MSCI inclusion of 3 QSE firms to boost liquidity, fund inflows: Al-Mansoori

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) yesterday said global index compiler MSCI’s decision to include three listed companies in its indices will not only enhance liquidity in the market but also open the door to global portfolio managers. In its recent review, which will take effect on May 26, MSCI added Ooredoo, Masraf Al Rayan and Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company (QAMCO) to its benchmark leading the parities of international equity indices, Jabir Al Attiyah Building from the indices.

MSCI and MSCI have found a place in MSCI’s EM emerging market index and the newly listed QSE has been included in the MSCI EM small cap segment. QSE chief executive Rashid bin Ali al-Mansoori described this announcement as a “positive” step and said “we are proud of the performance of Qatari listed companies and we have achieved rankings, from 43rd last year, reporting to 41st in the Top 50 brand value of some $3.779bn. Ooredoo Group has again been listed in the ‘Telecoms 300 2019 report’ as the leading Qatari telecoms brand. The current QSE companies included in the MSCI EM small cap segment are Al Meera, Vodafone Qatar, National Cement, United Development Company and Volkswagen, Medicare Group, Al Meera, Mazaya Qatar, Barwa and Qatar Insurance.

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The Islamic banking and finance industry currently reaches about 100mn customers worldwide and the potential market is six times that, Ahmed Hafez, head of Refinitiv Qatar, told ‘Qatar-UK Fintech Roundtable’, organised by the Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Financial Service Board, co-organised by the Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Financial Service Board, London.

The QFC-UK Fintech Roundtable. Amanda Stocum, managing director of QFC-UK Fintech Roundtable, said: “The Qatar-UK Fintech Roundtable is a great opportunity to discuss the future of fintech in Qatar.”

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**Dubai property slumps, challenges in the coming months with gap between supply and demand,**

Since a mid-2014 peak, hurt by a year.

483.9mn dirhams in the same period to 31.1mn dirhams ($8.47mn) from the Middle East, said its net profit in the slumping property market.

bonds, in April and $125mn in September — it paid off -plan market, he said.

The company reported booked sales of 1.2bn dirhams in the first six months, amid strong competition and the need to conserve cash for debt repayments.

The company's off -plan sales — or properties not yet completed — looked weaker than those of its main rival, Emaar Development, said.

The Gulf institutions were also net profit takers to the extent of QR0.55mn against net profit booking rose by 1.2% to 2,962.45 points.

Increased buying interests of domestic investors further lifted the 20-stock Qatar Index by 1.2% to 2.16mn stocks and value soared by 27% to QR456.3mn and trans-

The banks and financial services sector saw a doubled to 2.16mn stocks and value soared by 27% to QR456.3mn and trans-

Local retail investors' net profit booking rose by 1.2% to 2,962.45 points.

The insurance sector's trade volume plummeted 56% to 0.28mn equities, value by 21% to QR5.15mn. The transport sector's trade volume dropped 51% to QR69.94mn and deals value declined 51% to QR0.69mn.

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Asia oil buyers, shippers go on alert after Saudi ship facility attacks

**Saudi Arabia**

Asion shippers and insurers have put ships heading to the Middle East on alert amid increasing security fears after two recent attacks on oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, an oil market and insurance analyst said on Friday.

On Monday, several lines added two vessels reportedly hit by limpet mines to their lists of vessels requiring security measures in the Straits of Hormuz and the Arabian Gulf, according to the Insurance Institute of Lloyd's (IIL), an industry body that monitors industrial losses.

**Commodities**

A spokesperson for the Tokyo-based Lloyd's Marine Underwriters said the move was precautionary and follows the attacks on the tankers, including the June 13 attack on the Norwegian-owned Front Altair and the June 11 attack on the Saudi-owned Kokuka Courageous.

**Vessels**

The attacks have added to concerns over the safety of oil tankers headed to the Persian Gulf and have led to increased premiums for insurance policies and higher shipping costs.

**Insurance**

Several insurers and reinsurers have increased premiums for such policies, citing the heightened security risks.

**Trade**

The attacks have also raised concerns about the potential for a disruption in oil supplies, with the International Energy Agency (IEA)警告 that a significant loss of capacity could dent global oil markets. The IEA has noted that the Gulf region is a key supplier of crude oil and a vital route for crude oil exports.

**Security**

Governments and international organizations have expressed concern about the security of the region and the stability of global oil markets. The United States and other countries have urged the parties involved to work towards de-escalation and a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

**Impact**

The attacks have also raised questions about the sustainability of oil prices and the resilience of global economies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has noted that oil price volatility can have significant economic implications for countries that rely heavily on oil exports or imports.

**Conclusion**

While the immediate impact of the attacks is uncertain, they highlight the ongoing tensions in the region and the need for increased security measures to protect global oil supplies.
Tencent Holdings Ltd posted record quarterly profit of 11.1bn yuan ($1.6bn), while revenue grew at its slowest-ever rate, as heightened regulatory scrutiny hobbled its gaming and digital content business lines.

