LuLu to establish first robotic fulfilment centre in Qatar, says top official

By Pandor Almazdar

A major hyperscale cloud in Qatar will soon establish the country’s first robotic fulfilment centre, as part of plans to offer fully automated logistics services. The announcement comes two days after the US-based DHL announced plans to invest $2 billion in Qatar, including the first such facility.

"LuLu has been quick to adapt and take advantage of the trend, especially, during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have added more delivery outlets and have to create more digital platforms to meet what is happening in the market," said Mohamed Al-Ahmad, chief strategy officer and chief digital officer of LuLu Group International.

"We know that this is the future and we have to stop thinking in terms of digits. We are thinking of the past when the focus was on the shop and the store, but now it’s all about the digital device, the digital platform, the digital mobile, the digital app, and the digital revolution.

"The smart way to prevent fraud in your hands

QNB capitalises on solution- oriented wholesale banking

By Linthor Y Perrin

QNB, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa region, which operates a robust wholesale banking approach rather than targeting large corporate clients, is looking to expand its business model in the region. In February 2022, QNB announced its strategic partnership with major companies including financial institutions, regional banks and other companies.

"We believe that the strategic partnerships are a key driver to support our business model," said Mohamed Al-Ahmad, chief strategy officer and chief digital officer of LuLu Group International.

"We have identified emerging, long-term market trends that we podcast our efforts to build our entire ecosystem and leverage the changes in the tech landscape, the advent of digital technologies, and the opportunities that arise.

"For instance, we are now exploring the possibilities of using virtual reality and artificial intelligence to improve our processes and enhance customer experience.

Historic funding

Foreign funds up on net buying amidst weak sentiment

By Linthor Y Perrin

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Crisis in China property industry deepens with end in sight

SINGAPORE

Asia again mixes markets as Ukraine fears tighten

A recent poll of investors showed that investor nervousness was widespread, with many predicting a volatility in the markets due to the crisis in Russia and Ukraine. While investors were concerned about the potential for further market volatility, they also believed that the overall economic outlook was positive. The poll showed that investors were increasingly looking to diversify their portfolios, with a focus on emerging markets.

IPO mania gets real check in India after series of flops

The management and investors of India's market regulators have been putting more focus on ensuring that IPOs are not issued in a hurry and that there is proper due diligence. The government has also been taking steps to ensure that the listing process is transparent and that there is proper valuation of the company. This has led to a drop in the number of IPOs and a decrease in the size of the offerings.

Japan inflation slows as global price gap grows

The country's consumer price index (CPI) growth rate slowed down to 0.4% in January from 0.7% in December, according to recent data. This is due to lower global oil prices and a stronger yen. The yen's appreciation against the dollar has made imported goods cheaper, which has helped to reduce inflation. However, the government is still trying to boost consumer spending through various measures.

JAPAN

Japan's current account surplus narrowed in December

The country's current account surplus narrowed in December, with the current account deficit increasing to ¥290.5 billion from ¥157.1 billion in November. This is due to a decrease in the surplus recorded in the trade balance, which was partly offset by a smaller deficit in the service balance. The overall deficit will likely widen in the coming months due to cheaper imports and the stronger yen.
Traders need a green light from BoE to crank up rate bets

The Bank of England in the City of London. Traders are scaling back wagers on BoE rate cuts, even as price pressures in the UK economy continue to build, a sign they’re looking for放心 on bets as the Bank holds.

The pound was up 0.2% at 1.3728 against the dollar, a day after it climbed to its highest level in more than two years following the BoE’s decision to hold off on rate changes. The pound has gained 3.5% this year against the dollar, the best performance among major currencies.

The BoE has been careful not to commit to a specific rate path, leaving traders to make their own predictions based on economic data and speeches from policymakers. The bank has kept its interest rate at 0.25% since 2009, and some traders believe it could lower rates as soon as this summer.

