



P&O told to explain its mass firings to angry UK ministers

## Doha Bank hosts live debate on 'investment outlook'

Doha Bank recently hosted a live debate on 'Investment Outlook' with Bank of Singapore experts and was broadcasted on virtual channels.

The outlook was sponsored by Doha Bank's Private Banking division, aiming to raise local market awareness not only about international market trends but also debating current market dynamics resulting from the commodity shock and the conflict in Ukraine.

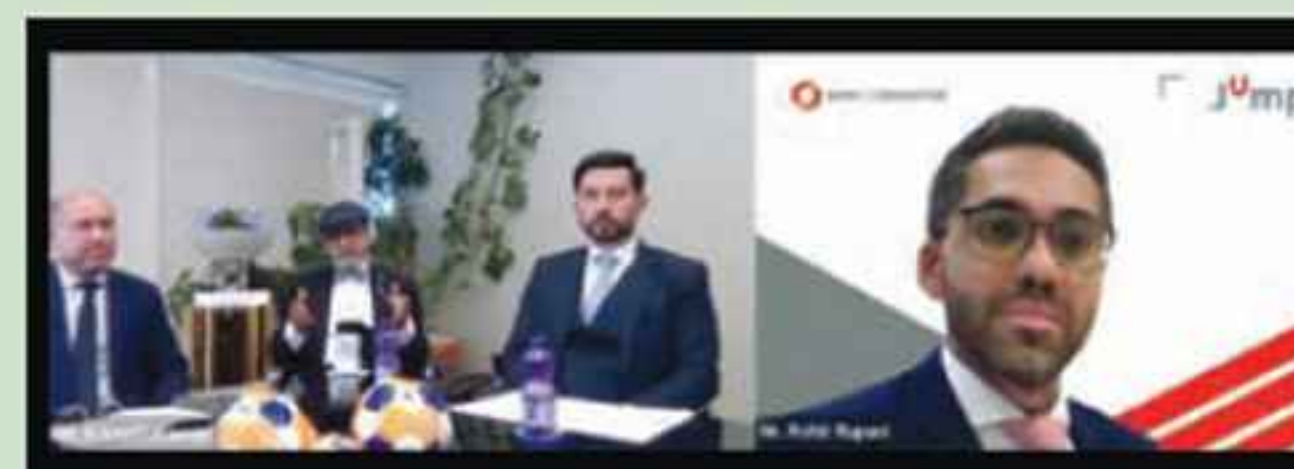
"While this past week was filled with macro-economic data: China activity data, FOMC, BoE, and BoJ making rate decisions, the panel focused on current global events impacting financial markets.

"Current debates among asset managers are mainly on stagflation, the conflict in Ukraine, high market volatility; Asian equity valuations under pressure could lead to opportunities, and the commodity shock of the recent weeks made LNG a winner, a sector where Qatar is a global player," said Slim Bouker, head of Private Banking.

Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman said, "Growth forecast of major advanced economies is being reviewed. Emerging and low-income economies will suffer from global turmoil and the impact of rising commodity prices.

"Qatar, a major LNG exporter, and the rest of the GCC will temporarily benefit from a budget surplus. GGC bonds will hence gain momentum from performing local markets. Consequently, rate hikes, geopolitical conflicts, and increasing commodity prices are driving changes in asset allocations for private banking clients."

Karim Aita, senior investment counsellor at Bank of Singapore, spoke about the global economic outlook but also covered specific thematic investment trends indicated. He said, "As more investors recognise the materiality of ESG risks and seek to influence social and environmental outcomes, impact investing has



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seen significant Assets Under Management (AUM) growth in the last five years.

"Most investors in private impact funds have not compromised on returns either. Funds predominantly went towards private equity and venture capital funds, which suggest that most impact funds target market rate and hence potentially attractive returns."

He added: "While opportunities related to the metaverse are indeed in focus, we also believe that it would be important for investors to continue monitoring challenges and risks in the space. These include areas such as interoperability across different metaverses, data security and privacy, regulatory risks, and the potential for an acceleration of the demographic divide. Increasing resolution and attention on these would be important for healthy and sustainable longer-term growth in this area."

Rohit Rupani, head of Investment Advisory at Bank of Singapore, spoke about challenges and opportunities in the current market conditions, as well as adjustments in asset allocations. At the closing of the event, Bouker said travel restrictions are easing in Qatar. Doha Bank Private Banking will continue to host live investment outlook debates, he also added.