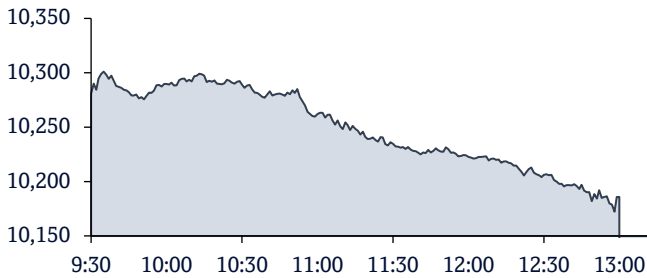


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 0.8% to close at 10,185.7. Losses were led by the Telecoms and Industrials indices, falling 1.9% and 1.2%, respectively. Top losers were Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution and Ooredoo, falling 5.6% and 2.3%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Estithmar Holding gained 2.7%, while QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. was up 1.8%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 0.7% to close at 11,778.1. Gains were led by the Consumer Durables & Apparel and Commercial & Professional Svc indices, rising 2.7% and 1.3%, respectively. Umm Al Qura for Development and Construction Co. rose 30.0%, while Naseej International Trading Co. was up 9.8%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 0.3% to close at 5,116.4. The Materials index rose 3.1%, while the Industrials index was up 1.8%. Dubai National Insurance & Reinsurance rose 14.9%, while Gulf Navigation Holding was up 9.3%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained marginally to close at 9,369.8. The Real Estate index rose 2.6%, while the Basic Materials index gained 1.5%. Al Ain Alahlia Insurance Co. rose 9.0%, while ESHRAQ Inv was up 4.3%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.5% to close at 8,023.3. The Technology index rose 2%, while the Banks index gained 1%. Ektitab Holding Co. rose 9.2%, while National Cleaning Co. was up 7.3%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.1% to close at 4,388.4. Losses were led by the Industrial and Financial indices, falling 1.6% and 0.5%, respectively. Oman Cement Company declined 9.9%, while Ahli Bank was down 7.2%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.7% to close at 1,951.6. Arab Banking Corporation declined 9.8%, while Bahrain National Holding Company was down 4.0%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Estithmar Holding	2.245	2.7	10,478.8	32.5
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	1.950	1.8	40.0	(5.6)
Zad Holding Company	15.14	1.3	117.1	6.8
Ezdan Holding Group	0.992	1.1	22,249.4	(6.1)
Gulf Warehousing Company	3.046	0.9	1,430.8	(9.6)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ezdan Holding Group	0.992	1.1	22,249.4	(6.1)
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.297	0.4	16,821.9	7.0
Masraf Al Rayan	2.282	0.0	11,047.8	(7.3)
Estithmar Holding	2.245	2.7	10,478.8	32.5
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.415	(0.4)	7,645.0	(5.4)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,185.70	(0.8)	(1.5)	(2.5)	(3.6)	83.77	164,015.3	11.2	1.2	4.9
Dubai	5,116.45	0.3	(0.3)	(3.8)	(0.8)	129.02	244,510.0	9.0	1.4	4.8
Abu Dhabi	9,369.83	0.0	0.0	(2.0)	(0.5)	262.17	720,366.5	20.8	2.5	2.3
Saudi Arabia	11,778.08	0.7	0.2	(2.8)	(2.1)	1,135.50	2,574,854.4	18.0	2.3	3.7
Kuwait	8,023.33	0.5	0.4	(1.0)	9.0	260.07	167,463.9	13.4	2.0	2.9
Oman	4,388.43	(0.1)	(0.5)	(1.1)	(4.1)	14.75	32,343.2	9.5	0.9	6.3
Bahrain	1,951.62	(0.7)	(0.5)	(0.4)	(1.7)	74.79	20,124.0	14.5	1.3	9.1

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

Market Indicators	24 Mar 25	23 Mar 25	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	305.2	210.9	44.7
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	598,159.2	602,621.0	(0.7)
Volume (mn)	120.8	88.9	35.8
Number of Transactions	14,754	8,253	78.8
Companies Traded	53	52	1.9
Market Breadth	13:36	14:32	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	23,968.65	(0.8)	(1.2)	(0.6)	11.2
All Share Index	3,736.38	(0.7)	(1.1)	(1.0)	11.3
Banks	4,536.46	(0.7)	(1.5)	(4.2)	9.6
Industrials	4,272.33	(1.2)	(1.2)	0.6	15.9
Transportation	5,633.54	0.5	0.7	9.1	13.3
Real Estate	1,575.41	(0.7)	(1.0)	(2.5)	17.1
Insurance	2,279.79	(0.4)	(1.1)	(2.9)	12
Telecoms	1,944.11	(1.9)	(1.5)	8.1	12.5
Consumer Goods and Services	7,835.85	0.0	0.0	2.2	18.4
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,858.02	(0.8)	(0.9)	(0.3)	13.3

