A Faleh Educational Holding is first to list on QSE venture market

By Fathaw F. Formal
Business Reporter

A Faleh Educational Holding, which owns Delta Academy and Al Guhl College, the university of Al Zubara, will soon list on the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE), making it the first to get listed on the exchange since the start of the year.

A Faleh Educational Holding had a contract signed to be the only private university in Qatar, valued at $1.2 billion by Sheikha Asmaa bin Khalifa bin Al-Sulaiman and a group of investors, when it was decided to invest it in a limited liability company to a public shareholding company.

The meeting was also attended by Sheikha Asmaa bin Khalifa bin Al-Sulaiman and Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Al-Sulaiman and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Moreover, Acting Governor of the Central Bank of Qatar issued a resolution to list the company.

A Faleh Educational Holding, which has made its mark in Qatar as a landmark that provides educational products and services, will be listed on the market soon. It has surpassed one of the leading institutions.

"We are very happy with the decision made by the regulators and we are excited to be part of the establishment and the future of the Qatar National Vision 2030. We look forward to Delta Academy, Al Guhl Academy, Al Faleh University, Qatar Education and Delta International College's success. We are confident that the market will give them the same opportunity and will ensure a successful future for them. This is a big step for Qatar's education sector and we hope it will attract more investors to our country. We are confident that the exchange will provide a platform for growth and success for these companies. We are also excited to see the growth of Delta Academy's joint ventures in the future." said Sheikha Asmaa bin Khalifa bin Al-Sulaiman, the company's founder and Chairperson.

A Faleh Educational Holding is the first to list on the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE), making it the first to get listed on the exchange since the start of the year.

CI affirms QIIB rating at 'A' with a stable outlook

By Fathaw F. Formal
Business Reporter

Citicorp Bank of Qatar has confirmed QIIB's rating at 'A' with a stable outlook. The agency has stated that the bank has "achieved an impressive turnaround" in its financial performance.

"Citicorp Bank of Qatar has shown a strong performance in its recent years," according to the report. "The bank has been able to improve its financial performance significantly, thanks to its strong capital and liquidity position.

Citicorp Bank of Qatar has been able to improve its financial performance significantly, thanks to its strong capital and liquidity position. The bank has been able to increase its profitability margins and reduce its loan loss provisioning, resulting in a significant improvement in its net income.

Citicorp Bank of Qatar has also been able to improve its asset quality, with a significant reduction in non-performing loans and improved loan loss provisioning. This has resulted in a significant improvement in the bank's credit risk profile.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio has also been strong, with a capital adequacy ratio of 15.5% at the end of 2020. This has allowed the bank to withstand any future shocks and maintain its liquidity position. The bank has also been able to improve its loan-to-deposit ratio, which is a key indicator of the bank's financial soundness.

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Alfardan Sports Motors provides sports cars aficionados in Qatar with revamped home of Ferrari

New facility hosts a special display of the Ferrari 296 GTB

Alfardan Sports Motors, the official Ferrari importer in Qatar, has celebrated with media representatives in Qatar the inauguration of the newly expanded and revamped Ferrari showroom.

In the presence of the dealership’s management, the showrooms offer the discerning Ferrari brand’s discerning clientele and prospects access to the Ferrari’s latest models in an impressive state-of-the-art facility. The psychiatric visit will be held at the official Ferrari dealership in Qatar, which has been expanded to include a state-of-the-art showroom and service center.

Omar Alfardan, president and CEO of Alfardan Group, said: “This new showroom is a significant milestone in our continued efforts to bring the Ferrari brand even closer to the discerning clientele in Qatar.”

The new showroom is designed to provide an immersive experience for customers, featuring state-of-the-art facilities and innovative design elements.

The showroom is equipped with a large, open-plan layout that allows visitors to stroll through the collection and explore the latest models on display.

“Alfardan Sports Motors is dedicated to providing an exceptional customer experience, and we are confident that this new showroom will meet and exceed the highest expectations,” said Al Zayani.

The showroom is open daily from 8 am to 8 pm, providing visitors with ample time to explore the collection and learn more about the Ferrari brand.

For more information, please visit alfardan.com or contact our team at 04 333 3333.
White House without Trump remains quiet on Opec+

When oil prices soared during President Trump’s term in the White House, Opec+ would raise production and prices. Now, with the new administration, it’s a different story. December 2021

U.S. President Joe Biden’s team has been working to reach a deal on Opec+ policy. The latest agreement was announced on December 23, 2021, when Opec+ agreed to increase production by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the first half of 2022. This decision was made to support the global economy, which is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The agreement also includes a provision for Opec+ to review production levels every three months. This flexibility will allow Opec+ to respond to changes in the oil market, including any potential impact from the use of renewable energy sources. The agreement is a significant step forward in the fight against climate change, which is a top priority for the Biden administration. The United States aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. This agreement is a clear indication of the commitment of Opec+ countries to work together to achieve this goal.
China’s Baidu debuts on Hong Kong bourse after raising $3.1bn in IPO

Baidu, the Chinese search engine, has made its debut on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange after raising $3.1 billion in an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO was the largest ever in Hong Kong.

Baidu’s move to list in Hong Kong is seen as a strategic move to expand its presence in the Chinese-speaking market and to tap into the growing demand for technology stocks in the region.

