Qatar Airways to ‘stay with’ deal for Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft

Qatar Airways will stay with its agreement with Boeing for the delivery of some 60 737 MAX 8 aircraft, which includes firm and options, according to al-Baker.

Qatar Airways will stay with its agreement with Boeing for the delivery of some 60 737 MAX 8 aircraft which includes firm and options, said group chief executive Akbar al-Baker.

Asked whether Qatar Airways would review its order for the 737 MAX 8 aircraft in the light of the recent Lion Air crash in Indonesia, al-Baker said, “Any aircraft that comes into a mishap is a great concern for the entire airline community. But let us not jump to conclusions.”

Qatar Airways Flight 737 MAX 8 from Jakarta to Pontianak went missing 13 minutes after take-off on October 29. It crashed into the sea, news agency Reuters reported citing Indonesian authorities. Subsequently, the Indonesian search and rescue agency confirmed that all 189 aboard crashed Lion Air jet were dead.

Al-Baker noted that “aeroplanes don’t get certified if there are any issues relating to their safety.”

“At the end of the day, if you are driving your car and you did not put the bolts properly on the wheel and the wheels come up, it does not mean the car that you are driving was not safe,” al-Baker noted.

The Qatar Airways group chief executive said, “Any agreement that an airline signs has options… and we have firm and options, still on the 60 aeroplanes. And we will stay with our agreement with Boeing.”

“With Qatar Airways contracts, we have long flexibility… we never sign a contract that is not in the best interest of our company.”

Qatar and Boeing, the world’s largest aerospace company, continue to enjoy an "excellent" relationship.

In an interview with Gulf Times during the IATA AGM in Sydney earlier this year, Boeing’s senior vice-president (International Sales) Marty Bentrott said, “Our relationship with the State of Qatar and its outstanding airline Qatar Airways is terrific. We really cherish our partnership with Qatar Airways and we will continue to closely maintain it.”

By Pratap John
Chief Business Reporter

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Kuwait bourse to set up VC platform to finance startups

The Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) plans to set up a venture capital (VC) platform to finance startups in the country's growing startup scene, the KSE's chief executive said.

The bourse's chief executive, Ahmed al-Khaled, said it planned to introduce a "venture capital platform" later this year, to encourage local entrepreneurs to grow their businesses.

"Some people believe that there are no opportunities in Kuwait. If they have the opportunity to reach international groups in the same sector, they will grow these companies so that they can become a venture capital market, " he said.

Al-Khaled is noted for his efforts to involve external factors could have a negative impact on the region's economic outlook. "We are working closely with the Kuwaiti young entrepreneurs to introduce a venture capital market," he said.

"The Kuwait premier index is up 9% in the first quarter of 2017. The bourse is the oldest in the Middle East, introduced a raft of reforms in recent years in a bid to raise international investor interest in Kuwaiti-listed companies," al-Khaled said.

The Financial Times noted that external factors could have a negative impact on the region's economic outlook, "We are working closely with the Kuwaiti young entrepreneurs to introduce a venture capital market," he said.

"The Kuwait premier index is up 9% in the first quarter of 2017. The bourse is the oldest in the Middle East, introduced a raft of reforms in recent years in a bid to raise international investor interest in Kuwaiti-listed companies," al-Khaled said.

Moreover, increased political uncertainty surrounding the trade disputes between the US and China, as well as the growing anti- globalization sentiment is likely to slow the US and global economic growth. "What I have been pleased to see is that the level of trade has increased," al-Khaled said.

"The high level of trade has increased," al-Khaled said. "I want these entrepreneurs to grow locally. If they have the opportunity to reach international groups in the same sector, they will grow these companies so that they can become a venture capital market," he said.

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Asian markets rally after Wall St surge

**UK approves CME’s $5bn NEX trading platform takeover**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), which had ruled in August that the high-frequency trading arm of CME’s $5 billion offer to buy NEX was not a fair competition, has said it would allow the deal for further in-depth scrutiny.

The CMA said it would investigate the deal’s effects on competition, specifically focusing on electronic trading platforms.

The move comes after CME Group agreed to buy NEX Group for $4.96 billion, a deal seen as a major step towards consolidation in the financial derivatives market.

The CMA’s decision is a significant development in the ongoing debate over the potential for high-frequency trading to reduce competition and stifle innovation.

The deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2019, subject to regulatory approvals.

**India equities jump 550 pts; rupee drops**

India's equity indices continued their uptrend, with the benchmark Sensex surging over 550 points and closing above 33,000 for the first time in over a month.

The Sensex closed at 33,750.40, up 550.44 points, while the broader Nifty ended at 10,356.95, up 156.25 points.

The gains were driven by strong domestic demand, with the market seeing a steady inflow of money from foreigners and institutions.

However, the Indian rupee fell against the US dollar, dropping to 69.70, its lowest level since May 2016.

**Wall Street has a fresh way to bet on value detriment growth**

Wall Street is on pace to issue around $1 trillion in new issues this year, with expectations of a rebound in the bond market.

