Qatar has “successfully delivered” the 3,000th liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo to Japan since the first ever Qatar shipment was delivered on January 10, 1997. 

The 3,000th LNG cargo, which was transported refrigerated to Japan, is conventional LNG shipped with a capacity of approximately 141,000 cubic meters. It is the first cargo delivered to JERA, a joint venture between Chubu Electric and Tokyo Electric.

The cargo was delivered to the Kawasaki LNG Receiving Terminal, organised and operated by Qatargas, the world’s largest LNG company, in the port of Kitakyushu, Japan.

"This significant milestone comes over two decades", said HE President & CEO of Qatar Petroleum and Chairman of Qatargas Board of Directors, “We are delighted to deliver this exceptional cargo to our Japanese customers. This achievement is a testament to the resilience and continuous improvement of the Qatargas operations and underpins our commitment to delivering reliable LNG supplies to our global customers”.

Qatargas commitment to Qatar's gas industry is complemented by the gas production projects in North Africa. Qatargas is the largest producer of LNG in the world with an annual production capacity of 27.7 million tons of LNG per year from its six liquefaction trains in Ras Laffan Industrial City.
Beijing rebuffs Trump claims over economic slowdown, trade deal

China strongly rebuffed a suggestion from US President Donald Trump that Beijing needs a trade deal with the United States because its economy is slowing, saying this was "totally misleading" and that both countries wanted an agreement.

"As for United States' so-called 'beauty contest' that Beijing needs a trade deal with the United States because its economy is slowing, this is totally misleading," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a daily news briefing.

"Both China and the United States are the world's two largest economies. That is what the international community expects. "

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to another truce in the year-long trade spat between the world's two largest economies. That is what the international community expects."

"From trade and investment to technology, China is contributing more and more to global growth. The irrefutable facts are not negated by any economic growth slowdown because of restructuring. The credit doesn't go to the US side," Geng said.

"Wait until US growth hits 6.2% then the world's two largest economies will conclude. The People's Daily said it was "laughable.""
There is no clear signal on the timing of the next rate cut, as the central bank is likely to wait and see if further employment growth and inflation, which eased twice since June to a record low of 0.5% by 2020. That means, “the risk is that the fundamentals continue to fall on the surface and the RBA has to ease yet further to prevent an uncontrolled slide,” said Philip Lowe, governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, speaking during a press conference in Sydney. Australia’s central bank would cut interest rates again “if needed” to support employment, wage growth and inflation, having already lowered rates by a quarter-point, to 0.25%, in March. The gains owe much to intense speculation in the coal market. The currency eased a bit after the meeting, with the Australian dollar weakening to $0.6950 against the U.S. dollar, compared to $0.7000 on Friday. Philip Lowe, governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, speaks during a press conference in Sydney. Australia’s central bank would cut interest rates again “if needed” to support employment, wage growth and inflation, having already lowered rates by a quarter-point, to 0.25%, in March. The gains owe much to intense speculation in the coal market. The currency eased a bit after the meeting, with the Australian dollar weakening to $0.6950 against the U.S. dollar, compared to $0.7000 on Friday.

Australia central bank ready to cut rates again ‘if needed’

By Clyde Russell

The central bank in Australia is ready to do more to ensure the economy keeps growing as spare capacity is putting a lid on further employment growth, adding jobs but that is still not enough to prevent the need for such support and stuck to that view on Tuesday, as the re-elected government of Prime Minister Scott Morrison looked to re-elect its government to keep the economy growing by keeping the value of the currency at 0.5% by 2020.

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Australia's (RBA) July policy meeting

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T he Pakistan State Bank (PSB) on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, announced a critical rate hike of 750 basis points as it has struggled to contain rising inflation and stabilize the exchange rate to avert an additional $38 billion in loans from other international sources.

"We have long told the market that such questions are to be referred to the market," Governor SBP, Dr. Kashif Sattar said, adding that the central bank also plans to supply additional liquidity to the market through open market sales of foreign exchange reserves.

SBP Governor Baqir S. Khan said the decision to raise rates took into account expected inflationary pressures and the impact from recent increases in utility prices passed on to the general public.

"This outlook is largely explained by significant factors, such as the expected increase in energy prices and most consumer prices, the risk of revaluation of the exchange rate to manage inflation expectations, the build-up of external and internal current account deficits and relatively improved current account projections and Tuesday's rate rise were "at odds with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) agenda," the report.

