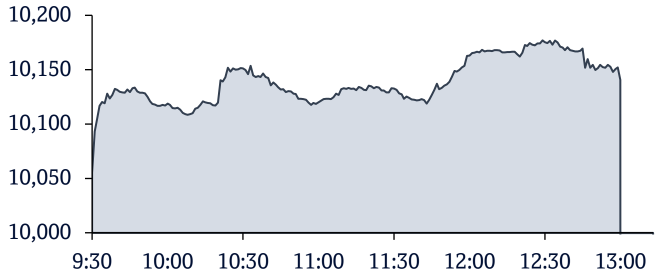
QSE Intra-Day Movement



Market Indicators	06 Sep 23	05 Sep 23	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	604.7	528.0	14.5
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	597,643.1	593,678.5	0.7
Volume (mn)	255.8	234.7	9.0
Number of Transactions	24,613	18,910	30.2
Companies Traded	46	50	(8.0)
Market Breadth	34:09	09:40	–

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	21,763.31	0.7	(0.5)	(0.5)	12.7
All Share Index	3,408.49	0.7	(0.8)	(0.2)	13.3
Banks	4,120.68	0.2	(2.5)	(6.1)	13.2
Industrials	4,072.56	2.0	3.0	7.7	14.4
Transportation	4,389.11	2.4	0.0	1.2	11.3
Real Estate	1,503.54	1.4	(0.1)	(3.6)	13.9
Insurance	2,397.14	1.5	(1.3)	9.6	142
Telecoms	1,597.91	(1.4)	(1.7)	21.2	12.5
Consumer Goods and Services	7,548.04	(0.4)	(1.1)	(4.6)	20.4
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,506.15	0.6	(0.1)	(1.9)	9.1

Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.7% to close at 10,140.7. Gains were led by the Transportation and Industrials indices, gaining 2.4% and 2.0%, respectively. Top gainers were Qatar Oman Investment Company and Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co., rising 6.5% each. Among the top losers, Ooredoo fell 1.6%, while Dukhan Bank was down 1.0%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 1.0% to close at 11,298.2. Losses were led by the Utilities and Real Estate Mgmt & Dev't indices, falling 3.2% and 2.3%, respectively. The Company for Cooperative Insurance declined 4.5%, while Acwa Power Co. was down 4.0%.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell 0.4% to close at 4,037.9. The Consumer Staples index declined 4.2%, while the Consumer Discretionary index fell 1.4%. Al Firdous Holdings declined 4.6%, while Emirates Reem Investments Company was down 4.3%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell 0.4% to close at 9,614.2. The Consumer Staples index declined 1.8%, while the Telecommunication index fell 1.3%. Rapco Investment declined 5.6%, while ADC Acquisition Corporation was down 3.3%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.5% to close at 6,967.5. The Basic Materials index rose 0.9%, while the Banks index gained 0.7%. Shuaiba Industrial Company rose 14.6%, while Gulf Franchising Holding Company was up 12.5%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.1% to close at 4,721.7. Losses were led by the Financial and Industrial indices, falling 0.6% and 0.5%, respectively. Dhofar Generating Company declined 9.8%, while Dhofar Foods and Investment Company was down 8.3%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.2% to close at 1,942.8. The Financials Index declined 0.4%, while the remaining indices remained unchanged. Ithmaar Holding declined 10.0%, while Khaleeji Bank was down 9.3%.

