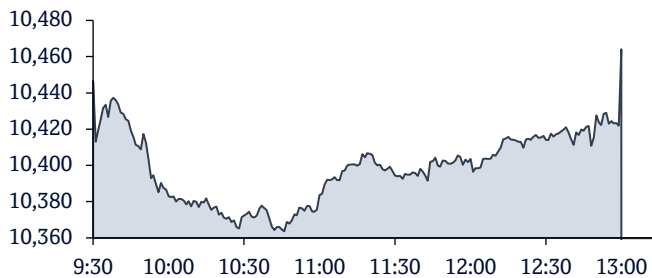


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.2% to close at 10,464.1. Gains were led by the Consumer Goods & Services and Real Estate indices, gaining 0.9% and 0.8%, respectively. Top gainers were Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co. and Vodafone Qatar, rising 6.9% and 2.4%, respectively. Among the top losers, Gulf International Services fell 4.5%, while Widam Food Company was down 2.3%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 0.7% to close at 12,123.8. Gains were led by the Banks and Media and Entertainment indices, rising 2.4% and 2.0%, respectively. Sustained Infrastructure Holding Co. rose 6.8%, while BAAN Holding Group Co. was up 6.1%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 0.2% to close at 5,327.6. The Industrials index rose 1.3%, while the Real Estate index gained 1.2%. Dubai Refreshment Company rose 15.0%, while National General Insurance Company was up 9.0%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell marginally to close at 9,560.3. The Health Care index declined 1.0%, while the Telecommunication index fell 0.7%. Abu Dhabi National Takaful Co. declined 9.8%, while RAPCO Investment was down 7.3%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.4% to close at 8,173.2. The Insurance index rose 2.1%, while the Technology index gained 1.9%. Kuwait Hotels rose 15.1%, while Soor Fuel Marketing Co. was up 8.7%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.4% to close at 4,425.0. Losses were led by the Services and Financial indices, falling 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively. The Financial Corporation Company declined 8.5%, while Muscat Thread Mills Company was down 6.7%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index gained 0.5% to close at 1,980.2. Al Salam Bank rose 2.3%, while Zain Bahrain was up 1.8%.

Market Indicators	03 Mar 25	27 Feb 25	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	380.3	812.4	(53.2)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	614,131.2	613,439.5	0.1
Volume (mn)	113.0	228.4	(50.5)
Number of Transactions	17,840	21,137	(15.6)
Companies Traded	52	53	(1.9)
Market Breadth	22:27	16:34	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	24,385.33	0.3	0.3	1.2	11.5
All Share Index	3,804.27	0.2	0.2	0.8	11.4
Banks	4,692.89	0.1	0.1	(0.9)	10.0
Industrials	4,338.16	0.3	0.3	2.2	16.1
Transportation	5,425.15	(0.0)	(0.0)	5.0	12.8
Real Estate	1,583.90	0.8	0.8	(2.0)	17.2
Insurance	2,315.06	(0.7)	(0.7)	(1.4)	12.0
Telecoms	1,960.89	0.1	0.1	9.0	12.6
Consumer Goods and Services	7,735.26	0.9	0.9	0.9	17.6
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,917.41	0.5	0.5	1.0	13.6

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Burgan Bank	Kuwait	237.00	5.3	8,151.1	34.7
Riyad Bank	Saudi Arabia	29.90	4.9	3,467.1	4.5
Jabal Omar Dev. Co.	Saudi Arabia	25.95	3.8	2,104.6	26.2
Taiba	Saudi Arabia	50.50	3.4	694.2	22.9
Saudi Research & Media Gr	Saudi Arabia	202.60	2.7	107.0	(26.3)

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Saudi Logistics	Saudi Arabia	203.80	(7.4)	2,885.9	(19.3)
Acwa Power Co.	Saudi Arabia	353.20	(5.6)	454.9	(12.0)
Power & Water	Saudi Arabia	46.30	(4.8)	3,283.7	(15.5)
Jamjoom Pharma	Saudi Arabia	168.80	(3.5)	91.5	10.9
Al Rajhi Co Op. Insurance	Saudi Arabia	158.00	(3.4)	183.3	(7.9)

Source: Bloomberg (# in Local Currency) (** GCC Top gainers/losers derived from the S&P GCC Composite Large Mid Cap Index)

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co.	1.139	6.9	69.8	(1.2)
Vodafone Qatar	1.997	2.4	5,118.2	9.1
United Development Company	1.067	2.4	7,610.1	(5.0)
Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution	2.400	2.1	100.0	0.0
Estithmar Holding	2.127	1.7	3,988.7	14.1

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	2.341	0.9	12,238.8	(5.0)
Baladna	1.241	(0.9)	9,059.6	(5.8)
United Development Company	1.067	2.4	7,610.1	(5.0)
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.248	(0.9)	6,201.3	3.0
Ezdan Holding Group	0.999	(0.1)	5,457.6	(5.4)

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Gulf International Services	3.151	(4.5)	5,073.4	(5.3)
Widam Food Company	2.226	(2.3)	131.3	(5.2)
Qatari German Co for Med. Devices	1.285	(1.5)	4,925.3	(6.2)
Qatar Insurance Company	1.970	(1.5)	205.8	(7.2)
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	1.932	(1.2)	177.2	(6.4)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	16.60	0.0	47,152.0	(4.0)
Qatar Islamic Bank	20.84	0.0	37,561.1	(2.4)
Ooredoo	12.37	(0.6)	33,027.4	7.1
Industries Qatar	13.30	0.5	29,304.7	0.2
Masraf Al Rayan	2.341	0.9	28,738.0	(5.0)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,464.09	0.2	0.2	0.2	(1.0)	104.38	168,394.8	11.5	1.3	4.7
Dubai	5,327.60	0.2	(0.6)	0.2	3.3	192.20	255,555.8	9.4	1.4	4.5
Abu Dhabi	9,560.30	(0.0)	(0.5)	(0.0)	1.5	241.58	736,867.1	20.1	2.6	2.1
Saudi Arabia	12,123.81	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.7	1,637.09	2,689,193.6	19.5	2.3	3.7
Kuwait	8,173.21	0.4	0.9	0.9	11.0	479.26	170,745.4	21.2	1.9	NA
Oman	4,425.02	(0.4)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(3.3)	13.61	31,026.0	9.6	0.6	6.2
Bahrain	1,980.16	0.5	1.0	1.0	(0.3)	6.37	22,654.0	14.5	1.2	8.7

