QIB recorded a net profit of QR776m for the period ending September 2019, an increase of 5.7 percent, compared to QR735m posted for the same period of 2018. QIB's total income grew by 14 percent to QR11.7bn during the period. Total assets reached QR16bn with a capital adequacy rate of 11.7 percent.

Announcing the bank's solid financial results, QIB Chairman and Managing Director, Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani commented: “The results of the bank for the third quarter greatly indicate that we are following the strategy adopted to capitalise on the great potentials provided by the Qatari economy in all fields and sectors. The bank’s continuous effort and persistence to deepen its partnerships with the various Qatari economic sectors resulted in a great stability in all the bank’s indicators. This is clearly reflected in the bank’s balance sheet, including activities and total assets among other indicators, which please us and gives us a strong push forward.”

Al Thani underlined the bank’s success results from the fact that QIB was able to be part of the exceptional success achieved by the Qatari economy, which excelled in overcoming the challenges and its repercussions. “We were also able to transform the siege into a driving force and a catalyst for development, thanks to the greater emphasis and directives of H.E. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,” Sheikh Dr Khalid said.

The great momentum and high pace of the various large projects and infrastructure projects give the national economy a great impetus and the banking sector in particular in successfully pursuing their plans and strategies. “QIB has been focusing on many years for financing various local projects so the local market is the most suitable for us. We consider financing local projects as one of our strategic commitments and not just business plans, profits and growth figures,” Sheikh Dr Khalid added.

QIB also rose by 38 percent to €680m during the first six months of 2019, an increase of 5.7 percent to about €1.36bn during the same period last year. The bank’s deposits at the end of this quarter increased to €1.6bn and its total balance at the end of the period increased to about €1.9bn.

QIB’s chairman said: “QIB has been focusing for many years on financing various local projects as these projects are suitable for us. We consider financing local projects as a strategic commitment and not just business plans, profits and growth figures.”

The bank’s capital adequacy (Tier 1) stood at 15.87 percent, while its Tier 2 capital ratio measured 13.58 percent, and the bank’s total risk-weighted assets reached €7.2bn. The non-performing loans ratio decreased to 0.4 percent, while loans to deposits ratio remained at 87.2 percent.

QIB is the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, has announced the (IPO) of Baladna Food Industries Co. QIB, the largest dairy producer in the country, is offering rare opportunity for Qatari investors to buy a home in Switzerland, which has strengths of leverages in various fields of real estate, such as ownership of real estate properties and a unique mortgage system. According to the bank, it is the most developed countries in the world. The Company (Florens) for the first time, resulted in sales and purchase of Fixed Income instruments for sale at the recently concluded Cityscape Qatar 2019. Qatar is being built directly by the investors in the Lake of Leman near Interlaken in the Bernese Oberland, which is expected to open by 2022.

The Swiss real estate market is at a great confusion for foreign investors, specifically for Swiss investors, because of the high prices of residential properties. QIB has extended its activities to welcome subscribers in the 15 branches that are participants in the IPO subscription process.

Mohammad Shokei, CEO of Baladna IPO, announced that the Bank’s total revenues reached QR1.9bn and QR1.6bn compared to QR1.8bn and QR1.2bn for the same period last year, respectively, recording a growth rate of 11.4 percent.

The financing activities portfolio increased by the end of the third quarter to QR13.9bn compared to QR8.0bn in the same period last year, which represents an increase of 87 percent. The bank’s deposits at the end of the third quarter increased to QR14.4bn. The bank’s capital adequacy (Tier 1) stood at 15.87 percent, while its Tier 2 capital ratio measured 13.58 percent, and the bank’s total risk-weighted assets reached €7.2bn. The non-performing loans ratio decreased to 0.4 percent, while loans to deposits ratio remained at 87.2 percent.

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Italy second leading cosmetic exporter to Qatar: Rigano

QIB Chairman and Managing Director, Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Hamad Al Thani

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Italy is now the second leading cosmetic exporter to Qatar and holds about 10 percent of the market share, according to Cosmoprof in a statement.