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Gas Transport Co. Ltd	Qatar	3.700	3.9	5,963.0	1.0
Kuwait Telecommunications	Kuwait	586.00	3.5	881.0	0.2
Industries Qatar	Qatar	13.13	3.4	4,848.0	2.5
Fertiglobe PLC	Abu Dhabi	3.48	2.4	7,907.3	(17.7)
ADNOC Drilling Co.	Abu Dhabi	4.03	2.0	2,013.2	35.2

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Acwa Power Co.	Saudi Arabia	192.40	(4.0)	501.3	26.6
Arabian Drilling Co	Saudi Arabia	170.80	(3.8)	233.8	51.7
Dar Al Arkan Real Estate	Saudi Arabia	18.22	(3.6)	2,709.4	56.8
Jabal Omar Dev. Co.	Saudi Arabia	23.16	(2.7)	1,998.6	40.2
Etihad Etisalat Co.	Saudi Arabia	42.85	(2.4)	1,624.8	23.3

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

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.869	6.5	2,529.0	58.0
Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	1.650	6.5	5,664.5	44.5
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	3.094	6.3	5,909.1	34.5
Inma Holding	4.708	4.6	1,594.9	14.5
Lesha Bank (QFC)	1.408	4.3	5,294.3	23.0

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ooredoo	10.62	(1.6)	834.4	15.4
Dukhan Bank	4.156	(1.0)	8,031.4	4.0
Qatar Electricity & Water Co.	17.54	(0.9)	229.4	(0.9)
Qatar Fuel Company	15.91	(0.9)	489.5	(11.4)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.121	(0.8)	19,374.3	(33.1)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.720	0.4	52,288.9	17.3
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.324	0.4	21,138.9	(12.9)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.121	(0.8)	19,374.3	(33.1)
Gulf International Services	2.699	2.8	19,075.1	85.0
Baladna	1.325	0.2	16,949.1	(13.5)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
Industries Qatar	13.13	3.4	63,535.8	2.5
Gulf International Services	2.699	2.8	51,151.0	85.0
QNB Group	15.10	0.1	50,932.9	(16.1)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.121	(0.8)	41,211.0	(33.1)
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.720	0.4	38,491.7	17.3

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded ($ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. ($ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,140.67	0.7	(0.5)	(0.5)	(5.1)	166.28	163,873.7	12.7	1.4	4.9
Dubai	4,037.87	(0.4)	(1.1)	(1.1)	21.0	102.64	186,009.0	9.2	1.3	4.5
Abu Dhabi	9,614.16	(0.4)	(2.0)	(2.0)	(5.8)	272.48	735,312.0	31.2	3.0	1.8
Saudi Arabia	11,298.16	(1.0)	(1.7)	(1.7)	7.8	1,649.98	3,000,625.0	18.8	2.2	3.3
Kuwait	6,967.48	0.5	(0.5)	(0.5)	(4.5)	121.56	145,013.2	16.2	1.5	3.9
Oman	4,721.68	(0.1)	(1.6)	(1.6)	(2.8)	6.12	22,403.0	13.0	0.9	4.7
Bahrain	1,942.83	(0.2)	(0.5)	(0.5)	2.5	4.70	56,136.6	7.3	0.7	8.6

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

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.7% to close at 10,140.7. The Transportation and Industrials indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from Arab shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari, GCC and Foreign shareholders.
- Qatar Oman Investment Company and Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co. were the top gainers, rising 6.5% each. Among the top losers, Ooredoo fell 1.6%, while Dukhan Bank was down 1%.
- Volume of shares traded on Wednesday rose by 9.0% to 255.8mn from 234.8mn on Tuesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 157.9mn, volume for the day was 62.0% higher. Salam International Inv. Ltd. and Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. were the most active stocks, contributing 20.4% and 8.3% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	33.04%	34.99%	(11,791,027.35)
Qatari Institutions	31.06%	29.50%	9,470,900.41
Qatari	**64.11%**	**64.49%**	**(2,320,126.94)**
GCC Individuals	0.54%	0.56%	(133,992.03)
GCC Institutions	3.58%	4.33%	(4,539,572.82)
GCC	**4.12%**	**4.89%**	**(4,673,564.85)**
Arab Individuals	13.40%	11.81%	9,595,161.45
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	**13.40%**	**11.81%**	**9,595,161.45**
Foreigners Individuals	2.69%	2.78%	(590,689.34)
Foreigners Institutions	15.69%	16.02%	(2,010,780.32)
Foreigners	**18.38%**	**18.81%**	**(2,601,469.66)**

