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A selection of news articles that featured in official publications in
UAE and Italy related to the business, economy and culture of the two
countries.



SAUDI WOMEN CAN START BIZ SANS MALE NOD

Women in Saudi Arabia can now open their own businesses without the consent of a husband or male relative, as the kingdom pushes to expand a fast-growing private sector. The policy change also marks a major step away from the strict guardianship system that had ruled the country for decades.

Source: Khaleej Times



HOW ADNEC CREATED 22.300 JOBS IN ABU DHABI IN 2017

The Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (Adnec) said its contribution to Abu Dhabi's economy increased 22.6% in 2017 to Dh 3.9 bln compared to Dh3 bln in 2016 and helped create 22.300 jobs.

Adnec venues collectively hosted 442 events in 2017 and received more than 2.08 million visitors. According to Oxford Business Group, Abu Dhabi has seen a surge in activity in the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions sector as business travelers have become one of the Emirate's principal sources of visitor revenues. In addition, Abu Dhabi has also jumped ranks in the International Congress and Convention Association by 161 places in three years – from 235 in 2012 to 72 in 2015.

Source: Khaleej Times

THE BREAK YOU DESERVE

New attractions and establishments, a growing hotel inventory, as well as an aggressive tourism strategy by several government authorities have continued to put the UAE on the international map when it comes to preferred tourism destinations. According to the latest data by Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing a total of 15.79 mln tourists visited Dubai last year, setting a new record for the Emirate.

Dubai recorded a 6.2% year-on-year increase in international overnight visitation in 2017, accelerating the 5% growth witnessed in the previous year and propelling the Emirate's momentum towards its 2020 goal of welcoming 20 mln visitors per year by the start of the next decades. Dubai Tourism continues to strengthen its presence un Dubai's key feeder markets, including Saudi Arabia and the rest of GCC, India, the UK and China. The Emirate's tourism and hospitality sectors benefit from the department's various initiatives, including visa on arrival for Russian and Chinese visitors, as well as the new routes launched by Emirates and other UAE-based carriers.

Source: Khaleej Times



CATCH A GLIMPSE OF LOUVRE ABU DHABI ON THE ROAD

The world's very first radio-guided highway art gallery has officially launched in the UAE on Thursday. The art innovative gallery will allow motorists to learn about some of the world's most ironic and historical artworks known to mankind. Louvre Abu Dhabi has unveiled its radio-guided Highway Gallery, showcasing 101 magnificent artworks and artefacts from the museum's collection .

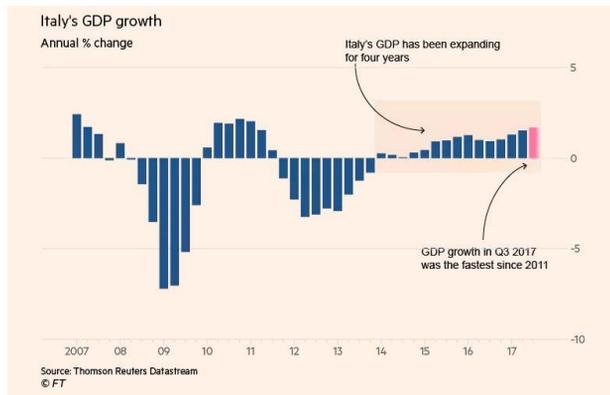
Radio 1 FM, Classic FM and Emarat FM will automatically play a 30-second story about each piece as travelers approach to display – the world's first audio-visual experience of this kind. Ancient masterpiece showcased in the Highway Gallery include the Mari-Cha lion, an important Islamic work from the Mediterranean region; the exceptional Egyptian Sarcophagus of Princess Henutaway; a coin inspired by Alexander The Great and discovered in the UAE and a 8.000 year –old-town-headed statue (one of the oldest monumental statutes in the history of humanity).

Paintings spanning from the Renaissance to modernity will also be on display. These include Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of a woman, La Belle Feronniere; Van Gogh's 1887 Self Portrait and Edouard Manet's The Fife Player.

Source: Khaleej Times

FIVE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FOR ITALY'S NEXT PRIME MINISTER

Italy's economy is in much better shape than before the last general election in 2013. The Country's GDP then was 10% smaller than in 2008, nearly 1 mln jobs had been lost and banks were accumulating bad debts. Now GDP had been expanding for three ears, unemployment is declining and banks are healthier, yet the Country is still a laggard among its peers and economic discontent has not disappeared. The Financial Time considers the main economic challenges the next prime minister will face:

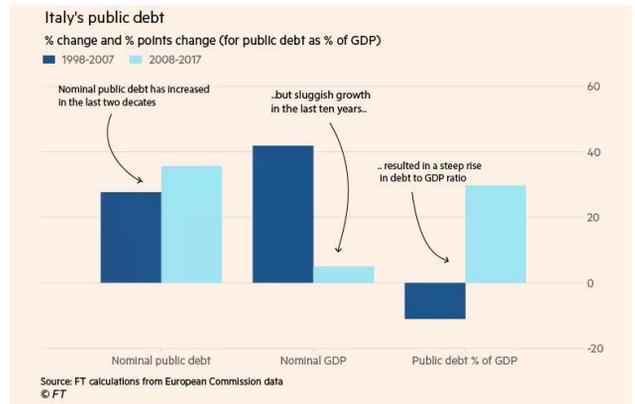


Slow economic growth and low productivity

Italy was on the right track said in January at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Paolo Gentiloni, the Country's Prime Minister. Output is now 4% larger than it was in 2013 and economists keep revising up their growth forecasts for this year. Yet Italy's growth remains among the slowest in Europe and it also among the few economics within the OECD where output is not yet back to pre-crisis levels.

High public debt

High public debt is one of "Italy's most pressing problems": its debt is the third largest among 34 OECD countries after Japan and Greece and hot topic ion the Country's relationship with the EU. The trend is finally reversing thanks to prudent fiscal policy, lower interest rates and rising GDP growth.



Poor Job Opportunities for young people

The economy has managed to create more than 1 mln jobs since September 2-13, nut unemployment rates remain well above pre-crisis levels. On in three people in the labor forced aged under 25 is unemployed and Italy has the largest proportion of youth not in employment of training among OECD countries..



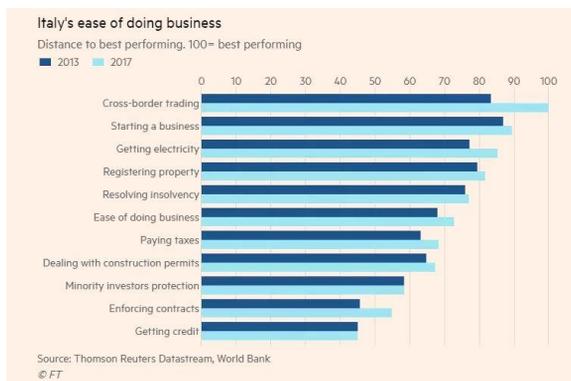
High levels of banks 'debt

The Banking sector is more stable than two to three years ago: economic improvements, pressure from regulators and investor-friendly reforms have led to a reduction in banks' bad debts. But Italian banks still make up the EU's largest slice of non-performing loans, which curtail banks' ability to lend.

Low levels of foreign direct investments

In the past few years Italy has made considerable progress towards a more business-friendly environment. In 2006, Italy ranked 156th in the World Bank ease of doing business survey – 110 positions below where it is now. The country is now closer to the best performing in most of the ranking's measures, including ease of starting a business.

Source: *Financial Times*



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