Aamal’s diversified business model shows resilience, again: Sheikh Faisal

Aamal’s diversified business model demonstrated its resiliency and pulled away once again last year. As the company’s chairman and CEO, Sheikh Faisal bin Ali al-Thani, shared, “Aamal’s annual ordinary general assembly meeting held virtually earlier this year highlighted the resilience and profitability of our diversified business model.”

Delivering the chairman’s report, Sheikh Faisal bin Ali al-Thani, also chairman of Abu Dhabi-listed investment company ADQ, said fiscal 2020/21 revenues for Aamal amounted to AED1.8 billion. “These results demonstrate the company’s capacity to weather the most difficult of economic conditions,” he added.

The company attributed the growth to its providing essential services under the challenging conditions brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. “Our purpose has always been to provide customers with access to high-quality products and services,” Sheikh Faisal said.

The company is focused on improving its operational efficiency and profitability, and it plans to continue its efforts to achieve its strategic goals. Sheikh Faisal added that the company’s diversified business model will continue to be its strength in the future. "With the right strategies and investments, Aamal is well-positioned to continue its growth and expand its business in the years to come," he said.

Aamal is a regional retailer of a wide range of consumer goods, including food, beverages, healthcare products, and household items. The company operates under the brands Lulu, Fortnum’s, and Boots, among others.

Sheikh Faisal also highlighted the company’s commitment to sustainability, saying, “We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and implementing environmentally friendly practices in our operations.”

The chairman’s report also discussed the company’s efforts to support local businesses and communities. “We are proud to support local suppliers and promote local talent through our initiatives,” Sheikh Faisal said.

Looking ahead, Sheikh Faisal expressed confidence in Aamal’s ability to continue its growth and success. "We will continue to focus on our core values of quality, efficiency, and customer service, and we will strive to maintain our position as a leading retailer in the region," he concluded.
**Bloomberg QuickTake Q&A**

**The market plumbing behind the meme stock frenzies**

By Nick Baker

Learning about financial market structures can be intimidating. Many of us think about stocks as a virtual taxi service: just push a button and a market maker will show up. But it’s a lot more complicated.

Retail brokers are places where customers can shop for stocks. When you buy a stock, you are essentially executing a trade. The broker collects a fee, and that’s how they make money. Things can get even trickier when it comes to meme stocks.

**What is a meme stock?**

A meme stock is a stock that gains popularity due to social media and online communities. These stocks can experience rapid price movements, often driven by intense buying and selling activity on social media platforms like Reddit and Twitter.

**How do meme stocks work?**

When a stock becomes a meme, it typically starts with a small group of traders who use social media to spread the word about the stock. As the stock gains attention, more people start buying it, driving up the price. This process can repeat itself, leading to wild price swings.

**What role do retail brokers play in meme stocks?**

Retail brokers allow traders to execute trades in meme stocks, but they also have to manage the increased risk. This can lead to higher fees and stricter regulations.

**How do market makers make money?**

Market makers make money by charging a bid-ask spread on each trade. The spread is the difference between the buying price and the selling price.

**What happens when the market maker makes a mistake?**

If the market maker makes a mistake, it can lead to a price mismatch, which can result in losses for the market maker. The market maker is responsible for making sure that their prices are accurate.

**What are the risks of trading meme stocks?**

The risks of trading meme stocks include volatile price movements, rapid price swings, and the potential for large losses.

**How can investors protect themselves when trading meme stocks?**

Investors should do their research, avoid following the crowd, and set realistic expectations. They should also consider diversifying their portfolio.

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**Notes:**

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- [Investors should do their research, avoid following the crowd, and set realistic expectations. They should also consider diversifying their portfolio.](https://www.bloomberg.com/quicktake/qa/)
Commercial arbitration shows resilience during pandemic, says legal expert

Technology played a key role in providing alternative dispute resolutions as evidences mounted in favour of digitalization, with online hearings and virtual arbitrations gaining prominence in the past year, according to a Qatar University professor.

Speaking at the webinar, QUCPA professor Ahmed Hamza Al-Attiya, an expert in commercial law and international arbitration, said the online hearings and virtual arbitrations are contributing positively to the field.

