QNB bolsters digital payments leadership by launching Fitbit Pay and Garmin Pay

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QNB Group has partnered with Garmin and Fitbit to make Garmin Pay and Fitbit Pay available in QNB systems in line with the Group’s efforts to digitalize payments platforms. QNB has been committed to providing customers with easy access to all their digital wallets and to keep up with the latest technology trends. The Group has recently partnered with these companies to further enhance customer experience and payment processing.

Customers will be able to add any of their QNB credit or prepaid cards to their Garmin Pay and Fitbit Pay supported devices. This is a straightforward and easy-to-use process which will substantially change the way customers pay for their purchases.

John d’Ambrosio, general manager, QNB’s Digital Retail Banking, said: “QNB is a regional leader in digital and mobile payments, and we are always looking for ways to improve customer experience. This partnership will not only enhance the way our customers make payments but also simplify their daily lives.”

Garmin Pay and Fitbit Pay are straightforward, easy-to-use processes which will fundamentally change the way customers pay for their purchases.

INTERNET OF THINGS

Alfardan Properties unveils ISO 9001:2015 certification

Alfardan Properties has recently announced the implementation of ISO 9001:2015, the internationally recognized standard for quality management systems. The implementation of the standard is part of the company’s commitment to delivering business excellence by ensuring that all processes and systems are of the highest quality.

The certification process was carried out by the Bureau Veritas Group, a global leader in providing assurance and quality management services. The ISO 9001:2015 standard requires that all processes are managed in line with internationally recognized practices, including customer focus, leadership, and continuous improvement.

The certification process included a thorough audit of all processes and systems, and the company has successfully met all the requirements of the standard.

Ooredoo honoured with award at Plug & Play Winter Summit 2020

Ooredoo has been honoured with an award at the Winter Summit 2020, an annual event hosted by Plug & Play, a leading technology accelerator. The award was given to Ooredoo for its contributions to the digital transformation of industries.

The award was presented by Plug & Play, an accelerator that connects startups with companies to help them grow and scale. Ooredoo has been recognized for its efforts in integrating digital solutions into traditional industries, particularly in the telecommunications sector.

The award ceremony was held in February 2020, and it is a testament to Ooredoo’s commitment to innovation and technology. The company has been actively involved in the development of new technologies, such as 5G and artificial intelligence, to improve the customer experience and enhance the efficiency of its operations.

The award is a significant achievement for Ooredoo and is a recognition of the company’s efforts to keep pace with the digital transformation. Ooredoo has been working to integrate digital solutions into its operations, and this award is a testament to its efforts.

Qatar economy to return to ‘positive’ growth in 2021 on global LNG demand, Gulf diplomatic breakthrough: EIU

EIU’s latest forecast highlights the potential for Qatar’s economy to recover from the pandemic and return to positive growth in 2021. The report notes that the global LNG market is on track to return to pre-pandemic levels, providing a significant boost to Qatar’s LNG sector.

The report also highlights the importance of Gulf diplomatic efforts, which have led to the normalization of relations between Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. This diplomatic breakthrough has had a positive impact on Qatar’s economy, with increased investment and trade.

The report notes that Qatar’s real economic growth will remain stable throughout most of the forecast period, with growth expected to return to positive levels in 2021.

The report concludes that the normalization of relations and the potential for increased LNG demand will provide a strong foundation for Qatar’s economy to recover from the pandemic.
Biden climate goals get greener path as Democrats take Senate

By Jonathan D. Doll, Justin Sool and Matthew Karnitschnig

The slim edge Democrats won in the Senate will allow the party to block opposition efforts to dismantle the Biden agenda. The Senate’s narrow majority will also allow Democrats to approve legislation that will aid in the president’s efforts to fight climate change, end voting restrictions and expand access to health care. And it will enable Democrats to pass a $1.7 trillion infrastructure bill and a $1 trillion economic growth bill, both of which will be supported by the administration.

The Biden administration has said it will focus on creating jobs and infrastructure, improving public education, reducing health care costs, and fighting climate change. The Senate’s narrow majority will allow Democrats to move forward with these priorities.