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (** TTM; * Value traded (\$ mn) do not include special trades if any)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.2% to close at 10,464.1. The Consumer Goods & Services and Real Estate indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from Qatari shareholders despite selling pressure from non-Qatari shareholders.
- Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co. and Vodafone Qatar were the top gainers, rising 6.9% and 2.4%, respectively. Among the top losers, Gulf International Services fell 4.5%, while Widam Food Company was down 2.3%.
- Volume of shares traded on Monday fell by 50.5% to 113.0mn from 228.5mn on Thursday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 163.6mn, volume for the day was 30.9% lower. Masraf Al Rayan and Baladna were the most active stocks, contributing 10.8% and 8.0% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	19.59%	21.41%	(6,951,032.97)
Qatari Institutions	43.01%	27.52%	58,911,826.50
Qatari	62.59%	48.93%	51,960,793.53
GCC Individuals	0.24%	1.27%	(3,910,901.86)
GCC Institutions	0.38%	2.33%	(7,423,620.72)
GCC	0.62%	3.60%	(11,334,522.59)
Arab Individuals	7.37%	8.72%	(5,122,320.29)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	7.37%	8.72%	(5,122,320.29)
Foreigners Individuals	2.34%	2.58%	(931,244.12)
Foreigners Institutions	27.08%	36.17%	(34,572,706.54)
Foreigners	29.42%	38.75%	(35,503,950.66)

Source: Qatar Stock Exchange (*as a% of traded value)

Global Economic Data and Earnings Calendar

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
03-03	US	Markit	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Feb	52.7	51.6	51.6
03-03	UK	Markit	S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI	Feb	46.9	46.4	46.4
03-03	EU	Markit	HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Feb	47.6	47.3	47.3

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting 4Q2024 results	No. of days remaining	Status
MERS	Al Meera Consumer Goods Company	10-Mar-25	6	Due
ERES	Ezdan Holding Group	12-Mar-25	8	Due
ZHCD	Zad Holding Company	13-Mar-25	9	Due

Qatar

- Qatar Stock Exchange announces the official launch of the Al-Nukhba program for Qatari companies** - In line with Qatar Stock Exchange's vision and efforts to enhance awareness and sustainability within the private sector, Qatar Stock Exchange is pleased to announce the launch of the Al-Nukhba Program. This educational and training initiative is designed to enhance the capabilities of promising family-owned and private companies in Qatar. The program will provide the necessary tools and expertise to support these companies in making strategic decisions, as well as informing them about financing options available in capital markets. The Al-Nukhba Program aims to support Qatari family-owned and private companies with strong financial and operational foundations and promising future growth potential, enabling them to effectively access capital markets. Through participation in the Al-Nukhba Program, Qatari companies will have a valuable opportunity to interact with the local and international business communities and benefit from a wide network of experts and advisors in various fields. Additionally, the program provides an exclusive digital platform designed to enhance brand visibility and organizational skills for these companies. The program will include a series of training workshops conducted by leading global and local consulting firms, offering their diverse expertise through the program. It is noteworthy that all programs offered will be free of charge. Qatar Stock Exchange invites all family-owned and private companies in Qatar to participate in the Al-Nukhba Program and benefit from the global expertise shared through the initiative. This collaboration aims to develop the private sector in Qatar, thereby enhancing the competitiveness, growth, and sustainability of Qatari companies. Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Emadi, Acting CEO of Qatar Stock Exchange, stated that the launch of the Al-Nukhba Program represents a strategic step towards empowering family-owned and private companies in Qatar to achieve sustainable growth and enhance their readiness for listing on the financial market. He added, "The Al-Nukhba Program was designed and launched to assist family-owned and private companies in Qatar in their efforts to access financial markets. It is one of the most ambitious initiatives aligned with

Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third Financial Sector Strategy. These strategies emphasize the development of the Qatari capital market and increasing the private sector's contribution to the national GDP as fundamental principles." Qatar Stock Exchange recognizes that the process of listing and accessing financial markets requires multiple resources and full commitment from companies seeking to go public. Therefore, Qatar Stock Exchange and its partners from leading global and local consulting firms will provide sufficient skills and knowledge across various necessary fields through the Al-Nukhba Program. This will contribute to reducing the costs and time required to access financial markets in the medium and long term. The Al-Nukhba Program is built on fundamental principles, including knowledge transfer, expanding business networks, and educating family-owned and private Qatari companies on strategic topics related to capital markets, such as corporate governance, company valuation, financial disclosure, sustainability, and enhancing their image among investors. This approach aims to increase the confidence of Qatari companies in accessing capital markets. The program also provides participating companies with the opportunity to benefit from the best professional expertise from a selection of renowned international and local consulting firms. In conclusion, Qatar Stock Exchange invites all Qatari companies to participate in the Al-Nukhba Program and take full advantage of its objectives. Qatar Stock Exchange extends its sincere gratitude to all program partners from consulting firms for their support, contribution, and key role in launching this initiative. For companies wishing to register and obtain more information, please visit the official website of the Al-Nukhba Program at the following link: <https://www.qe.com.qa/web/nukhba/home>. It is worth noting that the first edition of the Al-Nukhba Program will be launched on April 16, 2025, and registration will be open from the date of this announcement until April 10, 2025. (QSE)

- Baladna: Postponed its EGM to 09/03/2025 due to lack of quorum** - Baladna announced that due to non-legal quorum for the EGM on 03/03/2025, therefore, it has been decided to postpone the meeting to 09/03/2025& 09:00 PM& Zoom meeting. (QSE)

