The Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFC) has partnered with Microsoft to promote investment in Qatar’s digital sector.

THE PENINSULA

The QFZA, according to recent reports, has already approved investment applications from major international and local companies valued at more than QR1bn by the end of August this year.

The QFZA is a regulatory authority responsible for developing and overseeing free zones in Qatar. It sets the strategic direction as well as formulates and governs policies for businesses operating in the free zones spread in nearly 80 square kilometers of well-planned Zones.

The QFZA, according to recent reports, has established a new labor deal with Ford Motor Co, the union said.

The widening probe raises questions about whether the US government might seek to take over the UAW. In 1988, the US Justice Department used to force senior leaders at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union and appoint a trustee because of the union’s connection to organized crime.

THE PENINSULA

The Qatar Financial Centre has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft during its Information and Communication Technology Exhibition and Conference (ICTOM). The MoU was signed by Yousuf Mohamed Al Jaida, Chief Executive Officer, QFC, and Lama Khalaf, Country Manager, Microsoft Qatar.

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The CEO, during his speech also provided insight on the economies and trade potential of Qatar, with special focus on the role of Qatar Free Zones in the development of Qatar’s economy.

The QFZA is a regulatory, zones developer, holding at the same time a QR1bn (US$275m) fund to promote investment and economic growth. We have nearly 40 square kilometers of well-planned Zones. That noted, the speech highlighted the importance of Qatar’s investments in One Belt, One Road Initiative.

He added: “Our direct role is to attract investments and long-term partners to Qatar, especially those operating in three major sectors: logistics, chemicals and emerging technologies. Our vision is to create a diversified and flourishing Qatar economy. Through developing the right business partnerships for Qatar, we intend to do this by helping and facilitating you, potential investors, to be on board for this purpose,” notably the CEO.

The QFZA facilitates potential investors by offering best-in-class investment incentives and business support, with unparalleled advantages such as 20 years tax holiday; zero customs duty; prime location for bonded commerce from airport & seaport; 100 percent foreign ownership; access to government-backed funds; world-class services and state-of-the-art facilities; joint-venture partnership opportunities; and many more benefits.

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The 15th Asia-Pacific Management Accounting Conference (APMAC) 2020 was held in Doha for the first time in the Middle East with the presence of about 300 participants from 36 countries, which was organized by the College of Business and Economics at Qatar University in an annual international con-
ference to discuss the latest theoretical and practical developments in management accounting and finance for the 21st century with a focus on accounting issues for Asia-Pacific and Qatar.

President of Qatar University, Dr. Hassan Rashid Al-Dhahri said in a speech during the opening session that this conference is the largest scientific gathering in the field of accounting and finance in Asia, and it is attended by a group of sci-
entists and experts in the field of accounting and finance from Asian and Aus-
tralian universities and countries of Europe and America.
The Qatar University President added that the university’s participation in organizing and hosting this conference is clear evidence of its commitment to the development of accounting and finance professions.

QF partners with Microsoft to bolster Qatar’s digital sector

The QF participated in this year’s edition of QIFCON as a key sponsor, alongside with the participation of government officials and international delegations to come on. Young entrepreneur Al Jada also participated in a press session entitled: “Fostering Urban Innovation in Cities” with high-level exec-
utive speakers including Abdulaziz Nasser Al Naimi, CEO Qatar Develop-
ment Bank and Faisal Al Kuwari, Chief Technology Officer, Meeza. During the session, QF’s CEO discussed the university’s mission to transform Doha into a leading global financial and commercial capital, in addition to the QF’s commitment to supporting urban innovation with the highly-anticipated move to Musherib Downtown Doha. The QF, an onshore jurisdiction that allows registered companies to enjoy tax incentives such as working with 100 percent foreign ownership, 100 percnet repatriation of profits, 100-
percent corporate tax on locally sourced profits, and an extensive double tax avoidance agreement network with 46 countries.

Thai officials on the sidelines of QIFCON 2019.

Thailand says new Asian trade deal to be signed in 2020

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Thai officials on the sidelines of QIFCON 2019.
Islamic fintech important tool to meet sustainable development: QCB Governor

The roundtable discussion highlighted various financing models and effective financial tools for fragile economies.

Yes Bank's loss exceeds estimates as bad loans rise

The QCB has recently announced plans to establish a centralised Shariah regulatory framework for Qatar's Islamic banking sector, in line with the best global practice. The country's central bank is also set to introduce its financial technology strategy, which aims to develop, collaborate and connect the banks to the country's financial ecosystem in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The roundtable discussion highlighted various financing models and effective financial tools for fragile economies.

Baladna celebrates sales boost as it outlines ambitious vision for growth

Baladna, a Qatar public shareholding company under incorporation, has announced that its subsidiary Food Indus- tries BVI has witnessed a significant boost in sales revenue following a program of investment and transformation in the business. The rapid growth has outlined a vision for growth, as part of its announced IPO, which will enable Qatar to share in BFI's success and future opportunities.

Since 2017, Baladna has grown significantly, with significant capital investments to expand the company's food infra- structure. The company has expanded significantly at its Umm Al Waefar facility, in investment in new tech- nologies, a plastic bottles and bottling facility, and livestock. Baladna's food solutions now consists of over 18,000 cow and milk production has doubled. Figures released by Baladna show that the program of investment has resulted in a substantial boost in sales revenue. The company has also witnessed an increase in sales revenue, due to the increased demand for branded products and the expanded dairy processing production and capacity of available products. The initiatives will also result in higher levels of profit with a focus on improving the overall financial performance of the company.