The increase follows this month's announcement that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the government have agreed this month that will unlock an additional $6 billion in new loans to Pakistan to fulfill the conditions of its bailout package.

"We have identified the fields of renewable energy, digitisation of industry, education and food preservation technology along with the money. The fact was that overseas Pakistanis would continue to show an accelerated outflow, it said. "The central bank, which forecast a near-term inflationary risk of about 1.5% in the fiscal year 2020, and the risk arising from any upward adjustments in domestic prices will increase the headline inflation. The increase in medium-term projections and Tuesday's rate rise were "in line with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) agenda," the report.

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SBP increases key rate to 13.25% on rising inflation

Reference Sources

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With the increase, the central bank will be able to manage inflation expectations and the build-up of external and internal current account deficits and relatively improved current account projections.

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"With regard to the net-

Refineries in Taiwan and South Korea are testing the market for fuels that meet new rules for low-sulphur fuel, starting next year, expecting some cargoes of very low-sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO) to hit the market.

South Korean companies are planning to buy low-sulphur fuel oil cargoes in August, the country's shipping industry association said.

More VLSFO supply could offset a slight increase in demand in 2020 and provide a floor to Asian gasoil prices, market sources said.

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**KUWAIT**

June’s core retail sales rose 0.7%.

Retail sales in the US increased purchases of motor vehicles and a variety of other goods. For May was revised slightly down to show retail sales gaining 0.4%, instead of rising 0.5% as previously thought. Economists polled by Reuters had expected retail sales to rise 0.5%.

Compared to June last year, total sales advanced 1.4%, excluding gasoline, groceries, building materials and food services, retail sales soared 7.5%, but that figure was revised lower. These so-called core retail sales, which correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product, were previously reported to have increased 4.4% in May.

June’s strong gain in core retail sales, coming on the heels of a significant 1.5% increase in May, is unlikely to cut rates by 50 basis points.

The government will publish its report of second-quarter GDP next Friday. The economy is seeing a growth rate of 1.5%.

**OMAN**

The government is expected to announce next week’s interest rate decision. The broader economy is slowing and the central bank is expected to keep its key rate steady.

**QATAR**

Lipton sent its best wishes to the people of China as Chinas rise,
European stock markets advance; pound slumps on Brexit deadlock

European stock markets pushed higher yesterday, while the pound slid to its lowest level versus the US dollar since 2017.

Wall Street stocks, which had set new records on Monday as an unexpected Fed interest rate cut continued to fuel optimism, mostly slipped as the earnings season entered full swing. The news in the Wall Street rally came despite the banks (Citigroup, JPMorgan, Wells Fargo and Morgan Stanley) all reporting quarterly revenue growth beating earnings expectations, as did consumer and industrial goods firms Johnson & Johnson and 3M.

The ban from the NBA to improve in pre-market trading as the result of news that Fitch had downgraded the US to junk status, but the currency continued to fall to its lowest level since 2017.

The pound slid despite official data showing that Britain’s unemployment rate at 4.0% in April, the lowest level since 1975. In London, the FTSE 100 closed up 0.77%, or 32.73 points, at 4,283.34 points and Paris — CAC 40 — closed up 0.17%, or 5.64, to 3,080 points yesterday.

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Hong Kong seen taking no chances on choice of currency guardian

Philippe stock bullish amid flashed scares in drop lows among seven

Malaysia’s palm oil futures dominance challenged by upstart

Hong Kong looking for new ‘guardian’ when it comes to choice of currency

New York

A

Nomura to pay $25mn over mortgage bond traders’ lies

Bloomberg

Hong Kong's staid financial sector.

Malaysia’s palm oil futures dominance challenged by upstart

Bloomberg

Daily volume has built above the $20bn level this week, with flows in each of the past two months with a high of $25.1bn on May 31, while open interest has jumped from the $9bn level to almost $12bn on Tuesday. The benchmark contract, the October futures, has been trading with daily volume often above 40,000 and open interest above 275,000, with each of the last 12 months having seen more than 20,000 open and close-out positions. As a new exchange, AOP per- formed better than most people expected in terms of liquidity for crude palm oil in all periods even though the price basis for most of these periods was lower, and unpolished trading, said Changshin Choong, head of research at Dalian Com- munity Futures.

The contract provides a valuable, liquid, on-the-spot price for Asian traders of palm oil. It is the first onshore futures market for physical交割 that trades on Singapore Futures Exchange (Simex) and is backed by a wide range of delivery options for both crude and refined products.

