

Sunday, 03 December 2023

#### **QSE Intra-Day Movement**



#### **Qatar Commentary**

The QE Index rose 0.5% to close at 10,041.7. Gains were led by the Telecoms and Insurance indices, gaining 2.5% and 0.9%, respectively. Top gainers were Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding and Ooredoo, rising 5.7% and 3.2%, respectively. Among the top losers, Damaan Islamic Insurance Company fell 5.2%, while Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co. was down 4.5%.

#### **GCC** Commentary

*Saudi Arabia:* The TASI Index gained 0.7% to close at 11,177.5. Gains were led by the Utilities and Media and Entertainment indices, rising 2.1% and 1.3%, respectively. Maharah Human Resources Co. rose 6.3%, while Al-Rajhi Company for Cooperative Insurance was up 5.7%.

*Dubai:* The DFM Index fell 0.1% to close at 3,987.7. The Real Estate index declined 0.5%, while the Financials index fell 0.3%. Orascom Construction declined 6.7%, while Takaful Emarat was down 1.3%.

*Abu Dhabi:* The ADX General Index fell 0.2% to close at 9,539.1. The Utilities index declined 2.5%, while the Health Care index fell 1.8%. Invictus Investment Co. declined 4.4%, while Multiply Group was down 3.1%.

*Kuwait:* The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.8% to close at 6,653.8. The Basic Materials index rose 5.0%, while the Consumer Staples index gained 2.4%. Gulf Franchising Holding Co. rose 18.0%, while Al Masaken International Real Estate Development was up 9.8%.

**Oman:** The MSM 30 Index gained 0.1% to close at 4,658.2. Gains were led by the Services and Financial indices, rising 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively. Salalah Mills Company rose 9.9%, while Musandam Power Company was up 7.8%.

*Bahrain:* The BHB Index fell 0.2% to close at 1,939.8. The Financials Index declined 0.2%, while the other indices ended flat. Bahrain Islamic Bank declined 9.3%, while GFH Financial Group was down 2.0%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.679	5.7	16,330.7	(21.1)
Ooredoo	10.29	3.2	3,911.4	11.8
Qatar Islamic Bank	19.00	2.2	3,825.7	2.4
Lesha Bank	1.345	2.2	4,928.2	17.5
Estithmar Holding	2.040	2.0	2,556.5	13.3

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	2.486	(0.5)	50,187.6	(21.6)
Dukhan Bank	3.862	(0.8)	21,151.0	(3.4)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.679	5.7	16,330.7	(21.1)
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	0.661	0.8	12,044.3	9.9
Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd.	3.24	1.3	11,324.7	(11.5)

Market Indicators	30 Nov 23	29 Nov 23	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	918.5	364.1	152.2
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	587,486.4	585,411.8	0.4
Volume (mn)	214.4	113.0	89.7
Number of Transactions	17,464	13,856	26.0
Companies Traded	48	48	0.0
Market Breadth	32:14	18:26	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	21,550.93	0.5	(1.6)	(1.5)	12.0
All Share Index	3,385.89	0.4	(1.4)	(0.9)	12.0
Banks	4,221.60	0.1	(0.7)	(3.8)	11.2
Industrials	3,894.50	0.7	(3.1)	3.0	15.0
Transportation	4,061.20	0.0	(3.5)	(6.3)	10.8
Real Estate	1,422.19	(0.7)	(1.5)	(8.8)	14.8
Insurance	2,464.54	0.9	(0.1)	12.7	54
Telecoms	1,564.93	2.5	1.1	18.7	11.4
Consumer Goods and Services	7,323.37	0.3	(0.8)	(7.5)	20.2
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,455.08	0.6	(1.6)	(3.0)	13.7

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mesaieed Petro. Holding	Qatar	1.679	5.7	16,330.7	(21.1)
Bank Nizwa	Oman	0.10	5.3	2,826.1	0.0
Ooredoo	Qatar	10.29	3.2	3,911.4	11.8
Saudi Arabian Mining Co.	Saudi Arabia	39.85	3.1	3,124.4	(7.6)
Agility Public Warehousing	Kuwait	540.00	3.1	4,876.0	(25.0)

Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Abu Dhabi	3.40	(3.1)	25,299.5	(26.7)
Abu Dhabi	3.17	(2.5)	1,811.9	(7.0)
Oman	0.47	(2.1)	5.0	11.9
Bahrain	0.25	(2.0)	377.0	0.0
Saudi Arabia	175.00	(1.8)	153.1	55.4
	Abu Dhabi Abu Dhabi Oman Bahrain Saudi Arabia	Abu Dhabi3.40Abu Dhabi3.17Oman0.47Bahrain0.25Saudi Arabia175.00	Abu Dhabi         3.40         (3.1)           Abu Dhabi         3.17         (2.5)           Oman         0.47         (2.1)           Bahrain         0.25         (2.0)           Saudi Arabia         175.00         (1.8)	Abu Dhabi         3.40         (3.1)         25,299.5           Abu Dhabi         3.17         (2.5)         1,811.9           Oman         0.47         (2.1)         5.0           Bahrain         0.25         (2.0)         377.0

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%
Damaan Islamic Insurance Company	3.663	(5.2)	1.0	(13.0)
Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co.	1.156	(4.5)	41.2	(21.3)
Barwa Real Estate Company	2.700	(1.8)	6,678.8	(6.0)
Qatar Navigation	9.500	(1.3)	8,867.9	(6.4)
QNB Group	15.70	(0.9)	9,765.4	(12.8)
QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	15.70	(0.9)	153,523.7	(12.8)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.486	(0.5)	124,886.1	(21.6)
Qatar Navigation	9.500	(1.3)	84,347.2	(6.4)
Dukhan Bank	3.862	(0.8)	82,198.3	(3.4)

19.00

2.2

72,332.3

2.4

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,041.72	0.5	(1.6)	5.4	(6.0)	252.05	161,088.8	12.0	1.3	4.8
Dubai^	3,987.75	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	19.5	56.78	183,830.9	8.8	1.3	4.5
Abu Dhabi^	9,539.08	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(6.6)	220.31	721,936.0	27.0	3.0	1.6
Saudi Arabia	11,177.48	0.7	0.9	4.6	6.7	1,975.03	2,948,477.3	18.9	2.2	3.1
Kuwait	6,653.84	0.8	(0.2)	1.9	(8.8)	285.28	138,884.8	14.0	1.5	4.2
Oman	4,658.15	0.1	0.8	2.5	(4.1)	20.36	23,708.4	14.3	0.9	4.7
Bahrain	1,939.77	(0.2)	(0.6)	0.5	2.3	17.45	53,618.0	6.9	0.7	8.6

Qatar Islamic Bank

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (\*\* TTM; \* Value traded (\$ mn) do not include special trades if any, ^ Data as of December 01, 2023)



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#### **Qatar Market Commentary**

- The QE Index rose 0.5% to close at 10,041.7. The Telecoms and Insurance indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from Foreign shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari, GCC and Arab shareholders.
- Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding and Ooredoo were the top gainers, rising 5.7% and 3.2%, respectively. Among the top losers, Damaan Islamic Insurance Company fell 5.2%, while Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Co. was down 4.5%.
- Volume of shares traded on Thursday rose by 89.7% to 214.4mn from 113.0mn on Wednesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 193.8mn, volume for the day was 10.6% higher. Masraf Al Rayan and Dukhaan Bank were the most active stocks, contributing 23.4% and 9.9% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	7.87%	10.13%	(20,746,393.89)
Qatari Institutions	19.53%	22.19%	(24,457,982.98)
Qatari	27.40%	32.32%	(45,204,376.87)
GCC Individuals	0.05%	0.04%	140,248.16
GCC Institutions	0.47%	5.42%	(45,519,680.82)
GCC	0.52%	5.46%	(45,379,432.66)
Arab Individuals	3.43%	3.51%	(735,245.75)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	3.43%	3.51%	(735,245.75)
Foreigners Individuals	1.07%	1.00%	651,594.81
Foreigners Institutions	67.59%	57.72%	90,667,460.47
Foreigners	68.66%	58.72%	91,319,055.28

