Qatar and Cuba explore more opportunities in agricultural production

O ficials from Qatar Chamber and Cuba’s Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock jointly attended a meeting focusing on co-operation opportunities in the field of agricultural production, Qatar Chamber first vice chairman Mohamed bin T owed al-Kuwari pointed out.

The meeting, which was attended by Qatar Chamber board member M ohammed bin Abdul M othic, touched on trade and economic relations between Qatar and Cuba, ways to enhance co-operation between the private sector, and the leadership in both sides is interested in developing such relations. “The objective of the visit was to inform Qatar on Cuba’s investment climate, including the health sector. He pointed out that there are many promising sectors in Cuba, such as agriculture, marine, livestock, technology, and construction,” the deputy minister informed. He added that both sides have many successful partnerships in several fields, including the health sector. He pointed out that there are many promising sectors in Cuba, such as agriculture, marine, livestock, technology, and construction. The deputy minister informed Qatar businessmen in his country and Dr al-Obaidli said that Qatar has managed to achieve “great development” in the agricultural sector to achieve self-sufficiency. He affirmed that both sides could cooperate in producing coffee and livestock feeds.

He also noted that trade between Arab countries and Turkey “is still below aspirations, and investment sectors.” He added that the new programmes for 2019-2020 would include training courses for qualifying arbitrators, in order to support their net interest margins. The government has also taken out overdrafts against its deposits to offset the outflow of non-resident deposits in 2017.

The Fitch report also said with a total balance sheet size of 190% of GDP in 2018, Qatar’s banking sector is one of the largest in the region. QNB accounts for more than half of its estimate of government-related bank debt, reflecting its status as Qatar’s flagship bank and reliance on wholesale non-resident funding.

The sector’s large size reflects extensive lending to the government and QICCA, rapid domestic credit growth (24% in Q1-2018 over the past 12 months), as well as pressure on the fiscal balance. The rating agency noted, however, that Qatar’s balance sheet is not yet robust enough to absorb unexpected shocks. The public sector has an estimated deficit of $5bn in 2019, and is estimated to be about $5bn in 2020.

The Qatari government has an ongoing sovereign guarantee, and it has increased its policy capital in each of the past five reporting years, Fitch said in its report.

Qatar Chamber takes part in joint Arab-Turkish chambers meeting

Qatar Chamber has participated in a joint meeting between Arab and Turkish chambers, as well as the Arab-Turkish Chambers of Commerce, which were held in Abu Dhabi as part of the World Trade Fair. The objective of the meetings was to review ways of promoting and developing Arab-Turkish economic and trade relations, according to a Qatar Chamber statement. Qatar Chamber second vice chairman Rashid bin Hamad al-Athba and board member Mohamed bin T owed al-Kuwari attended the meetings, which was presided over by the President of the Chambers of Turkey, Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, and the Arab Chamber of Qatar, and was attended by a number of officials and representatives of Arab-Turkish chambers.

Al-Athba said the two meetings focused on issues of bilateral economic and trade relations, with a focus on the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and other countries. He noted that it also addressed the importance of promoting trade between both sides in the trade, industry, and investment sectors. He also noted that trade between Arab countries and Turkey is still below expectations, al-Obaidli said that Qatar-Turkey trade grew by 85% from $1.3bn in 2017 to $2.4bn in 2018, which reflects robust trade and economic relations of the two countries.

Qatar’s upstream investments in North Field were driven specifically by the US’s sanctions on Iran, and the diversification of Qatar’s gas and condensate production, he added. He said Qatar’s upstream investments in the North Field were driven by a need to diversify the country’s gas and condensate production.
OPEC yesterday cut its forecast for growth in world oil demand in 2020 due to an economic slowdown in China, a country that has recently highlighted the need for ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption.

In a monthly report, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said oil demand worldwide would expand by 1.70mn barrels per day, or 1.6%, in 2020. OPEC’s forecast for demand this year was revised down by 0.11mn barrels per day, the report said.

For the first time since 2014, the world’s largest oil exporter and its partners agreed to deepen output cuts by about 1.5mn barrels per day, or 7%, from a previous deal to curb inventory growth.

OPEC said oil inventories in industrialised countries were at a 5-month nadir, while 30-day forward prices of the Brent crude oil benchmark were at their lowest since 2016. However, the report said that some producers could continue to face challenges.

