The increase in Commercial Bank’s net profit in 2018 was driven by an increase in net interest income, and a decrease in total expenses.

The board also recommended a cash dividend of QR36.57 per share (QR10 nominal value or QR1.5 per share), subject to approval at the annual General Assembly on March 20.

The board also recommended to the annual and extraordinary General Assembly on December 16, 2018, that the company’s board has recommended to the annual and extraordinary General Assembly on December 16, 2018, that the company’s board has recommended a cash dividend of QR1.5 per share (pay-out ratio of 15%).

The non-performing loan (NPL) ratio decreased to 5.6% in December 2018 compared to 8.1% in 2017.

The loan coverage ratio dropped to 6.1% from 7.8% in December 2018 compared to 8.1% in 2017.

The loan balance stood declined by 2.4% as of December 31, 2018, with most of the QD1.4bn remaining on the books. This was mainly due to lower loans and advances.

Commercial Bank Group’s loans and advances to customers fell by 6.1% to QR1.4bn in December 2018 compared with QR1.5bn in 2017.

This was mainly due to the disrepayable of deposits and the revaluation in govern-ment bonds, and as a result, the bank’s customer deposits fell by 6.1% to QR7.8bn in December 2018, compared with QR8.2bn in 2017.

The share price to be QR1 to comply with the Qatar Financial Market Authority’s (QFMA) resolution is altered in the Qatar Financial Centre, and the share price to be QR1 to comply with the Qatar Financial Market Authority’s (QFMA) resolution is altered in the Qatar Financial Centre.
Gulf Bank shareholder aims to build $880mn stake in lender

By Southbank P Fevrieur
Business Reporter

Gulf Bank's second-largest shareholder agreed on Monday to sell its stake to a local entity in an effort to build a holding valued at about $880mn. Alghanim Trading Co made arrangements with related parties to acquire a 5.2% stake in Gulf Bank for $20.05 million, or about 3.4% of the lender's total capital.
US junk bond performance in January

Strong junk-high yield bonds in January were more mixed than a usual wave of spreads. For the first time in more than a decade, the US central bank’s interest-rate hiking policy, confirmed in last week’s policy statement, markets have been bracing for a fourth rate hike this year, after the Federal Reserve described inflation as having “risen above 2%” in its December meeting. The Fed’s going to raise rates and that’s the way it’s going to do it, Fed chairwoman Janet Yellen said at the time. Fed’s going to raise rates and that’s the way it’s going to do it, Fed chairwoman Janet Yellen said at the time. But if the central bank decides to curtail its rate-hiking policy, it could be a game-changer for the US economy, which has been growing at a pace that is about 0.5% above its potential. The central bank’s rate-hiking policy has led fund investors to put the most money in junk bonds, according to Lipper. The US junk bond market is the largest in the world, with around $3.5 trillion in assets under management, according to ICE BofAML index data. The US junk bond market has led fund investors to put the most money in junk bonds, according to Lipper. The US junk bond market is the largest in the world, with around $3.5 trillion in assets under management, according to ICE BofAML index data.

Russia economic growth rate accelerates in 2018

Russia’s economic growth rate accelerated in 2018, as the country’s economy only returned to growth in 2017 after two years of recession. The International Monetary Fund’s forecast for Russia’s growth in 2018 was downgraded to 1.7% from 2.1% predicted 2.1% growth before revising its forecast for 2017, according to state statistics published yesterday. The country’s economy only returned to growth in 2017 after two years of recession. The International Monetary Fund’s forecast for Russia’s growth in 2018 was downgraded to 1.7% from 2.1% predicted 2.1% growth before revising its forecast for 2017, according to state statistics published yesterday.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to the US and the IMF’s announcement of plans to gradually cut production by 1.5 million barrels per day in November and December contributed to the increase in Russia’s oil production last year, growing more quickly than the government and the IMF had predicted, according to state statistics published yesterday. The country’s economy only returned to growth in 2017 after two years of recession. The International Monetary Fund’s forecast for Russia’s growth in 2018 was downgraded to 1.7% from 2.1% predicted 2.1% growth before revising its forecast for 2017, according to state statistics published yesterday.

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According to Energy Ministry data, Russia has fully exported its oil and has cut production by 1.5 million barrels per day in November and December. The country’s economy only returned to growth in 2017 after two years of recession. The International Monetary Fund’s forecast for Russia’s growth in 2018 was downgraded to 1.7% from 2.1% predicted 2.1% growth before revising its forecast for 2017, according to state statistics published yesterday.

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The world’s biggest economy added 207,000 jobs last month, pushing the jobless rate to 4.5%, the lowest since early 2001. Economists had predicted 162,000. The unemployment rate is now below the 5% level that is generally considered a threshold for inflation. The Fed is expected to raise rates in June, and some are betting on a second hike after the July meeting. But the labor force participation rate fell to 62.7%, the lowest since 1977, which suggests that the economy is still struggling to grow.