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

#### **Global Economic Data**

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Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous		
11-30	US	Department of Labor	Initial Jobless Claims	Nov	218k	218k	211k		
11-30	US	Department of Labor	Continuing Claims	Nov	1927k	1865k	1841k		
11-30	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Personal Income	Oct	0.20%	0.20%	0.40%		
11-30	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Personal Spending	Oct	0.20%	0.20%	0.70%		
11-30	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	PCE Deflator MoM	Oct	0.00%	0.10%	0.40%		
11-30	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	PCE Deflator YoY	Oct	3.00%	3.10%	3.40%		
11-30	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	PCE Core Deflator MoM	Oct	0.20%	0.20%	0.30%		
11-30	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	PCE Core Deflator YoY	Oct	3.50%	3.50%	3.70%		
11-30	US	U.S. Department of Energy	EIA Natural Gas Storage Change	Nov	10.00	-8.00	-7.00		
01-12	US	Markit	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Nov	49.40	49.50	49.40		
01-12	UK	Nationwide Building Society	Nationwide House PX MoM	Nov	0.20%	-0.40%	0.90%		
01-12	UK	Markit	S&P Global/CIPS UK Manufacturing PMI	Nov	47.20	46.70	46.70		
11-30	EU	Eurostat	CPI Estimate YoY	Nov	2.40%	2.70%	2.90%		
11-30	EU	Eurostat	CPI MoM	Nov	-0.50%	-0.20%	0.10%		
11-30	EU	Eurostat	CPI Core YoY	Nov	3.60%	3.90%	4.20%		
11-30	EU	Eurostat	Unemployment Rate	Oct	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%		
01-12	EU	Markit	HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Nov	44.20	43.80	43.80		
11-30	Germany	Deutsche Bundesbank	Unemployment Change (000's)	Nov	22.0k	20.0k	31.0k		
11-30	Germany	Deutsche Bundesbank	Unemployment Claims Rate SA	Nov	5.90%	5.80%	5.80%		
01-12	Germany	Markit	HCOB Germany Manufacturing PMI	Nov	42.60	42.30	42.30		
11-30	China	China Federation of Logistics	Manufacturing PMI	Nov	49.40	49.80	49.50		

#### Qatar

- Edaa has reduced the capital of Mazaya Real Estate Development Company - Edaa has reduced the capital of Mazaya Real Estate Development Company by 13.61%, the new capital is now 1,000,000,000 shares. (QSE)
- The adjustment of Mazaya Real Estate stock reference price end of trading session of Thursday 30 November 2023 Qatar Stock Exchange announces that the reference price of Mazaya Real Estate Company will be adjusted end of Thursday's trading session 30/11/2023. As after the reduction of the company's issued capital by 13.6% from 1,157,625,000 shares to 1,000,000,000 shares. It will be effective starting Sunday, 03/12/2023. The closing price will be adjusted to the new price = QR0.765. (QSE)
- Masraf Al Rayan: Board Nomination Closure Masraf Al Rayan announces that the Board nomination for the vacancy in independent

member seat for the remaining period of the term 2023-2024-2025 is closed at 2:30pm on Thursday 30 November 2023. (QSE)

• 'Qatar banks see biggest quarterly jump in net interest income' - Lenders in Qatar registered the biggest quarter-on-quarter increase in net interest income (NII) and topline growth and the lowest operating cost within the Gulf banking industry during the third quarter (Q3) of 2023, according to Kamco Invest, a regional economic think-tank. "Qatari banks recorded the biggest quarter-on-quarter increase in net interest income during Q3-2023 at 10.8%, followed by Kuwaiti and the UAE-listed banks with growth of 6.9% and 5.5%, respectively. Saudi banks were next with a growth of 3.8%," Kamco said in its latest report. The quarterly trend in the GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council) remained largely positive with only Omani banks seeing a decline during the quarter while the rest of the GCC aggregates showed growth, the report said. The aggregate net interest income reported by banks listed in the GCC witnessed growth for the second consecutive quarter to reach a record during Q3-2023, it said, adding the increase came despite cost of funds reaching one of the highest levels on



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record at 3.7% compared to 3.2% in the second quarter (Q2) of 2023. On topline, Kamco Invest said total bank revenue for the GCC banks once again registered quarter-on-quarter growth during Q3-2023 by 5.3% to a new record high of \$30.7bn. A growth in aggregate net interest income as well as non-interest income supported the growth in total revenues. The quarterly increase was led by a broad-based improvement in revenues across the GCC lenders during the quarter, barring Omani banks. "Qatari banks reported the biggest increase during the quarter at 9.2% followed by Kuwaiti and the UAE-listed banks with growth of 7.9% and 5.1%, respectively. Saudi-listed banks also reported a healthy quarter-onquarter growth of 3.5% during Q3-2023," the report said. Referring to operating costs, the Kamco report said Qatari banks reported the lowest ratio of 35.9% despite reporting the biggest quarter-on-quarter jump of 200bps (basis points) during Q3-2023. Saudi and the UAE-listed banks followed with the ratio at 37.9% (+110bps quarter-on-quarter increase) and 40.7%, respectively. After remaining subdued for the previous seven quarters at the sub-40% mark, the cost-to-income ratio for the GCC banks increased by 80bps during Q3-2023 to 40.1% compared to 39.2% in Q2-2023. The increase was broad-based as seen from growth in the ratio for five out of six country aggregates during the quarter. The aggregate return on equity (RoE) for the GCC banking sector continued to show improvement during Q3-2023, reaching one of the highest levels over the last few years at 13.3% against 13% at the end of Q2-2023, reaching almost pre-pandemic levels, Kamco Invest said. At the country level, the UAE-listed banks once again topped in the region with the highest RoE at the end of Q3-2023 at 16.5%; closely followed by Saudi Arabian and Qatari banks with RoE of 12.9% and 12.3%, respectively. The aggregate gross loans of the GCC banks reached a new record high of \$1.95tn, up 1.5% quarter-on-quarter and 6.8% year-on-year, mainly led by strong growth in banks in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and marginal growth in Qatar, according to Kamco Invest. Saudi-listed banks once again reported the strongest quarter-on-quarter growth in lending at 2.8% at the end of Q3-2023. The UAE-listed banks followed with a growth of 2.4% in gross loans, followed by Qatari-listed banks with a growth of 0.3%. (Gulf Times)

- QCB issues T Bills worth QR9.5bn in November Qatar Central Bank (QCB) on Thursday issued treasury bills worth QR3.5bn for maturities of one week, one month, three months, six months and nine months. The total bids amounted to QR9.5bn in November 2023. QCB said on its website that the treasury bills were issued as follows: QR500mn for one week at an interest rate of 5.755%; QR500mn for one month with an interest rate of 5.8125%; QR500mn for three months at an interest rate of 5.8950%; QR 1bn for six months with an interest rate of 5.9525%; and QR 1bn for nine months with an interest rate of 6%. Earlier this month, QCB issued treasury bills worthQR6bn. (Qatar Tribune)
- Qatar tanker tracker: Exports Drop to Lowest in at Least 6 Years Qatari crude and condensate shipments fell for a third straight month in November to the lowest level in ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg since the start of 2017. Total monthly observed crude and condensate exports declined 14% m/m to 654k b/d last month. Compares with 761k b/d in October. Exports of crude shrank by 17% m/m to 444k b/d, while condensate shipments from Ras Laffan dropped by 6% to 210k b/d. (Bloomberg)
- Qatar ports witness 22% cargo surge in November Hamad, Ruwais and Doha ports registered strong performance in November 2023 after witnessing significant growth in handling volumes of cargo compared to the same period last year, according to Mwani Qatar. The general and bulk cargoes tonnage witnessed a growth of 22% while containers volumes saw an increase of 5%, Mwani Qatar stated on its X platform. The general and bulk cargoes handled through the three ports stood at 94,990 tonnes in November 2023, whereas in October 2023 it was at 77,868 tonnes, registering a surge of 22% on monthly basis. The ports received 226 vessels in November 2023, while the containers, RORO, livestock and building materials handled during the same period accounted for 125,202 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), 5,656 units, 32,150 heads and 23,422 tonnes respectively. Oatar's ports handled 119,448 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in October 2023, with a 39% year-on-year (YoY) increase in trans-shipment volumes. Live-stock, building materials, and RORO volumes rose month-on-month (MoM) by 47%, 21%, and 8% respectively. The container terminals have been designed to address the

