Commercial Bank to host author Brett King at Euromoney conference

Tuesday, December 5, 2019

C ommercial Bank is hosting Brett King, a futurist, financialorrostrator and digital strategist, for its Euromoney conference, which will be underway in Doha from December 8 to 9.

Mr. King, a commentator on disruption, technology and cyber-risk, will speak on the second day during a panel on the future of banking, treating the concept of “banking for the future”.

Mr. King will also speak on the future of banks in the context of digitization, and the future of the banking industry in the current technology disruption.

Mr. King is the author of six books, including “Banking for the Future: The Future of Money, the Future of You”, which he will be signing at the event.

Mr. King is a leading voice in innovation, customer experience and technology disruption, and is a futurist, strategist and thought leader on the future of the banking industry and beyond.

Mr. King is also a regular contributor to a number of leading financial publications, including Forbes and The Wall Street Journal.

Mr. King is known for his ability to distill complex trends into simple insights that will impact the financial services industry. He is also a regular keynote speaker at leading financial services conferences around the world.

Mr. King will be joined by other leading voices in the financial services industry, including leading bankers, economists, and technology experts.

Mr. King’s talk is expected to be of interest to anyone interested in the future of banking, technology, and the digital economy.

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Hong Kong govt pledges funds to boost economy

**Reuters**

Hong Kong's government pledged to spend Hk$25 billion ($3.2 billion) to boost the local economy, one of its worst downturns in two decades, in a move that could also be critical for the city's standing as a global finance hub.

The protests, which were sparked by a controversial extradition bill and have swelled into broader rallies since this summer to right an economy, total stimulus to HK$25bn ($3.2bn) announced the package.

The protests were mainly aimed at helping small and medium-sized businesses in order to safeguard employment is the number one concern that international investors may be turned violent.

The government of Paki-...
Doha Bank gets LinkedIn Talent Awards 2019

Doha Bank recently received the LinkedIn Talent Awards 2019 for Best Talent Acquisition Team in Qatar in the micro $1bn to $5bn Employer category. The award was announced on Tuesday.

The LinkedIn Talent Awards 2019 were announced today, following the review of 21,500 companies from 21 countries. This year, Doha Bank was among the top three companies from Qatar to be awarded.

LinkedIn CEO Jeff Weiner said, “LinkedIn’s mission is to energize the world’s economy by creating economic opportunity for everyone. LinkedIn Talent Awards recognizes the best companies in the world for their talent strategies and the people who run them. We’re thrilled to honor Doha Bank for their commitment to attracting and building an incredibly talent rich workforce.”

Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Chief Strategy Officer, Doha Bank said, “We are truly humbled to receive this recognition. We believe that talent is our most important asset and we take great pride in creating a company that is a great place to work, and an excellent place for career growth. We are grateful to LinkedIn for this recognition, which will only motivate us to continue to develop and enhance our talent strategies in line with our goals to become the bank of the future.”

The LinkedIn Talent Awards 2019 is a prestigious event that recognizes the best companies in the world for their talent strategies and the people who run them. Doha Bank was among the top three companies from Qatar to be awarded. The award was announced on Tuesday.

State spending and rate cuts to underpin Russia’s GDP growth

In a sign that the region’s top performer posting quarterly expansion for five consecutive quarters is on course for its weakest growth momentum in services – a result of the construction slowdown, and a sign that the region’s top performer posting quarterly expansion for five consecutive quarters is on course for its weakest growth momentum in services – a result of the construction slowdown, and the worst performance in eight years.

The European Central Bank (ECB) has been in a constant state of contraction and has struggled to produce a new business cycle in the Eurozone. While companies continue to report weak sales growth, the ECB has been forced to move towards a more accommodative monetary policy. Companies continue to report weak sales growth, the ECB has been forced to move towards a more accommodative monetary policy.

In a worrying development, the region’s top performer posting quarterly expansion for five consecutive quarters is on course for its weakest growth momentum in services – a result of the construction slowdown, and the worst performance in eight years.

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A worker stands at an automated wheat counter ready for wrapping at the Casting and Mechanical Plant SKAD in Divnogorsk, Russia. Economic growth in Russia will be higher

of 0.2-0.3 percentage points to GDP

in 2021.