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Gulf Bank	Kuwait	348.00	3.0	7,425.4	6.7
Emaar Development	Dubai	12.50	2.9	5,381.4	(8.8)
Aldar Properties	Abu Dhabi	8.68	2.7	4,609.6	13.0
Saudi British Bank	Saudi Arabia	36.60	2.7	1,488.8	8.8
Salik Co.	Dubai	5.10	2.6	5,686.5	(5.6)

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ahli Bank	Oman	0.16	(7.2)	30.0	(6.1)
Americana Restaurants Int	Abu Dhabi	2.05	(4.2)	5,288.2	(7.2)
Dar Al Arkan Real Estate	Saudi Arabia	19.96	(3.1)	4,113.4	32.2
MultiPLY Gr.	Abu Dhabi	1.67	(2.9)	30,277.9	(19.3)
Dr Soliman Abdel	Saudi Arabia	50.00	(2.7)	870.8	(25.4)

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

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution	2.408	(5.6)	25.6	0.3
Ooredoo	11.59	(2.3)	1,243.6	0.3
Al Faleh	0.710	(2.1)	1,899.3	2.2
Qatar International Islamic Bank	10.15	(2.0)	754.0	(6.9)
Dukhan Bank	3.518	(2.0)	3,133.3	(4.8)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Industries Qatar	12.90	(2.0)	37,451.3	(2.8)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.282	0.0	25,323.6	(7.3)
Estithmar Holding	2.245	2.7	23,411.9	32.5
QNB Group	15.87	(0.8)	23,248.4	(8.2)
Ezdan Holding Group	0.992	1.1	22,312.9	(6.1)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined 0.8% to close at 10,185.7. The Telecoms and Industrials indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from non-Qatari shareholders despite buying support from Qatari shareholders.
- Qatar Cinema & Film Distribution and Ooredoo were the top losers, falling 5.6% and 2.3%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Estithmar Holding gained 2.7%, while QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. was up 1.8%.
- Volume of shares traded on Monday rose by 35.8% to 120.8mn from 89.0mn on Sunday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 147.7mn, volume for the day was 18.2% lower. Ezdan Holding Group and Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. were the most active stocks, contributing 18.4% and 13.9% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	31.12%	24.47%	20,306,675.09
Qatari Institutions	40.97%	27.39%	41,451,983.93
Qatari	72.09%	51.85%	61,758,659.03
GCC Individuals	0.68%	0.41%	827,241.47
GCC Institutions	1.21%	4.44%	(9,870,727.95)
GCC	1.88%	4.85%	(9,043,486.48)
Arab Individuals	9.98%	10.80%	(2,502,139.44)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	9.98%	10.80%	(2,502,139.44)
Foreigners Individuals	3.05%	2.38%	2,034,575.21
Foreigners Institutions	13.00%	30.12%	(52,247,608.32)
Foreigners	16.05%	32.50%	(50,213,033.11)

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
03-24	US	Markit	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Mar P	49.8	51.7	NA
03-24	US	Markit	S&P Global US Services PMI	Mar P	54.3	51	NA
03-24	US	Markit	S&P Global US Composite PMI	Mar P	53.5	50.9	NA

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting 4Q2024 results	No. of days remaining	Status
QGMĐ	Qatari German Company for Medical Devices	26-Mar-25	1	Due
QOIS	Qatar Oman Investment Company	26-Mar-25	1	Due
QNBK#	QNB Group	09-Apr-25	15	Due
QIBK#	Qatar Islamic Bank	16-Apr-25	22	Due
QEWS#	Qatar Electricity & Water Company	20-Apr-25	26	Due

(# Date of reporting 1Q2025)

Qatar

- QNB Group to report 1Q2025 financial results on 09/04/2025; update on share repurchase** - QNB discloses its financial statement for the period ending 31st March 2025 on 09/04/2025. In accordance with Qatar Financial Markets Authority regulations, QNB will not conduct its share repurchase during the closed period commencing from 25 March 2025 to 9 April 2025, due to the upcoming publication of 1st Quarter 2025 interim financial results for QNB Group. QNB will recommence its share repurchase from 10 April 2025. (QSE)
- Qatar Islamic Bank: To disclose its Quarter 1 financial results on 16/04/2025** - Qatar Islamic Bank discloses its financial statement for the period ending 31st March 2025 on 16/04/2025. (QSE)
- Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices: Postponement of the Board of Directors meeting to discuss and approve for the Annual Financial Statements for the Year 2024 to be held on 26/03/2025** - Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices has announced the postponement of its Board of Directors meeting, originally scheduled for 25/03/2025, to discuss and approve the financial results for the fiscal year ending 31st December 2024. The meeting will now be held on 26/03/2025. (QSE)
- Mekdam Holding to shore up presence in high-growth sectors** - Mekdam Holding is "aggressively" pursuing opportunities within the QR3bn pipeline under negotiation as it seeks to strengthen its presence in high-growth sectors such as technology and engineering. "As Mekdam Holding Group looks ahead to 2025 and beyond, the focus remains on accelerating profitability, expanding market reach, and enhancing financial sustainability," the Qatar Stock Exchange listed entity said in its board report, placed before shareholders at the annual general assembly meeting, which approved 2024 results and the bonus shares. On strengthening the presence in high-growth sectors, Mekdam said it included technology services, engineering solutions, and security systems so as to ensure steady revenue growth and diversification. "As