What a 50-50 Senate means, for Biden and for the US

By Rehema Dasneider and Lewan Hipple

The US Capitol in Washington DC © Bloomberg

The US government is on track to have its most diverse Senate in nearly 100 years, thanks to the election of Black, Asian and Hispanic Americans. The Senate’s diversity reflects the diversity of the country, and it will be a key factor in the country’s future.

The Senate’s diversity will bring new perspectives to the political debate, and it will help the country move forward.

1. What is a 50-50 Senate?

A 50-50 Senate is when the two major parties each control an equal number of seats in the Senate. This will allow the Senate to move forward with legislation even when one party controls the executive branch.

2. How is a 50-50 Senate different from a 51-49 Senate?

A 50-50 Senate is different from a 51-49 Senate because the 51-49 Senate requires the support of the minority party to pass legislation, while the 50-50 Senate allows the majority party to pass legislation with a simple majority of votes.

3. What impact will a 50-50 Senate have on the country?

A 50-50 Senate will allow the country to move forward with legislation on key issues such as climate change, health care, immigration, and voting rights.

4. How will Democrats use their Senate majority?

Democrats plan to use their Senate majority to pass legislation on key issues such as climate change, health care, immigration, and voting rights.

5. What impact will a 50-50 Senate have on the US Chamber of Commerce?

A 50-50 Senate will allow the US Chamber of Commerce to have a say in legislation that affects the business community.

6. How will a 50-50 Senate affect the US economy?

A 50-50 Senate will allow the US government to pass legislation that will benefit the US economy, such as infrastructure investment and tax reform.

7. What impact will a 50-50 Senate have on the US military?

A 50-50 Senate will allow the US military to receive the funding it needs to protect the country.

8. What impact will a 50-50 Senate have on the US Supreme Court?

A 50-50 Senate will allow the US government to nominate a justice to the US Supreme Court, which will affect the outcome of important cases.
China issues rules to stop 'unjustified' use of foreign laws

Bloomberg News
China has issued new rules to block its companies and others from using laws from territories in China's jurisdiction to sue foreign companies, the government announced yesterday. The rules aim to remove the risk of an international arbitration tribunal based outside China and of foreign laws and rules being applied to the resolution of civil and commercial disputes involving China within China when it is

In Japan, wider curbs heighten risk of double-dip recession

Bloomberg Business
A woman wearing a helmet with the words "Japanese" and "Tokyo" on it walks past a hotel in central Tokyo. The government has decided to tighten rules on foreign companies operating in Japan, including a "no-action" policy on international arbitration cases and a ban on the use of foreign laws.

Asian oil refiners snap up Europe's crude in wake of Saudi cuts

Bloomberg
Saudi Arabia's price cuts for Asian customers have set off a buying frenzy among refiners. European crude prices have fallen steeply as Asian buyers snap up cheaper oil from the kingdom. The discount for Saudi crude has widened to $20 a barrel, making it more attractive for Asian refiners.
Wall Street is the most bullish on commodities in a decade

Bloomberg

New York

Currencies are back in full force as investors diversify and markets are as if for a rally. A wave of selling this week has pushed the yen to a seven-month low, and the currency is now the world's poorest performer. Commodities, on the other hand, are leading the way as investors seek out assets that can hedge against inflation.

The United States is the top destination for commodities, with investors flocking to gold, silver, and copper. According to the World Gold Council, the world's largest gold producer, the country's demand for gold has increased by 30% in the past year. Silver, meanwhile, is up 50%, while copper has risen by 40%.

Gold, the traditional safe-haven asset, has been a mainstay of portfolios for decades. As investors seek protection against inflation, they are turning to gold as a way to preserve their wealth. Silver, on the other hand, has gained popularity as a precious metal with industrial applications, such as electronics and solar panels.

Copper, meanwhile, has been a key driver of the commodity rally as investors anticipate a recovery in demand for construction projects and infrastructure developments. With the global economy on the rebound, the demand for copper is expected to increase, driving prices higher.

