign, which seeks to address gender imbalance in civil aviation.

“‘25by2025’ is an industry initiative which seeks to address gender imbalance in civil aviation. The initiative was launched at the IATA annual general meeting in Singapore in 2016. As an industry, we are a long way from being gender-balanced – globally, just under 25% of airline employees are female, while in management roles, the number is significantly lower,” said Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker.

“Qatar Airways has taken a lead in this initiative; we were the first airline in the region to announce our commitment to the initiative, at the IATA general meeting in Singapore in 2016,” Al Baker added.

Qatar Airways and five other Middle Eastern and African airlines have already committed to the ‘25by2025’ campaign. (Qatar Airways)

In a statement, Qatar Airways said: “The commitment to 25by2025 was announced in March 2016 by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) as a campaign, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said here yesterday.

“This is a reflection of the long-term relationship between Qatar and the Middle East and our commitment to continue investments in our physical space," Qatar Airways Group chief executive Akbar Al Baker added. "We are very happy that Qatar Airways has already committed to this important initiative." Qatar Airways is a founding member of IATA and is one of the world's top five airline groups by revenue, passengers carried and international flights.

Qatar Airways and five other Middle Eastern and African airlines have already committed to the ‘25by2025’ campaign, which seeks to address gender imbalance in civil aviation.

Qatar Airways was a supporting airline in the ‘25by2025’ campaign.

The initiative has resonated with industry stakeholders and signatories around the globe, with signatories from all continents (Europe (36), followed by Asia-Pacific (10), the Americas (seven) and Africa & Middle East (six)), followed by Asia-Pacific (10), the Americas (seven) and Africa & Middle East (six).

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By Santhosh V Perumal

Baladna debuts on QSE, accounts for more than 60% of total trade volume

Baladna, the holding entity of Qatar’s dairy major, yesterday made its debut on the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) with its equity capital accounting for more than 60% of total trade volume.

Baladna, listed under the consumer goods and services sector, thus became the 47th constituent on the bourse, which is seeking to attract more investments and increase the local private sector’s involvement in the economy.

Baladna’s QR1.43bn initial public offering (IPO) accounted for 60% of total trade volume.

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The opening price on the first day of trading was QR1.62, while the highest price was QR1.67 and the lowest price was QR1.46. The average price was QR1.53.

On the basis of developments in the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, according to Baladna’s IPO prospectus, the expected EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019 is to be in the range of 40%–45% of the net income attributable to shareholders.

Baladna’s QR1.43bn initial public offering (IPO) accounted for 60% of total trade volume.

As of now, Baladna holds equity capital of QR1.43bn, through its subsidiary Baladna Food. In other words, Baladna’s value is QR1.43bn.

Baladna debuts on QSE, accounts for more than 60% of total trade volume.

Global engineering firm Meinhardt Group has been named as the lead engineering firm in the development of new airports as part of Qatar Airways’ ongoing development of the airline by leveraging its local and global expertise.

First Qatar meeting

By Santhosh V Perumal

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How Lebanese default would play out: An investor conundrum

Bloomberg

For many bond investors it’s a matter of when, not if. Lebanon’s international reserves sit at $4.6 billion, and the government has taken no steps to shore them up. Working out what the trigger would be is the subject of relentless speculation. After repaying $3.5 billion in Eurobonds that matured last month, the focus is turning to whether authorities will honour a $1.2 billion commitment on March 5 for critical local currency loans to pay down its growing foreign-currency debt. The bill must still be approved by parliament and Lebanon’s leaders clear first hurdle

dinars next year, with about 8.8 billion dinars in 2018. The bill must still be approved by the International Monetary Fund.


Tunisia’s leaders clear first hurdle as 2020 budget approved

Bloomberg

For a 14-member Labor-Monitors cabinet, Tunisian government should announce restructuring before March 5. Tunisian government should announce restructuring before March 5, according to a source familiar with discussions.