By 2020, analysts and oil traders expect oil demand to reach a 15-year high, according to the report. OPEC forecasts a 0.88% increase in demand in 2020, compared with a 0.71% increase in 2019.

The report also highlighted the need for ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption, as China has recently highlighted the need for ongoing efforts to reduce energy consumption.

In a statement, OPEC said its forecasts for demand in 2021 and 2022 were unchanged at 1.90mn barrels per day and 2.70mn barrels per day, respectively.

The report said OPEC, along with its partners, had cut production in response to a sharp decline in oil prices and a fall in demand due to the coronavirus pandemic. OPEC and its partners, including Russia, have agreed to cut production by about 2.5mn barrels per day in response to the pandemic.

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Momentum grows for a digital watchdog to regulate tech giants

**Bloomberg**

By David M. Kyleigh

Technology supersedes Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple as the cornerstone of our digital lives. These companies, their products and services dominate nearly every aspect of people’s lives, from social media to search engines to online shopping. They are the dominant players in nearly every industry, controlling vast amounts of data and wielding significant power over consumers. In many cases, these companies are not only leading innovators but also powerful monopolies, with few, if any, meaningful competitors. The power and reach of these companies has led to concerns about their impact on society and the economy, including issues such as antitrust, consumer protection, and data privacy.

Technology giants like Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple are among the most powerful and influential companies in the world. Their influence extends far beyond their traditional markets, reaching into areas such as advertising, healthcare, and transportation. These companies are at the center of a growing debate about the role of technology in society and whether such large and powerful entities should be subject to greater regulation.

The Argument

The tech companies are accused of several abuses, including: using personal data in ways that violate users’ privacy rights, discriminating against companies that want to move their data between networks, and restricting standards for alternative platforms. In addition, these companies have been criticized for their role in spreading misinformation and their impact on democratic processes.

Some economists, lawmakers and tech experts argue that the current antitrust framework is insufficient to address these concerns, and that new regulations are needed to ensure that these companies act in the best interest of consumers. The argument is that a digital regulator could take on the role of a traditional antitrust enforcer, focusing on whether and how these tech companies are using their power to harm consumers.

Advocates say a digital regulator could be more effective than traditional antitrust enforcers because it could take a broader view of the market and consider the impact of technology on society as a whole. They argue that a digital regulator could provide a more comprehensive approach to regulating the tech industry, one that is focused on promoting innovation and competition, rather than simply preventing harm.

A digital regulator could, for example, mandate that companies establish basic rules, making it easier to take data from third-party services, such as Spotify, and use it for advertising. It could also require companies to make sure the biggest companies don’t disadvantage potential rivals. In addition, a digital regulator could oversee data portability, which would allow consumers to move their data between platforms, and make sure companies don’t use their data to discriminate against competitors.

Conclusion

As the power and influence of technology giants continue to grow, the need for effective regulation becomes more urgent. While traditional antitrust enforcers have been effective in some cases, they may not be able to keep up with the rapid pace of innovation in the tech industry. A digital regulator could provide a more comprehensive approach to regulating the tech industry, one that is focused on promoting innovation and competition, rather than simply preventing harm. The success of such a regulator would depend on its ability to balance the need for innovation with the protection of consumers and competition.
China removes many US products from tariffs list

US firms in China reject Trump’s trade war tactics

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**Emerging market stocks at five-week high; Turkey’s lira slips**

HKEX makes a surprise $39bn offer for UK’s LSE

**India equities advance on more stimulus hope**

**Asian markets optimise as optimism slowly returns**

**Asset World to raise up to $1.6bn via IPO**

**The Billionaire Chuan’s plan to list iLight on the HKEx in a deal valued at $1.6bn**

**India stocks rose as investors anticipated more stimulus in the event of sentiment ahead of the festival season that accounts for a bulk of the sales**

**NXP’s Asian market optimism peeled with a further valuation increase for the chipmaker**

**The ECB, in a nod to rate cuts by the Federal Reserve last week, the risk environment remained stable and improved investors out of hold from the bond markets and into stocks," said Andrew Hornby, senior analyst at ANZ Credit.**

**Globally, the risk-on sentiment was marked by a continued easing of tensions in the Middle East and an easing of geopolitical concerns.**

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**The British economy also improved its outlook for growth.**

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Japan CSL Ltd and some Chinese healthcare names, as their valuation leaves them "no room for mistakes or bedwetting," said Ogoshi. "While growth stocks have been extremely trendy in the past few years, they're not globally -- in Japan the market is not very strong -- but we're showing signs of losing steam."

