**Demand and talent push startup industry growth in Qatar, Mena region**

By Peter Alagos

Innovation Academy (EIA), is a hands-on entrepreneurship programme that introduces participants to an accelerated mode of experiential learning, including how to develop and launch a startup in a real marketplace with customer feedback and mentorship.

The academy, a collaboration between Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), a member of Qatar Foundation Research, Development and Innovation, and the European Technology Park (QSTP), a member of Qatar Foundation, provides a business-oriented curriculum that focuses on business model development, market research, and revenue generation.

For international participants, the academy requires that their universities nominate them and to meet specific criteria. The curriculum is delivered in English, so participants should have a good command of the language.

"We want all participants to be on the same wavelength. We need them to have the right mindset, to be able to tackle the challenge and give them the proper mindset, they can do anything. When you nurture talents with the right skillset and give them the proper mindset, they can do anything," al-Adgham said.

"We have more demand and talents realising the importance of Qatar and the Mena region are growing and evolving as we have more demand and talents seeing the importance of starting up and the role they play in the growth of the local and regional economy," said al-Adgham.

"Wishing more initiative from the younger generation and driving force of the economy, " she stressed.

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By Santhosh V Perumal

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**Algeria could test taboos on borrowing from abroad**

**Bloomberg**

Algeria, which hasn’t said date ahead in over two decades, signaled it is ready to explore its options to avoid borrowing from abroad and lift some restrictions on foreign investment.

At the recent OPEC meeting in Algiers, the North African country said it was planning to seek a new financial strategy. The country has been grappling with its heavy reliance on oil, particularly after high-oil prices fueled a boom in the banking sector and led to a surge in domestic credit.

**SAUDI ATTACKS RAISE SPECTRE OF OIL AT $100**

**Bloomberg**

The Trump administration is standing by to help stabilize markets if needed after Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest oil exporter, was attacked by drones.

The attack underscored geopolitical tensions in the region and highlighted the vulnerability of oil infrastructure. Saudi Arabia has been a key player in oil markets as it is the world’s largest oil exporter.

**Disruption puts huge US petroleum reserves in play**

**Bloomberg**

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**Algeria warned about the attack's impact on oil prices**

**Bloomberg**

The market could see a return to $100 per barrel amid ongoing disruption risks, hoarding, and attacks.

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India drawing up red lines on Asia trade pact before key meeting

There’s a race on as insular trade talks resume amid pressure for a deal

India has become a key player in the trans-Pacific arena, taking on a more assertive role in trade negotiations. Despite recent progress, the country remains wary of the implications of a regional trade deal. Indian officials have stressed that the country will not be pressured into making concessions, and have outlined several conditions that must be met before they will consider signing the agreement. These include the need for greater market access, stronger protection for intellectual property, and increased investment in infrastructure. Indian officials have also expressed concern about the potential impact of a trade deal on domestic industries, and have called for greater attention to be paid to labor and environmental standards.

In the past, India has been a vocal critic of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a regional trade agreement that was signed in 2015 and collapsed in 2017. The country has also been hesitant to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a trade deal that includes China and Japan, among others. Indian officials have expressed concern about the potential impact of a trade deal on domestic industries, and have called for greater attention to be paid to labor and environmental standards.

There are several key players in the Asia-Pacific region, each with their own interests at stake. China, as the region’s largest economy, is looking to cement its position as a regional leader. Japan, with its strong manufacturing sector, is seeking greater access to the Indian market. South Korea, meanwhile, is looking to expand its trade ties with the region, particularly with China.

The India-Japan free trade agreement, which has been under negotiation for several years, is seen as a key test of India’s commitment to regional trade. The agreement has been delayed due to differences over market access and rules of origin, but India is determined to secure a favorable outcome.

As talks resume, India is likely to continue to play an important role in shaping the region’s trading landscape. The country’s stance on trade negotiations is likely to influence the direction of the region’s economy, and will be closely watched by policymakers and businesses alike.
**Power distribution companies in Pakistan**

Power distribution companies in Pakistan have raised electricity rates by 70% to meet the rising energy costs, which have escalated to Rs12.33 per unit, even though the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) had only allowed an increase to Rs7.70 per unit. The government’s move comes at a time when the energy deficit and fuel costs have put the country on the brink of a near total load-shedding. Nepra had rejected the complaint by PSPCL, PSEB, and others against the higher rates. The decision by Nepra to raise the rates is a manifestation of the Pak-China friendship, which was the government’s priority and it was not a result of the financial crisis.

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Ang Hong Leong Finance Ltd requires potential borrowers to provide a detailed three-year historical track record of financial transactions. The firm also uses credit scores from VantageScore, a US-based credit scoring company, and this can be a problem for some individuals and many smaller businesses.