The quick fix

Here’s how the saga could unfold:

The banks want to attract multi-

Kuwait’s biggest banks have accu-

The banks need to resolve the

Bloomberg

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Pound rally susceptible even if Johnson wins

The markets have gone a bit far on the pound weakening at the high after the poll suggested the outcome was too close to call. A YouGov poll on Thursday showed 52% were in favour of a Brexit deal, as opposed to 48% in favour of no deal, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3%, and 45% of the sample respondents believed the Brexit would become an immediate issue under a Johnson administration.

Qatar’s preparations for 2020 Halal expo ‘on track’, says Qatar Chamber official

Preparations for the start of the Halal Congress and Exhibition – the largest Halal expo in the MENA region – are on track for November next year in Doha, according to Qatar Chamber.

The expo, to be held from November 18 to 20, 2020, will be the largest Halal expo in the region, with the participation of 1,500 exhibitors from around the world.

Qatar Chamber Central Board Member and Ministerial Delegate Mohamed al-Mohamed, who is also chairman of Qatar Chamber’s High-Level Public and Private Investment Conference, said that the conference, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, last month, discussed ways to establish 29 branches in various economic sectors, as efforts to streamline doing business in the region.

The conference also focused on several economic sectors, such as agriculture, mining, transport, infrastructure, energy, and tourism. The meeting was led by Qatar Chamber’s chairman HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani and was attended by QBA board members Sheikh Dr Khalid, Dr Ahmed al-Khayat, Mohamed Althaf, Ihsan al-Khiaymi, as well as QBA deputy general manager Sara Abdullah.

The conference was attended by several economic experts from 56 countries, which saw the participation of 1,200 economic experts from 56 countries, as efforts to streamline doing business in the region.

Swagger seeps out of loonie as Canada growth concerns intensify

The Canadian dollar is slipping as concerns over the global economy grow and concerns over the US economy and US-China trade tensions mount.

The Canadian dollar has weakened against the US dollar in recent days, with the loonie trading at 1.3150 US cents on Monday, down from 1.3170 US cents on Friday. The loonie was last trading at 1.3150 US cents.

The loonie's weakness comes as investors focus on the possibility of a global economic slowdown, which could lead to lower oil prices and a weaker Canadian economy.

In late January, as economic growth slumpelloosened. The central bank may “not sound as confident at its next meetings in January and March, before preparing cut rates this year,” according to a report by Capital Economics.

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Most Asia bourses up but trade jitters keep investors on edge

Gold’s deal blitze could draw in rest of the mining sector

Malaysia’s stock index set for worst annual drop since 2008

Bloomberg

The stocks that won big from Asian gold prices are now facing an uncertain future as global growth uncertainties persist.

Gold, one of the world’s oldest and most popular assets, has been a bright spot in a year of subdued markets for other commodities. Prices streamed higher through much of last year, buoyed by rising demand for the metal as a safe haven against political and economic uncertainty.

However, the recent surge in gold prices has led to renewed concerns about inflation and rising interest rates, which could strain the metal’s performance over the long term. Investors are now bracing for a potential shift in monetary policy, with expectations that central banks could soon reverse their accommodative stance.

Despite these challenges, the gold market remains resilient, with investors continuing to seek the metal as a hedge against uncertainty. As such, the focus will remain on the global economy and its impact on the precious metal.

Bloomberg

Asia market now more risky yesterday but investors are growing cautious, according to a survey by Reuters. Traders are now more concerned about negative outcomes, such as a US-China trade war, on the back of growing uncertainties in the world economy.

In the past, Asia has been a bellwether for global markets, with investors often looking to it as a source of stability. However, the region’s economies are now facing a range of challenges, including trade tensions, political uncertainty, and rising interest rates.

As such, investors are now more focused on the immediate risks to the region’s economy, with concerns about a potential slowdown in China and the risk of a global recession.

Bloomberg

LaFemina, a New York-based analyst at Jeff eries LLC, cut debt and lifting shareholder last year to $60bn, the data show.

The rally in global growth.

Mumbai starting on an upbeat note.

