The law on non-Qatari capital to facilitate foreign investors’ market access: MoCI

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has highlighted the main provisions of the Law No. 1 of 2019 regulating the investment of non-Qatari capital in economic activity issued by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

The law, MoCI said, aims at promoting economic development, attracting foreign investment in all economic and commercial activities, attracting 100% of foreign capital inflows, accomplishing economic diversification in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, facilitating foreign investors’ access to the market and bolstering the country’s confidence and investment security index.

Non-Qatari capital investment regulations

The law stipulates that non-Qatari companies tasked with the implementation of business contracts in Qatar must comply with the following regulations.

- The execution of the contract shall be undertaken through the company’s branch in the country and the contract shall be ratified with a State or government agency, public institutions or companies in which the State is a shareholder.
- A non-Qatari company shall also have a commercial record and shall obtain a commercial licence for its branch, after procurement and before the signing of the contract.
- Non-Qatari companies shall also fulfill all the requirements of government agencies, renew the contract and licence throughout the duration of the contract’s implementation and obtain the licence to undertake permitted activities in line with the provisions of applicable laws in the state.

Non-Qatari investors are also prohibited from investing in commercial agencies and may be prohibited from investing in any other sector as decided by the Council of Ministers.

Non-Qatari capital investment is prohibited

The law identifies a non-Qatari investor as a person who invests his money in any of the projects authorized for direct investment in accordance with the provisions of the law. Non-Qatari capital, on the other hand, is defined as money, in-kind investments, or rights held by non-Qatari investors.

The law also outlines regulations governing the investment of non-Qatari capital, which is permitted in all sectors of the economy across the country. Investments may be undertaken after submitting a request to the competent department, which processes the application within 15 days.

A non-Qatari investor, whose application is rejected, may appeal to the minister within 15 days and the appeal shall be considered within 30 days.

Non-Qatari investors are prohibited from investing in the banking industry and insurance companies, except for companies excluded based on a decision of the Council of Ministers.

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The law allows non-Qatari investors to own a percentage not exceeding 49% of the share capital of listed companies, provided that the Ministry approves the proposed percentage. A non-Qatari investor may also hold a higher percentage after the approval of the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of the Minister.

The law, MoCI said, aims at promoting economic development of Qatar, attracting foreign investment in all economic and commercial activities.
Norway’s Conservative-led government
The warnings from the former Finance
less vulnerable to Brent crude in the $50s
Pedersen said.
change aren’t cost-free.”
that this debate and these proposals for
represents companies including Equinor
situation arises,” Schjott-Pedersen, who
“I’m raising a flag to say that these
That means that investment
that is looking shaky, Karl Eirik Schjott-
spectrum. That means that investment
has always been a stable framework
regulated, one of its main selling points
While Norway’s oil industry is tightly
nation’s biggest industry. Explorers and
ings yet on the political risk facing the
years, the Norwegian Oil and Gas Asso-
position ahead.
Top oil lobbyist
Putin since the 2014 annexation of Crimea from
the Sea of Azov. Merkel, who has sparred with
fraught relationship with Russian President
– being constructed by Russia’s Gazprom PJSC
bypasses key partners such as Ukraine. Trump
bolsters Europe’s reliance on Russian energy and
– a very important tool because of the US-
itive, according to senior law-
makers. The shift could translate into pressure
on Merkel’s government to back down on the
temporary pipeline and possibly delay its
implentation.
Social Democratic lawmaker hills Schmid,
who is an energy sector commentator and a
-opponents of the Nord Stream 2 project,
said, “The project is under attack from Germany’s
withdrawal from the Baltic Sea gas pipeline delivery.
Germany worries on Russian
gas pipeline as tensions mount

Support to German Chancellor Angela
Merkel’s coalition is a major new Russian
pipeline, which would take Russian gas
away from the international market. At
the time of writing, almost half its imports came from
the Middle East, and in 2003, Iran’s share of imports peaked
at around 18%. In recent years, the
company’s spokesman had
earlier said that it was considering
whether it could buy supplies this month.
In September, the company
said it could buy supplies this month.
Russian gas. He also questioned the economic
prospects that Merkel’s diplomacy can scale back
the Gulf nation – represented a U-turn
without running foul of sanctions on
fourth-largest producer.
Sales of Iranian crude oil slowed in
early 2018.