we look to the future, we are motivated by the remarkable strength and resilience of the Qatari economy, which continues to evolve and unlock vast opportunities across a wide range of sectors," said Sheikh Mohamed bin Nawaf bin Nasser bin Khalid al-Thani, Mekdam Holding chairman. The company, which is leveraging strong backlog of secured contracts (QR2.6bn), said its subsidiaries possess several key advantages that position them to capitalize on local, regional, and international trends within the information, communication and technology or ICT sector. Some of these opportunities arise from the macroeconomic factors, while others are directly tied to the subsidiaries' unique competitive strengths, the report said. In 2024, Mekdam signed new contracts totaling QR861mn, with ongoing projects valued at QR2.6bn. The remaining value of works to be completed is QR1.5bn. The company has submitted proposals for projects amounting to approximately QR3bn, with an expected success rate of 20% to 30%, based on historical data. The subsidiaries – Mekdam Technology Solutions, Mekdam Software, and Mekdam CAMS – have established strong relationships with government agencies, with government contracts accounting for 58.6% of their revenue in 2024. "Given their size, the quality and diversity of their services, and their strategic positioning, the subsidiaries are well-placed to take full advantage of the growing demand and evolving requirements in the ICT sector," it said. The perceived market opportunities for the subsidiaries are growth of the Qatari economy, alignment with Qatar Vision 2030 and its emphasis on ICT development, increasing awareness of cybercrime and the need for enhanced security, demand for businesses to stay aligned with cutting-edge technologies, such as automation, robotics, cloud computing, and shortage of qualified personnel in the ICT sector. The company is aiming not only to further optimize capital structure and reduce financial liabilities, reinforce self-sustaining operational capabilities but also to maximize cash flow generation through efficient receivables management and project execution. Mekdam Holding is strengthening its financial flexibility to ensure that the group is well-

positioned for strategic investments and shareholder returns. (Gulf Times)

- Qatar takes huge step towards sustainability** - Qatar is advancing towards environment friendly solutions, such as diversifying energy sources, investing in solar energy, moving towards an electric public transport system, shifting to green buildings and expanding natural solutions. The country is taking a huge step towards sustainability through the Tarsheed smart electric vehicle charging platform which is a game-changer for electric vehicle users. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) through the Tasmu Smart Qatar Program in collaboration with the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) unveiled the Tarsheed Smart EV Charging Platform, recently. In a post on its X platform, Tasmu Qatar said, "This enhanced platform introduces new features, including real-time monitoring of charging points, advanced payment integration for seamless transactions, and improved user support with chatbot capabilities for users, in addition to upgraded tools for service providers that enhance station performance, streamline management, and optimize network efficiency." "This upgrade is designed to make EV charging across Qatar faster, smarter, and more efficient," it added. This cutting-edge solution streamlines the management of EV charging stations, offering a seamless, efficient and eco-friendly experience for users nationwide. By integrating advanced digital technologies, this initiative supports Qatar's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable mobility, aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030, it further noted. Driving smarter and more sustainable EV charging in Qatar, the post stated that the platform introduces several features which include 24/7 chatbot support that provides real-time assistance anytime, ensuring smooth and hassle-free EV charging experiences for users; advanced reporting tools that is valuable insights with enhanced data analytics provided to service providers allowing better EV station performance and maintenance. It also enables more enhanced charging management with simplified tools allowing service providers to monitor, manage, and optimize charging networks efficiently. This platform offers seamless, efficient and eco-friendly charging solutions and supports Qatar's drive to reduce emissions and promote green mobility. The Third Qatar National Development Strategy (NDS3) prioritizes a high quality of life by benefiting from Qatar's advanced transportation infra-structure by increasing utilization and efficiency and accelerating the transition to more sustainable mobility options. This effort is also aligned with the pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the initiatives outlined in the Transportation Master Plan for Qatar (TMPQ 2050). (Peninsula Qatar)
- QIC expects surge in travel during Eid** - Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) expects a significant increase in outbound travel during the Eid al-Fitr break. QIC's internal analysis of travel insurance purchasing behavior indicates a 50% increase in the number of outbound travelers who have already purchased travel insurance from QIC for their trips during the Eid holiday period until the end of the first week of April 2025, compared to the Eid al-Fitr holiday in 2024. Europe is the preferred destination among QIC policyholders this Eid, with over 55% considering at least one of the 29 Schengen countries. Poland is the top trending Schengen destination this Eid, followed by France, Germany, Croatia, and Portugal. Outside the Schengen zone, the United Kingdom remains the preferred destination for QIC-insured travelers this Eid. As for visitors arriving in Qatar this Eid, QIC's data shows that nationals from Saudi Arabia, India, Algeria, Turkey, and the United States are among the top purchasers of travel insurance for visiting Qatar this Eid, including both inbound travel insurance and QIC's mandatory visitors' health insurance. QIC Chief Operating Officer - Qatar Operations Ahmed Al Jarboey said, "The Eid al-Fitr break is a preferred travel period for many citizens and residents of Qatar, and an ideal occasion for international visitors to come and experience Qatar's festive celebrations during this joyous time. At QIC, Al Jarboey said, "We take pride in offering a diverse range of insurance plans that cater to every traveler segment, ensuring worry-free journeys for everyone. Our travel insurance solutions are carefully designed to protect travelers against unexpected financial burdens, and we are confident that Qatar-based travelers and international visitors will once again enjoy worry-free trips this Eid with QIC." QIC offers a range of travel insurance plans, including the Worldwide Plan, which provides coverage for medical emergencies,