increasing trade volume, enhancing ease of doing business as well as supporting the achievement of economic diversification, which is one of the most important goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030. Separately, according to QTerminals X platform, Hamad Port received 139 vessels in November 2023, while the containers, break bulk and RORO and livestock handled in last month stood at 125,258 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), 88,865 F/T (freight tonnes), 5,645 units and 8,000 heads respectively. Qatar has made significant investment in transport sector which has placed the country in a leading position in global maritime sector. The Ministry of Transport (MoT) completed 3,753 transactions through Maritime Transport Affairs in the third quarter (Q3) of this year. The maritime transport sector is committed to developing and modernizing the sector in line with MoT's strategic plans aiming at ensuring a safe maritime navigation that meets all safety requirements and obligations and keeping pace with international maritime developments. In October 2023, Hamad Port's performance indicated that it received as many as 144 vessels, handled 117,708 TEUs containers; 57,297 freight tonnes of break bulk cargo; 16,289 freight tonnes of bulk cargo; 6,483 RORO units. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Real estate trading volume exceeds QR405mn in last week The volume of real estate trading in sales contracts at the Department of Real Estate Registration at the Ministry of Justice during the period from November 19-23, reached QR 349,180,526, while the total sales contracts for residential units in the Real Estate bulletin for the same period reached QR 56,457,582. The weekly bulletin issued by the Department shows that the list of real estate properties traded for sale included vacant lands, houses, residential compounds, residential buildings, commercial buildings and residential units. Sales were concentrated in the municipalities of Al Rayyan, Doha, Al Daayen, Umm Salal, Al Wakra, Al Shamal, Al Khor, Al Dakhira, and in the Pearl and Lusail and Al Dafna. The volume of real estate trading in sales contracts at the Department of Real Estate Registration at the Ministry of Justice during the period from November 12-16 reached QR281mn. Sales were concentrated in the municipalities of Doha, Al Rayyan, Umm Salal, Al Wakra, Al Daayen, Al Khor, Al Dakhira, Al Shamal, Al Shahaniya and in the Pearl and Lusail. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Qatari-Saudi business council review facilitating trade exchange The Qatari-Saudi business council convened at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre to discuss the events of the 9th edition of the Made in Qatar Exhibition. The meeting was presided over by Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani and the Chairman of the Saudi side at the council Hamad bin Ali Al Shuwaier, alongside members of the council from both sides. The meeting focused on activating the Business Council through an increase in mutual visits. It delved into the Council's action plan for 2024 and set the timing for the next meeting in the first quarter of that year. Additionally, discussions touched on strategies to facilitate the establishment of companies and streamline trade and investment procedures between the two brotherly countries. Addressing the meeting, Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim stated that Qatar and KSA share historic and close relations, highlighting that their trade exchange reached QR2.2bn last year, a figure that does not align with the aspirations of both sides. He emphasized the significance of strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries. He highlighted that the ongoing efforts of this council result from the commitment and support of the wise leadership in both nations, aiming for the advancement of economic and trade relations on a broader scale. This involves exploring new avenues of cooperation and partnership between Qatar's private sector and its counterpart. "Regarding the council, Sheikh Khalifa stated that it serves as a crucial link between Oatari and Saudi businessmen. He emphasized the existence of numerous investment opportunities for the Qatari private sector and its Saudi counterpart. The OC Chairman called on Oatari businessmen to explore opportunities in KSA and enhance cooperation with their Saudi counterparts in joint ventures. This, he highlighted, would maximize the contribution of the private sector in achieving the National Vision 2030 in both countries. In his remarks, Hamad bin Ali Al Shuwaier said that the purpose of this meeting is to enhance trade and investment relations between both countries. He highlighted a substantial growth of 70.5% in their trade during the first half of 2023 compared to the same period last year. Additionally, he noted an increase in the number of companies



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operating in the two countries over the past period. Al Shuwaier noted that there are plenty of investment opportunities for business owners in various sectors, including real estate, contracting, industrial, energy, tourism, transport, logistics, digital transformation, and other economic sectors. He called for the convening of a Saudi-Qatari Business Forum in Riyadh next year with the aim of showcasing the economic potential and investment opportunities in both countries, as well as the projects available on both sides. The meeting will also address government incentives and obstacles facing trade and investment between the two countries. At the meeting's conclusion, Sheikh Khalifa and Al Shuwaier witnessed the signature of a number of agreements between companies from both countries. (Peninsula Qatar)

- MoECC to organize electric, hybrid vehicle exhibition in December The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) will organize an exhibition for electric and hybrid vehicles at the Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) on December 9, as part of its efforts to preserve the environment, reduce carbon emissions, and encourage the use of environmentally friendly means of transportation. The event is an opportunity for the public to learn about the latest models of electric and hybrid cars. Visitors will listen to the experiences of the owners of these cars and fruitful discussion between all parties will take place to learn about the characteristics of these cars and express their opinions and observations about the use of this kind of transportation. Director of Green Development and Environmental Sustainability Department at the MoECC HE Sheikh Dr. Saud bin Khalifa Al-Thani stressed the importance of transition to the use of electric and hybrid cars as a vital step towards a more sustainable and pure future, noting that the transition to environmentally friendly means of transportation has become a priority that contributes to reducing carbon emissions. For his part, HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al-Thani, an expert in technology and electric car technologies, said that the exhibition will increase awareness of the importance of electric and hybrid car technologies and their positive role in protecting the environment and reducing the effects of climate change, looking forward to the public's interaction and effective participation in the event. (Peninsula Qatar)
  - Made in Qatar 2023 concludes with positive response Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani has lauded the successful staging of the four-day Made in Qatar 2023, highlighting its substantial contribution in promoting local products and shedding light on new industries recently introduced to the Qatari market. Sheikh Khalifa commended the substantial participation of 450 Qatari companies and factories in the exhibition. He said this reflects the keen interest of local companies in promoting their products locally, which contributes to fostering self-sufficiency and reducing dependence on imports. Similarly, Qatar Chamber general manager Saleh bin Hamad al-Sharqi, who was also the chairman of the exhibition's Organizing Committee, said this latest edition of the exhibition was considered "one of the best" in terms of participating exhibitors, high visitor turnout, and overall exhibition space. Al-Sharqi emphasized that the collective efforts of all stakeholders played a pivotal role in achieving the exhibition's objectives, which are focused on supporting the industrial sector, promoting investment in the Qatari industry, and bolstering the national product. He highlighted the diverse spectrum of industries showcased in the exhibition, spanning from petrochemicals and furniture to food, small and medium-sized enterprises, services, and various other sectors. Al-Sharqi said the exhibition provided visitors with the opportunity to explore the latest products and services in the industrial sector, engage with industry experts and investors, and learn about the success stories of the local industrial companies. It also showcased their ability to develop business, enhance competitiveness, and placed the spotlight on the industrial sector's capacity for innovation, product development, and competition among local companies. On the sidelines of exhibition, Qatar Chamber first vice chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari held a meeting with a delegation from Angola headed by Vicente Francisco Soares, the president of the Angola Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Al-Kuwari said Qatari businessmen are keen to explore investment opportunities in Africa, particularly in Angola, which is one of the growing economies in the continent that is offering many opportunities that attract Qatari investors. Soares said Angola is rife with investment opportunities in

sectors like infrastructure, fisheries, agriculture, mining, logistics, hospitality, and manufacturing. Both officials also attended a panel discussion by Qatar Development Bank (QDB), which reviewed model factory and GS1 standards. In his presentation, Wissem Jallouli highlighted the significance of the model factory as a center for industrial capacity development in Qatar and the wider region. The center's initiatives included visits to 100 companies in the SME sector and providing training services to 30 companies. The outcomes were notably positive, with a 30% increase in production, a 20% boost in output, and a 10% space-saving achieved within six months. The anticipated dividend return for the trained companies is estimated at QR80mn, Jallouli noted. Ibrahim Assaf reviewed GS1 Qatar and its services related to business solutions and the global coding and tracking system in light of Qatar's accession and acquisition of Code 630. Assaf elaborated on the diverse services offered by the center to Qatari companies and factories, including the issuance of barcodes, barcode verification, training, workshops, and consulting. (Gulf Times)

- Qatar reinforces waste management industry to foster environment -Analysts in the country are lauding the solid waste management market as Qatar is regarded as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. A report by Mordor Intelligence, a research group that tracks market analysis, stated that the solid waste management sector in Qatar is estimated to increase by a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.81%. "Municipal solid waste management is one of the most severe challenges faced by Qatar, primarily due to the high population growth rate, urbanization, industrial growth, and economic expansion, stated the report. Qatar, however, has one of the highest per capita waste generation rates worldwide, which is as high as 1.8 kg per day. The country also produces more than 2.5mn metric tons of municipal solid waste per year. The solid waste stream is largely comprised of organic materials about 60%, while the remaining waste steam is made up of recyclables including glass, paper, metals, and plastics. Experts noted that Qatar is primarily focusing on waste management to protect the environment. The report stated that the Qatari government is trying to lessen the amount of waste that is produced by industries, commercial sites, and households, as well as recycle and reuse waste. "The government pays special attention to waste management and treatment, due to its keenness to reduce its effects on health and maintain a civic condition," it said. Mordor Intelligence highlighted that there are over 99% of the population lives in Qatar's urban areas and the Municipalities that have a higher population and industrial concentration, such as Doha, have a higher waste generation in the country. "More than 90% of the solid waste is generated in urban cities, which have industrial concentration and high population density, it said adding that municipalities such as Doha, Al Rayyan, and Umm Salal are anticipated to account for the biggest share of waste generation among all the other areas. However, the capital city alone is expected to contribute nearly 60% of the overall solid waste generated in the country, primarily due to the high industrialization activities, like the construction associated with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the concluded mega sporting event last year. In addition to the general domestic waste produced, the construction sector is one of the pivotal waste-generating industries in Qatar. Analysts remarked that "The Qatar government and domestic municipalities are taking various steps to reduce waste generation and landfill, as the geography of the country is very small for the current waste generation rate in Qatar." Mordor Intelligence also reports that landfilling is one of the key predominant methods of solid waste disposal. "The collected is discharged at various transfer stations from where it is sent to the landfill," it said. It further added that "Currently, 91% of non-household waste is transported to health landfills directly, and the bulk of it is recycled and ultimately is collected through companies that screen waste in health landfills." (Peninsula Qatar)
- Amir: Qatar active partner in work on climate change Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani participated in the opening session of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), which was held in Expo City Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. A number of Their Majesties, Highnesses, Excellencies, leaders of countries, heads of governments, delegations, and representatives of regional and international organizations also participated in the session.