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

Global Economic Data

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
06-09	US	Markit	S&P Global US Services PMI	Aug	50.50	51.00	51.00
06-09	US	Markit	S&P Global US Composite PMI	Aug	50.20	50.40	50.40
06-09	EU	Eurostat	Retail Sales MoM	Jul	-0.20%	-0.20%	0.20%
06-09	EU	Eurostat	Retail Sales YoY	Jul	-1.00%	-1.20%	-1.00%
06-09	Germany	Deutsche Bundesbank	Factory Orders MoM	Jul	-11.70%	-4.30%	7.60%
06-09	Germany	Markit	HCOB Germany Construction PMI	Aug	41.50	NA	41.00

Qatar

- **Announcement from Vodafone Qatar -** Vodafone Qatar announces that its wholly owned subsidiary, "Infinity Solutions LLC", has successfully executed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with "Allied Advertising Group WLL", Whereby "Infinity Solutions LLC" has effectively purchased all outstanding shares of "Allied Advertising Group WLL" for QR5mn. "Allied Advertising Group WLL" is a company that operates under the laws of the State of Qatar and owns and manages the My Book digital platform. This transaction offers many opportunities to Vodafone Qatar and this is in line with the Company's commitment to enhancing shareholder value and strengthening its market position. (QSE)

- **QCB governor meets CEO of Goldman Sachs International -** HE the Governor of Qatar Central Bank (QCB) Sheikh Bandar bin Mohamed bin Saoud al-Thani met Wednesday with CEO of Goldman Sachs International Richard Gnodde and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed key international financial and banking developments. (Gulf Times)

- **Qatar ports see hectic activity in January-August 2023 -** Qatar's maritime sector saw brisk growth in general cargo, livestock, vehicles (RORO) and building materials movement through Hamad, Doha and Al Ruwais ports during the first eight months of this year, according to official data. The positive momentum in the maritime sector is expected to continue in the light of 12-month optimistic outlook, especially for the country's non-energy private sector, as indicated by the latest purchasing managers' index of the Qatar Financial Centre. The general cargo through three ports amounted to 1.3mn tonnes during January-August this year, showing a robust 27.26% expansion on an annualized basis. So far this year, the cargo handling was seen the highest in March, when it was 297,009 tonnes and the lowest in June at 21,688 tonnes. Hamad Port features an intermodal transport network that offers direct and indirect shipping services to more than 100 destinations, facilitating efficient transportation and logistics services locally and abroad. Hamad Port – whose multi-use terminal is designed to serve the supply chains for the RORO (vehicles), grains and livestock – was seen handling 102,263 freight tonnes (F/T) of bulk and 53,148 F/T of breakbulk in August alone this year. The three ports had handled 318,450 livestock heads during the first eight months of this year, showing a 163.58% surge year-on-year. The heaviest movement of livestock through three ports was reported in April when it was 70,182 units and the lowest in July at 5,468 units. The building materials traffic through the three ports amounted to 356,014 tonnes in the review period, which shot up 9.49% on a yearly basis. In May 2023, as much as 62,456 tonnes of building materials were handled by three ports. The three ports handled as many as 54,081 vehicles (RORO) in January-August 2023, registering a 1.1% increase on an annualized basis. April saw the maximum number of RORO movements at 8,025 units. However, the container handling through the three ports stood at 853,807 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) during January-August this year, declining 8.99% year-on-year. The containers handled was seen the maximum in August at 119,936 TEUs and the minimum in May at 95,317 TEUs. 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. The number of ships calling on Qatar's three ports stood at 1,791 in January-August 2023, which saw a 5.74% decline compared to the previous year period. Seven of the eight months saw Qatar ports receive more than 200 ships. Al Ruwais Port plays a pivotal role in meeting the needs of the domestic market along with its role in stimulating regional trade exchange. (Gulf Times)