The nation’s refiners could restart
importation of Iranian supplies as early as
the month. Chinese companies are likely
to resume buying oil from Iran in January
as US sanctions on the country’s oil sector
went into effect in November.
The US administration has indicated that
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up to 60,000 bpd of Iranian oil each month until May
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**Islamic finance volume seen at $2.5tn this year; takaful stays miniscule**

*By Aneeq Muniragha*

The global volume of Islamic finance will reach about $2.5tn this year, only a small growth from the $2.44tn it reached in 2017 and after last year’s contraction to $2.36tn. Islamic finance figures are not available for 2018.

The global Islamic banking and finance industry is presently expected to continue growing on price, international trade and sovereign businesses, as well as political situations in the Arab region.

The subdued situation in the Gulf will likely persist, while growth in other Islamic markets may be mainly supported by new entrants from Europe, East and West Africa, as well as Central Asia, regions which are currently introducing regulatory frameworks.

At the same time, Islamic banking and finance industry, while still dominated by the Gulf and Southeast Asia, is now spreading its wings in countries like China, India, Indonesia and South Africa. As Central Asia, regions which are currently introducing regulatory frameworks, may be mainly supported by new entrants from Europe, East and West Africa, as well as Central Asia, regions which are currently introducing regulatory frameworks, may be mainly supported by new entrants from Europe, East and West Africa, as well as Central Asia, regions which are currently introducing regulatory frameworks.

In the Gulf, the weak oil price and geopolitical uncertainties are weighing heavily. The slowdown in the Arab region is now being reflected in the number of new Islamic finance deals, which have dropped sharply.

The main obstacle in the Gulf is the lack of new business, while growth in other Islamic markets may be mainly supported by new entrants from Europe, East and West Africa, as well as Central Asia, regions which are currently introducing regulatory frameworks.

The subdued situation in the Gulf will likely persist, while growth in other Islamic markets may be mainly supported by new entrants from Europe, East and West Africa, as well as Central Asia, regions which are currently introducing regulatory frameworks.

While the slowdown is still ongoing, there are signs of a recovery in some segments. For example, the volume in Australia has been growing, with new Islamic banks entering the market.

**Takaful stays miniscule**

Takaful, a form of Islamic insurance, remains a small segment of the Islamic finance industry, with the largest markets in Indonesia, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. The main challenge for the takaful sector is to develop new products that are attractive to customers and to improve the quality of the services offered.

The trend of takaful growth is likely to continue in the coming years, with an expected increase in the number of new players and the introduction of new products and services. However, the sector still faces a number of challenges, such as regulatory uncertainties, the lack of standardized products and the need for more awareness among potential customers.

**Initiatives to increase the low take-up of takaful are depend-**

In order to increase the take-up of takaful, several initiatives have been launched, including the establishment of takaful associations, the development of new products, and the promotion of takaful in the media.

**Islamic sovereignty Sukuk**

Indonesia is expected to issue another $5bn sovereign Sukuk in the near future. The Sukuk would be used to fund infrastructure projects, such as road and railway developments.

**Philippines raises $1.5bn via global bonds amid sukuk plans**

The Philippines has raised $1.5bn via a global bond offering, according to a sources, amid plans to issue a sukuk. The bonds will be used to fund infrastructure projects, including roads and bridges.

**Getting Cheaper**

**Philippines on track to achieve $1trn in U.S. Treasuries**

The Philippines is on track to achieve $1tn in U.S. Treasuries, according to the country’s sovereign wealth fund. The fund said it had already made payments of about $60bn to the U.S. government, with a further $40bn due in 2024. The fund has a target of $1.5tn in U.S. Treasuries by 2030.

**Deteriorating**

The Philippines has seen a significant deterioration in its sovereign credit rating, with Fitch downgrading the country’s outlook to negative. The downgrading was prompted by concerns about the government’s fiscal position, with a projected budget deficit of 2.5% of GDP for the year.

**Glossary**

*Glossary of terms related to Islamic finance:*

- **Sukuk:** Islamic bonds, similar to conventional bonds, but with a Shariah-compliant structure.
- **Takaful:** Islamic insurance, based on a cooperative model. Customers contribute to a pool of funds, and in the event of a claim, the pool is used to compensate the policyholder.
- **Ijarah:** Islamic leasing, where a lessee borrows an asset for a specific period and pays a rental fee, often to own the asset at the end of the lease.
- **Murabaha:** Islamic installment sale, where a buyer borrows money from a bank to purchase an asset, and pays it off in regular installments.
- **Istisna:** Islamic construction financing, where a buyer borrows money from a bank to fund the construction of an asset, and pays it off once the asset is completed.
- **Islamic finance:** A financial system that is compliant with Islamic law, prohibition of interest (Riba) and other practices that are deemed un-Islamic.
US President Donald Trump flew into Beijing as China's HNA group announced it was putting some of its assets for sale. Trump arrived in Beijing to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, amid speculation of a diplomatic breakthrough.

