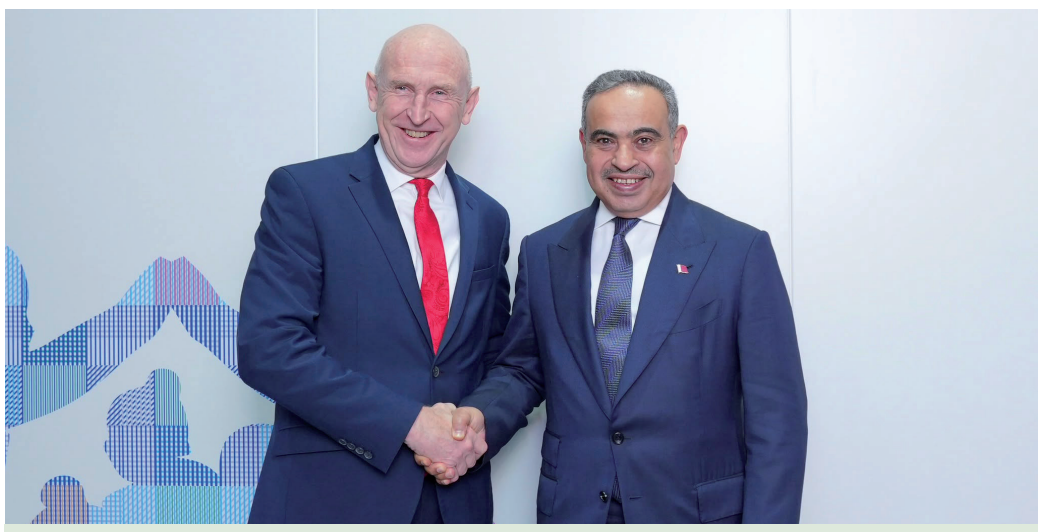








Minister of Finance meets British Chancellor of Exchequer

Minister of Finance H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari met with MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom H E John Healey. On the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand. During the meeting, a range of financial and economic issues was reviewed, in addition to discussing current regional and international developments and the associated challenges, particularly those related to matters of mutual interest between the two countries.



QCB Governor meets Governor of Central Bank of Malaysia

Governor of the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) H E Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud Al Thani met with Governor of the Central Bank of Malaysia (Bank Negara Malaysia) H E Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour on the sidelines of the 2026 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG), held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 18 October 2026. During the meeting, they reviewed key facets of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, with a focus on enhancing collaboration within the financial and banking sectors.

Qatar participates in G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Minister of Finance H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari headed the State of Qatar's delegation participating in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, from 12 to 18 October 2026.

The meeting discussed a number of global economic and financial issues, foremost among them key geopolitical developments, the latest developments in the global economy and the growth outlook, strengthening the resilience of economies to shocks, supporting private investment and productivity, and enhancing international cooperation to address shared challenges.

Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, Minister of Finance, affirmed that the global economy had demonstrated resilience despite challenges arising from geopolitical tensions, pressures on trade and energy flows, elevated financing costs and rapid technological change. He stated, "Resilience begins at home, but it is strengthened through international cooperation," stressing the importance of preparing for economic shocks and strengthening international coordination to address shared challenges.

Al Kuwari noted that Qatar's priorities include strengthening the foundations for sustainable growth through sound policies, higher productivity and a greater role for private investment.

He also highlighted the importance of building resilience across energy, trade, supply chains and financial systems, while preserving practical international cooperation to support global economic and financial stability.

US-based Activate Capital joins QIA's Fund-of-Funds

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and Activate Capital (Activate), a US-based growth equity firm investing in intelligent energy and infrastructure technology, announced that Activate has joined QIA's $3bn Fund of Funds, yesterday.

Activate invests in companies from Series B through pre-IPO in sectors including energy and power, terrestrial and space transportation and mobility, digital industry, supply chain resilience and climate adaptation.