- Baladna: The AGM Endorses items on its agenda** - Baladna announces the results of the AGM. The meeting was held on 03/03/2025 and the following resolution were approved 1- The General Assembly approved the Board of Directors' report on the Company's activities and the financial position for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, and the Company's business plan for the year 2025. 2- The General Assembly approved the external auditor's report on the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. 3- The General Assembly approved the Company's audited consolidated financial statements, for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, including the consolidated statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, and the consolidated statements of financial position. 4- The General Assembly approved the Company's Corporate Governance report and report on internal controls over financial reporting for the year ended 31 December 2024. 5- The General Assembly approved the proposal of the Board of Directors to distribute bonus shares at a rate of 1 share for each 19 share (equivalent to 0.053 shares for each share) for the year ended 31/12/2024. The eligibility for receiving the free shares shall be for the shareholders registered in the shareholders' registry with the depository (EDAA) at the end of the trading day on which the Ordinary General Assembly meeting is held. 6- The General Assembly approved discharge the Board of Directors from any liability relating to their directorship duties and responsibilities for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 and approved the Board's recommendation to award bonuses to the board members for the financial period ended 31 December 2024. 7- The General Assembly approved the appointment of external auditors (Ernst & Young Qatar) as the Company's external auditors for the financial year 2025 and approved their fees as per the Board's recommendation. (QSE)
- QCB: Commercial banks' assets swell 3.3% to QR2.04tn in January** - Total assets of commercial banks in Qatar saw a 3.3% jump year-on-year to QR2.04tn in January 2025, according to Qatar Central Bank data. Total domestic credit stood at QR1.31tn, expanding by 3.6% on annualized basis in the review period, the QCB said in its social media handle X. Total domestic deposits were up 0.6% year-on-year to QR837.3bn in January 2025. The broad money supply (M2) saw a 0.7% shrinkage year-on-year to QR729.9bn in the review period. According to the International Monetary Fund's recent Article IV consultation with Qatar, the broad money growth is expected to increase from 4.1% in 2024 to 5.6% in 2025 and then remain steady at 6.5% for the next four years. (Gulf Times)
- Doha Bank's global bond sees highest international investor participation for any Gulf bank issuance** - Doha Bank's \$500mn global bond, which was recently oversubscribed almost five-fold, saw as much as 55% of the investors from Europe and Asia; while the remaining from the Middle East; highest international investor participation for any Gulf bank issuance in 2025. "International investor participation in the bond was the highest for any GCC bank issuance in 2025. More specifically, 37% went to European investors, 18% to Asia and 45% to the Middle East," said Doha Bank, which returned to the international bond market with a \$500mn Reg S only issuance with a tenor of five years and coupon rate of 5.25% per annum. "The bond was a great success attracting significant investor demand as demonstrated by an order-book that closed at \$2.5bn," the lender said in a statement. In terms of investor type, as much as 44% went to fund managers, 44% to banks and private banks, and 12% to insurance companies, pension funds and agencies, it said, adding the investor distribution and diversity reflect the positive reception for Doha Bank in the international market. Doha Bank announced its intention to access the bond market early on February 25 and held marketing calls with several investors including some of the world's largest and most reputable fund managers. On the subsequent day, the bank opened the order-book and raised \$500mn at a competitive credit spread of 120 basis points (bps) over the five-year US Treasury rate, reflecting 35 bps of tightening from initial price thoughts of 155 basis points. Such competitive levels drove the investors' demand to record high oversubscription rate. Investor demand exceeded expectations and international accounts from Europe and Asia were the largest in the transaction, allowing the bank to diversify its investor base at an attractive cost of funds, it said. "The credit spread, and overall pricing achieved on this bond is aligned with our strategy to raise funding at competitive levels while diversifying our investor base," said Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Fahad bin Faisal al-Thani, the bank's group chief executive officer. Dr Fawad Ishaq, chief treasury and investment officer said this transaction achieved the key objectives of maximum distribution outside the region at the tightest levels while helping in extending maturity profile of liabilities for the bank. Doha Bank was last in the market in March 2024 with a similar \$500mn bond. The bond was issued under Doha Bank's \$3bn Euro Medium Term Note program that is listed on the London Stock Exchange. The issue was arranged and offered through a syndicate of joint lead managers that included ANZ, Deutsche Bank, Emirates NBD Capital, HSBC, Kamco Invest, Mashreq, MUFG, QNB Capital and Standard Chartered Bank, as well as, co-managers, Industrial Commercial Bank of China (Qatar Financial Centre Branch) and the Commercial Bank of Qatar. (Gulf Times)
- Vingroup says JTA Investment Qatar weighs \$1Bn Investment in VinFast** - Global investment firm JTA Investment Qatar will explore a potential equity investment of at least \$1 billion in VinFast, according to an emailed statement from Vingroup, parent of the EV maker. JTA Investment also seeks to have a strategic partnership with VinFast to support the company's global expansion and technological development. Under the MOU signed between Vingroup and JTA, the global investment firm will also explore investment opportunities in Vinpearl, Vingroup's hospitality unit. Collaboration to facilitate Vingroup's expansion into international markets, statement quotes Amir Ali Salemi, JTA Investment Qatar founder. (Bloomberg)
- BlackRock's GIP Joins Investment Firms Setting Up Qatar Offices** - BlackRock Inc.'s recently acquired unit, Global Infrastructure Partners, is opening an office in Doha in a boost for Qatar's nascent efforts to attract global financial firms. GIP will pursue investment opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa region from the office, according to a statement. With over \$170bn in assets under management, GIP's portfolio in the region includes a stake in Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.'s gas pipeline unit. GIP's announcement comes days after Qatar said that six venture capital firms — including Eduardo Saverin's B Capital — are setting up offices in the country after receiving funding from its \$510bn wealth fund. The gas-rich nation is following in the footsteps of its regional peers, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, which have leveraged the financial heft of their sovereign entities to attract global firms. The gas-rich nation is following in the footsteps of its regional peers, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, which have leveraged the financial heft of their sovereign entities to attract global firms. Saudi Arabia has drawn regional headquarters of several Wall Street firms after it introduced policies that made such a presence mandatory for certain government contracts. Meanwhile, several high-profile hedge funds have established offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, transforming the UAE into an emerging hub for the industry. BlackRock completed its \$12.5bn buyout of GIP late last year, marking the firm's biggest deal in more than a decade. The \$11tn asset manager is making steady inroads into the wider Middle East. The firm received approval from Saudi Arabia last year to set up its regional headquarters in Riyadh, as well as a commercial license to operate in Abu Dhabi. It's also exploring opening an office in Kuwait, Bloomberg News has reported. (Bloomberg)
- Exchange houses highlight 5% increase in remittances by residents during Ramadan** - The foreign exchange market experiences heightened activity during the holy month of Ramadan, driven by increased demand for remittances and foreign currency exchange. Officials from exchange companies estimate that transaction volumes rise by approximately 5% to 7% during the sacred month. Speaking to Qatar News Agency, those officials highlighted that this kind of activity has started to witness transformations imposed by cutting-edge technologies and AI as well as mobile applications and electronic payment systems. Adaptation of these evolving dynamics has triggered exchange companies to enhance their service offerings by providing more seamless online platforms and dedicated applications aimed at expediting financial transactions, they underlined. CEO at Al Dar for Exchange Works, Jumah al-Maadhadi predicted an improvement during Ramadan, along with the upsurge in remittance activity and demand for foreign currencies to reach approximately 5% to 7%. He underlined that it is imperative for the foreign exchange market to cope with the technological advancements, especially the AI-powered technologies to tailor offerings in alignment with customer preferences, especially amid the prevalence of financial