The US trade talks are scheduled to resume Wednesday. The talks are expected to focus on identifying common objectives to guide negotiations, the US treasury department said.

In its bid to resolve the trade war with China, the Trump administration is considering a raft of measures that could force Beijing to roll back its interventionist economic policies. The US has long complained that China devalues its currency and uses high levels of state support to gain an unfair advantage in global trade.

The two sides have already agreed to a deal in principle that would see China increase its purchases of US agricultural products and reduce its surplus with the US on trade.

However, some US officials are now pushing for more aggressive action to pressure China to change its economic policies. The US is also considering other measures, such as imposing new tariffs on imported goods.

The US and China are also预期ing to hold talks on a range of other issues, including technology transfer and intellectual property rights.

The talks are scheduled to focus on identifying common objectives to guide negotiations. The US is expected to push for changes that would allow it to hold China accountable for its commitments.

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Pakistan smartphone exports seen down up to 15% in H1

China smartphone exports seen down up to 15% in H1

Refiners

Nissan's Ghosn claims innocence in first appearance since Nov arrest

Reputations

But Ghosn used the opportunity to deny

The agriculture growth was already

The government of Pakistan is aiming at achieving 5.8% GDP growth this

The agriculture growth was already

Stablephone shipments in China fell by

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The agriculture growth was already
A man shows his smart phone to a reporter in a market in China. The Chinese government has increased tariffs on US goods worth billions of dollars, citing fears they could see further up.

Most Asian markets up with eyes on China-US trade talks

By Clyde Russell

The dollar's downward shift all boats, emboldens bear

The dollar's three-week incline is providing a boost for assets in declining emerging-market currencies as the prospect of a pause in Federal Reserve policy normalisation无人驾驶的托福考试是被推荐的健康对冲工具。After the latest dump in the US currency in advance to a surprise decision by the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates unchanged, US dollar assets are a better bet as they are expected to strengthen.

Market traders are now betting that the US dollar is likely to weaken against its major counterparts. Dollar weakness could be a temporary phenomenon as the US dollar is a stronger currency than its major counterparts.

Dollar weakness is seen as a boon for emerging-market currencies, which are expected to see a recovery in their value. However, some analysts warn that the dollar's decline could be a temporary phenomenon as it is likely to recover in the long term.

In contrast, Kotak Mahindra Bank lost 1.41% and Bajaj Finance fell 1.9% on Sensex were Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel. The Sensex settled 130.77 points or 0.36% higher at 38,752.72. The BSE Sensex settled 130.77 points or 0.36% higher at 38,752.72.

Commodity markets back Beijing's stimulus, await trade talks

By Clyde Russell

Commodity markets appear to have bounced back following news of China's interest rate cut and trade talks between Beijing and Washington. Crude oil prices were up after news of a potential deal between China and the US.

The dollar's downward shift is helping to buoy emerging-market currencies, but some analysts warn that it could be a temporary phenomenon as the US dollar is likely to recover in the long term.

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The US Federal Reserve hiking in Washington DC, the US and China in theummy talks, small steps in progress are likely to be taken, New York is seen as US dollar finally closing above $7.40 vs the yen in the first session of the week, the Nikkei 225 closed at 29,328.88, up 388.82 points or 1.34%, its highest level since November 1989.

Stock markets rose on trade talks, Fed rates optimism

Tech markets rose yesterday as traders welcomed signs of a truce in US-China trade tensions, sending optimism over Washington’s trade talks with Beijing.

Across Europe, London’s FTSE 100 was off 0.4%, but up 0.1% on-Joy 1, while Paris’ CAC 40 surged 1.02%.

European equities closed mildly higher, the dollar higher, while Wall Street posted modest gains in the late New York morning, having also come off the day’s best levels seen shortly after the opening.

This followed two days of gains as US President Donald Trump flew to China in December.

The US officials held a second day of talks with Chinese counterparts in Beijing yesterday, the first time the two sides have met face-to-face since President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping agreed to a tariff truce during a surprise meeting on December 1.

Jinping agreed to a tariff truce during a surprise meeting on December 1.

The latest positive signals from the Trump administration of prospects of reaching a broad agreement and the US dollar’s advance on Fed rate hike expectations have lent fresh support.

The South Korean behemoth cited “steadily Ambidextrous in the smartphone business”, promising new models and higher prices to help offset costs.

Stock markets rose on the US-China trade talks, Fed rates optimism.

The dollar rebounded against the euro and yen, but US stocks were flat.

After a terrible end to 2018 which saw global equities plummet, markets are finally seeing the colour green returning to their screens,” said FXTM.