QIA's commitment through its Fund of Funds will enable Activate to further its investment strategy in the Global South with a strategic focus on sectors undergoing fundamental digitalization and decarbonization.

As part of the partnership, Activate will open its first international office in Doha, staffed with senior investment professionals, including a Qatar-focused partner. Activate will also look to hire local Qatari and international talent to support a diverse and skilled team, reinforcing Qatar's position as a platform for investment and innovation across the Global South.

QIA's Fund of Funds, first announced in February 2024, is designed to attract leading international venture capital (VC) firms to Qatar, deepen knowledge-sharing with the global VC ecosystem, and accelerate the development of startups in Qatar and the broader region.

"QIA launched the Fund of Funds to build bridges between Qatar and the global VC ecosystem," said Dr. Mohsin Pirzada, Head of Funds at QIA. "Activate Capital brings deep sector expertise that further support our ambition to develop Qatar into a leading hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and long-term investment."

"We are pleased to welcome QIA as a Limited Partner and member of our Limited Partners Advisory Committee," said Anup Jacob, Co-Founder of Activate Capital. "We share QIA's conviction that technology enabled solutions will play a critical role in transforming infrastructure systems globally, and we look forward to building a long-term partnership that connects our portfolio, our investment strategy and our future Doha office with Qatar's growing innovation ecosystem."

Activate is the latest VC firm to join QIA's Fund of Funds, demonstrating the program's continued momentum and the sustained interest from leading international investors in Qatar and the broader region. Activate's focus on climate, energy, and industrial infrastructure also expands the sectorial expertise within the program, directly supporting Qatar's National Vision 2030 and highlighting the critical role VC plays in funding sustainable innovation.

- *QIA welcomes Activate Capital as the latest VC firm to join its Fund of Funds .*
- *Activate Capital plans to open its first international office in Doha, supporting QIA's objective to strengthen Qatar's venture capital and innovation ecosystem*

About Qatar Investment Authority

Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) is the sovereign wealth fund of the State of Qatar. QIA was established in 2005 to invest and manage the state reserve funds. QIA is among the largest and most active sovereign wealth funds globally, investing across a wide range of asset classes and geographies to deliver long-term, sustainable returns and support the diversification of Qatar's economy.

Qatar's strong economic fundamentals, investments drive investor confidence

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Minister of Commerce and Industry H E Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani participated in the eighth Bloomberg New Economy Forum, held in New Delhi, India, from 13 to 15 October 2026. The forum brought together the Prime Minister of India, heads of state and government, ministers, and more than 500 public and private sector leaders from around the world.

He took part in a panel discussion titled "Resilience Amid Turbulence: Building Economies Where Business Thrives" alongside Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises. The session was moderated by Francine Lacqua, an anchor at Bloomberg Television.

The discussion examined how governments can create conditions for private sector growth and strengthen their economies' resilience and ability to attract investment amid shifts in the global economy. During the session, Sheikh Faisal said that Qatar's strong economic fundamentals, business-friendly regulatory environment, prudent fiscal policies and sustained investment in infrastructure are central to attracting investment and maintaining investor confidence.



The growing importance of data sovereignty and domestic data storage is driving expansion in the sector worldwide, while Qatar's energy resources provide an advantage in its development.

Addressing regional challenges, he said Qatar had continued to find ways to secure essential supplies and maintain the movement of goods into and out of the country despite the impact on the oil and gas sector. He noted that strategic food stocks had risen by 40% since the start of the crisis.

Sheikh Faisal said investors can distinguish temporary disruptions from structural challenges. He pointed to the registration of more than 5,000 foreign-owned companies in Doha over the past three months, alongside foreign investment inflows into Qatar's capital markets during the same period.

On the business environment, he stressed the importance of listening to the private sector and responding quickly to regulatory obstacles. He discussed efforts to simplify procedures and work on legislation that would expand foreign ownership across most sectors. In his capacity as Chair of the Companies House Advisory Council, he also outlined its role as a single point of access for foreign investors seeking registration, licensing and services related to tax, immigration and labour matters across Qatar's economic zones.