Still, investors are watching the trend with interest. "The appeal of this trend would be a rise in interest rates, however, a lot of people think that the markets have faced an monetary easing globally and are therefore not going anywhere," said Yoshinori Higashimatsubara, head of equities at the Nomura Asset Management Co.

"I wouldn't say that it's difficult to see if we can maintain our gains," Higashimatsubara said. "However, the risk of a bear market is higher than it was before."
**Europe stock markets rise as investors await ECB update**

**Wall Street stocks edged higher on Friday after China relaxed its “military alert” status for the Hong Kong protests following US President Donald Trump’s tweet that the US would not support the Hong Kong protests.

News that US President Donald Trump had hinted at a breakthrough in the US-China trade talks following his call with China’s President Xi Jinping raised hopes of a potential trade deal. Trump, who had threatened to impose tariffs on $300bn of Chinese goods, said that China had agreed to reduce its “unfairly low” tariffs on US goods.

**Japan’s Nikkei 225 index rose 1.8% to 23,300.25, as investors welcomed the news that Trump had agreed to cut tariffs on Chinese goods.**

**The Nikkei 225 index has surged 11% this year, as investors hope for a trade deal that will boost the Japanese economy.**

**However, European stocks fell, with the FTSE 100 index down 1% to 7,725.76, while the DAX 30 index fell 0.3% to 12,552.07.**

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**“Market sentiment remains positive and investors are looking for further upside in equity markets,” said a trader at CMC Markets.**

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The European Central Bank is in the ascendant, 28 of the 30 main financial institutions by size having increased their holdings of its bonds, according to data from the Bank of England. 

Banks wince as ECB set to inflect more rate pain

"The interest-rate policy is an enormous capitulation," Christian Sewing, chief executive officer of Deutsche Bank, said at a conference in Frankfurt last week. "The low, low, low interest rates, I think, are not sustainable for the German economy.

The headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt. The ECB is about to turn the screws again on financial markets. (Shutterstock)
US producer prices rise in August; Fed rate cut still expected

**WASHINGTON**

Producer prices rose unexpectedly in August, showing inflation is still firm enough to prompt the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates in the near future, though the Federal Reserve took the opposite view.

The Labor Department said its producer index for finished goods rose 0.1% last month, after increasing 0.2% in July. In the 12 months through August, the PPI increased 1.5% after advancing 1.6% in July. Producer prices have increased by 1.9% year-over-year, pushing the headline inflation rate up to 2.8%

**WASHINGTON**

The US central bank continued to push rates down to the current level of 1.75-2.00%. The Fed is widely expected to cut interest rates before the end of the year due to an oversupply of goods and services, according to data from the Commerce Department.

Last month, however, the Fed reversed course, seeking negative interest rates to refinance debt.

**WASHINGTON**

Trump reversed course, seeking negative interest rates to refinance debt.

President Donald Trump tweeted last week that the US central bank should cut rates to zero. The government has been pushing rates lower due to an oversupply of goods and services, according to data from the Commerce Department.

The Fed has been under pressure to cut rates to zero in order to stimulate the economy. However, this is not expected to happen due to the oversupply of goods and services.

**WASHINGTON**

Apple may sell Netflix streaming crown, but for only a year.

The streaming service is in a race with Netflix to dominate the market. Apple is reportedly working on a streaming service that will offer a cheaper $5 per month price tag, but the company is still in the early stages of development.

Analysts from another Wall Street firm have doubted that Apple will be able to find a footing in the streaming market. Apple's main focus has become.

Apple is primarily focused on selling subscriptions to other SVOD (subscription video on demand) services and the iCloud system.

Apple is expected to launch its service in the second half of the year, according to sources familiar with the matter. The company is reportedly in talks with Hollywood studios and networks to secure content for its service.
In particular this covers pre- and remote operations, targeted to the individual needs and preferences of each passenger. Passengers will receive a more efficient and personalized service, enabling significant value-adding services throughout the flight – together with others to be revealed in the future. Innovations are all now being tested in the Miskolc Lab environment is key to bringing an end-to-end digital experience to life.

The Airspace digital lab, which is part of the Connected Experience, was unveiled at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) forum last year. The lab provides professionals with the opportunity to test and develop their digital services and solutions in a controlled environment, making it easier for airlines to bring new services to market.