- **Qataris make up half of Education City student population –** Qataris make up half of the 4,000-plus students now enrolled at Qatar Foundation's (QF) universities, as new and returning students who are starting or continuing their journey of learning at Education City gained an insight into how QFs unique education ecosystem supports them every step of the way at Tawasol 2023. Students from over 100 nationalities are enrolled in QF universities in the 2023-24 academic year, including over 1,100 new students. Since 2019-20, enrollment in QF universities has increased by over 20%. Organised by QF's Student Life team, Tawasol 2023 showcased the world of resources available to students at Education City as the new academic year gets into full swing, including healthcare, sports and recreation, housing services, student employment opportunities, and other aspects of life within the QF community. Tawasol also provided another chance for students from QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University and seven partner universities, which collectively offer 65 academic programmes spanning undergraduate and postgraduate studies, to make new connections and friendships. The academic and personal-growth experience that Education City offers allows students to cross-register for courses at different QF universities, take interdisciplinary programmes, and participate in research projects and international exchange opportunities, with the aim of nurturing graduates who are equipped for impactful careers while also being socially aware citizens. "At Qatar Foundation, we are committed to providing every one of our students with a world-class, unique, and flexible learning experience that prepares them, when they graduate, to be leaders capable of shaping the communities they live and work in," said, Francisco Marmolejo, president of Higher Education, QF. (Gulf Times)

