كشف مدير إدارة الشرق الأوسط وآسيا الوسطى في صندوق النقد الدولي جهاد ازعور، عن أن حكومة لبنان تحتاج إلى إقرار خطة إنقاذ تعيد بناء الثقة في الاقتصاد وتعالج الأسباب الجذرية لأزمة البلاد المالية.

وأكد أزعور، أن "الأولوية بالنسبة إلى صندوق النقد هي ضرورة إقرار الحكومة خطة إنقاذية تعيد بناء الثقة بالاقتصاد اللبناني وتساهم في تحسين وضع المواطنين"، مشيرًا إلى أن "الأهم ضرورة معالجتها الاختلالات البنيوية التي أوصلت البلاد إلى ما وصلت إليه على الصعيد الاقتصادي والمالي".

وتعصف بلبنان منذ أشهر أزمة مالية واقتصادية لم يسبق لها مثيل، قلصت قيمة عملته إلى النصف ورفعت الأسعار وأذكت الاضطرابات والاحتجاجات الشعبية.

ووفقاً لمسودة خطة إنقاذ طرحتها الحكومة هذا الشهر، ولا تزال بين النقاشات، فإن لبنان سيحتاج مساعدة خارجية بين عشرة مليارات و15 مليار دولار، وأن تمويل صندوق النقد الدولي قد يلعب دوراً.

وجاءت النشرة اليومية لتلقيح البنية التحتية للعمل، وتحمل البيت الذي يعليه واحد، يحتوي على نص أخبار عامة، وتحتوي على صورة عنوان "النشرة اليومية للاتحاد".

المصدر (صحيفة العربي الجديد، Edited)

IMF: Lebanon Needs a Bailout Plan to Rebuild Confidence in the Economy

According to a draft bailout plan put forward by the government this month, which is still under discussion, Lebanon will need foreign assistance between $10 billion and $15 billion, and that the IMF’s funding could play a role.

Lebanon has requested technical assistance from the International Monetary Fund and not a financing program conditional on reforms. The Lebanese state has not yet decided on whether to turn to the IMF, although expectations indicate that this is the only way through which Lebanon can get help.

Ghazi Wazni, the Lebanese Finance Minister stressed that the government's plan will be in line with the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund.

Source (New Arab newspaper, Edited)
Inflation in Saudi Arabia Rose by 1.5 percent

The annual inflation rate in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia increased during last March by 1.5 percent, recording the highest rate since the end of 2018. The rise comes for the fourth month in a row, after it contracted from the beginning of 2019 until the end of last November, on an annual basis, while the hike has started ever since. The data of the General Authority for Statistics (governmental) showed that inflation (consumer prices) increased by 0.1 percent on a monthly basis. The general cost of living index in March reached 98.8 points, compared to 97.4 points in the same month in 2019, and 98.7 points in last February. The increase in inflation came last month, driven by the increase in food and beverage prices, the second most influential division in the index, by 3.9% year on year. High food and beverage prices coincide with an outbreak of the Coronavirus, which prompted countries to close their borders, as Saudi Arabia imports most of its food from abroad, due to the shortage of water resources for agriculture. Inflation in the transportation section, the third highest by weight in the index, increased by 3.7% year on year. The collapse of oil has exacerbated Saudi crises, in light of the expected sharp decline in financial revenues, and Riyadh is on the cusp of a record deficit in its budgets.

Source (New Arab newspaper, Edited)

The Moroccan Government Approves New Measures to Cut Expenditures

The Moroccan government has taken new measures to reduce public expenditures in response to the intermin situation that has imposed priorities to combat the health and economic repercussions of the Corona virus outbreak, which has disrupted many economic sectors due to measures to curb the spread of the epidemic. The Moroccan government called for the necessity of rationalizing the expenditures of public institutions, and direct the available resources towards the priorities imposed by the management of the health crisis, until next June. In this regard, Prime Minister Saad al-Din al-Othmani pointed out “the necessity of concerted efforts to implement government measures, so that Morocco can manage this crisis effectively and reduce its negative effects on citizens and the local economy.”

The austerity measures of the government exclude the necessary expenditures for state departments and institutions, such as employee wages, investment expenditures, expenditures intended to reduce the effects of drought, and some social expenses handled by the Social Cohesion and Family Solidarity Support Fund. The procedure also excludes health and security sectors, including the Ministry of Interior and its security services, which are affiliated with the Ministry of Defense.