Discussing the private sector's role in economic growth, Sheikh Faisal emphasised the need for clear frameworks governing partnerships with the public sector. As Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Doha Investment, he described its role as an active local partner for international investors entering the Qatari market, supporting private sector growth and allowing businesses to lead projects. He also highlighted opportunities for private sector participation in education, healthcare and manufacturing, in line with the National Development Strategy, as well as the potential to make certain non-strategic assets available to private investors to deepen capital markets.

He. further discussed opportunities to develop data centres. He noted that the growing importance of data sovereignty and domestic data storage is driving expansion in the sector worldwide, while Qatar's energy resources provide an advantage in its development.

On the global economy, Sheikh Faisal observed that the degree of interdependence between countries and markets makes a return to isolation difficult.

Sheikh Faisal's participation forms part of efforts to expand Qatar's international economic partnerships, present its investment opportunities and strengthen engagement with global businesses and financial institutions. These efforts support the attraction of high-value investment, private sector development and economic diversification in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

This year's forum is held under the theme "A World in Play: Defining the New Levers of Power." Its programme explores how geopolitical shifts, technological advances and changing supply chains are reshaping trade and capital flows, alongside developments in energy, critical minerals and payment systems.

QSE index under pressure of selling, support levels under watch

DOHA: The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index wrapped the current week with a 2.17 percent decline, shedding 195.44 points from the previous week's close to settle at 8,810 points. The decline, which affected all sectors, marks the fifth consecutive weekly loss.

Financial analyst Mubarak Al Tamimi told QNA that the QSE had faced notable selling pressure this week, mirroring downturns in global and regional financial markets. This was compounded by ongoing geopolitical tensions, both regionally and globally, which dampened investor sentiment and prompted a more cautious approach to trading.

The analyst explained that the QSE's general index remains influenced by the prevailing market uncertainty. He noted that the index is approaching critical technical levels that warrant close monitoring; specifically, the 8,764-point mark serves as a pivotal support level. A breach of this level could push the index toward its next support level at 8,664 points, should the selling trend persist and pressure on bellwether stocks intensify.

Al Tamimi further indicated that the index's trajectory in the coming period will depend on its ability to hold steady at these support levels, as well as on geopolitical developments and trends in global markets. He noted that a failure to maintain these support levels could prolong the current correction, whereas a stabilization in trading activity and a return of liquidity could pave the way for a potential rebound.

Regarding lower price levels, the analyst explained that the 7,997-8,704 point range serves as a potential technical zone to monitor should the decline persist, though this does not necessarily confirm a definitive sideways trend. He noted that this area might attract investors looking for opportunities to enter the market gradually, provided there are signs of market stabilization and an easing of selling pressure.

As for his outlook for the coming period, the analyst anticipates that the correction phase in the Qatar Stock Exchange will likely continue. He highlighted geopolitical developments and global market volatility as key factors that will dictate the index's direction. — ***QNA***





Minister of Finance meets Chinese counterpart

Minister of Finance H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari met with Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China H E Lan Fo'an on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, held in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand. During the meeting, a range of financial and economic issues was reviewed, in addition to discussing current regional and international developments and the associated challenges, particularly those related to matters of mutual interest between the two countries. Separately, Minister Al Kuwari also met Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Finance of Switzerland H E Karin Keller-Sutter.

Qatar, Honduras explore enhancing trade relations

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Chamber (QC) held a virtual meeting yesterday with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cortés (CCIC) in Honduras to explore ways to strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations and expand cooperation between the two countries' private sectors. The webinar was chaired by Mohamed bin Ahmed bin Twar Al-Kuwari, First Vice Chairman of Qatar Chamber, and Karim Qubain, President of CCIC.