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The session was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, a number of Their Excellencies members of the official delegation accompanying HH the Amir, Their Excellencies members of delegations, senior officials and guests of the summit. HH the Amir stressed that the State of Qatar is an active partner and player in international work on climate, adding that the country will continue to honor its commitments to combat the negative and dangerous repercussions of climate change. His Highness said in a post on X that he participated in COP28 in Dubai and thanked the President of the United Arab Emirates HH Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for hosting the conference. His Highness then stressed the State of Qatar's active role and partnership in international work on climate change, adding that the country will continue with the international community its role of honouring its commitments to fight the negative and dangerous repercussions of climate change. (Peninsula Oatar)

- **OA bags three accolades at World Travel Awards -** Oatar Airways (OA), the national airline of Qatar, received a total of three awards, namely 'World's Leading Airline', 'World's Leading Airline - Business Class' and 'World's Leading Airline Lounge - Business Class: Al Mourjan Business Lounge' at Hamad International Airport, at World Travel Awards. The 'World's Leading Airline' award acknowledges Qatar Airways' dedication to passenger satisfaction. The airline consistently provides quality, comfort and service to its passengers, and ensures a seamless and enjoyable travel experience for all. The 'World's Leading Airline -Business Class' award reinforces it as the best way to travel, owing to its unparalleled quality service and luxury. The acclaimed Qsuite has won yet another title emphasizing its stature as the most unforgettable way to fly. The award for the 'World's Leading Airline Lounge - Business Class: Al Mourjan Business Lounge' is a crowning achievement for Qatar Airways and Hamad International Airport. This sustainable lounge creates an immersive experience in a serene atmosphere, ideal for business, leisure and family travelers. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Engr Badr Mohammed Al Meer said: "Qatar Airways is committed to pushing the boundaries of excellence and is proud of the recognition we have received at the World Travel Awards. These accolades reinforce our dedication to delivering nothing short of exceptional services to our passengers at each touchpoint." World Travel Awards Founder Graham E Cooke said: "Qatar Airways continues to soar to new heights, and I am delighted that both the industry and the general public have acknowledged this unrivalled excellence by voting it World's Leading Airline 2023, World's Leading Airline - Business Class 2023 and World's Leading Airline Lounge - Business Class 2023. The commitment of the entire Qatar Airways team serves as an inspiration to us all." (Qatar Tribune)
- Qatar wins membership of UNIDO Qatar won the membership of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for the period 2024-2027 during the meetings of the 20th session of UNIDO general conference held in Vienna. Qatar was elected among five-member countries within the Asian group. Head of Qatar's delegation to the meetings of the 20th session of UNIDO general conference Jamal Abdulrahman Al Jaber thanked the countries that supported Qatar's bid for the membership of UNIDO. He emphasized that Qatar will work with the remaining members of UNIDO in order to elevate UNIDO's role and mission in enhancing industrial development, upgrading innovations and increasing productivity, especially in the developed and least developed countries to further achieve stability, welfare and sustainable development for all. (Qatar Tribune)

#### International

Powell: Fed to move 'carefully' on interest rates, 'soft landing' taking shape - The risks of the Federal Reserve slowing the economy more than necessary have become "more balanced" with those of not moving interest rates high enough to control inflation, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said on Friday, reaffirming the US central bank's intent to be cautious but also offering fresh optimism on its progress so far. Noting that a key measure of inflation averaged 2.5% over the six months ending in October, near the Fed's 2% target, Powell said it was clear that US monetary policy was slowing the economy as expected with a benchmark

overnight interest rate "well into restrictive territory." "We are getting what we wanted to get" out of the economy, Powell said during an event at Spelman College in Atlanta, noting that the "full effects" of the Fed's 5.25 percentage points of rate hikes to date have likely not yet been felt. "Having come so far so quickly, the (Federal Open Market Committee) is moving forward carefully, as the risks of under- and over-tightening are becoming more balanced," he said, referring to the central bank's policysetting committee. As the Fed goes forward, "the data will tell us if we need to do more" rate hikes, Powell said as he fielded questions from Spelman College President Helene Gayle after his opening remarks at the historically black college Powell reiterated, as his colleagues have in recent weeks, that it was still too early to declare the Fed's inflation fight finished, with prices rising 3.0% annually by the measure the central bank uses to set its target. Prices as of October were up 3.5% when stripped of food and energy costs, a measure the Fed sees as a better guide of inflation's trend. We are prepared to tighten policy further if it becomes appropriate to do so," he said. But his remarks also reflected increased confidence that the current 5.25%-5.50% policy rate may well be adequate to complete the job. The Fed meets on Dec. 12-13 and is expected to leave its benchmark rate unchanged for the third meeting in a row. "(Powell) used the word 'balanced,' and the message he's sending is the Fed is not going to change its rhetoric, but things are going the way they want them to go and they're not going to raise rates again," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Spartan Capital Securities. "They're done, they're finished, and that's what the market thinks." (Reuters)

- US manufacturing mired in weakness, economy heading for slowdown -US manufacturing remained subdued in November, with factory employment declining further as hiring slowed and layoffs increased, more evidence that the economy was losing momentum after robust growth last quarter. The survey from the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) on Friday followed on the heels of data on Thursday showing moderate growth in consumer spending and subsiding inflation in October. Economic activity is cooling as higher interest rates crimp demand. Most economists, however, do not expect a recession next year and believe the Federal Reserve will be able to engineer the hoped-for "soft landing." Speaking during an event at Spelman College in Atlanta on Friday, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said "we are getting what we wanted to get" out of the economy. The ISM said that its manufacturing PMI was unchanged at 46.7 last month. It was the 13th consecutive month that the PMI stayed below 50, which indicates contraction in manufacturing. That is the longest such stretch since the period from August 2000 to January 2002. Some economists believed that the United Auto Workers strike, which ended in late October, continued to have an impact on the PMI. A rebound anytime soon is unlikely as manufacturers in the ISM survey mostly described inventories as bloated. "This implies the goods sector overestimated demand and production could slow further in the next few months, though that too could reflect lingering strike effects if auto parts piled up when production was idled," said Will Compernolle, macro strategist at FHN Financial in New York. (Reuters)
- PMI: UK factory downturn shows more signs of easing Britain's manufacturing sector showed further signs that it might be turning a corner in its long-running downturn but companies remained cautious and pushed up their prices, according to a survey published on Friday. The final reading of the S&P Global/CIPS manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) improved for a third month in a row to 47.2 in November from 44.8 in October. The reading was also up from a preliminary November estimate of 46.7 although it remained below the 50.0 growth threshold for a 16th month in a row. The severity of the downturn eased in output and new orders, the PMI showed. "Manufacturers nonetheless remained on a cautious footing, with ongoing market uncertainty and the need to control costs leading to job losses, stock depletion and lower purchasing," S&P Global said. Input costs fell again but manufacturers increased their selling prices for only the second time in six months - albeit fractionally - as they sought to repair profit margins, it said. (Reuters)
- ONS: New way of measuring UK rents would have raised inflation in past - Britain's statistics agency said on Friday that a new way of measuring private rental prices would have raised the rate of inflation if it had been applied in past years. The Office for National Statistics said its new



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method, due to be introduced to the official inflation data in March, would have raised the average annual increase in rental prices to 2.8% from 2.1% between January 2016 and October 2023. This in turn would have pushed up the average annual increase in the consumer price index to 3.5% from 3.4%. "The new estimates utilize improved methodology, allowing better use of the previously received data, and doubling the number of rental prices used to produce the statistics to around 500,000 per year," the ONS said in a statement. The ONS also published new estimates of second-hand car prices, based on data from car sales portal Auto Trader, that will vastly increase the number of prices used to form the data. However, it said the new methodology for car prices would have had no impact on consumer prices to one decimal place in past years. (Reuters)

Evergrande creditor group supports maintaining operations, not bankruptcy - A key offshore creditor group of China Evergrande Group supports keeping the developer operating, the South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported ahead of a court hearing on Monday that could decide to liquidate the indebted firm. The group, which owns about \$2bn in offshore notes guaranteed by Evergrande, issued a statement late on Friday urging that Hengda Real Estate, Evergrande's flagship onshore unit, be allowed to maintain operations to ensure completion of homes and delivery of homes, the newspaper said. "No stakeholders of Hengda, be it customers, suppliers, creditors, or the (Chinese) government, would benefit from forcing Hengda into a multi-year, value-destructive bankruptcy process," it cited the statement as saying. "Such a bankruptcy process would only detract from the common goals of ensuring the prompt completion of projects and the timely delivery of homes, as well as procuring the longterm sustainability of Hengda as a going concern." Evergrande, the world's most indebted property developer, and the advisers to the creditor group did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The SCMP quoted the advisers, the Kirkland & Ellis law firm and investment bank Moelis, as saying the creditors would "continue working together with Hengda and its management to support their efforts", adding there was "no benefit or upside" in any bankruptcy of Hengda to the noteholders. Evergrande has until the Hong Kong court hearing on Monday to present a "concrete" revised debt restructuring proposal for offshore creditors, a judge said last month after its original plan had lapsed. Reuters reported on Thursday that Evergrande this week sought to avert liquidation with a restructuring proposal, offering to swap some offshore debt into equity in the company and two Hong Kong-listed units, and repay the rest with non-tradeable "certificates" backed by offshore assets. The creditors group responded by demanding a controlling equity stake in Evergrande and the two Hong Kong subsidiaries, a source familiar with the matter said on Friday. (Reuters)