The recent rally “has more momentum than it has had in a long time,” said Sushil Hinduja, a professor at the University of Massachusetts. “The market is doing what it’s supposed to do, which is to rise in the face of uncertainty, says BNP Paribas CIO Richard Ramsey. “There’s a lot of visibility on the market, and it’s very early to say we’re going to hit a wall.”

In the past, investors have often looked to the Fed for guidance on what to do with their money. But this time, they’re looking to the Fed for guidance on how to invest.

The Fed has been raising rates since last December, and it’s expected to keep doing so at least until the end of the year. But some analysts believe that the Fed will start cutting rates by the end of next year, which could send the market tumbling. Others believe that the Fed will continue to raise rates, which could send the market soaring. Either way, investors are bracing for a long ride. And for now, they’re content to ride the bull market and enjoy the ride.
### Qatar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Li Price</th>
<th>% Chg</th>
<th>Volume</th>
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Europe markets show mixed trend on recovering pound

London’s benchmark FTSE 100 index, featuring large multinational groups scoring in dollars and euros, slipped back from earlier highs volatility in the market, and it closed up 0.2% to 7,034.13 points yesterday. The FTSE 100 closed up 0.2% to 7,034.13 points yesterday.

Uncertainty about Brexit has been described as a “headache” for many companies, but the British pound has recovered strongly in the past few weeks. The FTSE 100 closed up 0.2% to 7,034.13 points yesterday.

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Britain’s currency has dropped following the pound’s recent losses, but it’s still a strong contender for the title of world’s most valuable currency. The FTSE 100 closed up 0.2% to 7,034.13 points yesterday.

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China LNG imports in Jan rise to another record amid high stocks

China's manufacturing sector cools in Jan: Survey

Japan insures to target China M&A in new phase after $50bn overseas push

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Pakistan food tax hike shrinks to $927mn

Intermediate

Pakistan's food tax hike shrunk to $927m from $2,500m in the current fiscal year compared to a shortfall of $2,000m from the previous year.

The tax hike was budgeted to help curtail inflation that was running at 17% in November. At the time, the government had announced it would hike the food tax to $2,500m.

The food tax accounts for 13% of the country's现行的财政预算. It is imposed on various food items, including rice, wheat, and pulses, to help reduce the cost of living.

The government has been under pressure to address the high inflation rate, which has been driven by factors such as currency depreciation, increased fuel prices, and supply chain disruptions.

The food tax hike was seen as a necessary step to control inflation, but it has raised concerns among consumers and businesses. Some argue that the tax increase will add to the burden on households already facing high living costs.

The government has denied reports that the tax hike would be reversed soon. Instead, it has promised to focus on other measures to control inflation, such as increasing food production and improving supply chains.

The food tax hike is part of the government's efforts to control inflation and stabilize the economy. However, the success of these measures will depend on how effectively the government can address the underlying issues that contribute to inflation.
Britain watchdog tightens norms for asset managers

Second package of “value for money” insurance, asset managers to assess consumer language for customers

Ultimate Software to go private in $1bn cash deal

Siemens-Alstom’s expected EU veto unleashes political backlash

Singapore stocks edge lower on signs of possible recovery

Wirecard says no evidence of criminal misconduct found after FTR reports

Business

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) published a set of new rules for asset managers, saying its review of the market found “weak price competition” on value assessments, “said Andrew Cooper, the FCA’s executive director for strategy and competition.

“asset managers must clearly spell out how their value assessments are calculated based on the scheme’s products best suited to their needs,” said IA director for strategy and competition. Cooper noted that “today’s remedies build on those yesterday. The terms represent a step forward, sold on a subscription basis per

Ultimate Software Group said it agreed to be acquired by an investor group led by Hellman & Friedman for $1.27 billion in an all-cash deal. Ultimate Software, which develops human-resource management software, will receive $120 per share in cash, up from $105 per share offered in August on a Canadian court order banning black market transactions instead. Dealing with a bid from Blackstone’s Michael Dell Financial Services, Ultimate Software agreed to a buy rating, calling it a top “value” pick, based

Siemens-Alstom’s expected EU veto unleashes political backlash

When Siemens AG and Alstom SA agreed last month to sell both their rail units to Industry Minister Günther Oettinger, a European commissioner, the move was seen as a way to stop China’s state-owned railway company from gaining a foothold in Europe. The French-German industry minister said that any deal should “respect the EU’s competition rules” and would be reviewed by the European Commission, which has the power to block or amend the deal on competition grounds. But it may not be enough to stop the Chinese. China’s state-owned railway company, China Railways Corp., has already made a bid for the French rail giant Alstom, and is due to be auctioned this year, as part of its plan to become a global railway giant.

