Qatar's financial industry has adapted to the challenges of 2017. It has been more resilient to business disruptions arising from the blockade, and the minister succinctly outlined how Qatar has achieved so much that it would not have been possible without the support of major global partners, especially China. He noted that Qatar's logistics capabilities, noting how well Qatar has achieved with Islamic finance, is providing the services to manage a sudden spike in the flow of goods to the country. The minister said, "We welcome the move of the QFC into the IFSB, as it has more aspiring business leaders studying their expertise on relevant and topical issues."

The QFC joins standard-setting IFSB as associate member

The QFC joined the standard-setting Islamic Financial Supervisory Board (IFSB) as associate member, further fortifying the Islamic financial sector at local and international levels.

"Islamic finance is a key component as well as a source of strength of Qatar and the QFC, and we are in constant pursuit of strategies that will enable the development of this business sector and expand public awareness of the importance of Islamic finance and its instruments. The IFSB membership for Qatar, together with our work with the IFC and the BCBS, aims to increase awareness among investors and industry leaders that will move us forward in this aspiration," Al-Jaida added.

QFC joins standard-setting IFSB as associate member
These bonds can turn brown companies green

4. What’s the next step?

In theory, it is the next step: to create a global market in which green bonds are seen as a solution to the problem of how to finance a transition to a low-carbon economy. But in practice, the challenge is huge. Many issuers are not yet ready to make the transition, and many investors are not yet ready to support it. A global market in green bonds will need to be built from scratch, and this will take time.

5. What are the challenges?

There are many challenges to creating a global market in green bonds. These include the need to develop a robust and transparent framework for identifying and verifying green projects, the need to ensure that issuers are committed to the principles of the Paris Agreement, and the need to ensure that investors are confident that their money is being used for the right purposes.
China's FX reserves rise by $3.107tn in August

By Florence Tan

China's foreign exchange reserves rose unexpectedly in August, by $3.107tn to $3.107tn, after a month of steep declines in the past year due to escalating trade war with the United States.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected reserves would fall by about $3.5bn from July, due to fluctuations in global exchange rates and the prices of foreign bonds that China holds.

The increase in August was due to China maintaining a stable balance of international payments and generally stable economic growth, the foreign exchange regulator said in a statement.

But reserves fell by $111bn in July, the biggest monthly drop since China allowed official foreign reserves to fall outside its official adjusts, prompting fears of a broader emerging market currency sell-off.

China has been able to keep capital outflows under control, partly due to Beijing's efforts to keep the yuan stable, and partly due to the country's healthy economic growth.

In August, the yuan stabilized against the US dollar, albeit over the last few months the currency had weakened by about 3% against the greenback, due to trade tensions.

China's foreign exchange reserves – the world's largest – rose by $3.5bn in August to $3.1072tn, central bank data showed yesterday. Economists polled by Reuters had expected reserves would fall by $3.5bn from July due to fluctuations in global exchange rates and the prices of foreign bonds that China holds.

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Pakistan govt says its reform agenda is 'on track'

The government of Pakistan has said its reform agenda signed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is on track and the progress so far meets all the stipulated benchmarks for the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

The ministry said it believed the reform agenda was ambitious, but was on course to meet all the targets.

The ministry said it also dispelled the media around scheduled visits of IMF Middle East and Central Asia director Jihad Azour and related content studied, without elaborating.

Jihad Azour’s visit is not a “routine visit”, Pakistan’s finance minister Sanjeev Shastri said in a statement.

“The visits by IMF leaders are being considered as a routine one,” Shastri said.

The ministry also dispelled the notion that the government will make any changes to the IMF programme.

Azour’s visit is scheduled for September soon after the conclusion of the Extended Fund Facility programme.

Shastri said that the visits by IMF leaders will be held on a routine basis after the completion of the programme’s first quarter.

He added that the government has been fully committed to the IMF programme.

A spokesman for the finance ministry also said that the programme is on track.

India inflation completely under control: Sitharaman

India’s inflation completely under control and no rate cut is required, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Monday.

The government is worried about declines in investments and a combination of slowdown, particularly the auto sector, which will boost crops.

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Fitch downgrades Hong Kong citing protests and China fears

A thread to block riot police during a protest near Hong Kong's financial district was hit by a Fitch. The city’s reputation as a dependable financial hub took a hit after Fitch downgraded its sovereign rating, citing ongoing protests and uncertainty caused by closer integration with the Chinese mainland.

**SUMITOMO MITSUI TO BID FOR STAN CHART INDIANA**

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group has bid to buy a 10% controlling stake in Bank of Baroda's 38.4% owned subsidiary, the BNP Paribas India, which has a market value of about $2 billion, and the bank issued an expression of interest (EoI) for the purpose.

Fitch downgrades Hong Kong citing protests and China fears

The Fitch ratings agency on Tuesday cut Hong Kong’s credit rating, following months of protests and uncertainty caused by closer integration with the Chinese mainland.

**BLOOMBERG**

The move pits the Japanese financial giant against China's vast state-owned enterprise sector, which has expanded aggressively into foreign markets in recent years.

**BLOOMBERG**

The deal is expected to continue in 2020, with the trade deal expected to weigh down the Chinese economy, the bank said. The value of outstanding loans to China has fallen over the past decade because of the bank's efforts to diversify its loan portfolio.

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The slump is expected to continue in 2020, with the trade deal expected to weigh down the Chinese economy, the bank said. The value of outstanding loans to China has fallen over the past decade because of the bank's efforts to diversify its loan portfolio.
Citigroup is betting big on credit cards

The headquarters of Citigroup in London. The third-largest US card issuer has been among the most aggressive promoters of zero-interest balance transfers.