In Manila were also well in the green, with 0.7%. Seoul, Singapore, Taipei and losses to sit in positive territory in the

The 10-year bond yield was flat at 6.75%.

Bloomberg

Easing trend higher once earnings

The country expects the market to mostly stay flat after

The MSCI emerging markets

“Nonetheless, being prescient has paid off for many more years, said Tung

The fund expects the tech sec-

The S&P BSE Sensex climbed 0.4%, the

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Bloomberg

EM stocks inch up to 2-week high

India’s stock rose yesterday, rescuing from a three-day sell-off, as gains were led by

The rupee traded at 70.86 a dollar yesterday,

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Australian dollar faces bumpy 2020 as trade, rates split analysts

Bloomberg (Jan 7)

Australian dollar is set for a turbulent 2020 as uncertainty around global growth, trade and interest rates divide analysts’ forecasts for the currency.

Marketers and Money Managers Holdings see use of the Aussie dropping about 10% to 65 US cents by December, wrenched lower by cooling economic growth and a dovish central bank. Others disagree; the currency may pump up to 70 US cents in the second quarter on easing US-China tensions since 2017, according to data by Bloomberg.

Hedge funds have also main

Bloomberg (Jan 7)

Economists are divided on emerging markets heading into 2020, with “Undertaking supporting measures will

Bloomberg (Jan 7)

Trade war, China’s economy remain major drivers in EM survey

The current account is the top pick in 2020, while Indonesia was the most favored among the top picks across emerging markets (EM). Investors remain on edge as the US-China trade dispute drags on, with China GDP forecasts downgraded and Chinese authorities adding to doubts about growth prospects.

Bloomberg (Jan 7)

The current account will remain a key driver of emerging market economies in 2020, with China GDP forecasts downgraded and Chinese authorities adding to doubts about growth prospects.
Europe stock markets, pound gain on eve of British election

The British pound bounced back yesterday ahead of a US presidential poll posicion. Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s lead Conservativ would win a much smaller majority than prevously forecast.

Sterling initially fell sharply before resolving losses in late trading against the dollar in late exchanges. The narrowing of the Conservatives lead was partly due to news of a hung parliament, which would see a new government formed by a coalition of parties.

The pound has rallied in recent months on growing expectations that the Conservatives will win an outright majority, reducing the risk of a Brexit delay and reducing the chance of a no-deal exit from the EU.

Sterling uncertainty in turn helped to drive up the pound against the euro, which rose by the same amount to €1.1516 at the close of trading.

The pound was up 0.2% to 5,860.88 points at the close of trading, up 0.5% from the previous day’s close of 5,767.94 points, and up 0.5% from the previous week’s close of 5,714.24 points.

The pound was also up 0.1% against the yen to ¥108.94, up 0.1% against the Australian dollar to A$1.5707, and up 0.1% against the Canadian dollar to C$1.3707.

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Pakistan’s first electric metro hits the track in Lahore

The first infrastructure project under the umbrella of the Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) that has formally been inaugurated is the OLMT Project CoFormation Authority (OPC). The Punjab Minister for Transport Jalil Khan Khitchi underscored that the OLMT project does not belong to any political party. The OLMT project contractors and other individuals involved in the project are expected to carry out their duties without any interference.

To fund the projects, the company will make the acquisition of Sempra Energy, which will expand China’s reach in the energy sector to address the energy crisis. The Chinese electric train has five coaches of 20 metres long with the doors of the electric train are fully computer-controlled. The public address system is installed for 800 passengers. The Chinese electric train is 20.5 metres long and has five coaches of 20 metres each. The new trains will have the capacity to transport more than a thousand passengers.

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The greenback also fell to six-month low on Friday. Since the beginning of the current fiscal year, the dollar has gained Rs155-mark in the inter-bank market while it also fell below 100-mark in the open market on Saturday while it also fell below 100-mark in the open market on Saturday. The purpose of the investment was to bring stability in the exchange rate while strengthening the public sector. The bill has been introduced in the National Assembly with an aim to set aside 30% of the country’s revenue for public sector entities. The bill aims to identify the criteria and the factors that would be considered for the selection of projects for funding.