Bloomberg

In interviews, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority has expressed its concern that virtual banks may not have the same level of financial stability or customer protection as traditional banks. The regulator suggests that virtual banks should operate with a capital buffer and have contingency plans in place to ensure they can continue to operate in the event of a crisis.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority’sFragmented Information Standard Group has called for a standardized approach to data collection and analysis, with a view to enabling virtual banks to operate on a more level playing field with traditional banks.

A virtual bank must be approved by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. The regulator has received several applications for virtual banking licences, with a view to launching virtual banks in the next few years.

Bloomberg

In a statement, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said: “The government has just announced a new $20 billion fund to spur the development of virtual banks in the territory.” The fund is aimed at facilitating the establishment of virtual banks and supporting the growth of the virtual banking industry.

Bloomberg

The range of digital wallets includes mobile payments systems such as Apple Pay, Paytm, and Google Pay, as well as digital-only banks or neobanks.

Bloomberg

In the run-up to the virtual bank launch, the Hong Kong government has announced a series of reforms that are expected to improve the efficiency of the financial sector. These reforms include the introduction of a new regulatory framework for fintech companies, as well as measures to attract more foreign investment to the city.

Bloomberg

The launch of virtual banks is expected to bring about significant changes to the financial sector in Hong Kong. These changes will likely include increased competition, increased efficiency, and improved access to financial services for consumers.

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Virtual banks are likely to offer a range of innovative products and services, including digital-only savings accounts, digital-only loans, and digital-only investments. These products are expected to be more convenient and more accessible than traditional products.

Bloomberg

In conclusion, the launch of virtual banks is expected to bring about significant changes to the financial sector in Hong Kong. These changes will likely bring about increased competition, increased efficiency, and improved access to financial services for consumers.
**WeWork is racing to do public offering by late summer**

**Bloomberg**

The move leaves in place a rare three-year-old $3bn share buy-back programme and plans to list WeWork's real estate assets in a REIT. Questions remain about how investors will view the lost-growth, money-losing company with its high debts and a new chief executive. However, we now have a rare glimpse of what else Neumann might have been planning.

**Neumann could have been planning a IPO of real estate assets.** The board will have a duty to re-visit the CEO's job, and the updated prospectus to make the company more transparent and improve governance structures. WeWork's IPO was expected to value the company at $30bn but the market has since soured. The current valuation is now closer to $15bn. The company's board has to be clear about its goals and how it will go forward.

**Neumann was agnostic about the IPO.** How will Neumann's wife Rebekah – who's 26% stake in the company – respond to the new chief executive? Some critics are concerned about Neumann's role choosing any new chief. Some critics are concerned about Neumann's lack of experience in running a public company.

**Neumann is expected to stick with the new CEO.** Neumann is expected to stick with the new CEO, who will take the company public and improve its governance structures. However, Neumann's wife Rebekah – who's 26% stake in the company – is expected to play a key role in the new CEO's appointment.

**WeWork's new CEO.** Neumann is expected to stick with the new CEO, who will take the company public and improve its governance structures. However, Neumann's wife Rebekah – who's 26% stake in the company – is expected to play a key role in the new CEO's appointment.
Germany Inc waits on Merkel's CO2 plan: Here's what's at stake

Chancellor Angela Merkel is working on an investment package worth €50bn ($55bn) to get Germany's production of coal-fired power down to 1990 levels by next year. After vituperative debate at EU level last week, emission reductions will pull into the twin 2020 targets of 40% cuts from 1990 and a peak in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

Germany is way behind on its climate change targets. The German government ‘has all lost track’ of the EU's legally binding goals. A car manufacturer operating abroad. Deutsche Lufthansa looks beyond the construction date of Frankfurt's new Terminal 3 in Frankfurt this fall. A proposition plane for air tickets would raise money for Lufthansa to afford the loss of the cost by the airline's business strategy on having more than 95% full.

Despite the project being a major win for the German government, it doesn't seem to interest much more than it rides on a familiar pattern. The CDU scheme instead of a carbon tax wins the support of the government. Firms that can't easily cut CO2 emissions out of their business model are likely to lose out. Other companies that make electric vehicles, like Thyssenkrupp AG and Volkswagen AG, could benefit if the policies encourage consumers to switch from diesel cars to electric ones. In the end, the market could decide whether the policies will actually encourage consumers to do so.

For German executives, there's a lot to lose. Electricity producers like EON SE and RWE AG could benefit if the policies help improve the efficiency of their business, which is currently in a state of crisis. The government has acknowledged that it needs to do more to support the energy sector, and the policies could help.

Firms that use a lot of energy, such as RWE AG and other large companies, are likely to lose out. While companies that make electric heaters, such as RWE AG, could benefit from the policies, companies that make diesel cars, such as Volkswagen AG, are likely to lose out.

In local elections as support for the governing parties was punished for stepping up their climate action, but they don't agree on how much or how fast. The coalition parties know they need to come up with a plan to make the climate change targets more ambitious. After being stung by criticism on their environmental commitments under the Paris Climate Accord, they must make their goals more aggressive. Businessmen renewed their push for new climate policies, focused on the transition to renewable energy.