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The European Commission’s antitrust chief, Margrethe Vestager, has criticized the deal as a way to “high prices, less choice and less innovation.” The EU plan to block the Siemens-Alstom deal is also likely to trigger a political backlash in Europe’s biggest trading region. 

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QSE to make it mandatory for listed firms to appoint investor relations officer

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) has announced that listed companies will be required to appoint investor relations officers (IROs) by the end of June 2019. The announcement comes in response to a survey conducted by the QSE earlier this year, which showed that 91% of respondents believed that the appointment of an IRO is essential to improve corporate governance and investor relations.

The QSE said that the IROs will be responsible for disseminating information about the company to investors, as well as for maintaining regular and transparent communication between the company and its shareholders. The IROs will also be expected to ensure that the company’s financial statements are published in a timely manner and that all material information is disclosed to the market.

The QSE added that the IROs will be required to hold a minimum of three meetings per year with investors, and that they will be expected to attend public events and conferences on behalf of the company. The IROs will also be required to have a minimum of five years of experience in the financial industry, and to hold a relevant professional qualification.

The QSE’s move follows a similar initiative by the Dubai Financial Market, which in 2015 made it mandatory for listed companies to appoint IROs. The QSE said that it is committed to improving the quality of corporate governance in Qatar, and that the appointment of IROs is a key step in this process.

The QSE also announced that it would be introducing a new section in the QSE Rulebook and QSE listing requirements to ensure that disclosure by the listed companies.

MocoReleases on special subscriptions issued in January 2019

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI) has issued subsidies for Qatari small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them access markets and increase their exports.

MCI has also announced that it will subsidize exports of SMEs in the following sectors: automotive parts, food, pharmaceuticals, electronic equipment, and electrical appliances.

The subsidies will be offered to SMEs that have exported goods and services valued at more than QR500,000 in the first half of 2019.

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Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation For Energy And Sustainable Development

Matter: Oil prices extend gains on Friday, as OPEC+ allies meet to extend supply cuts

Oil prices extended gains on Friday, as OPEC+ allies met to extend supply cuts. Brent rose $1.49, or 1.9%, to $78.96 a barrel by 0943 GMT and WTI gained $1.91, or 2.4%, to $80.60 by 0946 GMT. The gains came as OPEC+ and allied producers agreed to extend supply cuts into 2020.

The decision to extend cuts was expected to support prices, given concerns about a potential oversupply later in the year. The extension would help tighten supply and support prices over the longer term.

The decision comes after OPEC+ and its allies agreed in December to cut oil production by 1.2 million barrels per day from January to June 2019.

Azerbaijan's State Oil Company said it would conduct a tender for a contract to develop the Absheron offshore field. The tender, which will be held on March 19, will cover the period from January to December 2020.

The tender will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the tender notice issued by the State Oil Company.

The company has invited interested parties to submit bids for the tender. Interested parties are required to submit their bids to the State Oil Company no later than March 19, 2019.

The tender is part of the company's efforts to develop its oil and gas resources and enhance its production capacity. The company has set a target to increase its oil production by 10% by 2020.

The tender will cover the development of the Absheron offshore field, which is estimated to have reserves of 100 million barrels of oil and 200 billion cubic feet of gas.

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GWC general assembly okays 19% cash dividend

At its extraordinary general assembly meeting, GWC presented a number of amendments to the company’s constitution in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority. Amendments to the company’s constitution in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority.

The company had included further details on the above amendments in the invitations and on its website before the EGM.

Meanwhile, the company’s contract logistics, forwarding, and projects departments have made in-roads into developing contracts with major trading agencies; real estate management and operations; logistics services; shipyard; kilat, which is a leading gas transporting company; and sports sectors.

Milaha unit to acquire 9.9% Nakilat stake to raise its holding

Qatar Shipping, a subsidiary of Milaha Holding, Qatar’s leading logistics provider in Qatar, as the company continued its transformation.

Milaha subsidiary has entered into an agreement with the Qatar Investment Authority for acquiring the latter’s entire 9.9% shares in Nakilat.

The general assembly gathered following a year of achievements in leading the company’s digital transformation.

GWC Group CEO Ranjeev Menon said, “GWC’s achievements over the last 15 years reflect the success of our long-term strategy, while supporting Qatar National Vision 2030 in becoming a sustainable and diverse economy, and ensuring the best possible returns to our shareholders, God willing.”

The result was an increase in EPS to QR4.04 at the end of 2018, compared with QR3.68 at the end of 2017.

The company received many recognitions in 2018, the company was awarded “Digital transformation award” by Microsoft for its outstanding achievements in leading the company’s digital transformation.

The company had included further details on the above amendments in the invitations and on its website before the EGM.

Meanwhile, the company’s contract logistics, forwarding, and projects departments have made in-roads into developing contracts with major trading agencies; real estate management and operations; logistics services; shipyard; kilat, which is a leading gas transporting company; and sports sectors.

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