#### Regional

- COP28: \$5bn in collective funds mobilized to advance climate action A total of \$5bn in funding was mobilized at the COP28 in Dubai on Friday to advance climate and nature action. The collective capital from three organizations, Green Climate Fund, Allied Climate Partners and Allianz Global Investors, will be mobilized through several unique blended finance structures, according to a statement. The funding was announced during the Business & Philanthropy Climate Forum, a private-sector engagement platform of COP28. It was attended by more than 1,300 stakeholders, including heads of state and government, business CEOs, philanthropists and NGO heads. The forum is the first dedicated platform for the private sector and philanthropy to be included in the COP process. It was formally launched a day earlier in the presence of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, as well as Britain's King Charles III and COP28 President Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber. The funding announcement is the latest in a series of commitments unveiled at the UN climate talks in Dubai. Earlier on Friday, the UAE pledged \$200mn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help vulnerable countries fight climate change. The UAE's \$30bn climate-focused investment initiative ALTÉRRA also committed \$3.5bn to Blackrock and TPG to support climate-dedicated projects. (Zawya)
  - **134 world leaders endorse COP28's Food and Agriculture Declaration -** The COP28 Presidency announced that 134 world leaders have signed up to its landmark agriculture, food and climate action declaration. Also announced was the mobilization of more than \$2.5bn in funding to

support food security while combatting climate change and a new partnership between the UAE and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for food systems innovation in the fact of climate change. The "COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action" (the Declaration) was announced at a special session of the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS), led by Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia; Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy; Fiamē Naomi Mata' afa, Prime Minister of Samoa; and Anthony J. Blinken, Secretary of State for the United States of America. The Declaration addresses both global emissions while protecting the lives and livelihoods of farmers who live on the frontlines of climate change. "There is no path to achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and keeping 1.5C within reach, that does not urgently address the interactions between food systems, agriculture, and climate," Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment, and COP28 Food Systems Lead, said. "Countries must put food systems and agriculture at the heart of their climate ambitions, addressing both global emissions and protecting the lives and livelihoods of farmers living on the front line of climate change. Today's commitment from countries around the world will help to build a global food system fit for the future," she added. The 134signatory countries to the Declaration are home to over 5.7bn people and almost 500mn farmers, produce 70% of the food we eat, and are responsible for 76% all emissions from global food systems or 25% of total emissions globally Endorsement of the Declaration will help in strengthening food systems, building resilience to climate change, reducing global emissions, and contributing to the global fight against hunger, aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Declaration - the first of its kind for the COP process - stresses the need for common action on climate change, which adversely affects a large portion of the world's population, particularly those living in vulnerable countries and communities. "Today signals a turning point, embedding sustainable agriculture and food systems as critical components in both dealing with climate change and building food systems fit for the future. Together we will deliver lasting change for families, farmers and the future," Almheiri said. While food systems are vital for meeting societal needs and enabling adaptation to climate impacts, they are also responsible for as much as a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Many smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries are also facing heightened vulnerability to climate change. Key announcements made at the session include: - The UAE and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launched a \$200mn partnership for Food Systems, Agriculture Innovation and Climate Action, focused on agricultural research, scaling agricultural innovations and funding technical assistance for implementing the Declaration. - The UAE is joining the CGIAR, a global partnership that unites international organizations engaged in research about food security, resilience, and climate adaptation. - COP28 and a group of partners announced a collaborative effort to offer countries quality technical cooperation and to help deliver on the objectives of the Declaration. The partners behind the Technical Cooperation Collaborative pledged more than \$200mn in new and newly aligned support, while also committing to increase coordination across their wider portfolios. - COP28 UAE, together with the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), supported by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, launched the Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes. This will see leading food and agriculture organizations join forces to scale regenerative agriculture, transitioning 160mn hectares to regenerative agriculture by 2030, accompanied by \$2.2bn in future investment, and engaging 3.6mn farmers world-wide. - The High-Level Champions, in collaboration with non-government actors including farmers, Indigenous Peoples, consumers, cities, youth, businesses, financial institutions, philanthropies and others, launched a Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate, in support of the Declaration and to highlight the urgent need to take action on food systems by all actors. The COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture Agenda has four pillars, covering national leadership, non-state actors, scaling up innovation, and finance. COP28 is also working with representatives from every stage of the food system and agriculture value chain, including farmers, civil society, businesses, and local governments to accelerate the transition to regenerative agriculture. (Zawya)



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- Saudi Arabia studies graphite, rare earths trading platform Saudi Arabia is exploring the potential launch of a new commodity trading platform for battery materials, including graphite and rare earths, its vice minister of industry and mineral resources said. Riyadh's efforts to build an economy that is not dependent on oil include a shift towards mining the country's untapped mineral resources - worth about \$1.33tn - including copper, lithium, phosphate and gold, but also investing in overseas assets. "To be a minerals hub you have to have it all and we are studying a future minerals commodity exchange for graphite, rare earths, lithium, cobalt and even nickel, as there is no efficient commodity exchange nor pricefinding mechanism for some," Khalid bin Saleh Al-Mudaifer told Reuters in an interview. The Kingdom has been studying setting up the trading platform for the past three months and it does not expect a decision to be made before the next six, Al-Mudaifer said. "We don't yet know if it would be feasible ... because the quantities are small and the specifications differ, it's not as easy as aluminum or crude oil." There are currently no exchanges offering contracts for graphite or rare earth metals, both important materials for electric vehicle and the energy transition. Lithium and cobalt can be traded on the London Metal Exchange and Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME). "We are working with a number of consultants and also with the people who trade the commodities," he said. Saudi Arabia's investment fund Manara Minerals, a joint venture between state-owned miner Ma'aden and the Public Investment Fund (PIF), was set up in January to buy assets overseas. It will prioritize copper, nickel, iron ore and lithium. Its first major foray abroad was a deal to become a 10% shareholder in Vale's \$26bn copper and nickel unit last July. (Zawya)
- Expo 2030 to illuminate Saudi Vision In a historic and eagerly anticipated moment, Riyadh has emerged triumphant as the host city for World Expo 2030, following a secret ballot at the 173rd General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) in Paris. This monumental victory positions the Saudi capital as the epicenter of global innovation, cultural exchange, and progress for the event scheduled from October 2030 to March 2031. With an overwhelming endorsement from 119 countries, Riyadh's bid outshone competitors Busan, and Rome. The decision resonates deeply with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Salman's vision, marking a significant stride toward realizing the developmental, economic, and social goals outlined in Saudi Vision 2030. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol congratulated Saudi Arabia on being chosen as the host, pledging South Korea's support to the "key partner nation" by sharing its resources, experiences, and assets. Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan emphasized that Riyadh Expo 2030 is an Expo for the world. "We are delivering on a truly transformational experience that really addresses the challenges that we all face going into the future," he stated. Prince Faisal added: "We are immensely proud in Saudi Arabia to have had this success and the trust of the membership of the BIE expressed so resolutely in two-thirds vote for Expo 2030 in Riyadh." The success of Riyadh's bid not only reflects international confidence in the Kingdom's leadership but also underscores its commitment to progress and development. Minister of Culture Prince Badr Bin Farhan emphasized the expo's role as a global platform to share Saudi Arabia's authentic culture and astonishing diversity across various sectors. Saudi Arabia's Permanent Representative to UNESCO, Princess Haifa Al Muqrin, expressed confidence that Riyadh will captivate all participants in Expo 2030 and deliver on the promises made by the participating countries. Princess Haifa said to reporters that "countries voted overwhelmingly in favor of Riyadh because they believe in it and what it will offer to the world." She added: "We are ready to welcome the world in 2030, and even before that, we will be prepared. Projects and partnerships will commence before 2030." Regarding the anticipated returns for Saudi Arabia, Princess Haifa said: "The Kingdom wants to fulfill its international role in driving development, whether in terms of sustainable development in general or through its specialized themes such as environmental protection, health, education, scientific research, and other areas that the Kingdom wants to support globally." She further emphasized, "The world will come to us, learn about the Kingdom's culture, its people, and its youth, and become a partner with Riyadh in advancing development. It will be beneficial for everyone." Princess Haifa concluded by saying, "The plans are in place, and from today, the implementation journey begins." Jerry Inzerillo, Group CEO of the Diriyah Gate Development Authority, expressed his excitement about Riyadh

