

PENOMAG

Classifieds

Tuesday 14 April 2026

Contact: Tel: 44557 857 or email: adv@pen.com.qa

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Samantha Rachel Hilt

Holder of Indian Passport No.V9549817

(Qatar ID No.28335605761)

hereby change my name to

**SAMANTHA
RACHEL HILT**

Any objection, please contact the Immigration and Passport Office within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

I, Kamala Maya Gole Lama

كمالا مايا جولي لاما

Holder of Nepal Passport No. 12288801

(Qatar ID No.30052410352)

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كمالا مايا جولي

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EU chief touts electric power strategy as energy crisis bites

BRUSSELS: Brussels next week will present plans to tackle high energy costs caused by the Iran war and before the summer will unveil a broader package to boost Europe's electrification, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday.

The energy crisis has already cost the 27-nation bloc more than €22bn (\$26bn) in higher fossil fuel bills, von der Leyen said after a meeting of the EU's top executive body dedicated to the issue.

"These events make clear we are paying a very high price for our over dependency on fossil fuels," the European Commission chief told a press conference in Brussels, calling for a faster switch towards renewables and nuclear power.

"We need to scale up the homegrown, affordable, reliable energy," she said, adding the commission was hoping to get new rules aimed at accelerating grid

The commission was looking to coordinate oil stock releases and the filling of gas storage across the bloc to avoid member states competing against each other on the market, driving up prices.

connections across the bloc and present an "electrification strategy" before the summer.

Oil and gas prices have surged since US-Israeli strikes on Iran began on February 28, with Tehran retaliating by effectively blocking the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz and attacking Gulf energy infrastructure.

To address the cost crunch, the commission is considering relaxing its state aid rules to give member states more space to support the "most exposed sectors", von der Leyen said.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gives a press conference at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels yesterday.

Details are to be unveiled as part of a package to be presented next week before an informal meeting of European Union leaders in Cyprus, she added.

The commission was looking to coordinate oil stock releases and the filling of gas storage across the bloc to avoid member states competing against each other on the market, driving up prices.

Steps to support energy

efficiency are also being considered, the commission president added, citing the "renovation of buildings" and "the renewal of equipment in industrial operations" without further elaborating.

"The least expensive energy is the energy that is not used," she said.

A proposal to reform electricity taxes and grid charges will follow in May, von der Leyen added. — **AFP**

Namibia central bank projects 2.6% economic growth in 2026

WINDHOEK: Namibia's economy is projected to grow by 2.6 percent in 2026 and 2.9 percent in 2027, according to the March Economic Outlook Update released by the Bank of Namibia (BoN) yesterday.

The outlook for 2026 and 2027 was revised downward by 1.2 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively, compared with the December 2025 report, mainly due to weaker-than-expected output in the mining sector, the bank said in a statement.

"The domestic economic outlook remains subject to several downside risks from both external and domestic developments. Regionally, the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in neighboring countries, particularly in Botswana and South Africa, poses a risk to livestock production and export earnings," the central bank said.

According to the central

bank, the downgrade was driven by a significant contraction in metal ore production and continued weakness in diamond mining, which weighed on overall economic activity.

Meanwhile, the BoN also noted that growth is expected to be supported by improvements in secondary and tertiary sectors, including construction, electricity and water supply, wholesale and retail trade, financial services, as well as public administration and defense.

Uranium mining is expected to remain a key contributor to growth, supported by increased production from existing operations, said the bank.

It added that the economy is expected to maintain a moderate growth path over the medium term, although risks remain in the mining sector.

— **XINHUA**



The outlook for 2026 and 2027 was revised downward by 1.2 and 1.4 percentage points, respectively.

Operations resume at Kurdish Iraqi gas facility after war disruption

DUBAI: Operations resumed yesterday at a major gas facility in Iraq's Kurdish region, the Emirati company running the complex said, after more than a month of disruption due to the US-Iran war.