technology applications. Through the recent years, a noticeable impact on foreign exchange operations has been observed, as AI-driven applications have dramatically captured a growing share of exchange market activity and transaction volumes, he highlighted. He pointed out that the upsurge in the volume and value of remittances during Ramadan is a key factor in driving the economy in Qatar, where residents significantly contribute to the domestic economy, in addition to the importance of these remittances in supporting their families in their home countries. He noted that the increase in remittances during Ramadan reflects the heightened demand for financial support from residents transferring money to their families for Ramadan necessities, such as food, clothing, and holiday preparations, highlighting that demand for certain currencies, such as the Saudi riyal, coincides with the Umrah season and travel to perform the pilgrimage. Chairman of Arabian Exchange Co, Maqbool Habib Khalfan, emphasized the increased demand for financial support from the families of residents in their home countries to meet Ramadan necessities and beyond. With the advent of Ramadan, people are increasingly pivoting toward money transfer, especially with the upsurge in travel and family visits, as numerous residents in Qatar prefer transferring money to their countries at this time to fulfil the needs of Ramadan, he said. Khalfan added that exchange transactions typically increase by approximately 7% during Ramadan compared to other months of the year. He highlighted that the holy month of Ramadan is normally associated with an increase in charitable works, where social interdependence and donations constitute a major part of the culture, thereby encouraging expatriates to send adequate money to support their families and those in need. Business development consultant at Al Sarraf Holding Company, Dr Ahmed Bani Younis, highlighted that the exchange companies' working hours are regulated by the Qatar Central Bank, affirming that they extend hours during Ramadan due to increased demand. He noted a 5% rise in remittances during Ramadan and emphasized the growing role of technology in the exchange market. (Gulf Times)

- Vodafone Qatar, Snoonu forge strategic collaboration to explore joint business opportunities in Qatar** - Vodafone Qatar has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Snoonu, Qatar's homegrown e-commerce platform, during Web Summit Qatar 2025. The MoU aims to explore synergies between the companies' respective industries: telecommunications and premium delivery services. Under the agreement, the companies will leverage their unique strengths to create innovative joint products and execute targeted marketing initiatives. The MoU was formally signed by Mohamed Mohsin Alyafei, Acting Enterprise Business Unit (EBU) director, at Vodafone Qatar, and Hamad al-Hajri, founder and CEO at Snoonu, in the presence of Baran Yurdagul, chief operating officer at Vodafone Qatar. Alyafei said, "We are always seeking innovative ways to enhance the services we provide to our customers. Our partnership with Snoonu represents a unique opportunity to combine our strengths in digital solutions with their expertise in premium delivery services. Together, we are excited to explore new avenues for growth and create cutting-edge solutions that will redefine convenience and connectivity for our customers in Qatar." Al-Hajri said, "We are excited to join forces with Vodafone Qatar, a leader in digital transformation. This MoU reflects our shared vision to drive technological advancements and provide seamless digital experiences to our customers. Together, we aim to unlock new opportunities and deliver enhanced value to businesses and communities." A key player in Qatar's telecom sector, Vodafone Qatar provides comprehensive digital solutions, catering to consumer and business needs, including various connectivity and Internet of Things (IoT) products that can be applied across industries, in varying contexts, to improve business operations, internal frameworks, and employee and customer experience. (Gulf Times)
- Huawei supports Qatar's digital transformation with strategic partnerships at Web Summit Qatar 2025** - Huawei has cemented its position as a key enabler of Qatar's digital transformation by forging multiple high-impact partnerships at Web Summit Qatar 2025, underscoring the company's pivotal role in driving innovation and digital transformation across the nation's key economic sectors. During the summit, Huawei signed MoUs with leading Qatari organizations, focusing on cloud infrastructure, ICT talent development, and technological innovation. Web Summit Qatar 2025, which attracted over 20,000

attendees, including investors and industry decision-makers, served as an ideal platform for Huawei to showcase its commitment to fostering Qatar's digital ecosystem through strategic collaborations that address the unique needs of various sectors. As an AI pioneer in industries, Huawei Cloud is driving industry intelligence by providing full-stack AI capabilities, including infrastructure, computing power, algorithms, development frameworks, and its advanced Pangu Large Models. Dr Zhu Shenggao, director of the AI Department at Huawei Cloud Middle East and Central Asia, delivered a keynote exploring how AI and cloud reshape industries, highlighting the company's technological expertise and thought leadership in these transformative domains. Rico Lin, president of Huawei Gulf North Region, said: "These partnerships represent our dedication to supporting Qatar's digital future. By integrating AI, cloud technologies, and intelligent systems across various sectors, we fundamentally transform how businesses operate, how services are delivered, and how customers experience technologies. Together with our partners, we are unlocking unprecedented levels of innovation, efficiency, and global collaboration, paving the way for the next generation of technology in Qatar." A key highlight of the summit was Huawei's partnership with Media City Qatar to create a state-of-the-art smart media campus powered by Huawei technologies. This comprehensive technology infrastructure will integrate advanced AI-powered access control, intelligent shared space asset management, an integrated multi-cloud media platform, and next-generation storage architecture for media content. The initiative aims at elevating customer experiences for Qatar's media and entertainment sector. In another significant development, Qatar Digital Academy (QDA), an initiative under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), announced a new partnership with Huawei to launch the QDA & Huawei ICT Academy. Through globally recognized certifications and career development opportunities, this initiative aims to equip Qatari professionals and government employees with advanced ICT skills in 5G, cloud computing, and digital transformation. With this initiative, individuals and enterprises can access comprehensive training programs designed to bridge the digital skills gap and support Qatar's transition into a smart, technology-driven economy in line with Qatar National Vision 2030. Huawei also solidified its cloud presence in Qatar through multiple strategic partnerships. PowerMind joined the Huawei Cloud Partner Network and Cloud Service Provider Program, enabling the Lusail-based cloud services provider to expand its service portfolio with Huawei's advanced cloud solutions. Additionally, PowerMind will benefit from Huawei's global ecosystem, gaining access to a broader network of partners and resources to accelerate growth and innovation in the cloud industry. By combining Huawei's technological excellence with PowerMind's deep market insights and customer relationships, the collaboration will create a powerful synergy, unlocking new business opportunities and delivering greater customer value. Additionally, Data Voice Technology partnered with Huawei to provide managed PABX (Private Automatic Branch Exchange) services, offering advanced communication solutions for large enterprises, commercial organizations, and SMEs in Qatar. The collaboration will deliver a comprehensive suite of PABX services leveraging Huawei's robust cloud infrastructure. Key benefits include scalability, allowing businesses to adjust their communication needs as they grow without significant hardware investments; cost-efficiency through reduced maintenance and operational expenses; enhanced features, including VoIP, call management, analytics, and integration with other business applications; reliability and security ensuring safeguarded communications; and local expertise providing tailored solutions and responsive customer support. Meanwhile, Aamal IT, a fully owned subsidiary of Aamal Company and a specialized solution provider delivering comprehensive and innovative IT solutions, formalized its strategic partnership with Huawei by joining the Huawei Cloud Partner Network. The combination of Huawei's cutting-edge cloud technologies and Aamal IT's market expertise and exposure will help drive mutual growth and deliver innovative cloud solutions to customers. Furthermore, Starlink, a key player in Qatar's mobile, accessories, and software distribution services, was appointed a Huawei Cloud distributor. As part of the agreement, Starlink will develop comprehensive technical capabilities in cloud computing, infrastructure management, and technical support services to effectively empower its network of resellers. The company will invest in having its team members