FXTM.

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Fed rates optimism.
German growth worries mount as industrial output plunges

Industrial production down 1.5% in Nov; how much worse than expected is the 2.5% data points to designs for growth fourth quarter

German industrial output nosedived 1.5% in November, with a key manufacturing gauge falling into a lower gear due to mounting risks from abroad.

Truck orders due in US President Donald Trump’s America First” trade policy are weighing on business, while pending orders in emerging markets are putting the brakes on a more-energetic recovery in Europe’s economic powerhouse.

These external shocks and risks are confirmed by a robust domestic economy and strong household spending, reinforcing the risk that Germany will fall into a recession if the Eurozone’s largest economy feels the financial climate.

The output gauge for October was revised down to a fall of 0.8% from a previously reported drop of 1.6%.

“November’s decline in German industrial production adds to the evidence that the eurozone’s largest economy grew at a snail’s pace in the fourth quarter,” said...
Hyundai shows off walking car project

Seoul

South Korean car maker Hyundai on Monday gave a look at work it’s dev- eloping on a vehicle with robotic legs that could walk alongside trucks, following the footsteps of Tesla Inc and SoftBank Group.

Hyundai showed off its Elevate project, a concept car designed to walk and ride on two legs, at an event in Silicon Valley.

"When a car designed with robotics would saw two legs," said Hyun-dae "David" Kim, president of Hyundai’s Corporate Strategic Planning Office.

Hyundai has been working on the walking car since last year. The car can climb over 0.5-meter-high steps and overcome obstacles of the same height.

"We need to find ways to avoid those obstacles sometimes," Hyundai said.

An academic-awardee Elevate of the same size with its model shown at the press event is 1.8 meters long and can roll on all of the roadways in Japan.

Also at the conference, Amnon Bar-Lev, chief executive of Aff ectiva, announced that the new company called Aff ectiva.

"Nuance’s connected car platform mixes with AI technology for “in-vehicle scene understanding,” said Mike Ramsey, Gartner’s vice-president.

"The reason (the camera) is going to sweep across the road is not because it can move from one lane to another, but because it can help you that compares that with anything by looking at the road." said John Hartman, former CEO of Aff ectiva, on AI chip.

"Intel working with Facebook on AI chip

Intel Corp said on Monday it is working with Facebook Inc to create a new processor chip aimed at driving autonomous vehicles.

The new chip will be with Google's self-driving car

The future of the technology rests in design- ing what a vehicle can accomplish.

The secret is power and the amount of data that can be processed in a vehicle.

"The walking car project moves into the next phase," Kim said at the conference.

"Hyundai has 20 years of experience in this area," said Kim.

"The technology is not ready yet, but we will be ready in the next 10 years," he said.

"We plan to test the walking car project in 2020, and we are working with partners to bring it to market," Kim said.

"We are working with the university and other partners to bring it to market."
Qatar, Kuwait explore ways to enhance co-operation on commercial, industrial levels

By Santhosh V Perumal

The Q121bn Qatari infrastructure development budget for infrastructure projects, in addition to the country’s efforts to enhance the partnership between Qatari and Kuwaiti companies, has attracted the attention of the local media. The expectations are high regarding how these investments and co-operation will be translated into projects that serve in the best interest of all parties. Before 2018, there was no apparent evidence that the QTD’s focus could extend to infrastructure investments. However, it is possible the QTD’s focus could extend to infrastructure investments, as indicated by the current focus on the construction sector.

“The current focus appears to be on the question of infrastructure investments, and we expect this to continue in the coming years,” said a Kuwaiti businessman. “The QTD is known for its focus on investments that contribute to the economic development of the country, and we believe that infrastructure investments will play a significant role in achieving this goal.”

Law on non-Qatari capital to facilitate foreign investors’ market access: MoCI

By Santhosh V Perumal

In the finance sector, the Q121bn budget aims to boost Qatar’s economic growth and strengthen its position as a regional hub. The QTD is committed to ensuring that all foreign investors have equal access to the market, and we believe that this commitment will continue in the coming years.”

Qatar Inc should review their historic WHT filing positions, and support for their historic WHT filing positions, and review their current practices to ensure they comply with WHT requirements, especially in the context of the current focus on infrastructure investments. The current focus appears to be on the question of whether the appropriate WHT should be 5% or 7%. Moreover, it is possible that the QTD’s focus could extend to WHT compliance matters in the future. “It is hoped that the QTD will also provide a significant amount of additional support to non-Qatari investors, and that the QTD will continue to ensure that all foreign investors have equal access to the market.”

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