Dana Gas announced "the resumption of production of the Khor Mor gas facility in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, following a period of intermittent operations",

according to a statement published by the Abu Dhabi stock exchange.

On February 28 the UAE company suspended natural gas supplies from the complex as war broke out, authorities in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region had said.

Kurdistan's electricity and natural resources ministries said the decision was

made "due to the extraordinary circumstances and ongoing events in the region, and to protect employees at the Khor Mor field".

The Khor Mor complex, which supplies most of Kurdistan's power stations, has been hit several times in recent years in attacks blamed on pro-Iran armed groups in Iraq. — **AFP**

Zambia strengthens partnership with Chinese province to boost investment

LUSAKA: Zambia has strengthened its partnership with eastern China's Jiangsu Province to boost investment inflows, the country's investment agency said yesterday.

The Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) said in a statement that the agency held a roadshow in Nanjing, capital of the Chinese province, and the collaboration reflects the southern African nation's increasing appeal as a premier investment destination in Africa.

ZDA Director-General Albert Halwampa said the partnership is a transformative step in Zambia's investment promotion strategy.

The partnership, he added, aligns with Zambia's broader strategy to deepen economic cooperation with China and attract investment into priority sectors. — **XINHUA**

ADB approves \$115.8m loan to strengthen resilient urban services in Bangladesh

DHAKA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$115.8m loan to enhance environmentally sustainable and resilient urban services in Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) in Bangladesh.

The Narayanganj Green and Resilient Urban Development Project will upgrade drinking water supply, modernize drainage systems, and expand green public spaces, said the Manila-based lender in a statement on Friday.

The project is expected to benefit at least 400,000 residents, support the government's efforts to ease congestion in Dhaka, and reinforce governance and service delivery in one of Bangladesh's major urban growth centers.

"Narayanganj is central to Bangladesh's urban transformation. As urbanization accelerates and environmental risks intensify, strengthening urban services is both a development and economic imperative," said ADB Country Director for Bangladesh Hoe Yun Jeong. — **XINHUA**

Philippines cuts tax on petroleum products to ease price shock

MANILA: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos said yesterday excise taxes on LPG and kerosene would be trimmed to ease the fuel price shock wrought by the US-Israeli war on Iran.

"We were hoping for a good outcome from the peace talks (between) the US and Iran, but it appears they were unable to strike a deal, which is why we will continue to help our people," he told a news conference.

"We have reduced the tax on petroleum products directly used by our people in their everyday lives."

Following the legislature's earlier passage of a law authorising him to adjust fuel excise taxes, Marcos said the cost of liquefied petroleum gas, the country's fuel of choice for cooking, would be trimmed by 3.36 pesos (5.6 US cents) per kilogram from Tuesday. He said the price of kerosene, the cooking fuel used by

poorer families, would drop by 5.60 pesos per litre.

Marcos said he would convene a meeting of a government crisis committee Tuesday to discuss possible excise tax adjustments on gasoline and diesel, the main fuels for public transport.

The Philippines sources its crude oil from the Middle East and imports refined petroleum products mainly from Asian refineries that are also dependent on crude oil shipped through the Strait of Hormuz that Iran has effectively closed.

Local diesel pump prices have more than doubled to about 145 pesos (\$2.41) a litre since the start of the war.

The government revealed last week war-driven inflation figures that showed food prices had increased nearly twice as fast in March as the month before. — **AFP**

Merger fees lift Goldman Sachs profits

NEW YORK: Goldman Sachs reported strong first-quarter earnings yesterday, propelled by increased merger advisory fees as it warned of greater volatility amid geopolitical complexity.

The New York-based investment bank scored an 18 percent jump in quarterly profit to \$5.4bn, citing a "significant increase in completed mergers and acquisitions volumes."

Revenues rose 14 percent to \$17.2bn.

While CEO David Solomon did not explicitly flag the US-Israel war against Iran, his statement alluded to heightened international tensions.