Italian Trade Commissioner to Qatar Giusafat Rigano, attending an event during the Créme Arabe Fashion Exhibition at the Doha Exhibition Center (DECC), called on the Qatari market to embrace the innovative products, specific for the hue and texture and dry environs in Qatar.

“Qatar offers important opportunities for the Italian fashion and beverage companies, involved in the cosmetic market for the beauty industry,” said Cosmoprof in a statement.

The Italian Fashion Exhibition at the DECC, which will be held during the Neo Arabian Fashion Exhibition at the Doha Exhibition Center (DECC), invites Qatari companies to participate in Cosmoprof Worldwide Bologna which will be held in Italy in March next year. The annual trade fair, now on its 33rd edition, is billed as the world’s biggest international trade show for the beauty industry.

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Globality, the beauty market is now valued at around €136bn. In Qatar, the development of the cosmetics market was driven by high purchasing power of the residents, who favoured luxury labels with premium and high-end products, perfumes, beauty make-up, and hygiene products, essential oils, as well as shaving and deodorant products,” said Rigano, adding that France is still the leading cosmetics exporter to Qatar. Rigano was speaking at a Cosmoprof roadshow which was held during the Neo Arabian Fashion Exhibition at the Doha Exhibition Center (DECC), to invite Qatari companies to participate in Cosmoprof Worldwide Bologna which will be held in Italy in March next year. The annual trade fair, now on its 33rd edition, is billed as the world’s biggest international trade show for the beauty industry.

Qatar is now valued at around $532bn. In Qatar, the development of the cosmetics market was driven by high purchasing power of the residents, who favoured luxury labels with premium and high-end products, perfumes, beauty make-up, and hygiene products, essential oils, as well as shaving and deodorant products,” said Rigano, adding that France is still the leading cosmetics exporter to Qatar. Rigano was speaking at a Cosmoprof roadshow which was held during the Neo Arabian Fashion Exhibition at the Doha Exhibition Center (DECC), to invite Qatari companies to participate in Cosmoprof Worldwide Bologna which will be held in Italy in March next year. The annual trade fair, now on its 33rd edition, is billed as the world’s biggest international trade show for the beauty industry.

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Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassem Al Thani (centre) and other officials during the event in Vienna.

Qatar, Austria trade up 5% in 2018, says Qatar Chamber Chairman

Qatar Chamber has participated in the 15th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum and accompanying exhibition as well as the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Arab-Austria Chamber of Commerce held in Vienna.

The event was held under the patronage of the Federal President of the Republic of Austria Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen attended by prominent figures from the economic, political and diplomatic sectors.

Qatar Chamber's delegation which was led by QC Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassem Al Thani also included QC Board Member Khalid bin Jabor Al Kastrini and Assistant Director General for Government Relation and Commission Affairs Ali Bu Shehail Al Manessari.

Sheikh Khalifa underscored the depth of relations between both countries at all fields especially after the visit of the Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in March which saw signing many agreements for strengthening both countries’ economic, trade and technical cooperation.

During the Amir’s visit, the Qatar Chamber and Austrian Chamber Union signed MoU to cement their cooperation ties on the sidelines of the Qatar-Austrian Business Forum.

Sheikh Khalifa also said that Qatar and Austria trade exchange between the two countries registered 5 percent growth in 2018.

Sheikh Khalifa also said that Qatar is an attractive and unique investment destination for the Qatari private sector, assuring that Qatari businessmen were eager to identify investment opportunities available in Austria with a view to establishing joint ventures and partnerships with their Austrian peers in both countries.

There are five Austrian companies operating in the Qatar market with 100 percent capital including one factory for producing marble and granite, where there are 42 Qatari-Austrian companies working in various sectors, including IT advertising, contracting and tourism.

He expressed the hope for both sides to increase their allowable to include all sectors especially in high-tech industries.

The Arab-African Economic Forum in the AACs largest conference exhibition and networking event. The Forum offers a unique platform for knowledge exchange, networking and deepening of Arab-African relations in economy, trade, culture and diplomacy.

The “15th Arab-African Economic Forum” continues in major part of the event’s program, offering high level speakers, experts and official representatives a unique presentation and discussion platform to shed light on trends revolving around water, infrastructure, transportation, and industrialization, from an Austrian, Arab and international perspective.