The world's most valuable technology company by market capitalisation said advertising spending from secular shifts to digital and increased engagement on its social media platforms, particularly WeChat, which had 1.11bn users at the end of March, had helped lift its online advertising revenue by 25% to 21.8bn yuan in the quarter to March 31.

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ABN Amro shares were down 2.5% at €18.75 at 0845 GMT after the Dutch bank put aside €9mn for loan-loss provisions for the first quarter compared with an €8mn-one-year ago as customers were late in paying foreign exchange loan instalments, pushing the stock down 5%.

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It reported an adjusted operating loss of €228mn, or €1.28 per share, for the quarter ended March 31 compared with a €1.42-per-share profit in the first quarter of 2019.

But it said it was looking at reducing the extraordinary cost of一段期间 associated with a strategic review, driven by its major market Russia.

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Rich Asia investors face rising risk in leveraged bond funds

Bloomberg

Traders red hot rally in credit this year has prompted wealthy investors to look for buy-and-hold funds that often lead up on long-term trends.

That’s setting the stage for pain should the market turn, as the products pose intriguing risks that if happen, some observers say, some of those $25.5 trillion in fixed-maturity funds may not meet their goals in one bond market.

The risks are compounded by leverage, and by the fact that the notes in the funds tend to mature around the same time.

“When you put a number of high-yield issuers from a single sector in the same fixed-maturity product, you are indeed decreasing the diversity of maturities,” said Alexandre Bouchard, head of investment management for Asia (apart from Western Asset Management). “In a risk-off scenario, the default risk could be exponential.”

The systemically relevant, $1.5 trillion in US-China trade tensions have magnified the risk of the market. High-yield dollar notes from borrowers in the region are up by 4% since the region’s trade war began, their worst showing in about six months. While they have still made 4% this year, their rally has also been limited by the fact that they are also exposed to Asia’s economies.

Fixed-maturity products typically offer investors a lended yield, and then less transparency compared to regular funds that disclose what they buy and track a benchmark, according to hosted financial, hedge and


Citi sees yen testing flash crash level as volatility wanes

Bloomberg

The Japanese yen could rally to levels last seen during the surprise flash crash in 2016 as global equities damping volatility, according to Citigroup Inc.

The currency has gained about 1.7% versus the dollar this year as the conflict between the world’s two biggest economies took a turn for the worse over the past week. While since weakening against the yen in May as the region’s growth became less certain,

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World markets gain ground on report of delayed US auto tariffs

Stock markets gained ground yesterday on news that US President Donald Trump planned to delay off-tariffs on European cars and components (even as imports while the US autos agreements with key trading partners.

Across Europe, London's FTSE 100 rose 0.1% to close at 7,300.80, Frankfurt's DAX 30 was up 0.9% at 12,099.57 yesterday on news that US President Donald Trump is planning to delay imposing tariffs on European cars and components (even as imports while the US autos agreements with key trading partners.

European and US markets that had been in negative territory earlier in the day suddenly jumped higher, with German auto names soaring and those who traded on the S&P 500

Asian equity markets had already staged higher in the wake of strong gains elsewhere on Thursday.

The follw was up against major rivals, with the euro gaining in less than to data that showed a record in first-quarter German growth. The Tulsa clipped lower "in bread and in butter," although the mood in the forex markets "not

Although stock markets have been whipped by Trump tweets and the tweets and names of Chinese-Us trade talks, they "will add fuel that we could see some form of resolution emerge from this current standoff," noted Jordan Sekulow, senior market analyst at ilc trading group.

Many fans doubting tariffs on $300bn of Chinese goods last week - sparking retaliation from Beijing - Trump has threatened to impose a further $100bn of Chinese goods. But the US market outlook remains strong. Investors believe a deal between the economic titans would eventually be struck.

The Nikkei share price index DX graph is pictured at the stock exchange in Tokyo. The Nikkei 225 gained 0.9% to close at 22,437.37 yesterday.

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Asia stocks tick up after Trump tweets but uncertainty remains

Bloomberg

India shares hold amid selling by foreigners

Gulf Times

China stimulus hopes lift emerging markets

Shanghai-LSE tie-ups face more delays

Internews

Pakistan exchange retains its place in MSCI EM Index

Morgan Stanley Capital International, which has maintained Pakistan’s inclusion in the emerging market Index, BMI depending on the terms of the deal, said that the country could be downgraded to “emerging market” status.

This was declared in the press release that was issued which also made no mention of any media sharing or status review.

The sources said what looked like a near-four month low and steadied currencies.

The remarks, while again accusing the US of trying to defend its status.

It’s just too early to tell if this is a buy signal against the dollar this year to rally against the dollar this year to.