complete Huawei's rigorous training and certification programs, ensuring they maintain exceptional proficiency in all Huawei Cloud offerings and can provide expert guidance to their reseller partners. These partnerships align with Qatar's National Vision 2030 goals of strengthening local industries, fostering innovation, and positioning Qatar as a global technology and digital transformation hub. (Gulf Times)

- **Amir to chair Qatar's delegation to extraordinary Arab Summit in Cairo** - The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani will chair the State of Qatar's delegation to the extraordinary Arab Summit, scheduled for Tuesday in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt. HH the Amir will be accompanied by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, along with an official delegation. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **'Qatar well-placed to be global leader in decentralized technologies'** - Qatar is strategically positioning itself as a global leader in the realm of digital assets and decentralized technologies in the rapidly evolving digital landscape, Kamal Youssefi, President of The Hashgraph Association (THA), has said. THA is a Swiss non-profit that drives global adoption of Hedera-powered solutions by funding innovation, training, and venture programs. It promotes economic inclusion and a digital future with a positive ESG impact. Speaking to The Peninsula recently, Youssefi asserted that Qatar has all the ingredients to replicate and even surpass the success stories of financial hubs like Singapore and Hong Kong. "With its forward-thinking policies, commitment to innovation, and alignment with Qatar Vision 2030, the nation is poised to elevate its financial infrastructure to new heights," he said. To achieve this, Youssefi emphasizes the importance of continuous collaboration with entities like the Qatar Financial Centre, banks, and other authorities. "Together, they aim to build a robust IT infra structure capable of meeting the demands of the global digital assets market," he noted. He added that Qatar has continued to make noticeable strides in technology and tech investments either through direct investments or organizing events such as the Web Summit, which has been a resounding success since its maiden edition last year. "Qatar has announced investments of \$2.4bn in AI which could reel in \$11bn for the economy. Qatar's ICT sector spending is also expected to amount to \$9bn with investments in cloud services, the Internet, and cybersecurity for data protection. The current Qatar 2030 strategy and the implementations across the board for blockchain solutions, AI solutions, and strategies to attract capital and innovative startups is a great opportunity for The Hashgraph Association because it aligns with our aims as well," he noted. Last year, The Hashgraph Association signed a landmark strategic partnership with the Qatar Finance Centre (QFC) to establish a Digital Assets Venture Studio. This initiative aims to equip Qatari talent with the technical and functional expertise needed to design, develop, and deploy Web3 use cases and viable decentralized solutions tailored to the financial sector. The \$50m digital asset venture studio is focused on investments in Hedera-powered Web3 startups and enterprises building bankable DeFi solutions. The program will span from 2024 to 2028, with THA contributing to 20% (\$10m) of the investment. "We believe that the MENA region and Qatar are well placed to lead in the Web3 era. That is one of the reasons we partnered with the QFC Digital Assets Lab to invest in startups, as well as help enterprises and governmental entities to offer solutions built on DLT/blockchain technology," Youssefi added. (Peninsula Qatar)

International

- **Trump locks in Canada, Mexico tariffs to launch on Tuesday; stocks tumble** - US President Donald Trump said 25% tariffs on goods from Mexico and Canada will take effect from Tuesday, stoking fears of a trade war in North America and sending financial markets reeling. Trump's comments made on Monday sent U.S. stocks down sharply in late afternoon trading. The Mexican peso and Canadian dollar both fell following his remarks. "They're going to have to have a tariff. So what they have to do is build their car plants, frankly, and other things in the United States, in which case they have no tariffs," Trump said at the White House. He said there was "no room left" for a deal that would avert the tariffs by curbing fentanyl flows into the United States. Trump also reaffirmed that he will increase tariffs on all Chinese imports to 20% from the previous 10% levy to punish Beijing for failing to halt shipments of

fentanyl to the U.S. The president said in an order that China "has not taken adequate steps to alleviate the illicit drug crisis." CEOs and economists say Trump's tariffs on Canada and Mexico, covering more than \$900bn worth of annual U.S. imports, will deal a serious setback to the highly integrated North American economy. The tariffs are scheduled to take effect at 12:01 a.m. EST, opens new tab (0501 GMT) on Tuesday, the Trump administration confirmed in Federal Register notices. At that point, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency will begin collecting 25% on Canadian, opens new tab and Mexican, opens new tab goods, with a 10% duty for Canadian energy. Mexico's economy ministry said that there would be no public response until President Claudia Sheinbaum's regular morning press conference on Tuesday. She has vowed to respond, saying: "We have a plan B, C, D." Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly told reporters that Ottawa was ready to respond, but offered no specifics. Ontario Premier Doug Ford told NBC that the U.S. tariffs and Canada's retaliation would be "an absolute disaster" for both countries. "I don't want to respond but we will respond like they've never seen before," Ford said, adding that Michigan auto plants would likely shut down within a week and that he would halt nickel shipments and cross-border transmission of electricity from Ontario to the U.S. "I'm going after absolutely everything," Ford said. China's commerce ministry on Tuesday vowed countermeasures against Washington's decision and urged the U.S. to "immediately withdraw" its tariffs, which it described as "unreasonable and groundless, harmful to others." The state-backed Global Times newspaper earlier said Beijing's countermeasures would most likely target U.S. agricultural and food products. (Reuters)