Expo 2030, saying: "Riyadh Expo 2030 will unite the world in a common spirit of collaboration and learning. In a city filled with abundant heritage and culture, visitors will have the opportunity to explore the Kingdom's awe-inspiring history and learn more about its unique customs and traditions." Inzerillo added, "Diriyah, the birthplace of the Kingdom, lies just 15 minutes from the center of Riyadh and was the site of the founding of the First Saudi State in 1727. "A leading example of the Kingdom's remarkable giga-project ecosystem, it will offer Saudis and international visitors alike a chance to connect with Saudi Arabia's remarkable culture and learn more about the roots of its modern and dynamic society." World Expo 2030 reflects Saudi Arabia's ambitious national vision, diligent pursuit of economic and social growth, and its influential role in the interactive human community. Rivadh's victory in hosting the expo solidifies its position as a global hub for advancements in knowledge, science, technology, creativity, and innovation. The event is poised to make Riyadh a global tourist destination, contributing to the Kingdom's prominence in hosting prominent global forums. The Kingdom's plans for an exceptional edition of the expo in 2030 aim to actively contribute to a brighter future for humanity. Through a global platform harnessing the latest technologies, the expo seeks to bring together the brightest minds to optimize opportunities and propose solutions to global challenges. As the world eagerly anticipates Expo 2030, Saudi Arabia stands on the verge of a significant leap at the national level. The expo will spotlight the Kingdom's economic and business potential, creating investment opportunities and establishing itself as a competitive and influential state on the global stage. In the grand tradition of World Expos, Riyadh Expo 2030 promises to be an exceptional showcase of Saudi citizens' cultural and social values, their distinct identity, rich history, civilization, and adherence to noble societal values. The expo is not only a celebration of the Kingdom's achievements but also a commitment to shaping the present and future of the world through dialogue, communication, stability, and development. The journey towards Expo 2030 builds on the Kingdom's distinguished record of participation in previous World Expos, where it shared its historical treasures, natural wonders, and diverse ecosystems with the world. Riyadh's hosting of Expo 2030 is an unparalleled opportunity to continue this legacy and present an exceptional experience under the theme "The Era of Change: Together for a Foresighted Tomorrow." With Riyadh poised to make history as the host of World Expo 2030, the world can look forward to a transformative and enriching experience that showcases the Kingdom's commitment to excellence, innovation, and cultural dialogue. (Zawya)

- Saudi Arabia, Brazil discuss investment opportunities at roundtable meeting in Riyadh - The Saudi-Brazilian Roundtable Meeting held on Wednesday in Riyadh discussed the investment opportunities between the two countries. The meeting was held in the presence of Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Minister of Investment Eng. Khalid Al-Falih, Minister of Commerce Majid Al-Qasabi, and Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Fadley. It was also attended by the Chairman of the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (ApexBrasil) Jorge Viana, and President of the Federal Senate of Brazil Rodrigo Pacheco, as well as several government officials and private sector representatives from both countries. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways of improving investment relations between Saudi Arabia and Brazil and enhancing efforts to develop bilateral economic and investment ties. Developing qualitative investments for entrepreneurial companies and enabling the private sector to benefit from the investment opportunities from both countries were also discussed. Furthermore, they touched on the investment partnership aspects in the fields of renewable energy, mining, agriculture, food industry, financial services, petrochemicals, logistics services, and real estate, as well as ways for strengthening them and the opportunities for increasing the investments of Saudi and Brazilian companies in the two countries. The Saudi-Brazilian Roundtable Meeting stressed the importance of benefiting from the available opportunities in the fields of common interest and contributing to providing support and incentives to develop investment relations between Saudi Arabia and Brazil. (Zawya)
- 52% growth in commercial records in Jazan over 5 years The Commerce Ministry (MOC) revealed that the commercial records in the Jazan region have recorded a growth of 52% in the past 5 years, reaching more than



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55,000 records. This was announced by Undersecretary of MOC for Business Abdulsalam Al-Manea during his participation in the opening session of Jazan Investment Forum. Jazan is considered the 7th largest region in Saudi Arabia in terms of the number of commercial registrations, Al-Manea said, adding that there are many promising sectors that have contributed to the increase of commercial and investment projects in the region. Al-Manea pointed to the role of the commercial system in the legislation process, saying more than 70 laws were enacted with the sector's active participation. He also praised the role of the new corporate system in stimulating the commercial and investment environment in light of the possibilities and ease of establishing business entities. Four new systems are expected to be issued to enhance confidence in the commercial environment, which are the consumer protection system, the commercial registry system, the trade names system, and the commercial transactions system, Al-Manea revealed. He added that there are incentives and capabilities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Jazan region, such as the Kafala financing guarantee program for SMEs, which provided more than SR417mn in loans. Many establishments and entrepreneurs have benefited from the services of Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monsha'at), represented by commercial franchise services, and other services provided to enable entrepreneurship in the Jazan region. (Zawya)

- Business tourism elevates Saudi Arabia's hospitality sector performance in Q3 - Corporate and business tourism has supported Saudi Arabia's strong hospitality sector performance in the third quarter of the year. Year-on-year in the year to September 2023, Saudi Arabia's hospitality has seen uniform improvements in its key performance indicators. Over this period, the average occupancy rate increased by 5.9 per-centage points, this was accompanied by a 18.4% increase in its ADR and a 31.2% increase in RevPAR. This strong level of performance has meant that these indicators now, in most cases, sit comfortably above their 2019 levels. In the year to date to September 2023 compared to the same period in 2019, we have seen Saudi Arabia record a 1.2 percentage points increase in average occupancy levels, a 9.6% increase in its ADR and a 11.8% increase in its RevPAR. At a city level, year-on-year in the year to date to September 2023, in Jeddah, the average occupancy grew by 7.3 percentage points, while its ADR softened by 0.1%. This led Jeddah's RevPAR to expand by 12.7%. Taimur Khan, Head of Research – MENA at CBRE in Dubai, comments: "Corporate and religious tourism has significantly underpinned growth in Saudi Arabia's hospitality key performance indicators in the year to September 2023, compared to a year earlier. Over this period, across the Kingdom, average occupancy rates are 5.9% higher, average daily rates sit 18.4% higher and the average revenue per available room sits a staggering 31.2% higher. Over the remainder of the year, with the likes of the Riyadh and Jeddah Seasons events still to kick off, we expect that this strong performance will continue." (Peninsula Qatar)
- Saudi Arabia NEOM Investment fund to hold 6% in Italy's Technogym -Saudi Arabia NEOM Investment Fund (NIF) will hold 6% of Technogym (TGYM.MI) share capital after an 111-mn-euro (\$120.83mn) investment and intends to be a long-term minority shareholder in the Italian fitnessequipment maker, it said on Friday. In a reverse accelerated book building (RABB) operation on Thursday, NIF bought 8.8mn shares at 9.20 euros each from other investors and entered a derivate solution for the purchase of a further 3.3mn ordinary shares, the statement said. Shares at Technogym were up 6.1% at 8.48 euros per share at 1150 GMT, after closing on Thursday at 7.99 euros per share. The price paid by NIF represents a 15% premium compared to Thursday's Technogym closing price. The news is deemed positive as it anticipates important mediumterm business opportunities in the Middle East, analysts at Italian broker Equita said. The move does not entail any share dilution for the other shareholders of the company, according to the statement. Technogym is controlled by its founder and president Nerio Alessandri. "NIF believes in the value creation potential of Technogym given the company's history of steady growth and leading market position globally," the statement added. JP Morgan acted as sole bookrunner for the transaction, while Rothschild acted as financial advisor to NIF. In September Rome and Riyadh signed an agreement to strengthen economic ties and boost investments, focusing on areas such as energy, sustainability, supply chains and sport. (Reuters)