Hamza said QUCPA is an active member of the Digital Dispute Resolution (DDR) Initiative, which connects arbitration centres and sees first-hand the advantages of using technology for both parties. He said QUCPA has employed modern technologies, especially during the pandemic when face-to-face hearings were not possible.

The webinar was organized by QUCPA in coordination with Doha Chamber of Commerce.

The webinar also touched on the current status of international arbitration, due to the pandemic, and the future of the industry. It also addressed the role of technology in online arbitration and how it is contributing to bridging the gap between arbitrators and counsel, adding to the efficiency of the process.

The webinar is part of a series of virtual discussions during Super Week.

The event will run until April 7, 2021 and will feature a range of topics by experts from different countries.

Qatar Chamber's president and CEO, Dr. Maithal bin Thumeir, added that online and virtual arbitration are part of the new normal and will be a valuable addition to the traditional methods of arbitration.

Hamza noted that challenges are on the horizon, including the legal framework, the need to improve their arguments, and how to break the barrier of fear to attract foreign investments. He added that despite new challenges, online arbitration is here to stay.

Building a strong relationship with online arbitrations and other experts in commercial law is essential to improve the quality of arbitrations, he said.

Legal experts participating in the webinar: Features of Arbitrations in the Arab World during Legal Week.

QSE venture market to give SME owners opportunity to get listed on the bourse

Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) has announced a new initiative for SME owners that will enable them to list their firms on the QSE without incurring any direct listing fees.

QSE remains bullish on strong buy interests

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Index rejig effective from tomorrow

The Qatar Stock Exchange’s (QSE) submits the proposal to the Qatar Financial Markets Regulatory Authority to rejig its Indexes effective from tomorrow.

The Authority approved the index rejig proposal submitted by the QSE.

The rejig will take effect during the trading hours of Wednesday, March 3.

The Authority also approved the rejig proposals submitted by other index providers.

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China FTSE bond index inclusion to take much longer than planned

Bloomberg

China economic bonds will have the sixth-largest weighting in FTSE Russell’s flagship World Government Bond Index, although global investors have three times longer than expected to grow their holdings in the benchmark.

The index compiler will add China’s bonds in October in phases over a period of three years, rather than the 12 months initially envisioned after the market feedback, FTSE Russell said.

They would comprise 5.2% of the index, a significant increase from the 0.7% held by the index, based on prices as of March 31, giving China a relatively large presence among the G20 nation’s largest economies.

China’s sovereign bonds have already begun to attract greater investor interest as a host of policy changes and reforms have been introduced in recent years, particularly in the debt market.

The long phase-in period for China’s bonds in the benchmark index is among several issues that have been discussed with investors, with a source saying that some high net worth individuals have been asked to diversify their investments outside China.

Bloomberg data shows that China’s bonds have already been included in the index, although their weighting is expected to rise over time. The country’s bonds are currently valued at around $1.6 trillion, according to Bloomberg.

The move is seen as a positive development for China’s debt market, which has been growing rapidly in recent years as the country continues to implement reforms to liberalize its financial system.

On the other hand, some critics have raised concerns about the potential impact of China’s inclusion on the global market. They argue that China’s large debt market could be destabilizing if it were to be included in the index too quickly.

In the coming weeks, FTSE Russell will announce the weights of the world’s leading central banks and governments, including those of China and the US, which are expected to have significant impacts on the index.

The decision to phase in China’s inclusion is seen as a positive step towards further integration of China’s debt market with the global economy.

The Chinese government has been working to expand access to its bond market, which is the world’s second-largest after that of the US. The government has been introducing policies to attract foreign investors, including by allowing access to the benchmark.

The move is also seen as a sign of growing confidence in China’s economy, which has been recovering from the impact of the pandemic. The country’s GDP growth is expected to reach about 4% this year, according to official estimates.

China’s sovereign bonds are expected to grow in size and importance in the coming years as the country continues to implement reforms to liberalize its financial system.

Bloomberg data shows that China’s bonds are currently valued at around $1.6 trillion, according to Bloomberg.

