

## Business

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

**12** Trade wars continue to handicap dollar; markets shrug off threat**13** Fear and fanfare as Hong Kong launches China railway project**14** US ports fear they will be big losers in trade war

ALGIERS: Iran's OPEC envoy Hossein Kazempour Ardebili (left) speaks to journalists during the 10th JMMC meeting in Algiers yesterday. — AFP

# KAMCO acquires majority stake in Global

## Purchase extends KAMCO's control over Global in key areas

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company ("KAMCO"), a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced that it has completed the previously announced purchase of 396,426,434 shares in Global Investment House ("Global"), equivalent to a 69.528 percent stake, from NCH Ventures S.P.C (NCH), a Bahrain domiciled entity representing the interests of more than 50 financial institutions.

KAMCO has successfully concluded the purchase after receiving all required approvals from the CMA Kuwait and other appropriate regulatory authorities. This purchase of the stake in the parent entity extends control over Global's existing investment products and services, managed real estate, asset management business, Global's brokerage subsidiary and physical infrastructure in Kuwait, as well as

Global's international offices in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan and Turkey.

Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO Faisal Mansour Sarkhou said, "KAMCO and Global have a combined four decades worth of experience in the investment sector and are considered key players in the local and regional investment communities. Completing this transaction is a great milestone for us as it validates all our hard work over the past few months.

We are pleased by the successful outcome and would like to thank our valued clients and stakeholders as this historic moment for KAMCO would not be possible without them. We also extend our gratitude and appreciation towards the collaborative efforts of all those who were involved in making this transaction a seam-



Faisal Mansour Sarkhou

less and successful one. We would like to thank the current and previous board of directors of Global for steering it into recovery following its reorganization a number of years ago, our advisory team Alvarez and Marsal, as the integration advisor for the acquisition, and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP as our legal adviser."

He also said, "The last two decades witnessed massive shifts in the financial industry. Throughout this time, we have been tuning the dials to adjust to market conditions while

grasping fresh opportunities and adapting valuable insights. KAMCO remains dedicated to enhancing and building upon its innovative investment strategy to cater to our corporate and individual clients, as we plan to offer a wider array of quality investment products and expand our range of financial services. This transaction will further advance KAMCO's technological platforms and capabilities, while developing our workforce through a core competency framework, giving us a competitive advantage in the local and regional market. We believe that this step will strengthen our position as a leading investment firm while providing our clients with the best guidance and resources to help them invest their money smarter, more efficiently, and within the most suitable asset classes to meet their long-term investment goals."

## Comcast eclipses Murdoch's Fox with £30bn Sky bid

LONDON: US cable giant Comcast outbid Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox in a blind auction for the European TV operator Sky on Saturday that all but settled a titanic battle between the two media empires. Britain's takeover regulator said the secret process ended with Comcast offering to pay £30.4 billion (\$39.7 billion, 33.8 billion euros).

Fox's highest offer was worth £27.6 billion. The pan-European TV operator's shareholders will have until October 11 to decide which bid to accept. But Comcast's chief executive Brian Roberts quickly hailed the outcome as "a great day" for his company. "Sky is a wonderful company with a great platform, tremendous brand, and accomplished management team," he said in a statement.

"This acquisition will allow us to quickly, efficiently and meaningfully increase our customer base and expand internationally." Sky's subscription base of 23 million and lucrative rights to English Premier League football make it one of Europe's most profitable and powerful TV companies. The nearly two-year battle for Sky has reshaped the global media-entertainment landscape and put Comcast in pole position to take on emerging online rivals.

### Murdoch's ambitions

The auction pitted two old media behemoths against each other, both needing a way to boost content in order

to keep viewers from switching to streaming services such as Netflix. Saturday's outcome dealt a potentially fatal blow to Murdoch's attempts to acquire the 61 percent stake in Sky he did not already have but has long sought.

The 87-year-old global media mogul has been a dominant presence on the British market since first forming the BSkyB broadcaster in 1990. Murdoch made his first determined attempt to take over Sky in 2010-11. That effort was scuttled by public uproar over a phone hacking scandal at his British newspaper holdings. Critics had argued that allowing Murdoch—who owns major British newspaper titles The Times and The Sun—full control of Sky News would have given him too much influence in the UK news business.

Fox proposed remedying this by selling the rolling TV news channel to Disney should it win full control of Sky.

### Proxy battle

The fight over Sky has also altered how Americans get to watch their broadcasts and movies. Comcast was forced to drop its bid to take over Fox itself because it needed the money to go after Sky.

This allowed Walt Disney Co. to complete a mega-merger with Fox that should close next year.

Saturday's auction thus turned into a proxy battle between Comcast and Disney for Sky. Comcast viewed Sky as a way to win a foothold in Europe and end its sole dependence on the United States.

And Disney was looking for a way to feed its content directly to viewers without having to rely on cable providers. Sky offered a way out for both.

The emerging alliances means the coming years might be dominated by offerings from two traditional sources: Disney-Fox and Comcast-Sky. Comcast's holdings already include Universal Studios and the US television



LONDON: A man walks past the entrance to the offices of television broadcaster Sky in Ilseworth, west London on Friday. — AFP

channels NBC and CNBC. Disney's empire stretches from its film studio and theme parks to the US television network ABC and the various ESPN sport channels.

But Sky shareholders still have the option of backing

the Disney-Fox offer. And the Disney-Fox alliance must still clear some regulatory hurdles. Sky ended the day Friday trading at £15.85 — below Comcast's Saturday offer price of £17.28 per share. — AFP