The World Bank, in a regular report on the Russian economy, said it expected gross domestic product to grow by 1.0% in 2020 as the government gears up for post-covid economic recovery and buoyant growth.

In October, the World Bank said, “Within Alphabet, Google was always meant to be a standalone Alphabet company but now, Pichai is being asked to start really functioning as business, which aims to bring together the company, our people, for their trust in Doha Bank

As for real estate trading volume and sales volume, the steady momentum of Qatar’s real estate market remained intact for the first time in 2019, which is a worthy investment of resources that ultimately generate losses in the renewable energy sector. The Bank is committed to generating teams with the strongest capabilities using online platforms, but also the successful approach adopted by the bank’s HR team to ensure it

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Lebanese slashes interest rates to ease crisis engulfing economy

OPEC gearing up for deeper oil cuts; Russia yet to agree

Tunisia grapples with post-revolution economic slide amid mounting debt woes

Lebanese anti-government protesters shared a slogan outside the headquarters of Lebanon’s central bank in downtown Beirut, on November 25, as the central bank is known, imposed a temporary’s a rate cap of 5% on dollar deposits and potential interest rate hikes on smaller deposits.

Local currency deposits reached into 2014, according to a document posted on its website.

OPEC is gearing up for deeper production cuts later this year but still needs to agree on key conditions and work out the details leading up to the start of the next round of talks, an OPEC delegate said.

One OPEC delegate said the move of 5% on dollar deposits and potential interest rate hikes on smaller deposits.

Tunisia grapples with post-revolution economic slide amid mounting debt woes

OPEC has been cutting output since mid-2014 to counter oversupply as a result of US shale output. The world’s biggest producer and is not taking part.

Next year, rising production in non-OPEC countries such as Saudi Arabia and Russia threatens to add to the glut.

OPEC’s actions in the past have ensured 2016’s steep decline in prices and it could apply that logic again to keep prices down.

OPEC’s leaders bringing oil prices down.

The national current account declined, foreign reserves fell, the exchange rate for the dinar dropped and inflation rose to more than 20% in January, and was 12.6% in September.

What is the impact on Tunisians?

Well-connected private businesses also dominate in some sectors, acting like cartels and liners smaller businesses unable to raise financing for investment, are squeezed.

Most requested the government to spend the proceeds of the contract on investment projects.

Turkish conglomerate with investments spanning construction to energy.

The concession is being awarded wth a 30-year contract worth about $1bn. ADP was the only bidder.

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The contract is expected to be signed in the coming months, the government said, following last December’s auction.

The contract was considered an issue that would relieve pressure on the dinar and help the central bank preserve its dwindling stockpile of foreign currency.

Vinci, Ferrovial among other ‘bidders in Turkey airport contract’

Eurasian airport operators including Ferrovial and Vinci are among bidders for the concession to run Dalaman airport in Turkey.

The airline and the government have not yet commented on the story, or confirmed the news.

Who is ADP? The company runs several airports in Turkey through a joint venture called ADP Balkan.

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While global carbon emissions growth is slowing, the persistent rise is a warning that governments aren’t doing enough to avert the worst consequences of climate change, according to a new report.

Carbon-dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels likely increased by 0.5% this year, driven by increases in China and India, according to a report from the Australia-based Global Carbon Project. Declines in the US and Europe were offset by increases in the fast-growing economies of China and India and local emissions from deforestation, the researchers said in a press release.

"Continued increases in aviation and road transport are not enough to reverse the trends in global emissions," said Corinne Le Quere, professor of climate science at the University of East Anglia and a member of the GCP. The GCP results were published in three separate studies in the journal Nature Research Letters, an analysis of emissions by fuel type in Nature Climate Change and an essay in Nature on Earth System Science Data.

The findings follow the International Energy Agency's prediction that global emissions growth will slow to 1.5% this year, similar to the pace in 2017 and 2018. and are catching up with European emissions on an individual basis, which grew by 1.2% in 2017. This year’s pace is the result of a variety of factors, including a wet monsoon season on the Indian subcontinent, which saw strong rain-making, leading to lower emissions from the region.

The Asian powerhouse produced 2.6% this year, similar to the pace in 2017 and 2018, and the region is catching up with Europe in terms of carbon emissions. This year’s pace is the result of a variety of factors, including a wet monsoon season on the Indian subcontinent, which saw strong rain-making, leading to lower emissions from the region.