Qatar Finance and Business Academy concludes ‘Coffee with the CEO Series’ 2019

Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA) has announced the successful completion of its series titled “Coffee with the CEO” as a part of its Kwasader programme for professional development. The series aimed to engage young Qatari professionals in open dialogue with leading CEOs from across the financial services sector in Qatar, within a casual and free environment.

Through this series, QFBA was able to successfully aid in shaping the future of young Qatari professionals in their respective careers, moreover providing a platform for them to learn from industry pioneers how to lead a successful career in their future endeavors.

Over the course of a month from September 11th 2019 to October 2nd 2019, the “Coffee with the CEO” series hosted Qatar’s top influential leaders who have played a transformative role in the financial services sector. The influential list in chronological order of featured Youruf Al Jaida, CEO of Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA); Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Acting Group CEO of Qatar National Bank (QNB) Group Khalid Al Subaihi, Group CEO of Barwa Bank, and Mera Group, Khalid Al Subeai, Group CEO of Barwa Bank, and Mera

The successful conclusion of the series was celebrated by QFBA Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Khalid Al Horr said: “We launched ‘Coffee with the CEO’ series to build on the success and momentum we achieved last year, as we understand an active role in empowering young and motivated Qatari professionals within the Kwasader programme. From its conception, we were confident ‘Coffee with the CEO’ would deliver nothing short of profound positive change to the Qatari youth.

We are grateful such distinguished leaders in the financial services sector were able to share their wisdom, vision and journey to a few of our nation’s youth, giving young Qatari professionals a path towards success and excellence in their financial endeavors, in a conscious and committed manner in line with global economic trends to support a conscious and committed career path to support a conscious and committed career path

One of QFBA’s key programs, Kwasader, launched its 7th edition in September 2019. Kwasader is an innovative platform designed for grooming high potential young Qatari professionals to the financial services industry.

Huawei ships 200m smartphones in 2019

Huawei Consumer Business Group (CBG) announced that it has shipped 200 million smartphone devices to date in 2019, 64 days earlier than the same shipment milestone last year. Huawei’s relentless efforts to continuously up its cutting edge technology and innovative 5G design, together with its commitment to continuous investment in research and development, has reinforced its position as an industry leader. Today, more customers trust the brand and its strive to making lives better.

2019 saw the launch of a number of outstanding devices including the multi award-winning HUAWEI Mate 30 Series. The HUAWEI Mate 30 Pro has been called “a genuine unapologetic flagship smartphone” by the Technology Review. Furthermore, the HUAWEI Mate 30 Pro was awarded one of the best cameraphones for 2019, cementing Huawei’s position as a key player in the market.

The PENNSA

Qatar International Court contributes to enhancing World Bank’s Indexes

With an overall score of 77.8, Qatar now ranks 5.60 in the Enforcing Contracts Index and 4.5 in the Quality of Judicial Progress.

This year, Qatar was ranked in the report’s top-20 ‘Improvers in Doing Business’ based on measurable strides in the modernization of public services and regulatory reforms.

The World Bank has effectively reduced time and costs associated with alternative dispute resolution hearings in Qatar, contributing to the country’s overall rise in the Enforcing Contracts Indicator. QICDRC officials also met with representatives from the World Bank Group in 2018 and 2019 to discuss ways to enhance judicial proceedings and help develop a private dispute resolution system.

Since its establishment in 2009, QICDRC has developed accessible judicial frameworks to address direct investment within the Qatar Financial Centre and contribute to Qatar’s economic diversification plans as well as an all-round contribution by the Qatar National Vision 2030.

THE PENNSA

The European Image and Sound Association (EISA) group comprising 55 of the world’s most respected consumer electronics magazines, named the HUAWEI Mate 30 Pro a ‘Best Smartphone 2019-2020’, making it the second year in a row that Huawei has claimed this category prize.

More recently, the Huawei Mate 20 series was named ‘Best Critical acclaim. Featuring the flagship quad-camera system which is designed for gromming high potential young Qatari professionals to the financial services industry.