FTSE Russell’s plan to phase in the China bonds is a positive development for China’s debt market, which has been growing rapidly in recent years as the country continues to implement reforms to liberalize its financial system.

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FTSE Russell’s plan to phase in the China bonds is a positive development for China’s debt market, which has been growing rapidly in recent years as the country continue...
Asian bourses extend gains on economic recovery hope

Emerging market currencies hover near 3-week lows on firmer dollar

A
dian and European markets extended gains on Thursday, as investors looked past sharp price swings in commodity futures that had weighed on global equities earlier this week. However, concerns over a global economic slowdown and rising recession risks continued to weigh on risk appetite.

In Asia, the Nikkei 225 index was up 0.5% to 28,492.20, while the Shanghai Composite index rose 0.2% to 3,574.47. European indices also posted gains, with the FTSE 100 up 1.3% and the DAX 30 index gaining 1.1%.

In the US, the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average were both up 0.2%, while the Nasdaq Composite was down 0.1%.

The dollar strengthened against most major currencies, with the US dollar index rising 0.2% to 106.82. This was amid expectations of a strong US jobs report on Friday, which could further boost the dollar.

Other economic data indicate a strong US economy, with the US labor market showing signs of strength. The unemployment rate fell to 3.5% in April, the lowest level since 1969.

The positive economic outlook for the US currency was supported by expectations of a strong US jobs report on Friday. This, coupled with the strong labor market data, is expected to push the US dollar higher against the Japanese yen and European currencies.

Investors are also looking ahead to the US Federal Reserve’s upcoming policy meeting on June 13-14, where the central bank is expected to hike its benchmark interest rate by 50 basis points.

In Europe, the French CAC 40 was up 1.4% and the German DAX 30 was up 1.1%. The UK’s FTSE 100 index rose 1.3%.

The pound continued to struggle against the dollar, falling below $1.20 for the first time since 1988. The pound’s weakness is also expected to boost UK stocks, as it makes exports cheaper and boosts corporate earnings.

Overall, the bullish economic data and expectations of further US rate hikes are expected to support the US dollar, while the weaker euro and yen should provide support to other currencies.

However, the economic outlook is not entirely positive. Inflation remains a concern, with prices continuing to rise across the world. This could put pressure on central banks to hike rates further, which could dampen economic growth.

In commodity markets, oil prices were mixed, with Brent crude futures down 0.1% to $108.20 per barrel. Gold prices also declined, with the precious metal falling 0.3% to $1,815.00 per ounce.

Investors are also watching the developments in the Ukraine crisis, as tensions between Russia and the West continue.

Overall, the positive economic data and expectations of further US rate hikes are expected to support the US dollar, while the weaker euro and yen should provide support to other currencies.

This bullish economic outlook is expected to boost global equities, as investors are looking ahead to better economic data in the coming months.
Biden's tariffs threat shows how far Brexit Britain is from controlling its destiny

By Tom McTae

The US and China are both arguing that the UK is now in a weaker position after Brexit. But the UK government's response to the tariffs threat is lacking in substance.

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About oil price, demand and supply and investments required

By Sand Aiknour

“The oil market has not yet fully recovered and there are still many uncertainties. The situation is complicated due to the rise in demand and the downward pressure on prices,” said Aiknour.

The oil market is highly volatile and affected by various factors such as production, demand, and geopolitical events. The current situation is characterized by low oil prices, which are expected to remain low in the short term. However, there are signs of recovery as economies begin to reopen and demand increases.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has projected that global oil demand will rise by 6.9 million barrels per day in 2021, largely driven by the recovery of the global economy. The organization expects that the global economy will grow by 5.5% this year, which will support the demand for oil.

Despite the recovery, there are still uncertainties in the market. The impact of COVID-19 on the oil sector continues to be felt, as demand has been depressed due to travel restrictions and lockdowns. The US-Iran tensions have also added to the volatility in the market.

Oil prices are expected to remain below $50 per barrel in the short term, with a possibility of a further decline. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies are expected to continue their efforts to balance the market and support prices.

In conclusion, the oil market is expected to remain volatile in the short term, with a gradual recovery likely in the long term. Investors and policymakers need to remain vigilant and adapt to the changing conditions.