In his remarks, Mohamed bin Twar emphasised the importance of increasing bilateral business meetings to explore investment opportunities and establish partnerships across various sectors. He highlighted the importance of signing MoU between the two chambers to facilitate business engagement.

He reaffirmed Qatar Chamber's commitment to supporting joint ventures and attracting Honduran companies to the Qatari market in cooperation with local businesses.



Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs meets UK Minister for Trade

Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs, H E Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed, met via videoconference on Wednesday, 14 October 2026, with UK Minister of State for Trade at the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade, H E Lord Anas Sarwar. His name and title match the UK government's listing. The meeting discussed economic and trade relations between Qatar and the United Kingdom, including ways to expand and diversify trade and investment cooperation and develop partnerships in sectors of mutual interest. Both sides stressed the importance of continued coordination and consultation. They also discussed strengthening cooperation between Qatari and British investors and businesses and encouraging investment in both countries to support bilateral trade.

Malaysia's ICT economy grows 5.6 percent in 2025

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's information and communication technology (ICT) economy grew 5.6 percent in 2025, contributing 476.8bn ringgit (about $116.8bn), or 23.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), official data showed yesterday.

The ICT economy, comprising the ICT industry and e-commerce, accelerated from 5.2 percent growth in 2024, the Department of Statistics Malaysia said in a statement.

The ICT industry generated 288.1bn ringgit in gross value added, with ICT services accounting for the largest share at 40.3 percent, followed by ICT manufacturing at 38.2 percent.

The two segments grew 7.6 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively, while ICT trade, content and media accounted for the remaining 21.5 percent. — ***XINHUA***

QC discusses ways to enhance investment cooperation with Belarus

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Acting General Manager of Qatar Chamber (QC) Ali Bu Sherbak Al-Mansori met on Wednesday, 14 October, with Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Qatar Aleksei Zubko.

The meeting discussed trade and economic relations between Qatar and Belarus and ways to develop them, enhance cooperation between the two countries' business communities, and explore potential areas of collaboration between companies in both countries.

In his remarks, Al-Mansori said that relations between Qatar and Belarus were distinguished, but bilateral trade remained below expectations.

He highlighted the importance of exchanging trade delegations to strengthen ties between the two business communities and increase trade and investment between the two friendly countries.



QC Acting General Manager Ali Bu Sherbak Al-Mansori and Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Qatar Aleksei Zubko during the meeting.

He noted that Qatar Chamber and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce had signed cooperation agreements aimed at developing bilateral relations, including an agreement to establish a Qatari Belarusian Joint Business Council.

He stressed the importance of activating these agreements to advance cooperation between the two countries to broader levels.

For his part, Zubko affirmed Belarus's interest in strengthening cooperation with Qatar.

He noted that a Belarusian delegation is expected to visit Qatar in the first quarter of next year to meet with Qatari counterparts and explore cooperation opportunities in several sectors, including technology, food security, timber, and agriculture.

He added that significant potential exists for expanding private-sector cooperation between the two countries across various fields, highlighting the promising investment opportunities available in Belarus for Qatari investors.

G7 to commit $2.5bn for food-insecure countries

BANGKOK: G7 countries pledged to allocate $2.5bn to address food insecurity in vulnerable nations, French economy minister Roland Lescure said yesterday.

Speaking in Bangkok on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Lescure said the World Bank had identified 44 countries that may face food security issues in the face of soaring global energy prices.

"The G7 has also been very sensitive to the weakest links of the current global situation, the poor countries," Lescure told reporters.

"So all together, we've pledged $2.5bn in order to help on food security, especially on a very important subject, which is fertilisers."

The US attack on Iran has plunged the Middle East into conflict and sent global energy prices soaring, impacting fertiliser supply and causing food prices to rise globally.

Lescure said G7 ministers were also focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, saying,

"We all want to keep supporting Ukraine."