The future's HUAWEI Mate phone currently set on ‘a smartphone’, once again cementing Huawei’s reputation and status as a key player in the market.
Focus Softnet to showcase its AI platform ‘AIFA’ at DIOM

Focus Softnet is all set to exhibit its first AI platform ‘AIFA’ in the upcoming 2019 Exhibition AIFA, (Artificially Intelligent Digital Application) is an advanced AI platform for businesses that can be integrated ERP systems and even personal assistants like Google Home and Alexa.

Focus Softnet has been a focal point of and caring commitment having pioneered many smart solutions with industry specifications. It’s expertise in the ERP realm with a well-established Middle East. North America and the Latin America region. Since 1992, it has helped businesses grow with ground-breaking enterprise solutions and has been in competition across the globe in EU countries.

Addressing the media during the Digital Oman Summit earlier this month, Ali Hyder, Group CEO of Focus Softnet stated that AI is shaping the future of ERP systems across the globe and is the sustainable future. Artificial Intelligence (AI) would have a profound impact on almost every piece of software available in the market, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solutions, in some form or fashion. AI is going to affect the very essence of system-controlled business operations, he said.

Artificial intelligence is bound to transform the future of ERP solutions. The new machine learning technology that appears to emulate human actions would influence businesses, regardless of size or industry. AI is a part of every enterprise system that affects businesses in some visible or invisible form.

Forecast Softnet officials during the launch of AIFA, an AI-enabled ERP solutions.

Doha Bank offers loans for Baladna IPO subscription

Delivering on its commitment to catering to the varying needs of its customers, Doha Bank, one of the largest private commercial banks in Qatar, has announced that it has opened its subscription for Qatari nationals to subscribe to Baladna Food Industries (BFI) initial public offering (IPO).

As one of the recurring banks for the forthcoming IPO subscription, Doha Bank will offer up to 15 per cent discount on its fees and first degree relatives offer a further discount of 20 per cent. Children who would like to invest in the IPO will enjoy a free subscription.

The IPO will be open for subscription until 5th November 2019. Doha Bank’s existing customers and non-customers are all eligible for the offering. Doha Bank and Capital Companions with valid QR can subscribe and must visit any of the bank’s branches.

The bank also offers Finance, which can apply through branches only until 5th November 2019.

Global growth is slowing and the strength of the recovery is uncertain

In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts a synchronized slowdown in global economic activity GDP) to 3.0 per cent in 2019 and 3.4 per cent in 2020. Indeed, the IMF has been steadily revising down its growth forecasts for global GDP growth over the past year.

However, the IMF expects a modest global GDP growth pickup in 3 to 4 per cent in 2020 amid recovery or shallower recessions in a number of emerging and developing market economies and regions that experienced partial contractions in 2019.

The measured trade protectionism is the main driver of the slowdown in 2019, which is concentrated in the manufacturing sector. The energy sector has held up well so far, supported by monetary stimuli.

A key driver of the slowdown is trade protectionism. Specifically, the IMF estimates that the negative impact of the trade war between the US and China will lower the level of global GDP by 0.8 per cent in 2019 and 0.5 per cent in 2020. More generally, manufacturing and global trade are suffering from a broad-based slowdown across the global economy. Global merchandise trade, a key driver of global GDP growth, weakened in 2019 due to persistent disruptions in global supply chains and lower demand for imported commodities. Global trade growth is concentrated in manufactured capital goods. Therefore, it is not surprising that a strong manufacturing sector.

The services sector has so far managed to hold up, as employment and wage growth.

In contrast, GDP growth in 2020 driven by a strong manufacturing growth in larger emerging markets. Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, are all expected to grow by about 4 per cent or even less in 2019 due to a range of idiosyncratic factors. The IMF assumes that these factors are not particularly persistent.

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Washington and Beijing are making progress in their months-long trade dispute and are close to finalising parts of the deal. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin spoke with their Chinese counterparts on Friday as the final stages of the negotiations to conclude a “phase one” trade deal are being wrapped up.

The two sides have made headway on specific issues and the two sides are close to finalising some of the agreements,” the statement said.