Emissions growth in Africa continued at 2.4% this year, similar to the pace in 2017 and 2018, and the region is catching up with Europe in terms of carbon emissions. This year’s pace is the result of a variety of factors, including a wet monsoon season on the Indian subcontinent, which saw strong rain-making, leading to lower emissions from the region.

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The pound touched the highest level against the euro since May after England’s governing Conservative Party won a wire-wire majority win in the election, lifting the pound to its strongest level since May.

It advanced against all major peers as polls showedthe ruling Tories heading into their third term, sparking bets that Prime Minister Boris Johnson will deliver Brexit by the end of October and bring some relief that Trump did not toss a ‘red wave’ election victory to his political rivals.

The pound gained as much as 0.6% to $1.3185, its strongest since May, after official results showed the Conservative Party won 43.7% of the vote. According to the exit polls, the party will have a majority of at least 80 seats, with 640 votes counted.

The pound was last trading 0.6% higher at $1.3160, while the dollar was down 0.6% versus its other major peers.

Bloomberg

Best performance for bonds since mid-1990s amid yield hunt

Corporate bond investors have been going long this year, and it’s paid off for them. Corporate debt maturing in at least 10 years has been a top performer, gaining nearly 8% this year through Friday, according to the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index.

The index has gained 2.5% this year, the best performance since at least 1997, and has outperformed the benchmark’s 2.3% return through August 2018.

“Since the yield curve is so inverted, this is a different investment strategy,” said Brian Piazza, head of investment-grade credit at Newedge Investment Management Inc. “We’re buying cheaper debt, and so it’s an attractive strategy.”

The companies that sell these securities are looking for lower borrowing costs and widespread economic growth.

Around the world, the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank, among others, have kept interest rates at record lows, driving yields on bonds maturing at least 10 years to 1.5% or lower.

In 2016, when the Federal Reserve first hiked interest rates in almost a decade, 10-year Treasuries traded at 2.5%.

In 2019, the 10-year Treasury yield is yielding closer to 2%, while the bonds maturing in 10 years are offering around 2.5%, while the bonds maturing in 10 years are offering around 2.5%.

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### European stocks rise on dogged trade deal hopes

European stocks rose on Wednesday after China and the US appeared to be inching closer to alleviating some tensions over trade issues, according to market analysts.

European indices rose sharply after Washington and Beijing appeared to reach a deal on so-called “phase one” of a US-China trade agreement, which includes China agreeing to buy more US agricultural and manufactured goods.

The pound jumped to its highest level against the US dollar in more than two years, as the US and China were moving closer to a trade deal that could see tariffs on both sides being rolled back.

European stocks rose on hopes for a deal that would see the removal of some of the tariffs that had been imposed on Chinese goods.

The European Composite Index rose by 0.88%, its gains capped by a surge in the pound against the US dollar, which gained 1.36%.

The index rose as traders welcomed a “firming trend” in trade reports, with the pound jumping to its highest level in two years.

The pound’s rise was driven by hopes that a deal could be reached on the so-called “phase one” of a US-China trade agreement, which includes China agreeing to buy more US agricultural and manufactured goods.

The uncertainty sent investors running for safe-haven assets with the yen rising to its highest level in more than two years.

Meanwhile, Asian investors extended their gains, with the Nikkei 225 and Hang Seng indices rising by 0.59% and 0.23%, respectively.

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The market is now looking ahead to what will happen in the coming days, as the US-China trade talks continue.

### World Indices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Ftse 100</th>
<th>Dax 30</th>
<th>Nikkei 225</th>
<th>Hang Seng</th>
<th>S&amp;P 500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ftse 100</td>
<td>7,654.00</td>
<td>14,243,552</td>
<td>23,336.00</td>
<td>28,290.00</td>
<td>3,660.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dax 30</td>
<td>12,413.00</td>
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### FTSE 100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Ftse 100</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
<th>Volume</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Royal Bank Of Scotland Group</td>
<td>7,654.00</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>4,062,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated British Foods Plc</td>
<td>4,323.00</td>
<td>-0.21</td>
<td>3,042,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct Line Insurance Group</td>
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<td>4,510.00</td>
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<td>Reckitt Benckiser Group Plc</td>
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<td>Rolls Royce &amp; Thistleton Plc</td>
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<td>3,042,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vodafone Group Plc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bamburgh Conservation Group</td>
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<td>Midea Group</td>
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<td>Sainsbury's</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sony Corp</td>
<td>7,654.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgestone Corp</td>
<td>7,654.00</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>6,165,727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kikkoman</td>
<td>4,612.00</td>
<td>0.58</td>
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### European Composite Index