- **Euro zone inflation ticks lower in boost to ECB rate cut bets** - Euro zone inflation dipped a bit less than expected last month but its most closely watched component also dropped, sealing the case for another ECB interest rate cut on Thursday and solidifying bets for further policy easing in the coming months. Consumer price inflation in the 20 nations sharing the euro slowed to 2.4% in February from 2.5% a month earlier, just above expectations for 2.3% and moving a step closer to the European Central Bank's 2% target, data from Eurostat showed on Monday. Excluding volatile food and fuel prices, a closely watched 'core' figure, also slowed to 2.6% from 2.5% as services inflation, a key worry for most of the past year, finally started to move lower, possibly breaking out of a stubbornly high range. The key upside surprise came in unprocessed food prices with inflation for this component more than doubling to 3.1%. The ECB has cut interest rates five times already since last June in a nod to quickly slowing inflation and the bank is expected to keep on cutting as the need to prop up weak economic growth is starting to override concerns about excessive price growth. The euro zone economy has been broadly stagnant for much of the past two years and there is little to suggest that a long-predicted recovery is starting to take shape. Industry is in recession and an escalation of trade tensions with the United States is keeping firms from investing. Households, who are sitting on ample financial buffers are meanwhile holding back spending, losing confidence given the relentless negative news flow about trade, recession and Ukraine. All these suggest that the ECB will cut its 2025 growth forecast for the fourth straight quarter on Thursday as negative growth risks continue to materialize and predictions for a consumption boom have been proven wrong time and again. The weak outlook would justify even more rate cuts to give the economy a boost but some policymakers continue to express fears that services, a vital domestic component of inflation, is still too high and could perpetuate price growth if the ECB stepped off the brakes too early. Easing those fears, services inflation, the largest component in the consumer price basket, slowed to 3.7% from 3.9% last month after hovering near 4% for most of the past year. A further drop is also on the cards as wage growth is finally slowing and most pay agreements between firms and unions point to only moderate wage increases, which would be consistent with the ECB's inflation target. The ECB will next meet on Thursday and a rate cut to 2.5% was seen as a done deal even before the February inflation print. Markets then see between two and three more cuts this year, taking the ECB's deposit rate to either 2% or 1.75% in December, the bottom end of estimates for the so-called neutral rate, which neither slows nor stimulate growth. (Reuters)

Regional

- HSBC research: MENAT GDP to reach \$4trn by year-end** - The Middle East is at the center of a fundamental transformation as global capital flows shift towards new engines of growth. Selim Kervanci, Chief Executive Officer, Middle East, North Africa and Türkiye (MENAT), HSBC Bank Middle East, said: "Traditional financial centers are adapting to a world where the Middle East and Asia are driving rather than following global investment trends." Kervanci was speaking this week at the HSBC MENAT Future Forum, held in the Four Seasons, Jumeriah, Dubai. In its ninth year, the forum is the region's largest private gathering of international investors, regulators, exchanges, and market participants. With attendance at an all-time high, topping the 800 attendees of 2024, delegates from MENAT markets gathered with global investors to discuss opportunities in the region, and particularly its growing corridor with Asia. Commenting on current liquidity conditions, Kervanci said: "Public and private markets are reshaping investment and capital flows with the Middle East and Asia emerging as the new center of gravity. Structural reforms across the Middle East, coupled with agile policymaking, have fundamentally altered the region's investment landscape. The growing opportunities in the two regions are creating one of the most significant shifts in the global economy, driven by the Middle East's investment-led economic transformation, the GCC and Asia's rising wealth and the necessity of transitioning to sustainable economies." While traditional markets wrestle with economic headwinds, an unprecedented \$3tn in capital spending across the Gulf Cooperation Council is recalibrating the global investment landscape. According to HSBC Global Research, MENAT could see the average pace of growth rise to above 3.5% this year, up 1.4 percentage points on last year's average. This should lift MENAT GDP to almost \$4tn by the end of 2025, up more than 40% on its pre-Covid-19 level. Speaking at the forum, Nabeel Albloushi, HSBC's Head of Markets and Securities Services MENAT, said: "The question is no longer whether to invest in the region, but how to optimize exposure to its historic transformation. The growth in primary market activity is a key indicator, with significant issuances in both the equity and debt capital markets. This trend persisted even when global markets experienced slowdowns, highlighting investor confidence." Over the three days, participants took part in 1-1 investor meetings in addition to panel discussions with CEOs, Heads of Financial Market Intermediaries, Securities Regulators and experts from across HSBC's global network for discussions focused on innovation, the development of capital markets and AI's expanding role. In a step change to previous years, HSBC gathered market leaders in the luxury consumer market to explore opportunities in a sector expected to generate over \$20bn by the end of the decade, almost doubling in size over 10 years. (Zawya)
- GCC fixed income market sees \$148bn in primary issuances** - The primary debt issuances of bonds and sukuk in the Gulf region rose to \$147.9bn through 296 issuances during 2024, up 55.1% over the previous year, according to Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz). This growth was spearheaded by Saudi-based issuances raising \$79.5bn through 79 issuances, up from \$52.5bn in 2023, thus registering an increase of 51.2%, and representing 53.7% of issuances for the year, stated Markaz in its fixed income report. UAE-based issuances ranked second, with \$38.5bn through 109 issues, representing 26% of the market, followed by Qatari entities with \$15.8bn through 74 issuances, representing 10.7% of the issuances over the year. Bahraini issuers came next with a total issuance size of \$6.9bn through 10 issuances, up 29.1% over the previous year. According to Markaz, the Kuwaiti issuances recorded the largest year-over-year growth, posting a 358.6% increase from the previous year. It netted a total value of \$3.9bn through nine issuances. Omani entities recorded the lowest value of issuances during the year, with \$3.4bn raised through 15 issuances, representing 2.3% of issuances, stated the report. According to Markaz, the total GCC corporate primary issuances increased by 45.5% from 2023, amounting to \$79.7bn raised, compared to \$54.8bn raised in 2023. Corporate issuances represented 53.9% of total issuances for the year, following the same trend as in 2023, where corporate issuances represented 57.5% of total issuances. Government related corporate entities raised a total of \$17.4bn in 2024, representing 21.7% of all corporate issuances, stated the Kuwait Financial Centre in its report. The total GCC sovereign primary issuances increased by 68.2% in 2024,
- raising \$68.2bn throughout the year, representing 46.1% of total issuances. Conventional issuances increased by 79.4% in 2024 compared to 2023, raising a total of \$78.9bn for the year, it added. (Zawya)
- Saudi's PIF to Anchor New Gulf-Focused Goldman Sachs Funds** - Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund is set to become an anchor investor in a series of new funds from Goldman Sachs Asset Management focused on the kingdom as well as all six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, according to a statement seen by Bloomberg News. The pair signed a memorandum of understanding — so far non-binding and still subject to regulatory approval — related to the funds, which will be centered on private credit and public equity strategies in the GCC region. On top of the PIF's commitment, GSAM will also be raising money from international investors for the initiatives, the statement says. With private credit, GSAM will target lending opportunities with companies that are either based in the Gulf region or generate most of their business from there. On the public equity side, the firm will look to invest in companies that are either listed on the Saudi exchange or have businesses connected to the country. Goldman Sachs is among Wall Street firms that have been expanding their presence in Saudi Arabia as the kingdom looks to increasingly use its investments as a way to develop the local economy and promote itself as a financial hub. The PIF has \$925bn under management. Firms including Brookfield Asset Management Ltd., BlackRock Inc. and State Street have launched investment vehicles backed by the Saudi wealth fund that are designed to attract more foreign capital into the kingdom, with BlackRock's effort announced at \$5bn and Brookfield's at \$2bn. Goldman Sachs last year became the first Wall Street bank bank to be granted a license from the kingdom to establish its regional base in Riyadh. The government has indicated it will stop working with international financial firms whose regional headquarters aren't in the country. (Bloomberg)
- Saudi Monshaat: 67% increase in commercial registrations during Q4 2024** - There has been a 67% increase in commercial registrations, bringing the total number to 1.6mn during the fourth quarter of 2024. According to the quarterly SME Monitor Report released by the Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monshaat), the majority of these registrations were concentrated in Riyadh, accounting for 39%, followed by Makkah with 17%, the Eastern Province 16%, Qassim 6%, and Asir 5%. The remaining 17% were distributed across other regions. The current edition of the report focuses on sustainability and key trends adopted by SMEs, including the circular economy, renewable energy, reforestation, major environmental projects, environmental tourism development, and the adoption of electric vehicles. It also highlights collaboration with government initiatives and contributions to sustainability reports. The report opens with a statement by Rakan Alsheikh, deputy minister for Policies and Economic Planning at the Ministry of Economy and Planning, who discussed the Sustainability Champions Program launched by the ministry. The program aims to enhance the exchange of knowledge and best practices between large companies and SMEs, ensuring that small businesses benefit from the expertise of leading sustainability companies. He emphasized the importance of empowering SMEs to seize emerging opportunities in renewable energy, green technology solutions, and circular economy initiatives. The report also highlights expert insights and success stories in sustainability, including interviews with officials from various companies and entrepreneurship experts. The report provides data on the beneficiaries of Monshaat's programs and services up to the end of fourth quarter of 2024. More than 51,000 individuals have benefited from the Monshaat Academy, 41,076 SMEs accessed the authority's support centers, and nearly 6,100 beneficiaries used the Mazaya platform. Furthermore, 2,100 small and medium enterprises qualified for the Jadeer service, 4,258 benefited from innovation centers, and 205 trademarks were listed on the authority's Franchise Center platform. The SME Monitor Report is part of a series of quarterly reports issued by Monshaat, covering the latest updates on the entrepreneurial environment, statistics, and figures, along with specialized reports on topics of interest to entrepreneurs in the Kingdom. The reports serve as a reliable reference for entrepreneurs, investors, and stakeholders, the Saudi Press Agency reported. (Zawya)
- Austria's OMV, UAE's ADNOC to create \$60bn chemicals joint venture** - Austrian energy firm OMV (OMVV.VI), and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co