"The BoE has been very careful not to commit to a specific rate path," said Greg Dwyer, a currency strategist at BMO Capital Markets. "This has left traders to make their own predictions based on economic data and speeches from policymakers."
Wall Street is back in business while its regulators stay home

Global finance chiefs pledge careful and clear policy normalisation

Gulf Times

March 27

The difference between the two is that the EMTN is a mechanism of centralised investment work and the wall street is a mechanism of decentralized investment work. The former is more preferable, particularly in today's business climate, as most of you are working on the same problem from different perspectives. However, the latter, decentralized investment work, becomes more advantageous when there is a lack of information about the market and the economy. Wall Street is well known for its decentralized investment work, and the US government has been careful in allowing this form of investment work to continue. However, it is important to note that the decentralized investment work has its own inherent risks and limitations.

Dubai

Gulf Times

March 27

While Wall Street has been known to be the powerhouse of the United States economy, it is also known to be the source of significant risks and uncertainties. However, the US government has been careful in managing these risks and uncertainties to ensure the stability of the economy. One of the key challenges for the US government has been to balance the need for regulatory oversight with the need to ensure the competitiveness of Wall Street.

Gulf Times

March 27

The US Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) has been instrumental in ensuring the stability of Wall Street. The SEC is responsible for regulating the securities industry, and its work has been critical in ensuring the stability of Wall Street.

Gulf Times

March 27

However, while the SEC has been effective in regulating the securities industry, it has also faced criticism for its ability to deal with the rapid pace of financial innovation. In recent years, the SEC has been working to modernize its regulations to ensure that they are effective in dealing with the latest financial innovations.

Gulf Times

March 27

Alliance hedge fund implosion results in $4.2bn charge

Bloomberg

March 27

The price tag for one of the most recent financial scandals to hit the financial industry is now $4.2 billion. The collapse of the hedge fund, Alliance Worldwide Capital, has shed light on the precarious nature of the industry and the need for increased regulation.

The New York-based hedge fund, Alliance Worldwide Capital, was founded in 2004 and had assets under management of over $4 billion at the time of its collapse. The fund was managed by John Dowd, a former executive at Lehman Brothers, and was known for its aggressive trading strategies.

Over the past few years, the fund had been under regulatory scrutiny for its high-risk investments and aggressive trading strategies. In early March, the SEC had launched an investigation into the fund's practices, following reports of potential violations of securities laws.

The SEC's investigation was focused on the fund's use of derivatives, particularly leveraged funds, which allowed the fund to amplify its bets and increase its exposure to market movements. The SEC's findings showed that the fund had engaged in illegal activities, including manipulateing the market and failing to disclose important information to investors.

The SEC's investigation was followed by a series of events that led to the fund's collapse. In mid-March, the fund was forced to close its doors and liquidate its assets, resulting in a massive loss for investors. The fund's collapse has had far-reaching implications, not only for Alliance Worldwide Capital but also for the broader hedge fund industry.

The fund's collapse has raised serious questions about the adequacy of the current regulatory framework and the need for increased oversight of the hedge fund industry. The SEC has announced plans to strengthen its oversight of the industry and to increase enforcement actions against firms that engage in illegal activities.

The impact of Alliance Worldwide Capital's implosion on the hedge fund industry is likely to be significant. The industry has been experiencing a period of consolidation and increased scrutiny, with many firms struggling to maintain capital and attract investors.

It remains to be seen whether the events involving Alliance Worldwide Capital will lead to significant changes in the regulatory framework and the industry's practices. However, the industry is likely to be under increased scrutiny in the coming months, with regulators and investors closely watching the outcomes of the ongoing investigations.

Inflation augurs new era of central bank currency tensions

Bloomberg

March 27

Once again, the data on inflation is in focus as central banks across the globe are poised to raise interest rates in the coming year. The inflation data, which is seen as a key indicator of the health of an economy, is closely watched by policymakers and investors alike.

The data on inflation is not expected to change significantly in the near term, but there are signs that inflation pressures are building. This is particularly true in emerging markets, where inflation rates are higher and are expected to remain high for some time.

Inflation is a concern for central banks, as it can erode the value of money and reduce economic growth. As a result, central banks are expected to raise interest rates to contain inflation and keep prices stable.

However, the decision to raise interest rates is not easy, as it can also affect the economy and lead to a slowdown in growth. This is particularly true in emerging markets, where economies are more vulnerable to shocks and changes in interest rates.

Central banks are expected to take their time in raising interest rates, as they are concerned about the impact on the economy. However, the pressure to raise interest rates is likely to remain, as inflation pressures are expected to remain high in the coming year.