GULF TIMES
BUSINESS

Qatari firm underscores role of women in business amid Covid

BY Peter Algham

WOMEN in business have been consistently ignored in their respective fields. Aside from the challenges that are posed at the outset of the gender gap (Ceo-25 puzzle) and during the entire period, one key factor that drives the issue is the lack of women in top-tier positions in the corporate world.

"We all need to accept that the advances here will make a huge difference in the evolving strategies and policies in a diverse range of sectors, and how best to approach them," said Al-Ghami.

The diverse and dynamic role of women in the global business world is increasingly recognized as a crucial driver of growth and innovation. Women bring unique perspectives, skills, and experiences to the workplace, enabling companies to tap into new markets and adapt to changing consumer needs.

Women leaders are at the forefront of these efforts, driving change and inspiring others to follow. They are instrumental in shaping the future of business, with their insights and innovations contributing to sustainable growth and social responsibility.

Al-Ghami highlighted the importance of women's representation in leadership positions, emphasizing the need for significant progress towards achieving gender parity in the corporate sector.

"Women's participation at all levels of management is crucial for the success of any organization," she said. "By empowering women, businesses can unlock untapped potential, fostering innovation, and driving growth in a rapidly changing business landscape."

The report also underscores the importance of addressing gender biases and promoting inclusive policies and practices to create a workplace that fosters diversity and inclusion.

"We must continue to work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive environment where women have access to the same opportunities as their male counterparts," Al-Ghami concluded. "By doing so, we can unlock the full potential of our workforce and drive sustainable growth for our organizations and societies as a whole."
AstraZeneca gets partial immunity in low-cost EU vaccine deal

Google’s search business targeted in US antitrust case

UK car output falls by nearly half in August

BMW fined $18m in US over inflated sales data

\[ \text{Text is too short for a meaningful transcription.} \]
China Evergrande Group faces crisis of confidence over $120bn debt

China Evergrande Group is facing its worst debt crisis to date as investors lose faith in the property giant's financial health, sending its shares plunging on Monday after the company missed a重要 day to pay bondholders.

Evergrande, one of China's biggest property developers, missed its interest payment on a $131 million bond due on Monday, according to Refinitiv. The company said in a statement that it was exploring “various solutions” to address its debt problems.

Evergrande is the world's largest property developer by sales and has a market capitalization of about $100 billion. It has more than 1,200 projects in 126 cities across China, and is one of the country's most indebted companies.

The mortgage crisis has already triggered panic selling in Chinese property stocks, with share prices plunging by as much as 9% in early trading on Monday. Evergrande's share price fell by 29% in Hong Kong.

The company's failure to pay interest on its bonds could trigger a wider crisis in China's property sector, which is already facing a slowdown in sales and a surge in defaults.

In recent days, the company has been trying to reassure investors by announcing a plan to sell assets to raise cash and by promising to continue building the houses it has already started.

However, many analysts remain skeptical about the company's ability to come up with the funds needed to pay its debts. They fear that a default could trigger a wider crisis in the country's property sector, which is already facing a slowdown in sales and a surge in defaults.

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Pakistan's central bank eases cash margin curbs on imports

Pakistan's central bank has announced a series of measures to ease liquidity constraints and improve the country's balance of payments. The measures include easing cash margin curbs on imports and increasing the limit on foreign exchange transactions.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has decided to increase the limit on foreign exchange transactions to $100 million from $60 million, which was previously in place. The move is expected to provide relief to businesses and help improve the country's balance of payments.

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India mulls gas price floor pegged to Asia LNG to helpONGC

India is considering setting a floor price for gas produced from its giant eastern offshore gas fields to protect domestic producers from foreign competition, sources said. The move is intended to support local producers, who are facing intense competition from cheaper imports.

India is the world's third-largest gas consumer, with around 54 billion cubic meters of gas consumed every year. Domestic production accounts for about 30% of this demand, with the rest imported from countries like Qatar and the Middle East.

The government is considering setting a floor price for gas, which would be pegged to the price of LNG in Asian markets. This would help domestic producers by ensuring they receive a minimum price for their gas, even if foreign competitors offer lower prices.

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Big Hit seeking to raise $826mn in South Korea’s hottest IPO

Sensex, Nifty rally; rupee strengthens

Emerging stocks, currencies let up at end of brutal week

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India’s Hero and Harley in talks for distribution deal

Source: Bloomberg

India’s Hero MotoCorp has decided to place a direct order, according to sources familiar with the matter, for all Indian manufactured vehicles for Hero India’s Hero MotoCorp in talks with US motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson for a distribution deal, two sources familiar with the matter told Bloomberg.

Hero MotoCorp, India’s largest motorcycle and scooter maker, has been in talks with Harley-Davidson for a partnership, according to the sources.

Harley-Davidson, which sold just 1,300 bikes in India last year, is in talks with Hero for a distribution deal, a source familiar with the matter told Bloomberg.

