Moody’s affirms QIB rating with stable outlook

Qatar app is set to drive discovery of local businesses for added value, savings

By Peter Abuqr

The new Qassim app, which allows the discovery of local Qatari-based businesses and provides great value and savings to the Qatari consumer, is here.

As a Qatari-based company, supported by Qatari investors and developers, and with the inspiration from the successful experience of similar apps around the world, the new Qassim app has been successfully developed to exhibit the best characteristics of a location-based business with digital products.

“The service, we call it ‘Qassim’ or ‘Qassim universe’,” said Mr. Duck Qatar CEO Abdul

The app, “Qassim and the future of the location-based business for Qataries with the best of the local businesses and support for the Qatari consumer,” said.

This app will be quick to adapt to the real economy and be on-demand, available on app store. Qassim will be fast, easy, simple and efficient.

The new Qassim app will make it easier for users to find nearby restaurants, bars, cafes, shops, and more.

All new users will enjoy more than 10% off purchases made on “Qassim”, a feature which makes Qatar app a hit through the app, “Qassim” will serve.

QHA meeting focuses on plans, projects to support tourism, hotel infrastructure

The QHA meeting was held at the Qassim Tourism Association (QTA) office, and it was attended by a number of important figures in the tourism sector.

The meeting discussed the agenda, including the association’s work plan, strategy, and initiatives during the next period, in addition to the election of members of the executive board and the approval of the QAA’s Articles of Association.

The meeting was attended by the President of the Qassim Tourism Association, Mr. Abdulhadi bin Thani Al-Mahmoud, the Secretary General of the Qassim Tourism Association, Mr. Ahmad Al-Naief, and a number of members of the association.

The meeting also discussed the association’s plans for future meetings and events, including the development of new projects to support tourism and the hospitality sector.

The attendees at the meeting were excited about the upcoming projects, and they expressed their support for the association’s efforts to promote tourism and hospitality in the Qassim region.

The meeting was a positive step towards the development and growth of the Qassim tourism sector.

The Qassim Tourism Association (QTA) was established in 2021, and it is the first tourism association in the Qassim region.

The association aims to promote tourism and hospitality in the region, and it is working on developing new projects to support the sector.

The association also aims to promote the Qassim region as a tourist destination, and it is working on developing new projects to attract tourists from around the world.

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Dubai business growth back to pre-Covid path as vaccines pay off

Bloomberg

Dubai

Business activity in Dubai rose to the highest level since the start of the pandemic as growth in the manufacturing sector pushed the Composite Output Index to 52.0 in March, staying above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction for the highest level since December 2019. The manufacturing sector grew at its strongest pace in nearly two years and the services sector saw the sharpest rise in activity since early 2021.

Bloomberg QuickTake Q&A

Why even with vaccines, road to eliminating Covid is long

By James Ma
del (New York)

The road to eliminating Covid is long and paved with unavoidable obstacles. The path to vaccines and curing or vaccinating all the people in the world is a long journey, and it will take many years to fully eradicate the virus.

Can Covid be eradicated?

The idea of eradicating Covid has been thoroughly analyzed and discussed. While it is not impossible, it is unlikely due to the nature of the virus, the need for ongoing surveillance, and the global nature of the pandemic. The world has learned that even with vaccines, it is difficult to completely eradicate a virus.

What is the best way to control Covid?

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to controlling Covid. Different strategies have been used in various countries, including lockdowns, social distancing, mask mandates, and vaccine distribution. The effectiveness of these measures depends on the population's compliance, the virus's mutation rate, and the availability of vaccines.

What is the biggest challenge in eliminating Covid?

The biggest challenge is the emergence of new variants of the virus, which can reduce the effectiveness of vaccines and lead to increased cases. Additionally, the virus can mutate and become more contagious, making it difficult to control.

What steps can individuals take to prevent Covid?

Individuals can take several steps to prevent Covid, including getting vaccinated, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and washing their hands regularly. It is also important to follow local guidelines and advice from health officials.

What is the future of Covid in the world?

The future of Covid in the world is uncertain. While vaccines are providing some relief, the virus may continue to circulate and mutate. The world will need to continue to adapt and learn from the ongoing pandemic.
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Eid Mubarak

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everything is possible
Wall Street unleashes old tricks in $2.5tn crypto jungle

Source: Bloomberg

10-day historical volatility

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Latest market closing figures

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Doha Bank

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Emerging currencies near record high against weak dollar

Higher yields have helped the currencies of major exporters, including the Russian rouble, Mexican peso, Chinese yuan and South African rand. Investors recent gains against the US dollar are being fuelled by surging energy prices, which have pushed up the price of oil and other commodities, and by rising bond yields. The rouble has risen 10% this year, the rand 9% and the yuan 6%. The Mexican peso has gained nearly 5% since the start of the year.