He said the seven countries have raised €260m ($291m) to help repair a dome preventing leaks at the Chernobyl disaster site, which was damaged in Russian attacks in February 2025. — ***XINHUA***

US producer prices up in September since 2022 as energy pain worsens

WASHINGTON: US producer prices rose in September at the fastest pace in more than four years as higher energy costs reverberated through the US economy.

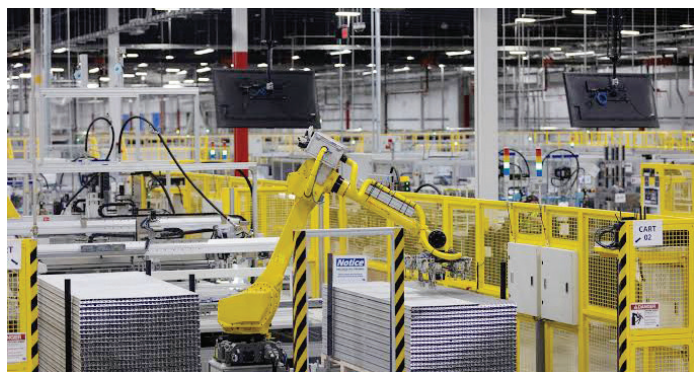
The producer price index advanced 1.3% from a month earlier – the most since March 2022 – and 6.3% from a year earlier, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data out Thursday. Excluding food and energy, the gauge was up 0.7% last month and 5% from a year ago. Both came in above all estimates in a Bloomberg survey.

The report suggests underlying inflation remains firm alongside rising fuel prices, just ahead of midterm elections in November in which affordability is a central issue. It also likely keeps Federal Reserve officials on track for additional interest-rate increases in the months ahead, especially after a separate report Wednesday showed a key measure of consumer prices rose faster than expected in September.

Price pressures are also anticipated to remain elevated in the months ahead, according to the New York Fed report. A gauge of expectations for prices paid over the next six months climbed to the highest level since 2022.

US Treasuries remained higher and stock futures remained lower after the release.

A key question for policymakers is whether the energy shock is starting to spill into the prices of other goods and services. The PPI report showed energy prices rose 10.8% in September, while transportation and warehousing prices advanced 3.4%, the most since April. Food prices rose 1.2%.



The PPI report showed energy prices rose 10.8% in September 2026.

"The jolt to transportation prices affects every good in the economy, since inputs to manufacturing move to factories and goods at all stages of production move from producer to wholesaler to retailer by truck, train or rail," Carl Weinberg, the chief economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a note. "This is how increases in energy prices 'bleed through' to prices of core goods."

But there were also other drivers of the hotter-than-expected reading. Wholesale and retail trade services margins jumped 1.4%, the most since April, according to the figures. Margins have been under scrutiny for clues on the extent to which companies are absorbing tariff-related costs or passing them on to customers.

While the Supreme Court struck down many of President Donald Trump's tariffs earlier this year, the administration is using other authorities to impose levies on imports. A trade war with Canada has also escalated after talks fell apart in August.

Some economists nudged up their estimates for the core PCE deflator after the release, predicting it would rise either 0.3% or 0.4%. The Bureau of Economic Analysis is scheduled to release September PCE price data, along with income and spending figures, on Oct. 29.

"Producer-price inflation firmed in September as higher energy prices translated to higher transportation costs and wholesalers recovered margins. More important for the Fed, PPI components that feed into PCE – namely airfares – came in above expectations, putting more pressure on PCE inflation," said Bloomberg Economist, Troy Durie. Yesterday's figures also showed a slight moderation in categories relevant to the data center buildout: The cost of electronic components and accessories fell 0.3% last month, the price of computers and computer equipment edged up 0.1 percent and an index ofm-broader construction costs was also little changed. — ***THE WASHINGTON POST/ BLOOMBERG***

Kazakhstan forecasts 2027 inflation at 7.5% to 9.5%

ALMATY: Inflation in Kazakhstan is projected to range from 7.5 to 9.5 percent in 2027 and from 6 to 8 percent in 2028-2029, the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Economy Serik Zhumangarin said Wednesday.

