**Qatar well set for post-pandemic rebound: IIF**

**By Esteban V. Ponzanelli Business Reporter**

Qatar is well positioned for a robust economic recovery, the latest report from the International Institute for Finance (IIF) has found, thanks to the country’s strong financial fundamentals, sound economic policies, and low exposure to the pandemic. The IIF projects the GDP to grow by 6.1% in 2023 and 5.4% in 2024, further solidifying Qatar’s position as a key player in the global economy. The report is based on a comprehensive analysis of Qatar’s economic, financial, and social indicators, and takes into account the country’s strategic investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, as well as its strong ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The report also highlights Qatar's robust financial sector, which has been a key driver of growth in recent years, and its strong fiscal position, with a budget surplus averaging 2.7% of GDP over the past decade. In addition, the report notes Qatar's strong human capital, with a high level of education and skill development, and its strategic location as a hub for trade, finance, and tourism.

**Foreign perceptions of Qatar financial situation remain upbeat says IIF**

**By Esteban V. Ponzanelli Business Reporter**

Foreign perceptions of Qatar’s financial situation remain upbeat, according to the latest report from the International Institute for Finance (IIF). The report notes that Qatar has been able to maintain a strong financial position despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, thanks to its sound economic policies and robust financial sector. The report highlights Qatar’s strong human capital, with a high level of education and skill development, and its strategic location as a hub for trade, finance, and tourism. The report also notes Qatar’s strong fiscal position, with a budget surplus averaging 2.7% of GDP over the past decade, and its strategic investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, which has helped to boost the country’s economic growth. In addition, the report notes Qatar’s strong financial sector, which has been a key driver of growth in recent years, and its strong ties with other GCC countries.

**GCC pushing ahead with plans to become ‘top green hydrogen producer’: GPICA**

**By Prakash Jalse Business Editor**

The GCC region is pushing ahead with plans to become the “top green hydrogen producer” by 2030, as the region continues to increase its investment in renewable energy and sustainable development. The region’s strategic location as a hub for trade, finance, and tourism, as well as its strong human capital, with a high level of education and skill development, make it a key player in the global economy. The report also notes Qatar’s strong financial sector, which has been a key driver of growth in recent years, and its strong ties with other GCC countries.

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Economy slumps back into decline as Covid hits spending

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Modest 2021 GCC recovery forecasts drive diversification strategies: ASI

By Strategic Asia
Business Editor

Modest oil recovery forecasts for the GCC in 2021 are leading to diversification from the oil and gas sector as part of efforts to preserve replated growth, according to a new Strategic Asia report.

The GCC countries, which have traditionally relied on oil and gas exports, are expected to focus on general growth across the next few years to achieve objectives such as reducing dependence on fossil fuels and increasing non-oil revenues. Many GCC governments, however, are taking precautionary steps to avoid the kind of volatility that has characterized the oil industry over the past few years, including diversifying their economies and reducing their reliance on oil and gas income. The report states that while growth in oil and gas output is expected to slow in 2021, many GCC countries are exploring new opportunities in other sectors, such as renewable energy, technology, and tourism. The report also notes that some GCC countries are looking to boost their non-oil sectors through foreign investment and partnerships, particularly in the technology and renewable energy sectors. The diversification strategies are expected to lead to a significant shift in the GCC's economic landscape, with a greater focus on non-oil sectors and a reduction in reliance on oil and gas exports.
Asia markets rise, but virus and inflation fears linger

Tokyo bourse to discuss longer cash equity trading hours

A similar accommodation in 2014 for the cash markets is considered trading beyond 1715 local time in changes. The plans were dropped following opposition from traditional brokers, who said longer hours would increase costs. Some members had suggested that the market could be split into a separate session after 1530, with a break at 1715.

Tokyo Stock Exchange will be a working group to discuss extending trading hours past 1715 local time to cash equity markets.

The group will consider changes to the current system, including additional volume, shorter trading hours, longer trading periods, and changes in trading hours. The group is expected to submit its recommendations to the Tokyo Stock Exchange by the end of the year.

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Saudi wealth fund loads up on video game makers and exits Suncor

**Pandemic Bets**

Saudi wealth fund is bolstering its investment in the U.S. video-game industry.

**Source:** 13F filings

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**Libya sovereign fund makes financial statements push**

**Reuters**

The Libyan Investment Authority has called on all members of the international community to support Libyan financial institutions and to ratify financial statements on an annual basis, after the country was removed from the list of states that support terrorism.

The Authority has written to financial institutions across the region and the United Kingdom, and is seeking to ratify financial statements in line with the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund. The Authority has also called on financial institutions to work with the Libyan Central Bank and other financial bodies to support the country's financial institutions and economic development.

The Authority has also been working with the Libyan government to support the country's financial institutions and economic development. It has also been calling on financial institutions to work with the Libyan Central Bank and other financial bodies to support the country's financial institutions and economic development.
Amazon's MGM deal would add to frenzy for streaming assets

Washington

Amazon.com Inc's plan to purchase MGM Studios, the Hollywood studio behind films like "The Godfather," "Rocky" and "The Silence of the Lambs," will have major implications for the streaming industry, analysts said, suggesting that the deal will add to a frenzy for assets as companies scramble to win the streaming arms race.

The deal, announced on Friday, will give Amazon control of a trove of IP that is highly sought after by streamers, who are increasingly focused on acquiring library assets to bolster their content libraries.

"It's a big deal," said Brad Byun, an equity analyst at Stifel, who covers streaming services.

"Amazon has basically bought into the indie film market," Byun said. "That's going to be a huge opportunity for Amazon to go after more indie films."

The deal comes at a time when streaming services are increasingly focused on acquiring library assets to bolster their content libraries. Amazon, which already has a strong library of original series and movies, is looking to further differentiate itself from its competitors.

"The deal will give Amazon access to a lot of great content," said Patrick Wintour, a media analyst at Cowen. "It's going to help Amazon compete with Netflix and Disney in the streaming space."
Central banks snuff out classic rate bets as commodities surge

**Bloomberg**

The surge in commodity prices is fueling hopes of a global recovery, which central banks and governments around the world are watching with growing concern. The recent surge in commodity prices has led to a sharp increase in inflation expectations, which has in turn put pressure on central banks to raise interest rates.

**EU eyes new tax framework going beyond current global plans**

**Bloomberg**

The European Union has proposed plans for a new global tax framework, which aims to ensure that large corporations pay their fair share of taxes. The framework would be based on a combination of measures, including a minimum corporate tax rate and a new tax on digital services.

**US home-building falls more than expected in April**

**Bloomberg**

US home-building fell more than expected in April, as home prices continued to rise and housing inventory levels remained low. The report showed that housing starts fell by 7.8% in April, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.39 million.

**Top Credit Suisse bankers exit pre-Argosch`s defections rise**

**Bloomberg**

More than half of Credit Suisse’s senior Credit Suisse Group AG bankers have left the bank over the past six months, as the Swiss investment bank grapples with the aftermath of a massive fraud case. The departures come as Credit Suisse faces increased pressure from regulators and shareholders to improve its corporate governance and risk management practices.

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