Harley-Davidson, which is looking to expand its presence in India, has been trying to find a partner to help it scale up production in the country.

“This is a huge opportunity for Harley to enter the Indian market, which is growing at a significant pace,” a source close to the talks told Bloomberg.

Billionaire Mistry braves for fight over Tata stake

Source: Bloomberg

A Billionaire’s artsy wine and fried chicken bistro is in court, and its owner is fighting for control of India’s biggest corporate war.

The founder of Tata Sons, a sprawling business empire that includes Indian telecom operator Bharti Airtel, is in court, and his future is up for grabs.

“None of the questions that we have asked have been answered by Tata Sons, and we have been left in the dark,” a source close to the talks told Bloomberg.

Alibaba's huge trove of data is helping China's exporters

Source: Bloomberg

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., the e-commerce giant, has quietly started a new service to help its small and medium-sized suppliers.

Alibaba is using its massive trove of data to help small and medium-sized suppliers.

The new service, called Smart Logistics, is designed to help small and medium-sized suppliers.

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Europe markets slide at end of volatile week as virus infections surge

European stock markets mostly slid the week lower as virus cases surged across Europe. A trio of key drivers weighed down European markets: the continued spread of the Delta variant, rising virus infections in the US, and the US Federal Reserve's announcement of its plans to taper its bond purchases.

The US Federal Reserve's decision to taper its bond purchases and reduce its purchase of government bonds and mortgage-backed securities by $120 billion per month was seen as a sign that the central bank was moving closer to raising interest rates. This news caused a sell-off in US stocks, which dragged down European markets.

Overall, the week was marked by volatility and uncertainty, with investors bracing for a potentially challenging year ahead. The news of the Delta variant and rising virus infections in the US added to concerns about economic disruption and the impact on businesses.

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In conclusion, the week saw a significant drop in European stock markets, reflecting concerns about the Delta variant and rising virus infections in the US. Investors are bracing for a potentially challenging year ahead, with concerns about economic disruption and the impact on businesses.

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APAC Markets

China: The Shanghai Composite fell 1.2% to 3,594 points, its lowest close in two months, as investors fretted about the Delta variant and the US Federal Reserve's plans to taper its bond purchases.

Japan: The Nikkei 225 dropped 1.6% to 28,000 points, its lowest close in two months, as investors fretted about the Delta variant and the US Federal Reserve's plans to taper its bond purchases.

Australia: The Australian S&P/ASX 200 fell 1.5% to 7,000 points, its lowest close in two months, as investors fretted about the Delta variant and the US Federal Reserve's plans to taper its bond purchases.

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GFC Indices

US: The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.2%, the S&P 500 gained 0.5%, and the Nasdaq Composite added 0.7%. The economic picture was mixed, with the US Federal Reserve's plans to taper its bond purchases causing concern about economic disruption and the impact on businesses.

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Amazon launches Luna cloud-based video game service

AFP
San Francisco

Amazon yesterday unveiled Luna streaming video game service, challenging Microsoft and Google in the growing cloud gaming market. Games in the US were linked to request early access in Luna which uses a video game controller to connect directly to games festival at Amazon Web Services data center to enhance play through Fire TV as well as personal computers. Luna works for idle devices were also shown to the audience. Luna which is part of the AWS entertainment services. “Amazon streaming service is a good idea with a tough business model,” Bezos seethed Michael Pachter said it is “hard to believe what is going to get to where we need to be but they’re setting out with all the relevant tools and few helpers.”

Luna takes on Microsoft’s xCloud and Google Stadia in the drive to shifting video games directly to the cloud. Google’s Stadia cloud gaming service costs $99/month, and Microsoft’s xCloud adds the Xbox Game Pass subscription service at $10/month. Luna membership comes with six complimentary games but each of the fees in its basic cost extra. “It’s a no-brainer for Luna,” Amazon entertainment devices and services vice president, Mike George said.

Aim is to build a great gaming experience for everyone,” Amazon announced a gaming channel at Luna dovetailed to Oculus with wishes being granted on the French cloud gaming giant Mirabon and Amazon Connect Worldwide and CloudJoy. Amazon plans to add more channels to Luna, offering access to games from more publishers. “We’re pleased to be working alongside Amazon on Luna, utilizing the power of cloud gaming to provide our players with another way to access our games, wherever they are,” said Aurth as revenue partners of Cloudjoy.

Luna is built on Amazon’s massive AWS infrastructure for hosting computationally powerful infrastructure as a service in the cloud.

The move makes sense for Amazon which already sells video games at its leading e-commerce platform, as well as streaming software, television shows and music on its popular Prime platform. “Amazon recognizes that part of the video game market is subscription-based and is looking to cash in on that opportunity,” said Gartner’s van Heijningen.

The service is available in the US, but Amazon has not announced international rollout.

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