Qatar real estate sees 51 deals worth QR256.6mn from Dec 15 to 19: Ezdan

By Pratap John
Business Editor

Qatar’s real estate sector has gained from the remarkable growth and development of the country’s tourism sector, says Ezdan Real Estate.

Technological disruption, digitisation landscape explained at IIA Doha chapter workshop

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

The Qatar Stock Exchange witnessed another wave of losses on the back of profit booking pressure and weak hopes for the global economy. The All Share Index by 0.17% to 19,185.4 points, All Share Total Return Index was down 0.23% to 3,098.4 points. However, the insurance index declined 0.22% to 4,244.5 points, All-Share Islamic Index by 0.23% to 3,098.4 points. The Total Return Index was down 0.22% to 4,244.5 points.

The real estate sector's trade volume, where the banks and financial services posted 59% surge in trade volume on the back of profit booking pressure and weak hopes for the global economy. The All-Share Islamic Index was up 0.17% to 3,098.4 points. The Total Return Index was up 0.23% to 4,244.5 points.

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Air India bids likely after mid-January, says source

Japan businesses urged to lift wages

Tesla gets over $1.4bn financing from China

PKS needs over $27bn for financing requirements of external front, says IMF

Pakistan needs over $27bn for financing requirements of external front, says IMF

In reference to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)’s latest report on Pakistan, its Executive Board has decided to provide $4.5bn in fresh financing support to Pakistan. The Board confirmed that the country will receive $4.5bn in the form of new arrangements and $400m in the form of existing arrangements. The new arrangements will be in the form of a stand-by arrangement (SBA) and a precautionary arrangement (PA).

The IMF report highlights that Pakistan faces significant challenges and risks in the medium term. It notes that Pakistan’s external vulnerabilities have increased due to high inflation, weak fiscal position, and high external debt. The report highlights that Pakistan needs to implement strong policy reforms to address these challenges.

Pakistan’s economy has faced significant challenges in recent years, including high inflation, weak fiscal position, and high external debt. The government has implemented a series of policy reforms to address these challenges, including measures to boost exports, improve fiscal management, and strengthen the banking sector.

The IMF report recommends that Pakistan needs to strengthen its macroeconomic policies, including measures to improve fiscal management, strengthen the banking sector, and enhance economic growth. It notes that Pakistan needs to improve its policy framework to address these challenges, including measures to improve fiscal management, strengthen the banking sector, and enhance economic growth.

The report recommends that Pakistan should implement measures to improve fiscal management, including reforms to enhance tax revenue collection and strengthen public financial management. It also highlights the need for measures to strengthen the banking sector, including improvements in prudential regulations and supervision.

The report also recommends that Pakistan needs to enhance economic growth, including measures to promote exports, improve investment climate, and strengthen private sector development. It highlights the need for improvements in the investment climate, including measures to improve the regulatory framework and enhance access to finance.

The report concludes that Pakistan needs to implement a comprehensive strategy to address its external vulnerabilities and strengthen its economic fundamentals. It emphasizes the importance of strong policy reforms to address these challenges, including measures to improve fiscal management, strengthen the banking sector, and enhance economic growth.
Central Retail plans $2.24bn share sale

Central Retail Corp, the shopping unit of one of Thailand’s biggest industrial-giant families, is set to start the listing process for its initial public offering (IPO). The company, apart from its retail business, also has a prominent role in its parent company’s business, which has a $36 billion market capitalisation among department stores in the country.

The proceeds will be used to repay debt and fund expansion. The share sale is expected in the first half of 2020.

According to Bloomberg, the IPO price range is set at 40 baht for 1.69bn new shares at the same price and 48 baht for 557m new shares at 48 baht each. The IPO will start on Monday, with the shares to be listed on the Thai Stock Exchange on March 3.

People seek out an electronic stock barter in front of the Stock Exchange in Bangkok. Central Retail, the shopping unit of one of Thailand’s biggest conglomerates, will issue some IPO shares to the shareholders of its shopping mall unit Robinson Retail under a share swap agreement.

Central Retail, controlled by the Chaleuang family, will issue some 80m of its Robinson’s shares at 48.90 baht each. The IPO will be offered between January 30 and February 11, Central Retail said.

The proceeds will be used to repay debt and fund expansion. The share sale is expected in the first half of 2020.

It may sell an additional 169m shares from the Thai stock exchange and has granted Robinson’s shares at 5.5 baht.

In January, the Thai government announced that it would sell its 10% stake in Central Retail, valued at around 86.7 bln baht, as part of its first-term plans to boost state revenue and cut the budget deficit.

Central Retail’s IPO is expected to come before the Thai government sells its stake in Central Retail. The proceeds will be used to repay debt and fund expansion. The share sale is expected in the first half of 2020.

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Gold makes headway above $1,500 as 2020 comes into closer focus

Gold priced up a healthy above $1,500 an ounce as investors positioned 2020, with post-G-20 gains among even as equities fluctuated higher and US-China trade concerns eased. Silver rose along with palladium, gold's sister metal, to erase a recent slide.

Bullion advanced for a fourth day, the best run since October, and headed for the highest close in more than seven weeks. The climb comes amid a focus on whether the Federal Reserve’s rate-cutting pause will last next year following two rate cuts in 2019. Gold is a haven for assets during periods of market stress.

Donald Trump latest tick higher even as Asian trading range, “Stephen Innes, chief market strategist at AOFM, said in a note. “That current trend to maintain rate cuts or even to aim for gold bulls,” he said.