But SPD Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, who previously served as Merkel's finance minister, said he would like to see a carbon tax in Germany. While opinion polls show that climate change is the German public's No. 1 concern, the change has surpassed immigration as the country's biggest worry. With wildfires sweeping the east of Germany, and record temperatures and another demonstration demanding more action to stem emissions and another demonstration demanding more action to stem emissions, the government is under pressure to act quickly.

Cabinet strains are disrupting summer travel, the country and record temperatures will be enough to derail Merkel's prized climate goals. The CDU's push to limit climate change has been met with opposition from the governing partners, the Social Democrats and the Greens. The Greens, who previously served as Merkel's vice-chancellor, have called for an end to loss-leading fares for air tickets and all the parties have signaled that it is too late to go back. That could actually benefit Germany's regional policy because the EU wouldn't be able to stop it from happening.

A price floor would be easier for people to understand, but they don't agree on how much or how fast. The government has acknowledged that it needs to do more to support the energy sector, and the policies could help. The CDU scheme instead of a carbon tax wins the support of the government. Firms that can't easily cut CO2 emissions out of their business model are likely to lose out. Other companies that make electric vehicles, like Thyssenkrupp AG and Volkswagen AG, could benefit if the policies encourage consumers to switch from diesel cars to electric ones.

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With rate cut likely, US market wonders how low Fed will go

**Bloomberg**

**Februrary’s decision was thus:** The moves this January were a surprise. The US-China trade tensions roiling markets, investors are counting on support for stocks coming from a Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cut that will help ease financial conditions and help the US economy avoid a recession.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the bank will cut short its lengthy easing campaign to shore up the US economy, which is suffering from the effects of the trade war with China. Powell cited signs of a “relatively soft” US economy and said the central bank will consider “further” rate cuts if needed.

The Fed’s 180-degree pivot from tight-money stance to keeping rates low and stable, if not cutting them, is a major about-face from its posture in 2018, when it was raising rates more swiftly and significantly.

The Fed’s last rate hike was in December 2018, and it is widely expected that the bank will cut rates by 0.25 percentage point on Wednesday and again in September.

The benchmark S&P 500 has climbed about 10% this year, which could irk both investors and those who argue that stock market booms contribute to overheating and inflation.

The probability of a recession in the next 12 months is nearly 38%, its highest level in about a decade, according to the New York Fed’s Nowcasting tool. The forecast will be released along with the rate decision.

Of the past eight easing cycles since 1984, four have been “innocent cya,” white, when economic problems haven’t been the economy in a recession, while four were pre-cyclical cycles, according to research from Allianz Global Investors.

When exactly the car might arrive will be an important factor. A long-term bull case for Tesla would be finding demand for its Model S for racing purposes. There is a roughly 65% probability that China will end the year at 5%. The real GDP will be up 6%.

While a series version Model S Sedan will be available before Tesla releases a Model S for racing purposes, the car will be limited to the track.

Iron ore prices seen as China demand rolls over

**Bloomberg**

Iron ore prices are on a downward trend as China demand rolls over and the US-China trade tensions roil markets, investors are counting on support for stocks coming from a Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cut that will help ease financial conditions and help the US economy avoid a recession.

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Fed to cut rates again as optimism is tested

Bloomberg

Easing, uncertainty are in play as rates fall

F ed to cut rates again as optimism is tested

The US Federal Reserve in Washington, DC, is facing a dilemma: security concerns and economic weakness are in play as rates fall. The Fed is considering another rate cut this week, as it seeks to balance the risks of a global slowdown and the uncertainty surrounding trade relations.

The decision is likely to be influenced by the latest economic data. The US economy has been resilient, with consumer spending and industrial production growing at a solid pace. However, the trade war with China and uncertainty over the Brexit have added to the risk of a slowdown.

The Fed has already cut rates twice this year, in July and September, in an effort to support the economy. But some economists argue that more rate cuts are needed to boost growth.

BofA, Morgan Stanley warn rates too low tend to hurt valuation

F or the first time in three years, spot prices for liquefied natural gas (LNG) tracked in Europe, in the US, and in Asia. But the price gap between the US and Asia, which has been narrowing, has widened again. The price of LNG in Asia has been flat for the past month, while the price in Europe and the US has been rising.

The widening gap is due to the increase in US LNG exports, which has put pressure on the Asian market. The US has been exporting LNG to Asian countries, including Japan and South Korea, to take advantage of the low domestic prices. The Asian market has been importing LNG to meet its energy needs, as it is not able to produce enough gas domestically.

The increase in US LNG exports has led to a decrease in the price of LNG in the US, while the price in Asia has remained high. This has created a gap between the two markets, which is likely to continue in the foreseeable future.