- **'Oil and gas a cornerstone of Qatari economy' -** The oil and gas sector will indubitably be the "cornerstone" of Qatar's economy in the years ahead, however, recently the government has made concerted efforts to diversify revenue sources, remarked an official. "With climate change being a major global concern, it is reassuring to know that Qatar is exploring renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, as part of its commitment to sustainable development," said Adam Stewart, Head of Qatar, Knight Frank. He stressed that "Off the back of the World Cup, which by all accounts was a major success, we expect Qatar to establish itself as a destination for other major sporting and entertainment events." The expert highlighted that the most-talked-about rental issues continue to witness correction in the market as the residential sector is poised for a major boost. "In the run-up to the World Cup, landlords were firmly in the driving seat and enjoyed significant rental growth. We are now seeing rental rates correcting to pre-World Cup levels, which was fully expected. Supply and demand funda-mentals would suggest that rental levels do have further to fall; however, the residential market usually finds a way to surprise people," Stewart said. The expert explained that the only reason why rents didn't correct more quickly than expected, was because the landlords, as a collective, were trying to maintain the higher rents for as long as possible. However, it only took for one landlord to lower their rent for the others to follow in order to remain competitive. In its quarterly report, the leading international property consultancy stated that the commercial market performed phenomenally well with newly developed Lusail being a competitor in the GCC. Stewart mentioned that "Lusail has already established itself as a direct competitor for Doha. Many Government Ministries relocated to the Marina district, and we are seeing major international occupiers following suit." Destination Qatar's recently published report, which surveyed 30 Qatar-based HNWIs, the Marina and Waterfront districts were also identified as the two most preferred locations for residential real estate acquisition. The official elucidated that whether or not Lusail can compete with other GCC cities, depends on the initiatives implemented by the authorities to attract foreign businesses, investments, and residents to Qatar. He emphasized that "Competition among GCC cities is fierce, and whilst other cities such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh have a head start, we do believe that in the long term (Lusail) will establish itself as one of the major economic centers in the region." Regarding Qatar's growing tourism sector, Stewart under-scores that the country has found a way to meet the demand, with increasing accommodation facilities during FIFA 2022 and beyond, He said "Since the hotel construction boom, we have seen a substantial oversupply of hotel rooms across the sector. With the 206% increase in visitor numbers, we have already witnessed so far this year, we hope that with further increased visitor numbers from major upcoming events, the average hotel occupancy levels will increase in the coming quarters." Steward expressed his optimism about surging tourism demand in the country by adding that "Qatar is in a rapid growth period, fueled by impressive sovereign wealth. With new tourism marketing efforts, major event hosting, infra-structure development, and changing global travel trends, we believe this figure is most likely achievable in the next 6 years." (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Experts discuss role of hydrogen in race to net zero at Al-Attiyah Foundation CEO Roundtable -** At the latest Al-Attiyah Foundation CEO Roundtable, top decision makers, internationally renowned experts and captains of industry came together to examine the opportunities and practical problems associated with using hydrogen as a fuel. The high-profile event, titled 'Hydrogen Technology - From Strategy to Delivery', was held yesterday in Doha and moderated by the acclaimed broadcaster, Nawied Jabarkhyl. The discussion featured guest speakers: David Hart, Partner at ERM: Environmental Resources Management; Gagan Porwal, Head of International Market Partnerships - Carbon Solutions at GE Vernova; Joe Seifert, CEO at Vertex Hydrogen Limited; and Mohannad T Al Suwaidan, Chief Middle East and Africa Analyst at Energy Security Analysis Incorporated (ESAI Energy). At the core of the forum, guests discussed how clean hydrogen, which is produced with renewable or nuclear energy, or fossil fuels using carbon capture, can help to decarbonize a range of sectors where it has proven difficult to reduce emissions such as long-haul transport, chemicals, and iron and steel. Attendees were optimistic on "green" hydrogen, which is extracted from water by electrolysis using electricity generated by renewable energy sources (wind, solar, hydro), as countries transition to low emission economies and pointed to the large investment in projects in the MENA region as testament to its potential. The panel also discussed "Blue" ammonia. "Blue" ammonia is a low carbon intensity fuel that can be used in industrial applications. It is made from nitrogen and "blue" hydrogen derived from natural gas feedstocks, with the carbon dioxide byproduct from hydrogen production captured and stored. An attendee noted that Qatar can be a leader in this field as it is in the process of building the world's largest "blue" ammonia facility with a capacity of 1.2mn tonnes per annum. In August 2022, QatarEnergy Renewable Solutions (QRS) and Qatar Fertilizer Company (QAFCO) signed an agreement for the construction of the Ammonia-7 project, which is expected to come into operation by the first quarter of 2026.As part of the project, QRS will develop and manage integrated CCS facilities capable of capturing and sequestering about 1.5mn tonnes of CO2 per annum, to cater to the new Ammonia-7 plant. It will also supply more than 35 megawatts of renewable electricity to the Ammonia-7 facility from its PV Solar Power Plant in MIC, which is currently under construction. Speaking at the CEO Roundtable, H E Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Al-Attiyah Foundation and former Minister of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar, said hydrogen deserves the full attention of the industry due to the significant role it can have in the global energy mix in the coming decades. "It was wonderful to hear expert insights from guest speakers and attendees on a topic that only going to become more pertinent. Hydrogen is a versatile energy carrier and with significant investment in the coming decades can help tackle various critical energy challenges. Furthermore, the Gulf region is in pole position to become a major producer and exporter of hydrogen in addition to fossil fuels. The region boasts enormous renewable energy resources and has the necessary space to produce green hydrogen on a large scale," Al-Attiyah remarked at the event. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Qatar takes part in GCC economic, development affairs authority meet -** Qatar participated in a discussion of the permanent ministerial-level preparatory committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Economic and Development Affairs Authority, which was held in the city of Salalah in the sisterly Sultanate of Oman. In the discussion session, Qatar was represented by a delegation headed by Minister of Finance HE Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari in the presence of a number of Their Excellencies the Ministers of Economy and Finance of GCC countries. During the session, discussions were held on the most important topics related to economic, trade and investment areas. Several working papers were also reviewed, including those concerning the customs union of the GCC countries and the common Gulf market, as well as a paper on the construction and uses of artificial intelligence. Convening this session comes in preparation for the fifth meeting of the permanent preparatory committee at the ministerial level for the Gulf Economic and Development Affairs Authority. (Qatar Tribune)