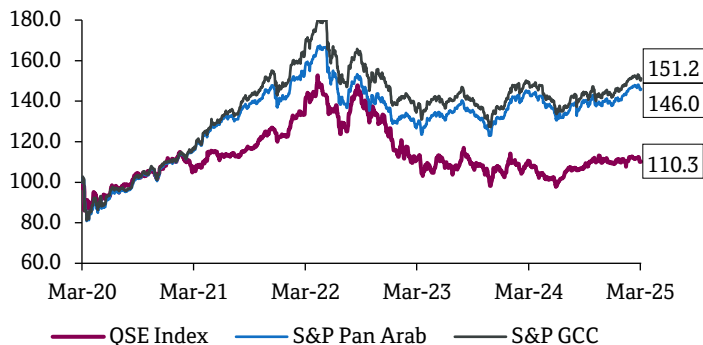
will merge their polyolefin businesses to create a \$60bn chemicals joint venture, capping two years of talks, the companies said. The JV will acquire Canada's Nova Chemicals Corp from Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund Mubadala for \$13.4bn including debt to expand its business in North America, they said in separate statements on Monday and Tuesday. Nova is a polyethylene producer with 2.6mn metric tons of polyethylene capacity and 4.2mn metric tons of ethylene capacity. The JV, named Borouge Group International, will combine two joint ventures - Borealis, owned 75% by OMV and 25% by ADNOC - and Borouge (BOROUGE.AD), owned 54% by ADNOC and 36% by Borealis. As part of the deal, OMV will inject 1.60bn euros (\$1.68bn) in cash into the new company, which will be listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, with a second listing on the Vienna Stock Exchange expected later. ADNOC and OMV - which is partly owned by the Austrian government and counts Mubadala as its second-largest shareholder - will each own roughly 47% of the new JV, with the remainder being free float. Borouge shareholders will be offered shares in the venture. Borouge Group International will look to raise up to \$4bn of primary capital in 2026, the companies said. The companies expect the joint venture and the close of the deal for Nova to be completed in the first quarter of 2026, and annual cost savings of around \$500mn. The new company will be headquartered in Austria and have a two-tier board structure with equal governance and voting rights between OMV and ADNOC. (Reuters)