flight delays, and lost luggage and passports during global travel. The Fly Europe Plan provides up to \$50,000 in medical coverage for Schengen and other European countries, while the Regional Plan covers travel accidents, medical expenses, and legal costs for trips to the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and the GCC. For international visitors, QIC offers the fastest way to obtain a mandatory visitor's health insurance in just two minutes, starting at QR50 per month and ensuring financial protection for emergency medical treatments in Qatar. (Qatar Tribune)

- CRA issues policy and regulation to protect postal services users** - The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has issued the Consumer Protection Policy for the Postal Sector and the Regulation for Postal Consumer Protection, reinforcing its commitment to safeguarding postal consumers' rights and ensuring a fair, transparent, and accountable postal service sector. These regulatory instruments align with the Law Regulating Postal Services (Law No 15) of 2023, and the broader regulatory framework, setting a new benchmark for consumer rights and service provider obligations in this sector. The Consumer Protection Policy outlines the guiding principles for consumer protection in postal services, ensuring that consumers receive clear, accurate, and accessible information about the services offered. It establishes a robust foundation for consumer rights, ensuring that postal services are fit for purpose and that service providers adhere to fair and transparent practices. The Regulation for Postal Consumer Protection establishes a detailed framework of rules and obligations for postal service providers. This framework encompasses vital aspects such as service quality standards, consumer rights, procedures for handling complaints, and mechanisms for resolving disputes. The regulation sets rigorous benchmarks for transparency in billing, fairness in contracts, and safeguards against deceptive advertising or unfair business conduct. Furthermore, it guarantees consumers have access to effective means of resolving complaints with service providers, thereby promoting a postal service environment characterized by balance and accountability. Amel Salem Al Hanawi, director of Consumer Affairs Department at CRA, stated, "The protection of postal consumers is at the core of CRA's regulatory efforts. The policy and regulation contribute to ensuring that consumers have access to fair, transparent, and high-quality postal services, aligning with the objectives of the Third National Development Strategy 2024-2030, which prioritizes improving residents' quality of life. "These measures enhance Qatar's postal regulatory framework, aligning with global standards and the objectives of CRA's strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030." These efforts reflect CRA's proactive approach to consumer protection, fostering trust in Qatar's postal services. By implementing best practices and reinforcing consumer rights, CRA is committed to building a competitive, efficient, and advanced postal ecosystem that meets the highest standards. (Qatar Tribune)
- Revamp of PPP laws to boost foreign investment in non-energy sectors** - The revamp of important laws concerning bankruptcy and public-private partnerships (PPP) is anticipated to attract greater foreign direct investment, bolstering growth in non-energy sectors. In an interview with The Peninsula, Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor, and Chief Economist and Managing Director, Oxford Economics Middle East, said "The proposed overhaul of key laws related to bankruptcy and PPP is expected to drive stronger foreign direct investment inflows, bolstering growth in non-energy sectors." Qatar introduced a 50% discount on leasing rates in industrial, logistics, and commercial zones last month. The decision was implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Manateq to foster national economic growth, enhancing the private sector's role, and encouraging entrepreneurship and investment in value-driven sectors. This was followed by a 90% reduction in application fees for licensing an entity on its platform by the Qatar Financial Centre. The country has made significant strides in reducing its dependence on the oil and gas sector, with initiatives aimed at bolstering key industries such as infrastructure, real estate, finance, health, and education. The government's efforts to implement economic reforms, such as introducing favorable business policies and regulatory changes, have further contributed to the growth outlook. Livermore said, "Qatar's economic growth trajectory is poised to remain strong, with a continued focus on diversification and innovation, positioning the country for long-term stability and success." He highlighted strong performance in the transport

and storage, accommodation and food services, real estate, health, and education sectors. "The authorities continue to take steps to attract investment and broaden diversification," Livermore said. On the other hand, Qatar's non-energy sector has been experiencing robust growth, driven by the government's strategic diversification efforts. While reliant on oil and gas revenues, Qatar has increasingly focused on expanding sectors such as infrastructure, real estate, finance, healthcare, education, and technology, to reduce its dependence on hydrocarbons. The finance and real estate sectors have seen significant development, with new initiatives aimed at attracting international businesses and investors. As Qatar continues its diversification efforts, the non-energy sector is expected to become an increasingly important driver of economic growth. The industry expert said, "This implies a similar pace of growth as last year; available GDP data for 2024 show a 2.9% expansion across non-energy sectors in the first three quarters." The official also highlighted that the tourism sector has provided significant support to non-energy growth and will remain a driver of future activity and employment. "The launch of the pan-GCC visa will likely help extend the positive performance this year, lifting the number of arrivals to 5.3mn," he said. Livermore further added "The GCC is not at risk of targeted US tariffs and the US will remain a key trade partner for the region, with recent announcements pointing to strengthening economic ties, if anything. That said, the global trade uncertainty in the face of Trump's tariff policies clouds the outlook for external demand." (Peninsula Qatar)