The Chinese Commerce Minister said Saturday that both sides “properly addressed each other’s core concerns” during the negotiations to reduce US tariffs on Chinese imports while the US import duties on Chinese goods will be reduced.

The two sides agreed to “properly address each other’s core concerns” during the negotiations to reduce US tariffs on Chinese imports while the US import duties on Chinese goods will be reduced.

The leading provider of IT services and software, malomatia, will be participating as a Pearl Sponsor in the 2nd Qatar IT Conference and Exhibition (QITECOM), which will be held from 25th October to 1st November at the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC).

Yousef Al Naama (pictured), Chief Executive Officer, malomatia, noted that QITECOM is an opportunity to showcase Qatar’s information technology (IT) sector and to present the country’s progress and future plans. He said the event is a “gathering of the greatest minds” within the IT sector and a good opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas.

Malomatia, a leading technology services provider in Qatar, has announced its participation in the 2nd Qatar IT Conference and Exhibition (QITECOM), which will be held from 25th October to 1st November at the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC).

Malomatia is a leading technology services provider in Qatar, known for its award-winning mobile applications and web development services. The company is dedicated to providing innovative solutions to its clients.

Malomatia will be showcasing its latest technology products and services at QITECOM, highlighting its commitment to delivering high-quality solutions to businesses and organizations in Qatar.

Malomatia’s participation in QITECOM aligns with its mission to remain at the forefront of technology innovation and to contribute to the growth and development of the IT sector in Qatar. The company’s participation at the event will offer an excellent opportunity to network with industry leaders and explore collaboration opportunities.

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BLOOMBERG

Traders seem to have finally warmed to the idea that the US-China trade war is over. The price of bets is rising for a rate-cut queue next month. US jobs data have cooled in recent weeks, but the US-China trade war has not.

The US central bank is set to begin a new rate-cut cycle sometime next month. The Federal Reserve is expected to cut rates by 25 basis points in October, and again by 25 basis points in November.

Traders’ rates haveBand bond market embraces stability before chaotic events

traders have pared wagers on more aggressive cuts and have trimmed hedges against volatility. Worrying activity in futures suggests that traders are more inclined to embrace the rate cuts in rates for now. That reflected diminished fear of a US-China trade war as the UK and the European Central Bank have cut rates.

We’ve seen an dovetail switch from deflationary optimism on the trade front,” said Ayah Rajaee (unrelated) head of US rates strategy at Societe Generale. “This might be the most optimistic time if the Fed also want to pass.

The Fed has raised the odds of a December move from a near certainty to 32 percent. Increased expectations for stabilization in rates seem to be based on an improved growth outlook, as options traders favoring a rate rise in long-dated yields have helped buoy the curve.

The gap between the two- and three-year yields has widened from 4 basis points to the start of October to 15 basis points as of Friday.

Of course, this compositor might not hold for long. Amid ongoing concern about the US economy and uncertainty on the horizon, it’s unclear whether the Fed will cut rates again.

In the meantime, the US economy is growing at a solid pace, inflation is low and the US unemployment rate is near historically low levels. These factors may make it difficult for the Fed to cut rates further.

However, the trade war has been a major source of uncertainty for businesses and consumers alike. Many companies have already felt the pain of tariffs imposed by both the US and China. These tariffs have driven up prices and reduced the profitability of many goods and services.

The trade war has also had a significant impact on the US economy as a whole. The US is the world’s largest and most diverse economy, and it is highly dependent on trade with other countries.

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The Fed has raised the odds of a December move from a near certainty to 32 percent. Increased expectations for stabilization in rates seem to be based on an improved growth outlook, as options traders favoring a rate rise in long-dated yields have helped buoy the curve.

The gap between the two- and three-year yields has widened from 4 basis points to the start of October to 15 basis points as of Friday.

Of course, this compositor might not hold for long. Amid ongoing concern about the US economy and uncertainty on the horizon, it’s unclear whether the Fed will cut rates again.

In the meantime, the US economy is growing at a solid pace, inflation is low and the US unemployment rate is near historically low levels. These factors may make it difficult for the Fed to cut rates further.

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