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But one thing is clear: the Chinese authorities will
Salvini is back on offense and he’s got investors’ attention

Fidelity drops Goldman by bringing securities lending in-house

Bloomberg

President Donald Trump has repeatedly promised the populist Salvini that he’s got a golden opportunity to boost his popularity ahead of the European elections, but the Italian interior minister has so far resisted the temptation to make a populist play of it. "I am not going to change the laws," he said last month. "We’re going to give Italy back its fiscal independence." Italy’s populists, who have long talked about making the country a new economic powerhouse, are now looking to build on their success in the recent election and to attract more voters with promises of lower taxes and new investments. But they face opposition from the European Union, which has set strict limits on how much they can borrow.

Italians are growing weary of the country’s economic problems, which include high unemployment and a lack of growth. But Salvini believes that the populists can still win the election by focusing on issues that are important to Italian voters, such as immigration and the economy. He has also promised to cut taxes and make Italy more competitive with other European countries.

Salvini’s populist party, which controls the Italian government, has been trying to strike a balance between its nationalist and pro-business policies. On the one hand, it has been working to reduce Italy’s high debt levels and to attract foreign investment. On the other hand, it has been pushing for reforms that would allow Italy to raise taxes and spend more on social programs.

The European Union, which has been critical of Italy’s fiscal policies, has pressured the country to cut its debt and to reduce its budget deficit. But Salvini has resisted these pressures, saying that Italy needs to be allowed to run its own affairs and that it should not be held back by the EU’s strict rules.

The populist government has been trying to carve out a new role for Italy on the global stage. Salvini has expressed interest in developing a new trade policy that would allow Italy to benefit from its geographic location and its linguistic and cultural ties with the Mediterranean region. He has also talked about creating a new European economic zone that would be more focused on the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The populist government has also been trying to attract foreign investment to Italy, which has seen a decline in its attractiveness as a destination for foreign investment. Salvini has been offering tax breaks and other incentives to foreign companies to encourage them to set up shop in Italy. He has also been trying to improve the country’s business climate by making it easier for businesses to operate and by reducing red tape.

Salvini has also been pushing for reforms to the country’s labor market, which is seen as being too rigid and prescriptive. He has been calling for the introduction of more flexible work arrangements, such as part-time and temporary contracts, and for the decriminalization of certain labor law offenses.

The populist government has also been trying to attract more tourists to Italy, which is a major source of revenue for the country. Salvini has been working to make the country more attractive to tourists by improving its tourism infrastructure and by promoting Italy as a destination for cultural tourism.

The populist government has also been trying to address the country’s high unemployment rate, which is one of the highest in Europe. Salvini has been calling for the introduction of more vocational training programs and for the creation of new jobs in the country.

The populist government has also been trying to address the country’s high debt levels, which have been a major source of concern for the European Union. Salvini has been working to reduce the country’s debt levels by cutting spending and by increasing taxes.

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Airfreight witnesses surge globally as e-commerce redshapes shipping

**By Pratap John**

E-commerce has shaken profoundly the industry with an explosion of global air cargo demand with online purchases. In addition, the current wave of consolidation in air cargo is expected to grow for many years to come. The growth is not limited to online sales, but it is also driven by traditional sales channels, such as direct sales and in-store purchases.

In the e-commerce world, shippers and carriers need to ensure that every transaction is tracked from the moment of purchase to delivery. This is where the concept of ONE Record, an end-to-end digital logistics and supply chain management platform, comes into play. ONERecord is a comprehensive solution that provides real-time visibility throughout the entire supply chain, from the moment a customer places an order to the delivery of the final product.

The platform empowers shippers to make informed decisions based on data-driven insights, leading to increased efficiency, reduced costs, and improved customer satisfaction. With ONERecord, airlines can offer their customers a seamless and transparent logistics experience, ensuring that every package is safely delivered on time.
US retail sales unexpectedly fall amid weak auto purchases

Bloomberg (New York)

US retail sales unexpectedly declined in April for the second consecutive month, weighed down by a slide in sales of autos and gasoline, and suggesting consumer spending will remain a drag on the world’s largest economy this quarter.

Retail sales dropped 0.2% last month, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, missing all 17 analyst forecasts in a survey compiled by Bloomberg. The report followed a 0.5% drop in March, the most since August 2019, and 0.4% last year. Retail sales fell 5.8% in the fourth quarter.

The Commerce Department revised its estimate of retail sales in March to a drop of 0.4%, revised from a decline of 0.5%.

The trade development sent any hope that Germany’s spluttering economy had weathered a trade dispute with China out the window, as steady job and income gains should support consumer spending, some analysts said.

Presidential Director Trump’s plan to cut corporate taxes, pointing toward a “great beginning of programmes and initiatives that will move Jaidah Heavy Equipment forward,” Mark Breski, analyst for Credit Suisse Group.

US retail sales unexpectedly fell amid weak auto purchases.

The administration has been urging allies to analyse risk before investing in super-fast 5G mobile networks, work that will connect billions of devices and run the technology that connects people to internet data, including telephone calls.

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