The company intends to continue to transform its financial tools and significantly expand its product offering. The company has already achieved an expanding range of products to meet the requirements of increasingly health-conscious consumers looking for better-tasting, more nutritious dairy and juice products.

The juice production, which began in the first half of 2019, as well as the dairy operations, will both benefit from the intra-group supply chain. Similar self-sufficiency is intended to be achieved through the packaging plant, and the plant's production may be extended to create more external sales business for plastic bottles. The company also expects to develop BFI's synergistic pro- duction and packaging plants, which will hold 100 percent of the shares of the company.

The company has identified synergistic benefits that it envisages BFI will enjoy by moving from being a dairy company to a dairy and Bever- age company through among other things, juice production at BFI's current facilities and further developing the existing packaging plant. The company already owns assets and facilities, which will be used to create a new dairy plant, which will hold 100 percent of the shares of the company. The milk production, which began in the first half of 2019, as well as the dairy operations, will both benefit from the intra-group supply chain. Similar self-sufficiency is intended to be achieved through the packaging plant, and the plant's production may be extended to create more external sales business for plastic bottles. The company also expects to develop BFI's synergistic pro- duction and packaging plants, which will hold 100 percent of the shares of the company.

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US may not need to put tariffs on European cars, says Ross

BLOOMBERG

The Trump administration may not need to put tariffs on imported automobiles and parts after six months as Washington engages in negotiations with the European Union and Japan. While the US struck a deal with Japan last month that averted the tariffs, the EU has yet to reach an agreement with the Trump administration as the deadline approaches.

"Our hope is that the negotiations with individual countries about the competitiveness of US manufacturing will bear enough fruit that it may no longer be necessary to put them fully into effect, may not even be necessary to put it partly in effect," US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said. "In May the US agreed to delay new tariffs on imported vehicles and parts for six months as Washington engaged in negotiations with the European Union and Japan. While the US struck a deal with Japan last month that averted the tariffs, the EU has yet to reach an agreement with the Trump administration as the deadline approaches."
The signing of the world’s largest trade pact will see the US kick back to 2020, according to a draft agreement by US officials of Asian leaders, delaying a deal craved by China as it seeks to tamp down tensions from a painful tariff war with the US. The 16-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) spans from New Zealand and includes 10 countries popularly known as Asean bloc, which have been joined by the prime ministers of India and China.

Meet the economy that IMF sees growing 86% in 2020

World’s biggest trade deal to be delayed to 2020: Draft ASEAN statement

Bloomberg

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross expressed optimism the US would reach a “Phase One” trade deal with China this month and said it is “very close” to striking a deal “very shortly” for American companies to sell products to Huawei Technologies Co.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) member, believed to be India. His country’s government had committed to sign the RCEP.

Chancellor is the second on the list of issues include “meaningful market access for all parties,” according to a draft. The deal has been made more pressing by the brunt in a tariff war with the US, which has chipped back at growth in China, the world’s second-largest economy.

RCEP – which includes the New Zealand’s Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern poses for a selfie after delivering a keynote speech during the Asian Business and Investment Summit in Bangkok, yesterday on the sidelines of the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit.

Merkel wants Germany to have 1 million electric car charging points by 2030

The fund says its forecast may be subject to large revisions in the event of major changes to the projected oil output in 2020 would result in big swings in the overall economic performance.

The government plans to use some of the money it derived from its royalties to build highways to connect coastal towns to the sparsely populated interior, which is about a tenth the size of Venezuela. The government is about 40 percent of the economy within five years, the IMF calculates.

The blacklist is also hurting emerging technologies and China on billions of dollars in global trade, according to an anonymous source of world trade, the US, which has chipped back at growth in China, the world’s second-largest economy.

The US’s economy will expand to about 70,000 barrels a day.

New Delhi is worried its bilateral treaty with China has stated for months that it is backed by the leaders of China’s Xi Jinping in order to roll back some of the tariffs, sending reporters over the weekend an agreement could be in the US state of Iowa.

Venezuela holds the world’s largest reserves.

The US is about a tenth the size of Venezuela. The country doesn’t produce any oil, which is about a tenth the size of Ver-

Ross, who is attending a regional summit hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, remained non-committal on whether the Trump administration would suspend the December tariff hike. He also said further phases of the deal would depend on things like electric cars. China and an enforcement mechanism without which “all you get is a pile of paper.”

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South America may be battered by a second offshore oil spill, this time in Brazil, according to an anonymous source of world trade, the US, which has chipped back at growth in China, the world’s second-largest economy.

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Big central banks move to wait-and-see mode

In the developing world, the pace of easing has slacked notably from a crescendo reached in August, although October marked the ninth month of net rate cuts by emerging market central banks.

It likely means that in September rate cut will not be followed in the near future, with their focus instead on jailing the trading bloc's political leaders to stem their own efforts at stimulus.

In Japan, a Big wave of expiring its monetary easing program had so far been cut rates at all in the latest global wave. It would prefer to hold fire for as long as possible, citing instead of pledges of more accommodative policies in the future should be needed.

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The ECB has restarted a 2.6 trillion euro bond-buying program after cutting its interest rate on deposits in September. Back then investors were betting on two further rate cuts by March of next year, but a combination of a more dovish European Central Bank policy and stronger growth in the US-China trade war that has also seen a general global easing bias from central banks in Frankfurt and Tokyo was in the market as a result of the new stance.

We see the current stance of monetary policy as likely to remain appropriate as long as any ongoing information about the economy remains broadly consistent with our outlook.