- UAE's Masdar, Malaysia advance agreement to develop 10GW of renewable projects - Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, known as Masdar, said on Friday it had signed an agreement to advance the development of up to 10 gigawatts (GW) of clean energy projects in Malaysia, building on a preliminary accord earlier this year. The company said it had signed an "implementation roadmap" with the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) to develop projects including solar power plants, wind farms and battery energy storage systems. "The signing of this implementation roadmap represents an important progression in the partnership between the UAE and Malaysia in the development of renewable energy projects," Sultan Al Jaber, chairman of Masdar and president of COP28, which kicked off in Dubai on Thursday, said. Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim had said in October the agreement with Masdar to develop renewables projects in the Asian nation was worth \$8bn. Trade and investment relations between the UAE and Malaysia are strengthening in line with the Gulf state's strategy to diversify its economy away from oil and gas. The two nations are in the process of negotiating a bilateral free trade agreement. Masdar, established in 2006, is targeting a renewable energy portfolio capacity of at least 100 GW, and an annual green hydrogen production capacity of up to 1mn tonnes by 2030. (Zawya)
- RWE and Masdar to co-develop giant British offshore wind project -Germany's RWE has signed an agreement with the UAE's clean energy developer, known as Masdar, to develop a 3 gigawatt (GW) wind project off the coast of Britain, capable of powering around 3mn homes, the companies said on Friday. The announcement came after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said at the COP climate conference in Dubai earlier on Friday that the two companies had committed to invest up to 11bn pounds (\$13.9bn) in the project. Britain, which is already the world's second largest offshore wind market after China, is seeking to ramp up its capacity to 50 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 from around 14 GW now, to help meet its climate targets and boost energy security. Construction of the Dogger Bank South offshore wind project in the North Sea could start in 2025, with first power of around 800 megawatts by 2029 and full capacity by late 2031, RWE said. The project, in which RWE will have a 51% share and Masdar a 49% share is made up of two 1.5 GW windfarms. RWE did not disclose any details on the likely cost of the project. Masdar said its decision to acquire the 49% stake in the project from RWE was part of an 11bn pound investment in Britain's renewable sector. (Zawya)
- Abu Dhabi Global Market announced as home to \$30bn ALTÉRRA The Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) was announced as the home of the newly launched catalytic climate vehicle ALTÉRRA established by Lunate the global alternative investment management company, the world's largest private climate investment vehicle. This historic initiative, which saw the UAE commit a \$30bn in catalytic capital, positions ALTÉRRA to mobilize \$250bn globally by 2030, focusing on transforming emerging markets and developing economies. As the principal climate finance partner of COP28, ADGM has played a pivotal role in shaping the global dialogue on climate finance and aligning international efforts towards climate action. ADGM, the leading climate finance hub of the region, is uniquely distinguished by its innovative progressive regulatory framework and a center for strategic partnerships that drive the global and regional transition towards a sustainable economy. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Global Market, said, "The launch of ALTÉRRA at ADGM is a testament to our efforts to lead in the space of climate finance. This aligns perfectly with ADGM's mission to foster climate finance and supports the UAE's vision to spearhead transformative global initiatives. We take pride in being the home for such a pioneering venture that is set to make a significant global impact." ALTÉRRA's innovative two-part structure consists of ALTÉRRA ACCELERATION, a \$25bn component aimed at steering institutional capital towards impactful climate investments, and ALTÉRRA TRANSFORMATION, a \$5bn component focusing on risk mitigation capital in the Global South. This structure aligns with COP28's Action Agenda, targeting Energy Transition, Industrial Decarbonization, Sustainable Living, and Climate Technologies. ALTÉRRA, domiciled in ADGM and established by Lunate, reinforces its status as a leader in managing large investment platforms. ALTÉRRA's collaboration with inaugural launch partners BlackRock, Brookfield, and TPG, totaling a



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\$6.5bn commitment, is set to catalyze further investment, including significant projects in India and explorations in Africa and Latin America. (Zawya)

- Gulf Capital Co-Founder and CEO: Abu Dhabi positioned in world's fastest-growing economic corridor - Dr. Karim El Solh, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Gulf Capital, highlighted Abu Dhabi's pivotal position in a bustling economic crossroads and one of the globe's fastestgrowing financial hubs between West and East Asia. Speaking to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) during Abu Dhabi Finance Week, El Solh underscored Abu Dhabi's newfound status as the go-to investment gateway in Asia for many global and regional investors. He added that Abu Dhabi Finance Week took center stage, drawing policymakers, financial leaders, and investors worldwide to engage in discussions about the sector's evolving landscape and co-create a vision for its future. El Solh emphasized that the event spotlighted Abu Dhabi and the UAE's influential role in the global financial arena, with discussions exploring investment prospects in cutting-edge sectors like climate action, sustainability, and artificial intelligence, underscoring the importance of the Middle East and North Africa region for global investors. Gulf Capital's official pointed out that the company has been officially designated as the Climate Action Supporter for COP28, which is currently being held in Expo City Dubai. (Zawya)
- UAE: Debt Settlement Fund waives default debts of 1,244 people worth over \$107mn - The Defaulted Debts Settlement Fund announced the exemption of 1,244 citizens from their debts with a total value of AED394,586,000, in cooperation with 18 banks and financial institutions in the country. The initiative follows the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, to stamp out all obstacles met by Emirati citizens and ensure social welfare and economic well-being in society. On this occasion, Jaber Mohammed Ghanem Al Suwaidi, Minister of State and Chairman of the Supreme Committee of the Fund, expressed his thanks to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed for the initiative that embodies the unyielding commitment of the leadership to achieve prosperity and well-being for citizens. He also commended the effective response of banks and financial institutions for the cooperation they showed in contributing to the success of this initiative and assuming responsibility towards society. Al Suwaidi pointed out that the settlement of debts is subject to specific and strict laws and standards regarding the quality of loans and their areas of expenditure, taking into account that they should have been directed to essential areas. The list of participants in this initiative includes 18 banks and entities, namely First Abu Dhabi Bank; Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank; Al Hilal Bank; Emirates NBD; Mashreq Bank; Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank; Dubai Islamic Bank; Sharjah Islamic Bank; RAK Bank; Etisalat; Commercial Bank of Dubai; United Arab Bank; Al Masraf; Amlak Finance; National Bank of Umm Al Qaiwain; HSBC; Emirates Islamic; Citibank and Standard Chartered. Banks, financial institutions and national companies officials expressed their pleasure and pride in taking part in this national initiative through the Debt Settlement Fund to serve the interests of citizens and society. (Zawva)
- UAE: MoHRE notifies over 12,000 private companies to comply Emiratization targets - The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE) has notified over 12,000 private companies with 20-49 workers that Cabinet Resolution No. (33/5W) of 2023 regarding the expansion of Emiratization targets will be in effect starting January 2024. Companies with 20-49 workers will be required to hire one UAE national in 2024 and another one in 2025. This step is expected to create around 12,000 jobs annually for UAE nationals in 2024 and 2025 in various vital economic sectors to consolidate the Emiratization file, a top priority for the UAE Government. This Resolution comes in addition to Emiratization targets for companies with 50 or more employees that are required to achieve a 2% Emiratization growth in skilled jobs. Ayesha Belharfia, Under-Secretary for Emiratization Affairs at MoHRE, said, "We are committed to following-up the implementation of Emiratization targets, in line with the policies and resolutions of the UAE Cabinet in this regard. To that end, we adopt an integrated system of policies, standards,

regulatory tools, and partnerships to achieve our objectives: empower Emirati professionals, enhance their competitiveness, and broaden their engagement in the workforce across the labor market." Belharfia called on the companies included in the Emiratization targets following the expansion to promptly register on the Nafis platform and benefit from the program's support. The companies included in the new Resolution operate in 14 specific economic activities: information and communications; finance and insurance; real estate; professional and technical activities; administrative and support services; education; healthcare and social work; arts and entertainment; mining and quarrying; transformative industries; construction; wholesale and retail; transportation and warehousing; and hospitality and residency services. Companies were selected according to specific criteria and data, including the quality of their jobs, the extent of their compatibility with Emiratization goals, geographic locations, growth, and other conditions that would attract UAE citizens to work in these economic activities and ensure job continuity. The activities were also chosen based on their rapid growth rate and ability to provide jobs and a suitable work environment. As of January 2025, a yearly financial contribution will be imposed on companies that fail to meet their requirements in 2024, amounting to AED96,000 for each UAE citizen not hired. Meanwhile, a financial contribution of AED108,000 will be imposed in January 2026 for the year 2025. Companies can pay their due contributions in installments in agreement with MoHRE. (Zawya)

- Dubai's latest IPO record shows Gulf investor appetite is unwavering For anyone questioning the appetite for initial public offerings in the Arabian Gulf, investors can't get enough. On Wednesday, Dubai Taxi Co the government's first after a year hiatus received more than \$41bn of investor orders for its \$315mn offering and was 130 times covered, a record for a region that's well used to eye-watering oversubscription numbers. In Abu Dhabi, Adnoc Gas' \$2.5bn IPO the region's biggest this year was more than 50 times oversubscribed, while Saudi oil driller ADES Holding Co.'s \$1.2bn offering was almost 63 times covered. "The demand for DTC's issue is driven by an attractive valuation and the company's strong position in a thriving city, which has experienced population growth in recent years," said Christian Ghandour, senior portfolio manager at Al Dhabi Capital. The unrelenting appetite for Middle East listings comes even as regional geopolitical tensions are high and as investors fret about high interest rates, volatility and economic growth. It also stands in sharp contrast to the subdued appetite seen for IPOs in other venues, from New York to London and Hong Kong. The Dubai government's fifth listing since it kicked off a privatization plan about two years ago was welcomed by investors who point to the city's status as a post-Covid haven, which has led to an influx of crypto millionaires, Russians and financial professionals. "Investors seem to like the fact that Dubai Taxi Co stands in a favorable position to capitalize on the expansive mobility market, strategically aligning itself with Dubai's flourishing economy and advantageous demographics," said Faisal Hasan, chief investment off icer at Al Mal Capital. In Saudi Arabia, books for the \$222mn IPO of MBC Group, the Middle East's biggest broadcaster, were covered within an hour of opening on Thursday. The company is offering a 10% stake, or 33.25mn shares, at 23 riyals to 25 riyals apiece, valuing it at as much as \$2.2bn. To be sure, the oversubscription levels are also partly driven by large pools of capital in the region and the relatively small stakes in companies that are being sold on average. At 25%, Dubai Taxi is on the larger end for the Gulf's standards, but Adnoc Gas was just 5% and MBC is only selling a 10% stake. The kingdom's IPO market has held up despite a slow start to the year and amid market volatility after the outbreak of the war between Israel and Hamas in early October. (Gulf Times)
- UAE says it concludes free trade agreement with Colombia The UAE said on Saturday it has concluded the terms of a trade deal with Colombia, which it called the first such bilateral agreement between the Gulf and South America. "The UAE and Colombia have concluded the terms of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement – the first bilateral trade deal between the Gulf and South America," Thani Al Zeyoudi, UAE minister of State for Foreign Trade, wrote on X. "We can look ahead to a new era of cooperation that will deliver growth for both nations." Al Zeyoudi gave no further details of the deal. (Zawya)