Bibliographic details:
- Bloomberg
- Date: January 19, 2021
- Source: Bloomberg
The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index gained 2.32% during the first week of January 2021, closing at 10,678.28. Market capitalisation increased by 2.75% to reach QR76.7bn compared to QR69.6bn at the end of the previous week. Of the 47 listed companies, 37 companies ended the week higher, while 15 fell and one remained unchanged.

Al Khalij Commercial Bank (KCBK) was the best performing stock for the week, with a gain of 11.5%. On the other hand, Qatar Cinema (QFCS) was the worst performing stock with a decline of 7.1%.

QNB Group (QNBK) and Industries Qatar (IQQD), and Qatar Islamic Bank (QIBK) were the primary contributors to the weekly index gains. QNBK was the biggest contributor to the index’s weekly increase, adding 76.2 points to the index. IQQD contributed 42.9 points to the index. Further, QIBK tacked on 30.9 points.

Trading volume during the week increased by 29.8% to reach 93,952.3mm vs. QRS 54,4mm in the prior trading week. QNBK was the top volume traded stock during the week with total traded value of QRS20.6mm. Trading volume also increased by 38.0% to reach 907.1mm shares versus 657.4mm shares in the prior trading week. The number of transactions increased by 29.0% to reach 38,865 transactions versus 30,133 transactions in the prior week. Investment Holding Group (IGRD) was the top volume traded stock during the week with total traded volume of 229.7mm shares.

**Weekly Market Report**

### Market Indicators

- **Week-on-Week (W-to-W):**
  - **Value Traded (QR bn):** 2,052.3
  - **Number of Transactions:** 35,949
  - **Market Capitalisation (QR bn):** 1,203.3

- **Market Value (QR):** 897.1

- **Market Volume (QR):** 950.7

- **Market Volatility:** 0.35

### Stock Performance

- **Top 5 Gainers:**
  - Qatar Petroleum
  - Al Khalij Commercial Bank
  - Al Wakra Bank
  - First National Bank
  - Ras天然气

- **Top 5 Losers:**
  - Handwoven
  - Adnoc Services
  - Qatar General Insurance
  - Qatar General Investment
  - First Gulf Bank

### Market Indices

- **Total Return:** 10,528.3

### Regional Indices

- **Qatar:** 10,478.6
- **Dubai:** 5,620.3
- **Abu Dhabi:** 5,163.7
- **Kuwait:** 3,517.1
- **Bahrain:** 1,451.2

### Dividend Yield

- **Qatar:** 11.7%
- **Dubai:** 5.4%
- **Abu Dhabi:** 2.8%
- **Kuwait:** 8.8%
- **Bahrain:** 7.3%

### Definitions of Key Terms Used in Technical Analysis

- **Candlestick Chart:** A candlestick chart is a price chart that displays the high, low, open, and close for a security. The body of the chart refers to the open and close price, while the bars represent the high and low intraday movements. The ‘shadow’ of the candlestick may represent any time frame. This is a one-day candlestick chart (every candlestick represents one trading day) in our analysis.

- **Technical Analysis:** Candles represent price action and provide signals for future price movements. They can be used to identify potential market trends and assist in decision-making.
Starwood launches buyout bid for Austrian landlord

The US Supreme Court set to review refinery waivers from biofuel quotas

Europe's debt binge is no concern for yield-starved investors

Starwood launches buyout bid for Austrian landlord

Deutsche Bank to pay $130mn to settle US probes

Europe's debt binge is no concern for yield-starved investors

The US Supreme Court will now have the ability to determine whether to hear appeals from federal court rulings blocking a key biofuel mandate.

In a move that could have far-reaching implications, the court will consider whether to hear appeals from lower court decisions that blocked the US government's requirement that refiners blend biofuels into their fuel.

The Supreme Court is set to review a lower court's decision that upheld a federal judge's ruling to block the mandate, which requires refiners to blend biofuels into their fuel.

The case stems from a lawsuit filed by biofuel producers who argued that the mandate is unconstitutional.

The court's decision is expected to be made in the coming weeks, and the outcome could have significant implications for the biofuel industry and the energy sector.

Deutsche Bank to pay $130mn to settle US probes

Deutsche Bank, which is facing multiple probes related to its role in the 2008 financial crisis, has agreed to pay $130 million to settle US probes.