The decision includes priority expenditures at the level of the ministries and institutions, which will abide by the decisions until June 2020. The austerity measures of the government exclude the necessary expenditures for state departments and institutions, such as employee wages, investment expenditures, expenditures intended to reduce the effects of drought, and some social expenses handled by the Social Cohesion and Family Solidarity Support Fund. The procedure also excludes health and security sectors, including the Ministry of Interior and its security services, which are affiliated with the Ministry of Defense.

The decision includes priority expenditures at the level of the ministries and institutions, which will abide by the decisions until June 2020.

Source (Arab Newspaper-London, Edited)
اظهرت بيانات مصرف قطر المركزي ارتفاع حجم موجودات البنوك التجارية (ومطلوباتها) مع نهاية فبراير 22.4 مليار ريال بنحو 136.1 مليار ريال، وبزيادة تصل إلى 9.4% عن فبراير 2019، لتصبح إلى مستوى 1588.6 مليار ريال.
وفقاً إجمالياً النقد والأرصدة لدى مصرف قطر المركزي مع نهاية شهر مارس 2020 إلى 74.4 مليار ريال، وكان ذلك يزيد بنحو 7.2 مليار ريال عن مارس 2019، البالغ 70 مليار ريال. وفيما يتعلق بال الموجودات الأجنبية فقد انخفض الائتمان الذي تمنحه البنوك خارج قطر، في العامين الماضي 80.9 مليار ريال في مارس 2019 إلى 74.3 مليار ريال.
بالمقابل ارتفعت أرصدة البنوك في الخارج، في مارس بنحو 2.9 مليار ريال عن فبراير الماضي إلى 78.2 مليار ريال، وبتقديرات خلصها مصرف قطر المركزي خلال فبراير 2019. 103 مليار ريال، وهو الدعم الذي تقدمه هذه البنوك في الخارج. 57.8 مليار ريال في مارس 2020).
والنسبة للموجودات المحلية، فقد ارتفعت إلى مستوى 64.6 مليار ريال في فبراير 2020، قبل أن تنخفض قليلا إلى 57.4 مليار ريال في مارس 2020.

المصدر (صحيفة الراية القطرية، بتصرف)

### Growth of Qatar’s Central Bank Assets

Qatar Central Bank’s data showed an increase in the volume of commercial banks assets (and liabilities) at the end of March by about 22.4 billion riyals from last February, and an increase of 136.1 billion riyals, and 9.4% over March 2019, to reach the level of 1588.6 billion riyals.

Total cash and balances with the Qatar Central Bank jumped by the end of March 2020 to 77.4 billion riyals, which was about 7.2 billion more than March 2019, which amounted to 70 billion riyals.

With regard to foreign assets, the credit granted by banks outside Qatar has decreased in the past two years, as it decreased from 80.9 billion riyals in March 2019 to 74.3 billion riyals in March 2020.

On the other hand, banks’ balances abroad increased in March by about 2.9 billion riyals from last February to 78.2 billion riyals, but they were in the range of 103 billion riyals a year ago in March 2019. As for investments abroad, they have remained stable during the past two years, with limited changes, reaching 57.8 billion riyals in March 2020.

As for local assets, they rose to the level of 64.6 billion riyals in February 2020, before dropping slightly to 57.4 billion riyals in March 2020.

Source (Al-Raya Newspaper-Qatar, Edited)

### The World Bank Expects the Largest Ever RatedDecline of Global Remittance Flows

The World Bank expected global remittance flows to decline at the largest rate ever this year, amid the current economic crisis caused by the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The World Bank expected, through a statement posted on its website, a global decrease of remittances by about 20 percent this year, to reach $445 billion.

According to the World Bank, the expected decline in remittances, which will be the worst in recent history, is driven by declining wages and employment for migrant workers who are more vulnerable to job and wage losses during economic crises in host countries.

Studies showed that remittances reduce poverty in low- and middle-income countries, improve nutrition, help higher education spending, and also reduce child labor in low-income families. The decrease in remittances affects the ability of families to spend in these countries, as more of their financial resources will be directed to solving the food shortage and the livelihood needs of the country.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net website, Edited)