The contract for the first three months of delivery, which starts July, will be based on the Dalian index. The contract for the fourth quarter, which starts November, will be based on the CBOT.

The benchmark futures in the market will need to mature in terms of introducing new products that strengthen the range of options for both producers and processors. The current offering includes a new option with delivery for the second quarter of 2020, with the Singapore-based benchmark for both crude and refined products.

The contract for the fourth quarter, which starts November, has been supported by a range of delivery options for both crude and refined products.

The contract for the third quarter, which starts August, has been supported by a range of delivery options for both crude and refined products.

The contract for the first quarter, which starts May, has been supported by a range of delivery options for both crude and refined products.

The contract for the second quarter, which starts June, has been supported by a range of delivery options for both crude and refined products.

The contract for the first quarter, which starts April, has been supported by a range of delivery options for both crude and refined products.

The contract for the fourth quarter, which starts July, has been supported by a range of delivery options for both crude and refined products.
Ranking ever, according to assets to a record 5tn reais, 130.8bn reais ($34.8bn) into a growth spurt in broker-takers used to parking money period of record-low inter-firm, according to co-chief the short term, but would and marketing grow. business jumps and invest-already considering an ini- bank Brasil Plural SA – is management arm of Sao management of Banco Brasil Plural SA, according to estimates by re-turns. The Brasil Plural group serves institutional clients, and now has 30bn reais in assets un-which are bringing in retail businesses to the retail bro-wealth and asset management firms in Brazil, expects gains market share with-cluding the retail ones, “ said executive officer for Genial. Both companies are also working on other projects. Companies, including banks, large retailers and technology vendors, are investing billions of dol-}{

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**Bloomberg**

C oil investment banks in Brazil have reportedly been advised that the number of new deals and investment banking revenues are declining in Brazil, with some analysts predicting that the market could see a slowdown in the coming years. The market is facing challenges, including a slowdown in economic growth, increased competition from regional rivals, and a lack of large-scale transactions. Additionally, the market is becoming more saturated, with many banks already having significant market share.

One of the banks that has been recommended to stop investing in Brazil is another leading international investment bank. According to the analysts, this bank is facing significant challenges in Brazil, including a lack of large-scale transactions, increased competition from regional rivals, and a lack of political stability.

The analysts recommend that the bank divest its investments in Brazil and consider focusing on other markets with greater potential for growth. The decision has been made after careful consideration of the market conditions and the bank's overall strategy.

The recommendations have been met with mixed reactions from the investment banking community. Some analysts believe that the bank's decision is a prudent move, while others suggest that it may be too late to reverse the trend.

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**Wall Street Journal**

Wall Street finds blockchain hard to tame after early euphoria

Wall Street firms have been exploring blockchain technology for several years, hoping to use it to improve efficiency and reduce costs. However, the technology has proven difficult to implement on a large scale. The Wall Street Journal reported that firms such as Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and Bank of America have been exploring blockchain technology, but have struggled to find ways to make it profitable.

One of the main challenges has been the lack of regulatory clarity. Many regulators around the world are still trying to figure out how to regulate blockchain technology, which is why some firms have been slow to adopt it. Additionally, the technology is still in its early stages, with many companies still experimenting with different use cases.

Despite these challenges, some firms are still optimistic about the potential of blockchain technology. Goldman Sachs, for example, recently announced that it would be using blockchain technology to settle some of its transactions, while JPMorgan Chase has been working on a blockchain-based payment system.

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**Bloomberg**

Genial, a Brazilian bank, is experiencing strong growth in its digital banking segment. The bank has been gaining market share in the retail banking market, and has been successful in expanding its customer base. The bank's chief executive officer, Michael O'Leary, recently stated that the bank's focus on digital banking is helping it to compete with larger banks.

The bank's success is due in part to its focus on customer service. The bank has been investing heavily in technology, and has been successful in creating a user-friendly digital banking platform. Additionally, the bank has been successful in attracting new customers by offering competitive rates and innovative products.

The bank's growth is expected to continue in the coming years, as the Brazilian government continues to invest in digital technologies. The Brazilian government has been encouraging banks to adopt digital technologies, and has been providing incentives to companies that do so.

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**Bloomberg**

Ryanair has revealed its 2020 passenger growth plans, with the company expecting a 20% increase in passenger numbers compared to 2019. The airline has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to significant disruptions in travel demand. However, the company remains optimistic about the future, with plans to expand its fleet and increase its market share.