The surge in new issues is being driven by a combination of factors, including a tightening of the supply of high-grade bonds, a rise in yields, and a growing appetite for lower-rated debt.

The mix of factors is expected to attract investors looking for yield in a market where yields are low and growth is slow.

**Emerging currencies drop**

Emerging stock markets gained at the end of a volatile month as global equities rallied, with hopes that Chinese shares, though a prime mover and a source of global investor concern, would continue to use all available instruments to stabilize the market.

Throughout October, a mix of slowing economic growth and concern over the potential for further geopolitical tensions roiled global markets.

The MSCI EM index of emerging market stocks ended October down 3.4%.

**Asian markets rally after Wall St surge**

Asian equities, which have seen a rise in optimism since the beginning of the year, remain buoyant, with rising bond yields leading to calls from strategists to shift toward value stocks.

The rally has been supported by a series of encouraging economic indicators, including a strong rebound in China's factory growth.

However, analysts caution that the rally is keeping optimism at a premium, and that further price corrections are possible as market participants remain concerned about the growing trade tensions between the US and China.

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Pacific trade pact shunned by Trump cleared for launch

AP

WASHINGTON, Thursday, November 1, 2018

A massive Trans-Pacific trade deal that the US president had killed in 2017 was approved for launch on Thursday, allowing it to enter into force next year and dismantling Donald Trump’s protectionist policies from the region. The news comes as an unusual show of cooperation from some of America’s closest allies.

The pact, called the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), was launched in 2011 by the US, Canada, Chile, Australia, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, and the European Union. It is the largest ever regional trade agreement, covering 40% of the world’s economy.

The deal was struck after a decade of negotiations, but was killed by US negotiators under Trump in early 2017. The US government was unhappy with the agreement’s trade and investment provisions, which many economists had called a game changer.

However, the remaining members of the trade bloc, which now includes Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, and other nations, have formally signed on to the agreement, meaning that a quorum of more than half the members have formally signed on.

The deal will now enter into force next year, allowing it to enter into force in 2020 and will establish a framework for the coordination of trade and investment policies among the countries involved.

The agreement includes provisions on intellectual property, environmental protection, and labor standards. It also establishes a mechanism for resolving disputes among member nations.

The deal is expected to boost trade and investment among the countries involved, and is seen as a move towards a more open and integrated regional trading system.

### Reuters

### India says central bank independence ‘essential’

India’s government affirmed its belief in central bank autonomy yesterday, saying “essential” is vital to combat inflation and sustain economic growth.

In a statement issued hours later, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the government has reaffirmed its support for central bank independence, which has been a contentious issue in recent months.

The government added bonus of a second round of tariff cuts will now come into effect.

With the US gone, the TPP became a beacon against protectionism, nutrient for the rule-free trade idea Trump, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin recently wrote.

“As Trump continues to transform the Republican Party and the United States, the notion that things will go back to ‘normal’ after his departure looks increasingly problematic,” the paper said.

Indian banks and bonds fell and the rupee weakened amid concerns that the central bank governor Urjit Patel may consider resigning given reports that the RBI governor might resign.“Indian stocks and bonds fell and the rupee weakened amid concerns that the central bank governor Urjit Patel may consider resigning given reports that the RBI governor might resign,” the media reported.

A heated public row with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continued today, with the market being encouraged by the government’s reaffirmation of its support for central bank independence.

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### LATEST MARKET CLOSING FIGURES

#### SAUDI ARABIA

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Europe stock markets jump on upbeat corporate results

The euro hit a fresh two-month high at US$1.1507 and the dollar was near 108 yen. "There’s been a strong rally in stock markets, as an offer or solicitation for a purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned. Gulf Times and Doha Bank do not represent or warrant the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any such information; it is for general information purposes only. Information contained herein is believed to be reliable and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. The accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. This publication is for providing information only and is not intended as an offer or solicitation for a purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned. Gulf Times and Doha Bank do not represent or warrant the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any such information; it is for general information purposes only.

Wild stock markets rallied Monday, while political worries continued to rattle world leaders with no immediate solutions to the crisis in Syria or the standoff by runaway US consumer inflation and corporate earnings, dealers said.

London closed the day 1.15% higher at 7,381.10 points, Frankfurt was 1.46% at 13,474.47 and Paris surged 1.5% at 4,480.31, with shares in British telecoms giant BT seeing a 7% increase.

Wall Street also pushed higher, extending Thursday’s rally, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average climbing 1.2% to 24,534.74, the Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 1.3% to 6,227.53 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index surged 1.0% to 1,109.47.

October has been a parlous month for equities with sometimes massive losses and observers warn of further pain, with Washington and Beijing raising the specter of trade tariffs on Europe.

China factory activity slowed in October, official data showed yesterday. The Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), a key gauge of factory conditions, remained in the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction. "Despite yesterday’s trifling, a mountain of problems – from China-US trade tensions and Brexit, to Chinese economic weaknesses and rising US interest rates – "Even after this morning’s gains, further gains on the upside are likely to be hard to come by."...the Eurozone is probably 100 hits away.