- Oman attracts \$68bn in foreign direct investment** - The volume of total foreign direct investment (FDI) in Oman witnessed a 17.6% increase over the past five years bringing the cumulative value of FDI reaching OMR26.677bn by end of the third quarter of 2024. This rapid growth reflects Oman's success in enhancing its position as a global investment hub, supported by strategic initiatives, an attractive investment environment and advanced infrastructure. Qais bin Mohammed Al-Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP), said that the directives to develop the investment environment have been a strong impetus for building a promising economic future, supported by clear and integrated strategies. He noted that the positive indicators in the investment sector demonstrate the success of Oman's policies and initiatives in providing a comprehensive climate for attracting investment projects. He further said that the measures taken to complete the setting up of the Investment and Trade Court reflect the government's commitment to providing a stable legal environment that encourages foreign investments. The ministry is committed to offering the necessary facilities and competitive incentives to make it easier for investors to conduct business in a dynamic environment. He pointed out that developing the investment and business environment is a top priority for driving sustainable development, and the ministry is working on implementing various initiatives to diversify the national economy and create job opportunities across different sectors. Ibtisam bint Ahmed Al-Faroojiah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion for Investment Promotion, said that the ministry is reviewing investment policies, laws, and incentives, and working on promoting foreign investment through local, regional, and international promotional activities, exhibitions, and important investment forums, as well as marketing campaigns to attract investors. She added that investment opportunities are being framed and enhanced with feasibility studies and then made available to investors to boost investment in targeted sectors and to further accelerate the pace of attracting more foreign investments into Oman. This helps in economic diversification and helps to increase the share of non-oil revenues in the gross domestic product (GDP) thereby positively reflecting investor confidence and enhancing Oman's competitive indicators. The government, represented by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion and other investment authorities, is currently focusing on several key sectors derived from Oman Vision 2040. These sectors include transport and logistics, renewable energy, information technology (IT), food security, tourism, mining, and industries, in addition to supporting and complementary sectors such as the circular economy, health, and education. Statistics from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) show that the United Kingdom emerged as the largest foreign investor, contributing investments valued at OMR13.66bn, followed by the United States at OMR 5.25bn, the United Arab Emirates at OMR 836.5mn, Kuwait at OMR 833.5mn, China at OMR

817.8mn and Switzerland at OMR 551.9mn, until the end of third quarter of 2024. Qatar's investments in Oman reached OMR488.3mn by the end of the third quarter of last year, Bahrain's investments reached OMR375.7mn, and investments from the Netherlands and India were approximately OMR359.1mn and OMR286.1mn, respectively. Al-Faroojiah further said that these statistics show that the manufacturing sector received FDI valued OMR2.13bn, financial intermediaries OMR1.36bn and real estate activities OMR969.1mn. She explained that the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion has governed investment opportunities within the 'Invest in Oman' platform, publishing 20 investment opportunities in tourism, real estate development, aviation, logistics, and industry sectors. Industrial land for investment opportunities in the manufacturing sector has been allocated in cooperation with the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), with investors showing interest in lands in the industrial cities of Rusayl, Sohar, and Samail. The ministry has promoted Oman internationally in 21 events last year, received delegations from 23 countries, organized 8 local promotional events, and targeted 6 G20 countries and 4 markets in collaboration with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). These efforts aim to attract various sectors and increase the value of foreign investment. Eng. Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Kindi, CEO of Invest in Oman, said that the 'Invest in Oman' brings together various government institutions to facilitate the investor journey and attract high-capital investors to strategic priority sectors. It serves as a digital window to promote Oman's investment environment and inform investors about available opportunities through a clear map. He added that the number of investment projects being processed reached 59 projects worth OMR3.2bn, of which 29 projects worth OMR1.2bn have been localized. India, China, and Egypt topped the list of investing countries in terms of the number of investors, with the industry sector leading the investment sectors, followed by renewable energy and health. (Zawya)

- Survey to assess digital economy's share in Oman's GDP** - Oman has launched a vital survey to assess the digital economy's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2023. The initiative is a key part of the country's efforts to achieve the ambitious goal of increasing the digital economy's share of GDP to 10% by 2040. The survey will provide essential data to track the progress of Oman's digital economy and inform future policies. It focuses on measuring the contribution of digital services, including communications, information technology, and financial services, to the national economy. The findings will help policymakers make informed decisions to enhance growth in these sectors. Hamad bin Nasser Al Shikaili, Director of the Survey Project at the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, emphasized the importance of private sector cooperation for the success of the survey. The data collected through the survey will offer a detailed picture of the current state of Oman's digital economy, including key economic indicators such as the digital economy's contribution to GDP, the added value of digital services, investment in digital infrastructure, and employment trends across the sector. These insights will be valuable for policymakers, researchers, and international comparisons to shape future strategies. Targeting 1,300 private sector establishments across Oman, the survey will cover various industries involved in ICT and digital financial services. The results will be used to compare regional and international trends, support economic studies, and guide Oman's digital economy roadmap. Unified portal: Alongside the survey, the Ministry has also recently launched the Unified Government Services Portal (gov.om), streamlining access to nearly 100 government services. The portal, which eliminates the need for multiple platforms, simplifies processes for citizens, residents, and businesses. The second phase of the portal, set to launch between March and June, will add more services to the platform. These initiatives reflect Oman's commitment to achieving its digital economy goals, driving growth, and positioning the country as a regional leader in the digital age. The portal provides personalized dashboards for tracking services, step-by-step guides, and efficient procedures for accessing a wide variety of government services, benefitting citizens, residents, and businesses alike. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	2,892.73	1.2	1.2	10.2
Silver/Ounce	31.68	1.7	1.7	9.6
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	71.62	(2.1)	(2.1)	(4.0)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	68.37	(2.0)	(2.0)	(4.7)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	3.80	(2.8)	(2.8)	11.8
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	89.50	(7.3)	(7.3)	9.8
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	85.30	(10.7)	(10.7)	(28.6)
Euro	1.05	1.1	1.1	1.3
Yen	149.50	(0.8)	(0.8)	(4.9)
GBP	1.27	1.0	1.0	1.5
CHF	1.12	0.7	0.7	1.2
AUD	0.62	0.3	0.3	0.6
USD Index	106.75	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.6)
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.17	(1.0)	0.5	(1.4)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	3,770.34	(0.9)	(0.9)	1.7
DJ Industrial	43,191.24	(1.5)	(1.5)	1.5
S&P 500	5,849.72	(1.8)	(1.8)	(0.5)
NASDAQ 100	18,350.19	(2.6)	(2.6)	(5.0)
STOXX 600	563.13	2.0	2.0	12.5
DAX	23,147.02	3.6	3.6	17.3
FTSE 100	8,871.31	1.7	1.7	10.3
CAC 40	8,199.71	2.0	2.0	12.6
Nikkei	37,785.47	1.8	1.8	(0.9)
MSCI EM	1,097.37	0.0	0.0	2.0
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,316.93	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.9)
HANG SENG	23,006.27	0.3	0.3	14.6
BSE SENSEX	73,085.94	0.0	0.0	(8.3)
Bovespa	125,979.50	0.1	(1.9)	12.4
RTS	1,151.93	(0.0)	0.0	6.3

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns if any)

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