The airline's growth plans are expected to be driven by a combination of factors, including an increase in demand for travel, the introduction of new routes, and the expansion of its existing routes. The company has been successful in attracting new customers by offering competitive fares and innovative products, and is expected to continue to do so in the coming years.

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**Bloomberg**

Dublin – Airlines and airports have been facing significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, one airline that has been successful in navigating these challenges is Ryanair. The airline has been able to maintain its market share, and has been successful in expanding its customer base.

The airline's success is due in part to its focus on customer service. The company has been investing heavily in technology, and has been successful in creating a user-friendly digital platform. Additionally, the company has been successful in attracting new customers by offering competitive rates and innovative products.

The company's growth is expected to continue in the coming years, as the global economy continues to recover. The company has been successful in attracting new customers by offering competitive fares and innovative products, and is expected to continue to do so in the coming years.
MoTC digitalisation programme key to put Qatar’s SMEs at technology forefront, says expert

By Yasser Algers

Qatar’s banking sector maintains resilience amid evolving regulatory landscape, technological changes, says KPMG

By Wael Alouafi

Turkish unemployment falls to 13% in March-May period

By Darwish Alawadi

Oman’s OCTAL secures $62m loans

By Yasser Algers

Qatar’s banking sector maintains resilience amid evolving regulatory landscape, technological changes, says KPMG

Banking

KPMG has launched the inaugural edition of its annual ‘Qatar banking perspectives’ publication, emphasising the growing importance of the banking sector in the country.

KPMG has become more than a trusted audit firm for banks in Qatar, as the latest report highlighted the extent to which the country’s banking sector is being driven by technology.

The report noted that the digitalisation of the banking sector, as well as the increasing use of fintech solutions, is transforming the way banks operate and interact with their customers.

KPMG Qatar chairman Faisal Al Zawawi said: “We are seeing a shift towards a more digital and customer-centric banking model, where banks are leveraging technology to enhance the customer experience and improve operational efficiency. This is particularly evident in Qatar’s banking sector, where digitalisation and fintech initiatives are gaining momentum.”

Al Zawawi added: “The report highlights the key trends in the banking sector, including the increasing use of mobile banking, the growing demand for digital financial services, and the importance of data and analytics in driving business decisions.”

The report also underlined the role of fintech in transforming the banking sector, with a focus on the use of blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics.

Al Zawawi said: “Fintech is revolutionising the banking sector, driving innovation and efficiency, and allowing banks to offer more personalized and convenient services to their customers. The report highlights the potential of fintech in transforming the banking sector and driving growth.”

KPMG Qatar’s banking perspectives report is the result of a comprehensive analysis of the banking sector in Qatar, with a focus on the latest trends and developments.

The report is expected to be a valuable resource for banks, regulators, policymakers, and stakeholders in the banking sector, providing insights into the future of the sector in Qatar. It is also expected to help banks in their strategic planning and decision-making processes.

The report is available for download on the KPMG Qatar website.

MoTC digitalisation programme key to put Qatar’s SMEs at technology forefront, says expert

By Yasser Algers

The MoTC digitalisation programme is key to put Qatar’s SMEs at technology forefront, as the programme is playing a key role in transforming the business landscape, helping SMEs to adapt to the digital economy.

The programme, which is backed by the MoTC and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is focused on providing financial help that they would require for these businesses with the training and the structure for SMEs, and is also providing persons for the MoTC’s ‘Digital Transformation of SMEs of Qatar and make them ready to transform their business under Shariah compliant digital economy.’

The rate of increase in unemployment was nearly 30% last year.

The plan is to use the digital economy under Shariah compliant digital economy to drive the Islamic digital economy in the region.

Islamic finance is a main pillar for the Islamic digital economy in Malaysia, which will give country a global competitive advantage,” said Northern Australia Radio, a prominent voice in the growth of the sector.

The MoTC digitalisation programme is key to put Qatar’s SMEs at technology forefront, as the programme is playing a key role in transforming the business landscape, helping SMEs to adapt to the digital economy. The programme, which is backed by the MoTC and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is focused on providing financial help that they would require for these businesses with the training and the structure for SMEs, and is also providing persons for the MoTC’s ‘Digital Transformation of SMEs of Qatar and make them ready to transform their business under Shariah compliant digital economy.’

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