- PM: Plans afoot to further boost private sector** - Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul-rahman bin Jassim Al Thani has said that Qatar is preparing plans that will stimulate the private sector so that it participates more effectively in the state's development. He said that the state worked to prepare these plans and tried to consult with all parties and stakeholders as much as possible. The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs was speaking at the National Development Forum recently. The forum was held aimed at providing opportunities for the private sector to become an effective partner in delivering the Third National Development Strategy (NDS3). "Currently, the government is going through a complete exercise for all government agencies to identify the areas where we can take a step back in and let in the private sector," said the Prime Minister. He said that the private sector can offer them in a better and more efficient way, creating an opportunity for itself and boosting the economy. "There are many opportunities that will be presented soon, but in the end, the state, and any government in the world, is the one who can legislate, and regulate," said the Prime Minister. He said that Qatar is a small country where all parties cooperate, whether the country, the citizens, or the private sector adding: "This means that if the government, the citizens, and the private sector do not work towards the same goal, we will not be able to achieve it." He said: "The successes that have happened, whether it was for Qatari companies and creating a name for themselves, whether we are talking about Qatar Airways, one of the best airlines in the world, Ooredoo, one of the largest telecom companies in the world, or Qatar National Bank, there are many examples of what we call National Champions." "All support will be provided to the private sector to get to this stage. "There are many means with which we will prepare them for global competition, to be ready for export, just look at the Qatar Energy Program, which has added local value, the localization program in the Ministry of Finance as well," the Prime Minister added. He said: "We are looking internationally at what we can do. whether it is in Qatar's development projects, how to create opportunities for Qatari companies." "The State of Qatar and its position in the international community and the trust it has built with its partners, will allow us to harness government-to-government relations to serve the private sector and the economy," said the Prime Minister. (Peninsula Qatar)
- QC's insurance panel discusses health insurance pricing mechanisms** - Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani, chairman of Qatar Chamber and Insurance Committee, presided over the committee's first meeting of the year. The meeting was attended by Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Malki Al Johani, vice chairman of the committee, along with committee members representing various insurance companies. The agenda of the meeting discussed enhancing cooperation among local insurance companies to better serve the national market, and competition between Qatar

Financial Centre-licensed companies and national insurance firms within the Qatari market. It also reviewed the participation of the chamber's insurance committee in determining pricing mechanisms for compulsory health insurance. Furthermore, it touched on re-examining commissions paid on compulsory car insurance. The committee recommended arranging visits to relevant entities to further discuss the key topics raised during the meeting. Members also agreed to refer these issues to the technical team for automotive and compensation matters, who will submit their technical proposals for the committee's review. (Qatar Tribune)