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- UAE welcomes trade leaders to first ever Trade Pavilion at COP28 Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, has welcomed global trade leaders to the Trade House pavilion at the COP28 in Dubai's Expo City, marking the first time that trade has been incorporated into the official program of the global climate conference. Held under the COP28 Presidency and in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Trade House pavilion is set to host a number of vital conversations in COP28's Blue Zone on the role of trade in achieving the Paris climate accords, featuring an extensive and influential group of policymakers, NGOs and trade professionals. Speaking during the opening session of the Trade Pavilion were Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO; Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD; Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of International Trade Centre, and John W.H. Denton AO, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce. They each restated the central role of trade in the global climate debate and highlighted its potential to enhance access to green products, sustainable services and technologies, promote economic opportunities for developing countries, and encourage energy transition throughout global value chains. During his opening remarks, Al Zeyoudi emphasized the centrality of trade to the global economy and by extension, its importance to efforts in mitigating the impact of climate change. "It is imperative to discuss sustainability and climate action with the inclusion of trade - a sector that has remained a consistent source of much of our collective prosperity. Now, worth more than \$25tn to the global economy, and with nations pursuing growth strategies based on the global exchange of goods and services, trade must be part of the climate conversation. "It is exactly for this reason the COP28 Presidency has placed the concept of trade front and center of the global climate debate, and why for the first time we are seeing a pavilion dedicated to trade at the world's leading climate conference. I look forward to witnessing the discussions, conversations and launch events that will take place over the coming fortnight and working together to upgrade the global trading system and enhance its contribution to our climate ambitions." The Trade House pavilion will feature more than 40 sessions throughout the conference, covering various topics aligned with the official COP28 Presidency's thematic days. Session topics include waste management, circular economy, border carbon fees, food systems, zero-emission maritime and stock exchanges. The launch of the Trade House pavilion comes ahead of the first-ever Trade Day at COP28, focusing the conference's attention on the sector with a full program of events, activations and sessions on Monday, 4th December. This includes the Sustainable Trade Forum hosted by the Ministry of Economy. (Zawya)
- UAE's Masdar to develop 150 MW solar project in Angola Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, known as Masdar, is planning to develop a 150megawatt solar power project in Angola to provide renewable energy to 90,000 homes and support economic growth, including jobs, the UAE state news agency WAM said on Saturday. The announcement was made during the COP28 climate summit hosted by the United Arab Emirates. Angola's Ministry of Energy and Water and Masdar, the Gulf state's clean energy developer, signed a concession agreement to build and operate the ground-mounted solar power project in the Quipungo region of southern Angola, the statement said. No details on the likely costs were provided. The project is part of a wider commitment made by Masdar this year to develop 5 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy projects across Angola, Uganda and Zambia. "Africa has what it takes to become the world's renewable energy powerhouse," Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 president, said in the statement. "The UAE stands shoulder-to-shoulder with our friends in Africa as we strive to secure a just energy transition at this COP of action and COP for all." Angola wants to increase its national electrification to around 60% by 2025; less than half of the population has access to electricity at present, the statement said. (Reuters)
- Oman, Swiss Confederation sign MoUs in different fields The Sultanate
  of Oman and the Swiss Confederation signed in Muscat several
  memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance areas of cooperation
  between the two friendly countries in various sectors. The memoranda
  were signed under the patronage of Dr. Alain Berset, President of the

Swiss Confederation, within the context of his official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. The memoranda covered the fields of sustainable and renewable energy and its technologies, tourism, healthcare, capacity building, diplomatic studies and training. An MoU signed by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals with the Swiss Federal Office of Energy deals with sustainable and renewable energy and its technologies and aims at developing bilateral cooperation in green hydrogen projects related to production, processing, storage and consumption. It also provides for exchanging knowledge and expertise in relevant laws, regulations and policies. The Foreign Ministry signed two memorandums of understanding: The first, inked with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in the Swiss Confederation, deals with diplomatic studies and training, while the second MoU, signed with the Swiss Federal Council, pertains to work permits for persons accompanying official employees. The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism signed a memorandum of understanding with the Swiss Tourism Authority. The MoU provides for enhancing cooperation between the two sides and exchanging experiences and knowledge in the field of tourism. The Ministry of Health signed an MoU with the Swiss company F. Hoffmann La Roche dealing with ways of developing cooperation between the two sides. Besides providing better healthcare, the MoU provides for the endorsement of a program titled "Start of Professional Career March", which seeks to provide local talents with key skills in the fields of pharmacy and diagnostics. The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health (Head of the Mission of Honor), Mahmoud Hamad Al Hassani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Swiss Confederation, Dr. Thomas Oertel, Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the Sultanate of Oman, and other officials from both sides. (Zawya)

Oman: Expat workforce records 1.2% uptick in October - The consistent growth in the foreign labor force underscores Oman's sustained economic expansion MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) has reported a 1.2% increase in the foreign workforce in the Sultanate of Oman to reach 1,832,729 workers in October 2023, surpassing the 1,821,835 recorded in October 2022. This increment is ascribed to a 1.3% elevation in the number of workers within the private sector, amounting to 1,446,233 in October 2023, compared to 1,437,477 in October 2022. The public sector witnessed a marginal increase of 0.1%, reaching 43,230 in October 2023, compared to 43,173 in October 2022. In terms of nationalities, Bangladesh maintained its preeminence as the principal source of foreign labor in Oman, with 722,160 workers in October 2023, as opposed to 718,987 in October 2022. India closely followed in the second position, boasting 532,421 workers in October 2023, up from 530,775 in October 2022. Pakistan retained its third position, with 287,904 workers in October 2023, in contrast to 285,476 in October 2022. This consistent growth in the foreign labor force underscores Oman's sustained economic expansion, particularly as the country invests strategically in various sectors to fortify economic growth. (Zawya)



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#### **Rebased Performance**

**Daily Index Performance** 



#### Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	2,072.22	1.8	3.6	13.6
Silver/Ounce	25.49	0.8	4.8	6.4
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	78.88	(4.8)	(2.1)	(8.2)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	74.07	(2.5)	(1.9)	(7.7)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.63	(4.4)	(3.0)	(25.3)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	70.50	6.2	9.5	(0.4)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	96.00	6.9	15.5	(5.4)
Euro	1.09	(0.0)	(0.5)	1.7
Yen	146.82	(0.9)	(1.8)	12.0
GBP	1.27	0.7	0.8	5.2
CHF	1.15	0.7	1.6	6.4
AUD	0.67	1.1	1.4	(2.0)
USD Index	103.27	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.2)
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.20	0.7	0.4	8.2
Source: Bloomberg				

**Global Indices Performance** Close 1D%\* WTD%\* YTD%\* MSCI World Index 3,040.70 0.6 0.8 16.8 DJ Industrial 0.8 2.4 9.3 36,245.50 S&P 500 4,594.63 0.6 0.8 19.7 NASDAQ 100 14,305.03 0.6 0.4 36.7 STOXX 600 0.9 0.8 11.5 466.20 1.0 1.7 DAX 16,397.52 19.6 FTSE 100 1.6 1.2 6.0 7,529.35 CAC 40 7,346.15 0.4 0.2 15.3 Nikkei 33,431.51 0.8 1.2 14.3 MSCI EM 982.14 (0.5) 0.2 2.7 SHANGHAI SE Composite 3,031.64 0.1 (0.0) (5.0) HANG SENG 16,830.30 (1.3) (4.4) (15.0) BSE SENSEX 67,481.19 0.9 2.3 10.2 Bovespa 128,184.91 1.7 2.6 26.7 RTS 1,095.28 (1.8) (4.2) 12.8

Source: Bloomberg (\*\$ adjusted returns if any, Data as of December 01, 2023)



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