Most Asian currencies are also higher against the dollar, with the yen up 3.5% and the Indian rupee up 2.5%. The Turkish lira has appreciated 13% against the dollar in 2021, making it one of the best-performing currencies this year.

Inflation concerns

Inflation is a major concern for central banks around the world, as rising prices can dampen economic growth and increase the risk of a recession. The US Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in nearly three years in March, citing “strong evidence” of a pickup in inflation.

In the eurozone, the inflation rate hit a 26-year high of 7.5% in March, as energy prices soared and supply chain disruptions persisted.

The Bank of Japan has been slow to raise interest rates, despite growing inflation pressures, and some analysts have called for the central bank to lift its zero-interest rate policy.

The US inflation rate was 8.5% in March, the highest since 1981, and the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates at least three more times this year.

In the UK, the inflation rate hit 7.0% in March, the highest since 2008, and the Bank of England is expected to raise interest rates in May.

China’s inflation rate was 2.5% in March, down from 2.1% in February, but the central bank is expected to keep interest rates steady in the coming months.

Overall, central banks around the world are facing a difficult balancing act as they try to keep inflation in check while supporting economic growth.

Companies are facing higher costs for raw materials and labor, and some are passing these costs on to consumers through higher prices.

In the US, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 8.5% in March, the highest since 1981, and the Federal Reserve is responding with aggressive interest rate hikes.

In Europe, the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) rose 7.5% in March, the highest since 1997, and the European Central Bank is expected to start raising interest rates in July.

In Japan, the inflation rate was 2.5% in March, the highest since 2014, and the Bank of Japan is expected to start tapering its quantitative easing program in the coming months.

Overall, central banks around the world are expected to continue raising interest rates in the coming months to combat inflation, but this could lead to slower economic growth and higher unemployment.

The situation is likely to remain challenging for businesses and consumers alike, as they face higher costs and potentially lower demand.

However, some analysts believe that higher inflation could lead to higher wages and increased economic activity, which could help offset some of the negative effects.

Overall, the situation is complex and will require careful management by central banks and policymakers to prevent overheating and inflationary pressures from getting out of control.
Underwriters puzzle over how to make pandemics insurable again

Boston

With much of the global economy locked down last year due to the pandemic, underwriters have struggled to find a way to make pandemics insurable. Insurers have had to deal with a record number of claims, particularly for businesses that were forced to close due to restrictions imposed by governments.

Many underwriters believe that the traditional approach to insuring pandemics has failed. "We need a new model that recognizes the risk and the uncertainty," said one underwriter. "We can't just say 'yes' or 'no' to a claim anymore." But finding a solution has been difficult. Insurers have tried various approaches, including crowd-sourcing, which has been shown to be effective in other areas. But this approach has not been widely adopted by the industry.

Some underwriters are looking to reinsurers to help solve the problem. "Reinsurers have a unique perspective on risk," said a reinsurer. "They see the world from a different angle and can offer us valuable insights."

Others are exploring the use of blockchain technology to create a more transparent and efficient claims process. "Blockchain can provide a level of security and trust that is essential in the insurance industry," said a blockchain expert. "It can also help us to automate many of the processes that are currently manual and time-consuming."

But despite these efforts, underwriters remain divided on the best way to proceed. "We need to work together to find a solution," said one underwriter. "This is not just a problem for insurers, but for businesses and governments as well."
Residential sales continue to dominate real estate market in Qatar, says CWQ

By Fatih Vural

The expected increase in demand over next year, underscoring the evolving nature of Qatar's real estate market, is set to continue. The report highlights the importance of real estate in driving the economy, with both residential and commercial properties expected to see growth.

The report notes that the real estate market has continued to see significant growth, with the number of residential properties sold increasing by 20% in the past year. The report also highlights the increasing number of foreign investors entering the market, driven by attractive investment opportunities and strong rental yields.

The report suggests that there is a strong demand for rental properties, particularly in the luxury segment, with demand for high-end properties continuing to rise. It also notes that the demand for commercial properties continues to be strong, with offices and retail properties seeing significant demand.

The report also highlights the increasing trend of off-plan sales, with developers offering attractive deals to encourage early purchases. The report notes that this trend is set to continue, with developers focusing on creating high-quality developments to attract buyers.

Overall, the report suggests that the real estate market in Qatar is expected to continue its strong growth trajectory, driven by strong demand and attractive investment opportunities.