- Exciting calendar of events awaits residents and visitors this April** - Qatar: From Eid Al-Fitr celebrations to major sporting events, specialized conferences, exhibitions, concerts, and entertainment shows, Qatar's April 2025 calendar offers a diverse array of experiences, ensuring something for everyone. Eid Al-Fitr Celebrations: Qatar will mark Eid Al-Fitr with a series of special events, most notably the Lusail Sky Festival, taking place at Al Saad Plaza in Lusail City from April 3 to 5. The festival will feature spectacular aerial displays, including acrobatic aircraft formations, drone parades, glider performances, laser displays, and fireworks, creating a uniquely festive atmosphere. From March 30 to April 4, Lagoona Mall will host a variety of fun activities and workshops for children, while Mall of Qatar will present A Wonderland of Soapy Bubbles show from March 30 to April 5 offering visitors a mesmerizing experience of giant bubble performances and visual displays. Mall of Qatar will also host a variety of along with a variety of Eid Al-Fitr Celebrations. 'Celebrate Eid at Tawar Mall' where kids and families can enjoy Eid celebration activities. At Place Vendôme Mall, children can immerse themselves in The Smurftastic Fair from March 31 to April 15, while Doha Quest will offer festive attractions for all ages from April 1 to 5. Sporting Events: The Lusail International Circuit will host the 2025 MotoGP Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar from April 11 to 13, welcoming the world's best motorcyclists to race on a state-of-the-art circuit. Also, Qatar Airways Premier Padel Tour 2025 will kick off on April 15 of until April 19. At the Aspire Dome, the 17th Artistic Gymnastics World Cup – Taishan will run from April 16 to 19, bringing together elite gymnasts for a series of world-class performances. Additional sporting highlights include the Al Maha Island Aquathlon and the Al Zubarah Race on April 19, followed by the Beach Sports Festival at Sand Court in Aspire Park from April 20 to 26, offering a variety of competitive and recreational beach activities. Conferences and Exhibitions: Qatar will host the Qumra 2025 at Museum of Islamic Art from April 4 to 9, bringing together filmmakers and creatives from around the world. Meanwhile, the BilAraby Summit, taking place from April 19 to April 20, will provide a platform to explore key developments in the Arab media industry at Multaqa - Education City Students Center. From April 22 to April 25, the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre will welcome EcoGreen Expo, an exhibition showcasing cutting-edge innovations in sustainability and clean energy, alongside The 2nd Edition of the Earthna Summit for a Sustainable Future on April 22 and 23. Other major events include the 4th Edition of Habb Al Saad Exhibition from April 25 to 29, and the Build Your House 2025 Exhibition, dedicated to the construction sector, running from April 28 to May 1. Concerts and Entertainment: Music and arts enthusiasts can look forward to an exciting lineup of concerts and performances featuring international stars and emerging talents. On April 4, a concert featuring Abdulaziz Al-Duwaihi and Hisham Mahrous, promising a vibrant evening of music and entertainment will take place at U Venue. TUL8TE Concert will also take place at Doha golf club on April 4. From April 3 to 12, the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) will present the Disney-inspired musical theatre production The Disney Musical Show: The Magic Box, an imaginative journey filled with song and dance performances for all ages. Other musical highlights include Candlelight: Mozart & Chopin Classics on April 11, and Bollywood sensation Anirudh's Hukum World Tour concert on the same day. Comedy fans can enjoy the 3a Ka3ba improve comedy show on April 26, while classical music lovers can experience the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra's performance of Mahler's Fifth Symphony on the same evening. Rounding off the month, Ed Sheeran will take the stage at Lusail Multipurpose Hall on April 30, as part of his highly anticipated world tour. (Peninsula Qatar)

- USQBC, IFC unveil '1001 Stars, Qatar 2025' concept note to drive inclusive employment in ME** - The US-Qatar Business Council (USQBC) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, have announced the launch of '1001 Stars, Qatar 2025'. Also known as 1001 Stars Initiative – Phase II (1001S-II), the collaborative endeavor seeks to address unemployment and skills disparities across the Arab region by leveraging USQBC's regional expertise and extensive network alongside IFC's global proficiency in fostering inclusive job creation and economic development. The initiative aims to mobilize the private sector to create sustainable employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, including women, youth, individuals with disabilities, and displaced persons. By aligning with Qatar's National Development Strategy (NDS), 1001S-II focuses on human development, workforce enhancement, and social integration. The initiative will promote inclusive policies, encourage private sector engagement, and build market-relevant workforce skills, thereby fostering opportunities for marginalized communities in Qatar and throughout the region. It is set to create 60,000 direct jobs, training, and financial inclusion opportunities as well as 70,000 additional indirect opportunities. USQBC and IFC are proud to release a comprehensive concept note outlining the initiative's components, objectives, and strategic direction. The full concept note is available [here](#). A pivotal component of 1001S-II will be the '1001 Stars Forum, Qatar 2025', themed 'Harnessing the Private Sector to Build Sustainable Employment and Inclusive Futures in the Middle East'. Scheduled for spring 2025, the forum will showcase effective solutions to unemployment, align initiatives with national and regional development goals, and cultivate partnerships to promote inclusive economic growth across the region. (Gulf Times)

International

- Asia's weighted real GDP growth rate projected to reach 4.5% in 2025, report says** - Asia's weighted real GDP growth rate is projected to reach 4.5% this year, according to the Boao Forum annual report. Boao Forum, an international summit seen as Asia's answer to Davos, is being held in China's Hainan province from Tuesday through Friday. (Reuters)

Regional

- Growth in global energy demand surged in 2024 to twice recent average** - Global energy demand grew at a faster-than-average pace in 2024 as the consumption of electricity rose around the world, according to a new International Energy Agency (IEA) report. In the latest edition of the IEA's Global Energy Review, published today, the report finds that global energy demand rose by 2.2% last year but considerably faster than the average annual demand increase of 1.3% between 2013 and 2023. The sharp increase in the world's electricity use last year was driven by record global temperatures, which boosted demand for cooling in many countries, as well as by rising consumption from industry, the electrification of transport, and the growth of data centers and artificial intelligence. IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said, "What is certain is that electricity use is growing rapidly, pulling overall energy demand along with it to such an extent that it is enough to reverse years of declining energy consumption in advanced economies. "Almost 80% of the increase in global electricity generation in 2024 was provided by renewable sources and nuclear, which together contributed 40% of total generation for the first time. Gas demand rose by 115bn cubic meters (bcm), or 2.7%, compared with an average of around 75 bcm annually over the past decade. Meanwhile, oil demand grew more slowly, rising by 0.8% in 2024. Oil's share of total energy demand fell below 30% for the first time ever, 50 years after it peaked at 46%. Sales of electric cars rose by over 25% last year, with electric models accounting for one in five cars sold globally. This contributed considerably to the decline in oil demand for road transport, which offset a significant proportion of the rise in oil consumption for aviation and petrochemicals. Global coal demand rose by 1% in 2024, half the rate of increase seen the previous year. According to the report, intense heatwaves in China and India – which pushed up cooling needs – contributed more than 90% of the total annual increase in coal consumption globally, highlighting the major impacts extreme weather can have on energy demand patterns. The continued rapid adoption of clean energy technologies limited the annual rise in energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, which are increasingly