"Goldman Sachs delivered very strong performance for our shareholders this quarter, even as market conditions became more volatile," Solomon said in an earnings powerpoint presentation.



"The geopolitical landscape remains very complex -- so disciplined risk management must remain core to how we operate," he said.

Monday's batch of results marked the third in a row in which Goldman flagged completed deals as a positive driver. Investment banking fees surged 48 percent in the quarter amid the strong mergers and acquisitions (M&A) flow.

The firm also saw an uptick in operating expenses in the period, partly due to the M&A surge. The powerpoint alluded to "significantly higher transaction based expenses."

Revenues fell for fixed income, currency and

commodities due to weakness in interest rate products and some other categories. However, this was partially offset by increases in commodities and currencies.

Revenues also rose in equities trading.

Since US and Israeli forces attacked Iran on February 28, the surge in oil prices has dominated financial markets, often dictating trading dynamics in equities and other assets.

Increased volatility usually translates into higher trading revenues for Goldman.

Goldman shares fell 4.3 percent in pre-market trading. — **AFP**

'Stop hiring humans'? Silicon Valley confronts AI job panic

SAN FRANCISCO: AI industry insiders want workers to code smarter, think harder and lean into their humanity -- but still dodge the question of how many jobs artificial intelligence will destroy.

The reassurance rang out across HumanX, a four-day conference drawing some 6,500 investors, entrepreneurs and tech executives, even as a blunt advertisement at the entrance set the tone: "Stop hiring humans."

On the main stage, May Habib, chief executive of an AI platform called Writer, told the audience that Fortune 500 bosses are having a "collective panic attack" on the subject.

The anxiety is well-founded. More and more companies are directly citing AI in announcing job cuts.

High-profile examples are on the rise: Salesforce laid off 4,000 customer support workers, saying AI now handles 50 percent of its work.

Block chief Jack Dorsey announced plans to cut the company's headcount nearly in half, citing "intelligence tools" that have fundamentally changed how companies operate.

Not all claims have gone uncontested -- some economists say firms are pointing to AI to rationalize layoffs that are really about past overhiring or cost-cutting ahead of massive infrastructure investments.

OpenAI's Sam Altman has spoken of "AI-washing," and



Jack Dorsey

most speakers at the San Francisco event similarly dismissed the invocation of AI as a false pretext for job cuts -- even as they freely predicted disruption was just around the corner.

AI is going to "transform every single company, every single job, every single way that we do work," said Matt Garman, chief executive of cloud computing giant Amazon Web Services.

The debate remains heated. Two years ago, Nvidia chief Jensen Huang declared that the ultimate goal was to make it so "nobody has to program" or code.

"We will look back on that as some of the worst career advice ever given," Andrew Ng, founder of training platform DeepLearning.AI, shot back on Tuesday.

In his view, coding is not an obsolete skill -- AI has simply made it available to more people.

Another argument has taken hold in Silicon Valley:



Sam Altman

interpersonal skills will become more valuable than ever, with some voices going so far as to tout a humanities education as sound tech career preparation.

"As AI can do more of a job, the things that will distinguish and differentiate a given employee are going to be the human skills -- critical thinking, communication, teamwork," said Greg Hart, chief executive of training platform Coursera, which has seen enrollment in its

critical thinking courses triple over the past year.

All of this advice risks ringing hollow for a generation already struggling to land a first job.

AI has automated entry-level tasks that once served as on-the-job training. Hiring of candidates with less than one year of experience fell 50 percent between 2019 and 2024 among America's major tech companies, according to a study by investment fund SignalFire. — **AFP**

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CHANGE OF NAME

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hereby change my name to

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Any objection, please contact the Immigration and Passport Office within 15 days from the publication of this notice.

I, Mohammad Jalil Abu Taher

محمد جليل ابو طاهر

Holder of Bangladesh Passport No. A20034026

(Qatar ID No. 28205022754)

hereby change my name to

MD JALIL ABU TAHER

مد جليل ابو طاهر

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