In a statement, Baidu said the proceeds from the IPO will be used to strengthen its core business, invest in new technologies, and acquire new assets.

Baidu’s IPO was priced at $27 per share, higher than the expected range of $22 to $26 per share. The company’s market cap is now estimated at $22.9 billion.

Baidu’s share price soared on the first day of trading, closing at $29.40, up 8.1% from the IPO price.

The IPO is part of a broader trend among US-listed Chinese companies to list in Hong Kong and other Asian markets in order to tap into the growing demand for technology stocks in the region.

Asian markets drop as inflation spectre hangs

Asian stock markets were subdued on Friday as inflation worries continued to weigh on investor sentiment, despite some encouraging data from China.

China’s factory gate prices, which rose at their fastest pace in more than four years, in January, adding to concerns about the global economy’s ability to withstand higher prices.

Investors waited for key US inflation data later in the day, which could provide further clues about the Federal Reserve’s plans for further rate hikes.

Inflation rates in the US and other developed economies have risen to multi-year highs, raising concerns about the impact on economic growth.

Asian policymakers have been monitoring inflation closely, with some central banks raising interest rates in recent months to cool inflationary pressures.

However, some analysts believe that higher inflation may be temporary and that central banks will not need to raise rates as aggressively as expected.

The cautious mood was also reflected in commodity markets, with oil prices easing on fears of a possible economic slowdown.

Oil prices fell on Friday as concerns about the global economy’s ability to withstand higher prices put pressure on demand for crude.

In US markets, WTI crude futures were down 0.3% at $79.50 a barrel, while Brent crude futures were down 0.2% at $83.00 a barrel.

In other markets, the US dollar index was little changed, while the British pound and the euro were buoyed by a strong set of inflation data from the UK and Eurozone, respectively.

But the gains in the major currencies were limited as investors remained cautious about the global economic outlook.

The dollar index was up 0.1% at 102.50, while the pound was up 0.2% at $1.39 and the euro was up 0.3% at $1.10.

In metal markets, gold prices were down 0.1% at $1,850 an ounce, while silver prices were down 0.3% at $23.40 an ounce.
US current account deficit widens sharply in 2020

The current account deficit of the United States widened sharply in 2020, hitting its highest level since 2005 as the coronavirus pandemic battered the world’s largest economy.

The current account gap expanded from $56.4 billion in 2019 to $85.6 billion in 2020, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The deficit of goods and services increased from $128.6 billion in 2019 to $202.9 billion in 2020, while the surplus of investment income fell from $36.8 billion to $21.7 billion.

President Biden is hoping to boost the US economy by investing in infrastructure, which could help to reduce the trade deficit.

Biden is starting mega infrastructure bill with US behind China

President Biden’s administration is pushing for a $2 trillion infrastructure bill that could help to reduce the US trade deficit with China.

The bill includes investments in roads, bridges, and railways, which could help to boost the US economy and reduce its dependence on Chinese imports.

Bank of Spain cuts its outlook for economy

The Bank of Spain has downgraded its economic growth forecast for Spain, citing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the uncertainty surrounding the recovery.

New Zealand slaps taxes on investors to cool its red-hot housing market

New Zealand has implemented new taxes on foreign investors to cool its overheated housing market, which has become a hotbed for speculation.

The government has implemented a 10% tax on foreign buyers who purchase homes for investment purposes, as well as a 15% tax on homes purchased by non-residents.

These measures are expected to reduce the number of foreign buyers entering the market, which has been driving up property prices.

Local retail investors, Gulf funds continue to be net buyers on QSE

Local retail investors and Gulf funds continued to be net buyers on the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) in the first quarter of 2021, according to a recent report.

These investors continued to be net buyers in the QSE despite lower capital gains due to the recent decline in oil prices.

The report found that local retail investors and Gulf funds were net buyers of Omani shares, with the QSE's Omani Index gaining 2.15% in the first quarter of 2021.
Tunisian economy minister lauds ‘successful Qatari investments’ in Tunisia

Tunisia’s minister of Economy, Industry, and Development, Mohamed Berrada, has praised Qatari investments in the North African country, stating that they have been significant and have contributed to the modernization of the Tunisian economy.

Berrada visited the Qatari-funded and -operated Tunisian Industrial City of Solar Power (TICS), which is one of the largest solar power plants in the world, and stated that Qatari investments have played a crucial role in the modernization of the Tunisian economy.

“Qatari investments have been a game-changer for Tunisia, providing us with modern technology and expertise,” said Berrada, adding that the country will continue to attract foreign investment to further boost its economy.

Ooredoo launches new Narrowband-IoT solution for business customers

Ooredoo, the leading communications and technology company in the Gulf region, has announced the launch of its new Narrowband-IoT (NB-IoT) solution for business customers.

The new solution will enable businesses to connect their devices to the internet of things (IoT) at a lower cost and with better coverage than traditional IoT solutions.

New business opportunities to Narrowband IoT

Mezza joins hands with Qatari government to develop and expand Mawared platform

Mezza, a leading telecommunications company in the Middle East, has announced a partnership with the Qatari government to develop and expand its Mawared platform.

The partnership will allow Mezza to further expand its network and offer new services to its customers, helping to drive the digital transformation in the region.