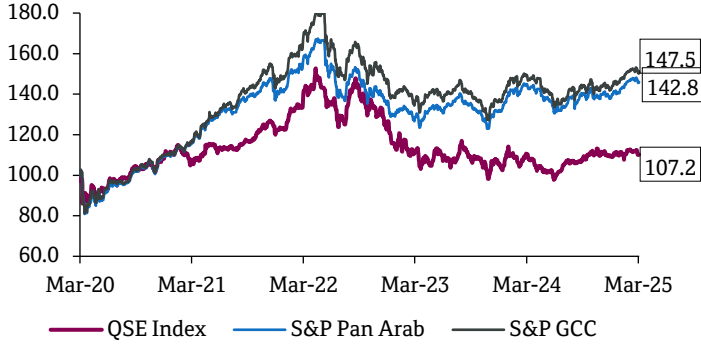
decoupling from economic growth, according to the report. Record temperatures contributed significantly to the annual 0.8% rise in global CO₂ emissions to 37.8bn tonnes. But the deployment of solar PV, wind, nuclear, electric cars and heat pumps since 2019 now prevents 2.6bn tonnes of CO₂ annually, the equivalent of 7% of global emissions. (Qatar Tribune)

- Report: GCC e-vehicle market projected to grow to \$10.44bn by 2034** - Aided by the region's growing emphasis on sustainability and cleaner transportation solutions, the GCC electric vehicle market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 22.30% between 2025 and 2034 to reach a value of around \$10.44bn by 2034. According to a report by Research and Markets, the GCC electric vehicle market size reached a value of nearly \$1.62bn in 2024. The GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council) region, comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, has witnessed a steady surge in the adoption of electric vehicles, driven by both environmental and economic factors. "As the world shifts towards cleaner energy and sustainable mobility, the region is positioning itself as a leader in the transition to electric transportation, resulting in the GCC electric vehicle market growth," Research and Markets noted. Electric vehicles, which are powered by electricity stored in batteries, offer a more sustainable alternative to traditional internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. EVs generate no direct emissions, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This aligns with the growing emphasis on sustainability, as governments and organizations in the GCC are focused on reducing their carbon footprint and achieving ambitious climate goals. Furthermore, the rising demand for energy-efficient and cost-effective means of transportation is accelerating the GCC electric vehicle market development. "Several factors are driving the rapid growth of the electric vehicle market in the GCC," the report noted. The region's governments are introducing significant initiatives and providing incentives to promote EV adoption. For example, Saudi Arabia, which is the largest market for EVs in the GCC, has set ambitious targets for the adoption of electric cars, including the establishment of a national EV manufacturing facility and plans to integrate EVs into public transportation. In addition to government support, the increasing availability and affordability of EV models are also boosting the GCC electric vehicle market revenue. Major global automakers have expanded their EV portfolios to meet the growing demand in the region. Furthermore, several local manufacturers are entering the market, contributing to increased competition and lowering the overall cost of EVs. The launch of affordable EV models is crucial in making electric vehicles more accessible to a larger segment of consumers in the GCC. Another key driver of the GCC electric vehicle market value is the development of EV charging infrastructure across the region. A well-established network of public and private charging stations is critical to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles. In recent years, significant investments have been made in building a robust charging infrastructure, particularly in urban areas and along major highways, the report said. For instance, Dubai aims to have 100% of its public transport fleet electrified by 2030, alongside an extensive network of fast-charging stations to facilitate the shift to electric mobility. This is creating a favorable GCC electric vehicle market outlook. Despite the promising outlook, the GCC electric vehicle market faces some challenges, Research and Markets noted. One of the primary concerns is the high initial cost of electric vehicles compared to traditional petrol or diesel-powered cars. Although EVs are more cost-effective over the long term, the upfront investment remains a barrier for many consumers. However, as technology advances and manufacturing processes become more efficient, the price disparity between electric and traditional vehicles is expected to decrease and favorably impact the GCC electric vehicle market dynamics. "The GCC electric vehicle market demand is set for significant expansion in the coming years, fueled by strategic government initiatives, the growing availability of electric vehicle models, and the rapid development of essential charging infrastructure," Research and Markets noted. (Gulf Times)
- Saudi Aramco to scout China for more investment opportunities** - Saudi Aramco is looking to identify additional investment opportunities in China as part of its key global strategy, according to President and CEO Amin H Nasser. Nasser, who was speaking at the China Development Forum in Beijing, the Saudi energy giant was "actively supporting energy