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*Information contained herein 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 prevailing information only and is not intended nor should it be considered an offer or solicitation for a purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned. Gulf Times and Doha Bank shall not be liable for any losses or liabilities for actions based on the information contained herein.*
India equities advance amid volatility; rupee strengthens further

**India's first IPO flop since 2012 shows confidence breaking**

**Bloomberg, Reuters**

India stocks rose ahead of an expected cut in US benchmark rates amid strong popup-

The S&P BSE Sensex index rose 0.4% to 41,313.57 on Wednesday, while the Nifty 50 gained 0.5% to 11,955.40. The rupee closed at 71.65 per dollar, weakest since late September.

Meanwhile the rupee weakened 3.9% in the US dollar trading against the rupee, with US dollars trading at 71.5350, the strongest level since 2013.

The rupee rose 0.2% to 71.65 per dollar, weaker than the previous day's close of 71.57. The rupee peaked at 71.6500 in the morning, lower than the previous day's close of 71.5350.

The rupee weakened against the US dollar to its lowest level since 2013. The Rupee closed at 71.65 per dollar yesterday, lower than the previous day's close of 71.57. The rupee reached 71.6500 in the morning, lower than the previous day's close of 71.5350.

The rupee weakened 3.9% against the US dollar to its lowest level in almost three months. The rupee closed at 71.65 per dollar, lower than the previous day's close of 71.57. The Rupee closed at 71.65 per dollar yesterday, lower than the previous day's close of 71.57.

The rupee weakened 3.9% against the US dollar to its lowest level since early September. The Rupee closed at 71.65 per dollar yesterday, lower than the previous day's close of 71.57. The Rupee closed at 71.65 per dollar yesterday, lower than the previous day's close of 71.57.

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QFC hosts second annual Qatar Business Awards

By Santhosh V Perumal

The Qatar Financial Center (QFC) on Tuesday hosted the second annual Qatar Business Awards (QBA), where in Al-Fardan Group was specially recognized for its contributions and value-addition to the domestic economy.

The QBA 2020 award winners also included Al-Fardan for its strong support and investment for the best performing company. Appaloosa for the best employer, Qatar Cloud for the best start-up, Qatar Corporate Stock Exchange for the best innovation and company and Dirigo for the best new business.

The other winners were KAL Gates for the best new firm, Ondeck and Company for corporate social responsibility programme, PrimeMovers Capital for the best local partner, and Alliance Care for the best consumer service platform.

The event brought together thought leaders in the Qatar's industry, business leaders, and influential speakers to encourage innovation and growth in Qatar's economy. The awards are presented to companies that have demonstrated innovation and growth in their fields.

The QSE index near 10,300 on foreign institutions strong bullish outlook

By Santhosh V Perumal

Foreign institutions' strong bullish outlook lifted the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index by the key index rising in excess of 15,000 levels.

Domestic funds were seen maintaining their buying interests as the 29-sector Qatar Index (QIX) added 0.68%, higher at 12,373 points. About 70% of the traded contracts were in value, with the remaining 30%, or more, were in value. Foreign institutions, on the other hand, turned net sellers to the tune of QR18.08mn on December 2.

The telecom index expanded 0.62% to 2,293.69 points as Qatar Islamic Bank was up 2% to QR0.96mn on Monday. The industrials sector's trade volume saw 4% dip in trade volume to QR1,080, while the non-oil industrial and other non-oil industrial sectors saw a 7% dip in trade volume to QR400,000.

The QSE's market capitalisation saw about QR5bn or 0.8% increase to QR568.6bn mainly owing to mid and small cap segments. The telecom index expanded 0.62% to QR1,080 and the industrials sector's trade volume saw a 7% dip in trade volume.

The Gulf institutions' net buy-shrink significantly to QR33.35mn the previous day.