Gold is “rising 15% this year — not the best showing since 2015 — as investors weighed the benefits of owning amid the low-fat of the US-China trade war and a rate-cut backdriving. The metals rallied up, and Donald Trump said Thursday a new rate cut is on the cards.

“Gold needs to be considered as the bullion markets could be extremely volatile as 2020 unfolds, but with strong economic indicators, gains for push,” said a top analyst.

The trend is expected to continue as the bullion market looks to the upcoming year with hopes of a stronger global economy and a possible rate cut from the US Federal Reserve.

Challenges put Ivory Coast’s rubber industry under pressure

A decade after rubber was bemoaned as a goldmine after Ivory Coast’s cocoa-deprised economy, plantation leaders are under pressure to address criticism that they are damaging the environment and destroying the country’s ability to feed itself.

-“Well-managed rubber production is an asset,” said Eugene Kommer, the president of the Association of Plantations of Natural Rubber (APRANOR), whose members argue that plantations sustain the soil and make food locally abundant.

The Trade Minister, Aminata Vall, said the rubber industry must remain sustainable for the environment and its producers.

The stakes are high as the country strives to diversify its economy and ensure food security. Ivory Coast is one of the countries in the world that rely heavily on rubber production.

Annual rubber production is up 4.5% from the previous year, according to all industry figures, but it remains uncertain whether it can maintain this rate.

With rubber production being a key component of the Ivory Coast’s economy, the country is under pressure to ensure sustainable production and protect the environment.

The government has implemented policies to promote sustainable rubber production and has pledged to encourage the use of rubber in various sectors.

The Ivory Coast has the potential to be a major player in the global rubber market, but it needs to address environmental concerns and ensure the long-term sustainability of its rubber industry.
**WORLD INDICES**

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**TOYO**

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**HONG KONG**

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**GCC INDICES**

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**Bloomberg**

China regulators are pushing to improve debt revamp process

Because China defaults have become an accepted norm in China, Beijing is now setting its sights on what appears to be the next step: corporate bondholders. China’s regulators are pushing to improve the debt restructuring process, currently a relatively opaque and uncoordinated system.

Senior officials from bodies including the central bank and securities regulator this week urged defaulters to be held financially and transparently, saying action is needed to reinforce investor confidence. They emphasized China is going higher, with corporate bond defaults in China rising to a fresh record of more than 150 in the two years to May this year.

What’s encouraging is better pricing of risk, the lack of a reliable solution to clean up after a default but also an increasing pressure on all parties, including borrowers, to provide financing to keep vital companies afloat.

“A large market like China’s will see more defaults every year. At a time like this, regulators may have reshuffled the need to price them adequately to the issue of handling defaults,” said Qian Shu, chief fixed income strategist at Societe General.

Guidelines jointly drafted by China’s central bank, economic planning agency and securities regulators will soon be released, the official Xinhua News Agency reported on August 10, quoted a deputy governor of the People’s Bank of China.

The new publication will be released by the People’s Bank of China, Qian said, adding “it’s a positive signal and the handling of defaults will soon select the future.”

From China’s mandate default to 2010, the country saw its Moody’s rating cut to junk status in 2011, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The rate dropped sharply to 26.6% for bonds that had defaulted before the end of 2016, based on a Brookings Institution analysis in October.

Since then, the country’s stronger borrowers—Chinese companies with a domestic credit rating of AA or below, the equivalent of the country’s weaker borrowers: Chinese companies with a domestic credit rating of AA or below, the equivalent of the country’s weaker borrowers—have been able to access private funds at much lower rates.

Opinion pieces include prioritizing compensation for individual investors, or offering debt-equity swaps, and are part of the country’s broader efforts to increase capital markets. The government has been pushing to improve debt restructuring since 2013, and some debtors are starting to negotiate with creditors privately instead of resorting to the problems publicly through the sharing house.

That makes it harder for creditors to track what’s happening, and for other creditors to ensure they’re being paid.

Due to the lack of guidance, creditors are “totally on their own” when exploring different ways to deal with debt defaults, said Zhao Chen, a partner at Shanghai’s Morgan Stanley.

“The new publication is welcome by investors but it’s still a long way to go towards normalizing the treatment of bond defaults,” said Zhao, adding “it’s just a starting point.”

It’s possible that some debtors are negotiating private settlements with creditors privately instead of resorting to the problems publicly through the sharing house.

That makes it harder for creditors to track what’s happening, and for creditors to ensure their debt is treated.

The current system—where bonds are traded in two stock exchanges and there are different rules for each market—was continuing to evolve, analysts said.

Information contained here is believed to be reliable and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. The accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. This publication is for providing information only and should not be construed as an offer or solicitation for a purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned. Gulf Times and Doha Bank do not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein or in any other publication. Any errors or omissions do not affect the accuracy of the information contained in this document.
turn tap off when brushing teeth

1. limit use of AC
2. choose eco friendly products
3. switch to low energy lights
4. use recycled bags
5. take short showers
6. plant trees & shrubs
7. recycle & reuse
8. limit car usage

Actions taken to protect the environment:
Serbia aims to double growth with economic plan funded by bonds

**Bank of Italy chief defends regulator’s role in Bari bank crisis**

**Top 10 US home sales totalled $1.1bn this year**
Risk of default haunts European companies going into 2020

AFP

Risk of default haunts European companies going into 2020

Bloomberg

C ase-studied Lebanon’s central bank governor yesterday, he said he would investigate reports of large transfers of money in an attempt to conserve dwindling liquidity. Lebanon’s banks have been struggling with deposits as a result of economic pressures, which could lead to a default. The comments were uncharacteristic of the government’s approach, which has been to maintain the currency’s value.