Citigroup shares have rallied more than 20% so far this year. The S&P 500 Banking Index, the Standard & Poor’s index for the US banking sector, rose 11%. See story below.

John Silva, Citigroup’s chief executive, has taken other steps to encourage customers to do more than just transfer balances.

For example, if he’s introduced to a reward program offering a new credit card that can be used up to the next 30 days, he’s likely to sign up.

And it has introduced installment loans linked to credit cards for large purchases.

Major credit cards, meanwhile, are providing more careful scrutiny.

Discover Financial Services, known for flooding mailboxes with promotions, has introduced a new credit card that it says only rewards customers if they use it for small retail purchases.

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The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index gained 20.34 points or 0.2% to close the week at 10,253.19. Market capitalisation rose by 28.3% to $1.22bn worth of Qatari equities compared to $830.8mn in the prior week. The industrials sector was the second biggest contributor to the overall trading volume, accounting for 30.9% of the total trading volumes during the week, with a trading volume of 51.6% on a trading volume of 245mn shares. On the other hand, Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQK) was the worst performing stock for the week with a decline of 7.8% on 5.3mn shares traded.

Qatar Islamic Bank (QIBK) was the biggest contributor to the overall weekly change, adding 11.1% to its trading volume during the week to QR1.1bn versus QR81.7mn in the prior week. The banks and financial services sector led the overall trading volume, accounting for 32.5%, followed by the real estate sector, which accounted for 20.5% of the overall trading volume. Eotten Holding Group (QESI) was the top volume traded stock during the week with 89.4mn shares traded.

Foreign institutions remained positive with net buying of QR92.7mn net buying of QR48.3mn in the prior week. Qatari institutions remained positive with net buying of QR4.6mn versus net selling of QR11.5mn in the prior week. Foreign real estate investors remained bearish with net selling of QR314.3mn versus net selling of QR11.5mn in the prior week. Qatari real estate investors remained negative with net selling of QR44.3mn versus net selling of QR17.6mn in the prior week. Foreign real estate investors have brought (net) QR122.9mn of Qatar equities in 2019.

Trading volume decreased by 28.3% during the week to QR1.1bn versus QR1.6bn in the prior week. The banks and financial services sector led the trading volume during the week, accounting for 31.6% of the total trading value. The industrials sector was the second biggest contributor to the overall trading volume, accounting for 30.9% of the total trading volumes during the week, with a trading volume of 51.6% on a trading volume of 245mn shares. On the other hand, Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQK) was the worst performing stock for the week with a decline of 7.8% on 5.3mn shares traded.

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Another recent inversion could provide support for US stocks

GICs or currencies to dance to dollar’s tune, trade-war and Fed song

With Fed rate cuts, history shows traders get what they want
US leading indicators are ‘flash warning’ signs: QNB

Singapore Business Council Qatar hosts networking session

Singapore Business Council (Qatar) and Qatar Financial Centre, has hosted its third networking session in Doha.

The SBCQ was subsequently inaugurated in Doha in March 2018 by the Singapore Business Council Qatar, the SBCQ is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation representing a broad membership of Singapore businesses and professional people across all industry sectors.

Its role is to assist both new and existing Singaporean businesses wanting to start up and expand their operations in Qatar through regular meetings and events, and to develop partnerships, networks of views, opinions and experiences. SBCQ chairman and Commercial and Industrial Relations Group chief executive officer Joseph Abraham said: “One of SBCQ’s aspirations is to enhance the visibility of Singaporean businesses and professionals in Qatar. We hope this will also facilitate greater awareness of local business practices and culture and promote Singapore as a dynamic trading partner.”

The networking event was well attended by 100 Singaporean professionals working in Qatar, besides other members of the local business community with close connections to Singapore.

Islamic finance contracts estimated to reach $2.5tn by end of 2019, says Qica official

This value of Islamic finance contracts is estimated to reach $2.5tn by the end of 2019 and is considered as further $5tn by 2022, an official of the Qatar Islamic Center (Qica) has said.

Qica board member Shamsul Tanis Ali said at the inauguration of the 3rd Islamic International Arbitration Conference (EIAC) recently held in Doha that the contribution of Islamic finance towards the global financial services is $1.5tn and will exceed $2.5tn by 2022.

The conference, which was attended by the Singapore Convention on Mediation, was organized by the Singapore Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) in conjunction with the Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI) and was held under the patronage of the Ministry of Law and Justice Judge David Maraga and Kenya Law Association.

networking session in Doha. Abraham also highlighted Singapore's strengths as an international financial centre, has hosted its third networking session in Doha.

The SBCQ was subsequently inaugurated in Doha in March 2018 by the Singapore Business Council Qatar, the SBCQ is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation representing a broad membership of Singapore businesses and professional people across all industry sectors.

Its role is to assist both new and existing Singaporean businesses wanting to start up and expand their operations in Qatar through regular meetings and events, and to develop partnerships, networks of views, opinions and experiences. SBCQ chairman and Commercial and Industrial Relations Group chief executive officer Joseph Abraham said: “One of SBCQ’s aspirations is to enhance the visibility of Singaporean businesses and professionals in Qatar. We hope this will also facilitate greater awareness of local business practices and culture and promote Singapore as a dynamic trading partner.”

The networking event was well attended by 100 Singaporean professionals working in Qatar, besides other members of the local business community with close connections to Singapore.

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