and chemical feedstock security by investing in multiple downstream projects” in China. “China is among our key investment destinations. Our investments are currently in Fujian, Liaoning, Zhejiang and Tianjin. I emphasize ‘currently’ because we are continuing to identify additional opportunities, which include energy and chemicals, as well as technology,” Nasser added. In November, Aramco and Sinopec Corp started construction on \$9.82bn refinery and petrochemical complex in southeast China’s Fujian province, which marked the Saudi firm’s second major refining and petrochemical joint venture in the Asian country. Aramco acquired a 10% stake in Rongsheng Petrochemical for approximately \$3.6bn in 2023. The Aramco head referred to China as the “world’s largest consumer and producer of petrochemicals, accounting for nearly half of global demand, and it is becoming a major hub for the entire chemicals industry value chain, which will be critical to industries of the future”. Saudi, which is the world’s top oil exporter, lowered its crude oil prices for Asian buyers in April for the first time in three months. During his address, Nasser said that oil and gas remain “critical” to China’s economic growth equation. “That said, our expectation is that, over time, oil demand here will shift from light transport toward petrochemicals due to a rising need for plastics, synthetic fibers, and other high-end materials. A reliable supply of these materials will be essential to China’s high-quality critical growth industries – including wind and solar energy, automotive, aerospace, and construction,” he added. The Aramco chief’s announcement comes weeks after the company posted a 12% decline in full-year 2024 net profit to 398.42bn riyals (\$106bn), due to lower prices and sales impacting revenues. Consequently, the company is set to pay lower dividends in 2025. (Zawya)

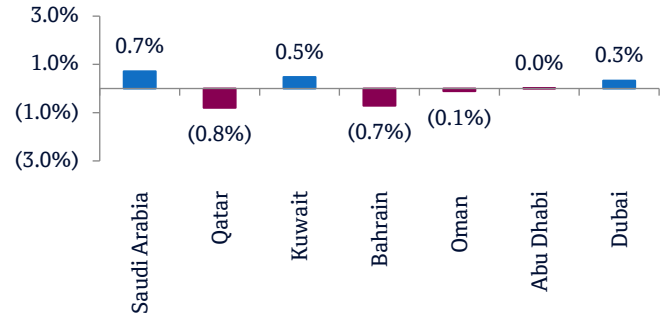
- **Wood Group to extend deadline on deal talks with Dubai's Sidara** - British oilfield services and engineering firm Wood Group has agreed to extend a deadline for talks with Dubai-based Sidara for a possible takeover offer after a failed attempt six months ago, the Financial Times reported on Sunday. The extension would allow time for the results of an independent review of Wood’s projects division by Deloitte, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter. Wood Group declined to comment on the report and Sidara did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Under UK regulations, Sidara faces a Monday afternoon deadline to make a firm offer or walk away unless the two sides agree on an extension, FT added. Last month, the two parties re-entered negotiations for a possible Sidara takeover of Wood after Sidara previously walked away from its plan to buy Wood last year, citing rising geopolitical risks and uncertainty in the financial market. Wood Group has forecast negative cash flow for another year and saw its CFO step down last month following a tumultuous past few years of activist investor pressure to consider a sale, two unsuccessful takeover proposals and a review of its financials. Shares of Wood Group have lost more than 40% of their value since the start of the year. Its market cap has fallen to little over 265mn pounds (\$342.33mn). (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	3,011.04	(0.4)	(0.4)	14.7
Silver/Ounce	33.02	(0.0)	(0.0)	14.2
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	73.00	1.2	1.2	(2.2)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	69.11	1.2	1.2	(3.6)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	4.02	2.0	2.0	18.2
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	93.90	3.1	3.1	15.2
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	92.00	1.7	1.7	(22.9)
Euro	1.08	(0.2)	(0.2)	4.3
Yen	150.70	0.9	0.9	(4.1)
GBP	1.29	0.0	0.0	3.3
CHF	1.13	(0.0)	(0.0)	2.7
AUD	0.63	0.2	0.2	1.6
USD Index	104.26	0.2	0.2	(3.9)
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	3,735.73	1.2	1.2	0.8
DJ Industrial	42,583.32	1.4	1.4	0.1
S&P 500	5,767.57	1.8	1.8	(1.9)
NASDAQ 100	18,188.59	2.3	2.3	(5.8)
STOXX 600	548.93	(0.5)	(0.5)	12.7
DAX	22,852.66	(0.5)	(0.5)	19.1
FTSE 100	8,638.01	(0.2)	(0.2)	9.0
CAC 40	8,022.33	(0.6)	(0.6)	13.3
Nikkei	37,608.49	(1.1)	(1.1)	(1.6)
MSCI EM	1,136.01	0.4	0.4	5.6
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,370.03	0.0	0.0	1.1
HANG SENG	23,905.56	0.9	0.9	19.1
BSE SENSEX	77,984.38	1.8	1.8	(0.3)
Bovespa	131,321.44	(1.4)	(1.4)	17.3
RTS	1,151.93	(0.0)	0.0	6.3

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

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