The government, as part of the agreement with the IFC, plans to utilise the $1.5 billion for economic stabilisation programmes. The agreement includes the establishment of a trust fund to be used for the stability programme. The trust fund will be managed by an independent entity. Although foreign direct investment (FDI) is on the rise, the government is concerned about the risk of capital flight. The $1.5 billion is expected to be used for stabilisation programmes, infrastructure projects, and other activities.

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China expects US will postpone Dec 15 threat as tariff cuts debated

China’s officials expect the US to delay a threatened December 15th increase in tariffs from 10% to 25% on $550 billion worth of Chinese goods, responding to a US indication that the two sides focus on de-escalating trade tensions, according to people familiar with the matter.

While the Trump administration has yet to announce an official decision, a high-level source familiar with the talks said Washington’s goal is to “seek a solution or delay the increases.” The source also said the US is considering a “targeted list” of Chinese products that might be excluded from tariff hikes, which is expected to be unveiled this week.

In a meeting with Liu He, China’s Vice Premier and director of the central leading group of the Chinese Communist Party’s machinery, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission was introduced.

The meeting was also attended by Chinese officials including Liu He, the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, and other high-level officials.

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A representative for Stoneway, with approximately 10,000 staff members led by China Huadian Corp – one of several Chinese state-owned power generation companies, said its engineering unit didn’t reply to e-mails and several calls seeking comment. The company’s US headquarters was in Riverside, California.

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US, Mexico, Canada sign pact to finalise trade deal

**US consumer prices increase more than expected in Nov**

US consumer prices increased more than expected in November, with food and energy prices rising sharply, adding to concerns about inflation, raising the chances that the US Federal Reserve may hike interest rates next week.

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.4% last month, the most since July, and the core CPI, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, increased 0.3% last month. Economists had predicted increases of 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively.

The data added to pressure for the Fed to hike interest rates at its policy meeting next week. The Fed has hinted that it may raise rates at least once more this year.

**Financial markets embrace braver new world of AI**

Artificial intelligence has spread rapidly across a range of sectors over the past few years, helping companies to gain a foothold in the artificial intelligence market, but the industry now faces major challenges. **BASF plans battery unit in Tesla’s German factory**

BASF will get a test run at Tesla’s finished factory in Germany. The German chemical maker will set up a small-scale production unit to build batteries for electric vehicles at Tesla’s Gigafactory Berlin, which is expected to open in 2021.

BASF, which is already building a pilot production facility for battery materials in Germany, said it had won a contract from Tesla for a small-scale facility that will produce “gigawatt hours” of battery cells for the Gigafactory Berlin.

The deal is expected to last several years and could eventually see BASF supply the entire battery needs of the Gigafactory Berlin, said the company.

The move is part of BASF’s plan to expand its battery activities and the latest in a series of partnerships the company has struck with automakers and battery makers in recent years.

**HSBC’s CEO search ending where it began as signs point to Quinn**

HSBC’s chief executive search has ended where it began as signs point to the bank’s former head, Stuart Gulliver, replacing the top investment banker who has led a sweeping restructuring of the lender.

The bank’s board met on Thursday to select a successor for JPMorgan Chase’s Jamie Dimon, who in May was appointed to lead a committee charged with finding a new leader for the bank.

The bank said the committee had unanimously recommended Gulliver to replace the interim chief executive, former Texas Governor Rick Perry, who will stay in the role until a permanent successor is found. Gulliver is scheduled to retire in September 2020.

The decision, which is likely to disappoint some investors who had hoped for a leader with closer ties to Asia, where HSBC has its headquarters, will put an end to a months-long search that has included soul-searching about the future of the business and the need for a new strategist capable of forging a strategy that gets the bank back on track.

The bank, which has been dogged by a string of scandals and is trying to shift away from its traditional investment banking roots, said it would now go on to find a permanent chief executive to replace Gulliver, who has been interim CEO since December 2018.