- **Cabinet okays draft law on precious metals, valuable stones -** The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, has approved in principle a draft law regarding control of precious metals and valuable stones. The draft law was prepared in the context of keeping pace with developments in control over precious metals and valuable stones, to replace Law No (4) of 1978 on the control, assaying and stamping precious metals. The Cabinet also approved a draft law amending some provisions of Law No (1) of 2012 on the regulation and control of advertisement placement and decided to refer it to the Shura Council. The Cabinet then approved the following: 1- A draft Memorandum of Understanding in the fields of sports and youth between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 2- A draft Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of intellectual property between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Qatar and the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 3- A draft Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of competition between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Qatar and the General Authority for Competition of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 4- A draft agreement on legal and judicial cooperation in civil, commercial and personal status matters between countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. 5- A draft agreement on legal and judicial cooperation in penal (criminal) matters between countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Cabinet then reviewed the following topics and took appropriate decisions thereon: 1- Results of the study on the proposed amendments to the Labor Law. 2- Results of the International Agriculture Forum (Kingdom of Morocco — May 2023). (Qatar Tribune)

- **Ashghal to develop new roadmap for a high-performance culture -** The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) will develop a new roadmap for a 7–Star certification from the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) in Belgium. While opening the Organizational Excellence Forum Wednesday, Ashghal president Dr Engineer Saad bin Ahmad al-Muhannadi said the roadmap will be implemented with the aim of establishing and promoting corporate culture that prioritizes exceptional performance, continuous improvement, sustainable success and outstanding results. "Based on our belief that achieving Qatar's diligent endeavors to build a distinct government sector that achieves the highest standards of development, Ashghal's team has adopted a roadmap to achieve a legacy of excellence, improve performance, and participate in the state's journey towards governmental excellence," al-Muhannadi said. He added that Ashghal has come a long way in its ongoing journey towards governmental excellence and has obtained the 5-Star Certificate of Excellence from the EFQM. During the forum, Engineer Jamal Sharida al-Kaabi, manager of the Planning and Quality Department at Ashghal, showcased the most important milestones in the Public Works Authority's journey towards organizational excellence and the major factors that led to its recognition by EFQM. Al-Kaabi highlighted Ashghal's success in raising the quality of procedures, business and adhering to the standards of organizational excellence in accordance with internationally recognized standards. He said Ashghal is currently placing among its top priorities the achievement of environmental sustainability, innovation, automation, and adoption of modern technology in construction and asset management. "In this context, the Sustainability Strategy has been recently launched in Ashghal, which comprises more than 16 initiatives that include a number of employees," he said. He explained Ashghal is committed to gradual and transformative development to become a leading governmental organization that adopts the highest excellence standards. "These operational standards are based on the development and enhancement of more than 294 operational processes and 25 corporate policies, in addition to 42 excellence initiatives that included about 120 employees. This enabled upgrading the measurement, monitoring and evaluation methods that contributed to providing realistic evidence of outstanding performance that are up to the mark with the challenges," he noted. (Gulf Times)