The bank has been under scrutiny for its role in the sale of mortgage-backed securities that contributed to the financial crisis.

The settlement comes as the bank continues to grapple with regulatory scrutiny and efforts to improve its compliance programs.

The agreement is expected to conclude the bank's US probes, which have been ongoing for several years.

Europe's debt binge is no concern for yield-starved investors

The European Central Bank's (ECB) decision to keep interest rates unchanged at record lows has failed to ignite a meaningful rise in long-term yields, leaving bond investors with few attractive opportunities in the region.

The ECB's decision to keep interest rates unchanged at record lows has failed to ignite a meaningful rise in long-term yields, leaving bond investors with few attractive opportunities in the region.

Investors have been eagerly awaiting a potential shift in monetary policy from the ECB to provide a boost to yields, but the central bank's decision to maintain current policy settings has left many disappointed.

Yield Grab

Investor demand for long-maturity Spanish, French debt has surged

In Spain, the government has sold a record amount of long-maturity debt, with yields on 30-year bonds falling to their lowest level in more than a decade.

The surge in demand for long-dated Spanish debt is an indication of investor confidence in the country's economic prospects and its commitment to fiscal discipline.

In France, long-dated bond yields have also fallen, reflecting a shift in investor sentiment towards the eurozone's largest economy.

The rising demand for long-maturity debt in Spain and France is a positive sign for the eurozone, which has been grappling with high yields on its long-dated debt.

Policy makers have been closely watching the demand for long-dated bonds in the eurozone, as it is a key indicator of investor sentiment and confidence in the region's economic prospects.

Yield Grab: Investor demand for long-maturity Spanish, French debt has surged

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**OIL**

**Oil hits highest level in nearly a year; gas jumps 50%**

The price of oil has climbed to its highest level in nearly a year, driven by robust demand and supply constraints. Brent crude futures were up by 50,000 in early Asian trading, reaching $60.50 a barrel. With the global economy reopening, there is a growing demand for oil, which is expected to persist into the summer months. Natural gas prices have also soared, climbing by 50% in a single day, reaching $3.50 per million British thermal units (BTU). The surge in oil prices is expected to continue as more countries ease lockdown restrictions and reopen their economies.

**Gulf Times**

**BENCHMARK CRUDE OIL PRICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basket</th>
<th>Price (USD/BBL)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brent</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>WTI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FINTECH STARTUP SWATLEES SECURES $220,000 PRE-SEED FUNDING**

Qatar-based fintech startup SWATLES has secured a pre-seed funding round led by the startup accelerator and an angel investor. The company will use the funds to develop and market its digital financial inclusion platform, which aims to provide affordable and accessible financial services to underserved communities in the Middle East and North Africa. SWATLES plans to use its unique technology stack to offer innovative and user-friendly services, such as point-of-sale (POS) terminals, mobile banking, and digital wallets, to promote financial inclusion and reduce financial exclusion.

**QIB NAMED ‘BEST ISLAMIC BANK IN QATAR’ FOR 4TH YEAR AT EMEA’S MIDDLE EAST BANKING AWARDS**

QIB Islamic Bank (QIB) has been named the ‘Best Islamic Bank in Qatar’ for the fourth year running at the EMEA’s Middle East Banking Awards. The award recognizes QIB’s outstanding performance in the Islamic finance sector, its commitment to innovation, and its contribution to the development of the Islamic banking industry in Qatar and the region. QIB has been a leader in providing Shariah-compliant financial products and services to its customers, and this recognition is a testament to its dedication to excellence in Islamic banking.

**JAPAN, SWEDEN, FINLAND AND DENMARK IN DEEPER DEPRESSION THAN IN 2020**

The Japanese economy has entered a deep depression as the government continues to implement a second wave of lockdowns to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Swedish government recently announced a new set of restrictions, including the closure of bars and restaurants, to curb the rising number of cases. In Finland and Denmark, the government has imposed severe restrictions on social gatherings and public events to prevent the spread of the virus. These measures have resulted in a significant drop in economic activity and a rise in unemployment rates, leading to a deeper depression than in 2020.