Gulliver, who led HSBC through the financial crisis of 2008 and the subsequent global recession, is expected to be replaced by a new chief executive who will lead the bank as it seeks to transform itself into a more digital and consumer-focused business.

The bank said the search for a new chief executive would begin immediately and that a successor would be chosen by the end of next year.

**US executions set to ramp up under Trump**

The Trump administration is set to execute three prisoners next week, marking a significant increase in the number of death row inmates facing the firing squad since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

The three prisoners, who are all serving life sentences for murder, are set to be executed on Feb. 14, 15 and 20, respectively. The executions are the first since 2003, when the US returned to the death penalty after a 14-year hiatus.

The move comes as the US faces a growing number of executions, with 21 states now allowing the death penalty and 20 of those states having one or more executions scheduled in the coming months.

The Trump administration has been more aggressive in its use of the death penalty than any other US president, and has signaled its intention to use it more frequently than any other administration.

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**BANKING ON KNOWLEDGE**

**Madrid COP 25 event highlights critical challenges to sustainability**

By Dr R Seetharaman

The COP 25 event in Madrid (November 2019) will set the stage for the next round of climate negotiations in December 2020 in Glasgow under the UNFCCC framework, which aims to bring countries, particularly the developed world, to adopt critical climate action plans. The COP 25 event is at the tail end of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which was a landmark event in the quest to stabilize the world climate. The COP 25 event will be a key platform for discussing, reviewing and reflecting on progress in terms of meeting the goals set out under the Paris Agreement. The conference is expected to focus on the critical areas of funding, mobilization of resources, and the development of strategies for sustainable development. The COP 25 event will be a key platform for nations to come together to address the critical challenges posed by climate change and to work towards a more sustainable future. The event is expected to be a critical milestone in the journey towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and ensuring a sustainable future for the planet.

**QSE all set to see the listing of a real estate firm in near future**

By Srinivas V Puram

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) is all set to see the listing of a real estate firm in the near future. The QSE has received an application for the listing of a real estate firm, which has been approved by the board of directors. The firm is expected to be listed on the QSE in the coming months, bringing a new stock to the market and providing investors with a new investment opportunity. The QSE has been actively promoting the listing of real estate firms in recent years, with several other real estate firms listed on the exchange. The listing of this new real estate firm will be a positive development for the QSE, and it is expected to attract a significant amount of interest from investors. The QSE is committed to providing a platform for the listing of diverse and innovative business models, and the listing of this new real estate firm is a testament to the QSE's commitment to supporting a diverse and dynamic stock market.

**QSE settles 22 points higher on strong buying interests**

By Srinivas V Puram

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) settled 22 points higher on strong buying interests from the local bourse investors. The QSE witnessed a significant inflow of funds from local investors, with the local bourse investors buying up to 12% of the total volume traded on the exchange. The QSE has been seeing a significant increase in local buying interests in recent months, with local investors taking a more active role in the market. The QSE is committed to providing a platform for local investors to participate in the market, and the recent increase in local buying interests is a positive development for the QSE. The QSE is committed to providing a platform for the listing of diverse and innovative business models, and the increase in local buying interests is a testament to the QSE's commitment to supporting a diverse and dynamic stock market.

By Gulf Times

QICDRC gets associate membership of Int'l Consortium for Court Excellence

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC), a member of the Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFC) and of the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA), has been granted associate membership of the International Consortium for Court Excellence (ICCE). This membership in ICCE will enable the QICDRC to contribute to the development of the global legal system and to promote the exchange of best practices and knowledge. The QICDRC has been working towards improving the effectiveness of its court system and to provide a high-quality, efficient, and accessible dispute resolution service to the parties. The QICDRC has been working towards improving the effectiveness of its court system and to provide a high-quality, efficient, and accessible dispute resolution service to the parties.
Aviation industry joins global efforts against rogue lithium battery shipments

By Pratap John

Rogue lithium battery shipments have been violating the global lithium industry. The majority of lithium batteries are transported via air and sea. Lithium batteries pose a risk to aviation and shipping companies due to their flammable nature. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Orga...