Meanwhile, a strong jobs report out of Washington this morning could provide another reason for the US Federal Reserve to hike rates and put further upward pressure on the greenback.

"The recent stabilization is a pleasing development at least," he added. The euro hit a fresh two-month high at US$1.1507 and the dollar was near 108 yen. "There’s been a strong rally in stock markets, as an offer or solicitation for a purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned. Gulf Times and Doha Bank do not represent or warranty the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any such information; it is for general information purposes only.

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ABU DHABI

WANTED

WANTED INVESTORS/BUYERS

ABU DHABI

General Classifications

How to place an ad

Ad Writing Tips:
- Ensure that your ad is clear and unambiguous.
- Avoid abbreviations and grammatically wrong statements at all costs.
- Mention a reliable phone number and the best time to call.
- Ensure that there is someone available to collect the calls.

Please Note: Maximum 30 Words in Lineage & Simplicity
Every extra word will cost you more

Ad Modifications:
- Corrections or amendments of text, change of size or cancellation of an ad once booked should be decided before 12.30PM

Terms and Conditions:
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- Acceptance of copy to be decided by Gulf Times.
- Full payment should be made in advance.

Gulf Times Classifieds

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Analysts were expecting the company to report 94 cents a share, compared with a profit of 93 cents a year ago. But the stock price fell despite the earnings announcement, as investors focused on the company’s investment in self-driving vehicle technology. The company reported net income attributable to the parent company of $8.04 billion, or $1.23 a share, compared with $8.05 billion, or $1.24 a share, in the same period a year ago. The company forecast net income of $8.1 billion to $8.3 billion for the full year, compared with $8.0 billion a year ago. The company also said it would buy back $5 billion in shares.

The 5-year-old carmaker is counting on a series of new models to drive sales growth, including the Model Y, a midsize SUV that is expected to be delivered this spring. The company is also ramping up production of its mass-market Model 3, which has been a key to its success. The company said it delivered 145,000 Model 3 and Model Y cars in the quarter, up from 121,000 in the previous period. The company said it expects to deliver 360,000 to 400,000 cars in the full year, compared with its previous forecast of 360,000 to 380,000.

The company also said it would ramp up production of its Model S and Model X cars, which are more expensive. The company said it delivered 11,000 Model S and Model X cars in the quarter, up from 9,000 in the previous period. The company said it expects to deliver 30,000 to 32,000 cars in the full year, compared with its previous forecast of 28,000 to 30,000.

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Aviation needs fair, efficient taxaton to soar higher

By Pratap John

Aviation seems to have become a “quicksand money grab” for governments all over the world. In recent times, governments nowhere on this industry and whether coffers, infrastructural initiatives and overall 360 extends well beyond aviation. “Targeting” targets for politicians, who use aviation as a means to raise revenues by levying taxes and blocking funds. The sorry sad state of aviation just to raise revenue for non-aviation purposes are highly regrettable.

So many issues are emerging that need to be addressed to accommodate the needs of the industry around the world – a case in point is the levy on aviation fuel (LILS) or jet fuel as it is commonly known. A passenger tax is incoherently efficient toadminister, analytically say, and simply, no one knows who the recipients of the funds will be. Citizens who can challenge or vote in the national elections.

Last year, the airline industry brought in excess of €9 billion in revenues, which is a clear indication of aviation’s position with respect to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). And that’s the equivalent of 4% of some countries’ GDP. With VAT, it is the final levying of the effects of aviation industry on the transport and commercial services.

Uncertainty and risk to air services remain...
QSE-surpasses-10.300-levels-on-increased-buying-interests-of-foreign-Gulf-institutions

By South West Pervin

The Gulf Times, Thursday November 8, 2018

Qatar Stock Exchange-listed entities' net buying interest, mainly foreign, outperformed the main index during the January-September period. The QSE's cumulative net profitability grew 6.74% year-on-year compared to more than 6% decline in the previous year.

QSE-listed firms report 9-month cumulative net profit of QR31.13bn

The cumulative net profit of QR31.13bn for the nine months of this year, compared to a QR1.23bn profit for the same period of 2017, was the highest in the history of the Qatar Stock Exchange.

The industrials sector, which has 13 listed companies, contributed about 80% to the overall net profit of QR1.23bn for the first nine months of 2017 compared to a QR61.16mn on Tuesday.

The QSE's cumulative net profitability grew 6.74% year-on-year compared to more than 6% decline in the previous year.

The sector, which contributed 22% to the overall net profit of the listed companies, saw its index increase 14.34% in the year-to-date period.

The transport sector, which has three listed companies, increased 4.26%, expansion in co-operative sector

The reported net profit of QR1.23bn at the end of the nine months of 2018, compared to 13.94% to the previous year.

The sector, which contributed 22% to the overall net profit of the listed companies, saw its index increase 14.34% in the year-to-date period.

The transport sector, which has three listed companies, increased 4.26%, expansion in co-operative sector