The forecast took into account current economic conditions, projections by international financial institutions for global economic growth, and trends in external markets, Zhumangarin told a meeting of the Ulttyq Qurultay, or National Congress.

Under the baseline scenario, which assumes an oil price of $70 per barrel, Kazakhstan's average annual real GDP growth is projected to exceed 5 percent between 2027 and 2029.

Nominal GDP is expected to rise from 199.3 trillion tenge (about $441.7bn) in 2027 to 245 trillion tenge in 2029, Zhumangarin said.

In the first nine months of 2026, Kazakhstan's economy grew by 4.2 percent, driven largely by growth in the non-resource sector, according to Zhumangarin.

Economic growth is expected to be driven mainly by non-oil sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, construction and services. Exports of goods are projected to increase from $82.8bn in 2027 to $88.5bn in 2029, while imports are expected to rise from $80.5bn to $88.4bn, he added. — ***XINHUA***

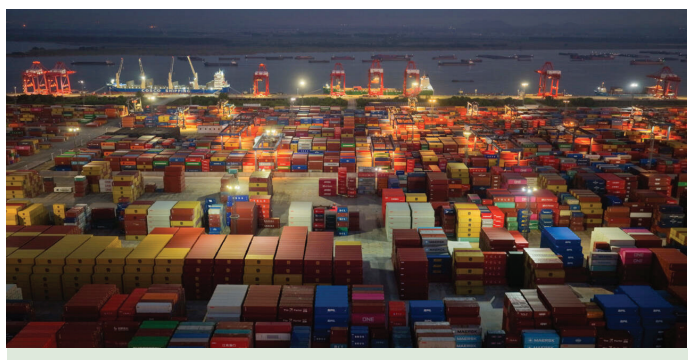
China's economy seen missing target as global shocks bite

BANGKOK: China's economy likely grew at a slower pace than the government's target in the third quarter, an AFP survey of analysts shows, as energy, geopolitical and debt crises stoke fears of a global downturn.

Leaders in Beijing have struggled for years to reverse a stubborn slump in the once-booming real estate sector, which has dampened consumer confidence and weighed on overall activity.

The stagnation has coincided with several major shocks on the global economy, including the Covid-19 pandemic, recurring trade rows and multiple wars.

Official data due on Monday is expected to show the world's second-biggest economy expanded 4.4 percent year-on-year in July-September, according to economists polled by AFP. While representing a slight improvement from the second quarter's 4.3 percent, the reading would fall short of the government's target for this year of 4.5-5.0 percent itself the lowest goal in decades.



Exports have been a key driver of China's economy for some time but leaders are being urged to boost consumer demand.

"Available data so far suggests China's economy lost momentum" during the period, Sheana Yue, a senior economist at Oxford Economics, told AFP.

"The main challenge is persistently weak domestic demand, particularly consumption and property investment, which additional infrastructure spending is unlikely to reverse quickly," she said. The lacklustre forecast comes as officials and experts converge in Bangkok to discuss economic issues at the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. In its closely watched World Economic Outlook released on Tuesday, the IMF slightly upgraded its global 2026 forecast, while warning of a "split" state of affairs as wide-ranging risks test economic resilience.

The report said that although a recent boom in artificial intelligence had spurred new activity, soaring energy costs caused by the Iran war and skyrocketing government debt posed increasing threats to global growth.

In China, higher crude prices combined with "protracted uncertainty and structural headwinds" led the IMF to slightly downgrade its July projection for the country's annual growth to 4.5 percent.

Asked by AFP during a news conference yesterday about that revision, Asia and Pacific department director Krishna Srinivasan said a "rebalancing, which (the IMF has) been talking about for some time, has not really been realised". — ***AFP***