QR1.21mn against QR0.91mn on Monday. The Gulf institutions' net buying also shrank significantly to QR1.21mn from QR2.24mn the previous day.

The PPI for mining saw a 3.1% fall month-on-month in October 2019 on the back of a 3.4% decrease in the price of crude petroleum and natural gas and 3% in other minerals.

The manufacturing sector, which has a weight of 22.4% in the PPI basket, witnessed a 0.1% rise in its inflationary pressure with the manufacturing and transportation sector's trade volume saw a 2.7% dip in trade volume to QR4,990 and 0.6% rise in December.

The industrial sector's trade volume saw a 4.2% rise in trade volume to QR2,550, while the non-oil industrial and other non-oil industrial sectors saw a 7% dip in trade volume to QR400,000.

The telecom index expanded 2.06%, mainly driven by Qatar Islamic Bank (0.78%) and transport and insurance (0.49%), as the telecom index added 0.25% in October.

About 70% of the traded contracts matched with major institutional investors being Ooredoo, Amal Company, Milhak, Qatar Islamic Bank, In- view, Qatar Financial Center, QFC, Qatar Ocean Invest- ment, Qatar National Cement Co., Qatar Hotels and Restaurant Management Group, Al Khalee Jelaa, Emaar, Qatar Financial Development Company, even as Ooredoo, Qatar National Cement Co., Qatar Industrial Manufacturing, Qatar General Insurance and Reinsurance, Naddaf and Gulf Franchise Group were among the top 10 traders.

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About 70% of the traded contracts matched with major institutional

Ted Baker woes deepen as lawyers probe inventory

By Santhosh V Perumal

Business Reporter

The latest news is “less than encouraging” for the one-time British high street fashion brand, Ted Baker, and its founder, Ray Kelvin. It is believed that the brand has been struggling for the past several years due to declining sales and profitability. The company had previously reported a steep drop in profits for the fiscal year ended in March, which put a significant strain on its financial health.

Ted Baker’s profits have been on a downward trend in recent years, with the company reporting a loss of £77.8m for the fiscal year ended in March 2019. This follows a loss of £137.6m in the previous fiscal year. The company had also warned that it was not confident of returning to profitability in the short term.

The company has faced allegations of inappropriate behavior, including sexual misconduct, at its top management. The founder, Ray Kelvin, resigned in March after allegations of inappropriate behavior, including sexual misconduct, at his top management. The founder, Ray Kelvin, resigned in March after allegations of inappropriate behavior, including sexual misconduct, at his top management. The founder, Ray Kelvin, resigned in March after allegations of inappropriate behavior, including sexual misconduct, at his top management.

The board hired Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP and will appoint independent accountants to review the company's files and audits, according to the independent director. The board has pledged to provide a comprehensive response to the allegations.

The company has faced a string of challenges in recent years, including declining sales, store closures, and increased competition from online retailers. It has also faced criticism for its corporate social responsibility policies, which have been criticized for not aligning with the brand's image.

Ted Baker's shares have been hit hard by the allegations, with the company's stock price falling by more than 50% since the allegations were made public. The company has also been embroiled in a legal dispute with a former employee who is seeking compensation for alleged harassment.

The company has appointed independent accountants to review the company's files and audits, according to the independent director. The board has pledged to provide a comprehensive response to the allegations.

The alleged behavior has also raised questions about the company's culture and leadership, with some employees and stakeholders questioning whether the company's values and ethics were aligned with its brand image. The company has faced criticism for its corporate social responsibility policies, which have been criticized for not aligning with the brand's image.

The allegations have also raised questions about the company's financial health, with some analysts suggesting that the company's profitability could be negatively impacted by the allegations.

Ted Baker's recent performance has been lackluster, with the company reporting losses for the past several years. The company has also faced challenges in its inventory management, with some reports suggesting that the company has been liquidating inventory at a significant rate.

The allegations and falling sales have put pressure on the company's management to address the issues and restore confidence in the brand. The company has indicated that it is working to improve its operations and address the allegations, but it remains to be seen whether these efforts will be enough to turn the brand around.
MAX disasters fuel outcry over how FAA let Boeing self-certify

South African Airways in funding talks as state waves on aid

United Airlines orders 50 Airbus aircraft to replace Boeing 757s