International

- **Fed survey shows: US economy grew modestly in recent weeks -** US economic growth was modest amid a cooling labor market and slowing inflation pressures in July and August, a Federal Reserve report published on Wednesday showed, buttressing expectations that the central bank was either done, or close to being done, with interest rate increases. "Most Districts reported price growth slowed overall," the Fed said in its latest "Beige Book" summary of surveys and interviews conducted across its 12 districts through Aug. 28. It added that "nearly all districts indicated businesses renewed their previously unfulfilled expectations that wage growth will slow broadly in the near term." The US central bank is widely expected to leave its benchmark overnight interest rate in the current 5.25%-5.50% range at the end of its Sept. 19-20 policy meeting, while leaving open the door to a final quarter-percentage-point hike before the end of the year. Financial markets are pricing about even odds that the Fed's rate-hike campaign, begun 18 months ago, is over. Fed officials are, however, keeping their options open. They believe that the 5.25 percentage points of rate hikes delivered since March 2022 are slowing the economy, capping job growth and most importantly slowing inflation, which soared to a 40-year high last year. Data since the last Fed rate hike six weeks ago has tended to support that view, with the economy adding an average of 150,000 jobs per month over the last three months, down sharply from the prior three months. Inflation, as gauged by the Fed's preferred measure, was 3.3% in July, down from 7% last summer. That's why even a hawkish policymaker like Fed Governor Christopher Waller was able to say that the central bank has time to take in new data before it decides whether it has to raise rates again or can hold them at current levels. Earlier on Wednesday, Boston Fed President Susan Collins also said the central bank has the space to be patient, while acknowledging that inflation pressures, though easing, still remain too high. Collins, however, added that she did not believe a "significant slowdown is required" to get inflation down and "price stability is achievable with an orderly slowdown and only a modest unemployment rate increase - ideally preserving some of the favorable labor supply dynamics. Still, prices continue to rise faster than the Fed's 2% goal, employers are adding many more than the monthly 100,000 jobs needed to meet population growth, and economic output appears to be far outpacing the less-than-2% annual growth rate Fed officials say is sustainable in the long run. Many of the Fed's 12 regional banks found that amid decelerating price pressures, the ebbing was most notable in goods-centric parts of the economy, according to the latest Beige Book report. (Reuters)

- **Deutsche Bank: Possible Fed overtightening makes recession more likely than not -** Despite recent optimism around the US economy, a recession remains a more likely scenario than a so-called "soft landing" as the Federal Reserve seeks to curb inflation by tightening monetary conditions, Deutsche Bank said on Wednesday. "Given that inflation peaked significantly above target, the Fed should err on the side of tightening too much, rather than too little," Deutsche Bank analysts said in a note. "A US recession remains more likely than not." Investors in recent months have increasingly embraced hopes that the Fed could lower inflation to its 2% target without sending the economy into a tailspin, as economic data showed the economy has remained strong despite the rapid increase in interest rates over the past 18 months. While that "soft landing" can still be achieved, it remained likely that the Fed would need to "depress demand below potential" to bring inflation to target, said the Deutsche Bank analysts, adding that they expected pressure on the US economy to become more evident early next year. In contrast to Deutsche Bank's forecasts, several banks have in recent months revised or pushed out their earlier recession calls. Goldman Sachs analysts on Monday said they had further reduced their 12-month US recession probability to 15% from a previous 20% estimate. (Reuters)

- **US Senate confirms Jefferson as Fed vice chair, Cook to new term on board -** The US Senate on Wednesday confirmed Philip Jefferson as vice chair of the Federal Reserve in an 88-10 vote that signaled broad bipartisan support for the US central bank's second-in-command as policymakers near a potential watershed moment in their battle against inflation. Senators also confirmed Fed Governor Lisa Cook to a fresh 14-year term at the central bank, though they did so in a 51-47 vote that broke along partisan lines. Both Jefferson and Cook have a PhD in economics and became Fed governors in May of 2022 after long careers in academia. They have voted for every interest rate hike since then as the central bank has lifted its benchmark overnight interest rate from the near-zero level in March 2022 to the current 5.25%-5.50% range. With interest rates now seen as high enough to slow the economy and cool the job market, Fed policymakers are widely expected to leave the policy rate unchanged at their Sept. 19-20 meeting. (Reuters)

- **US services sector picked up in August, along with prices -** The US services sector unexpectedly gained steam in August, with new orders firming and businesses paying higher prices for inputs -- potential signs of still-elevated inflation pressures. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said on Wednesday its non-manufacturing PMI rose to 54.5 last month, the highest reading since February and up from 52.7 in July. A reading above 50 indicates growth in the services industry, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the non-manufacturing PMI would decrease to 52.5, and no economist anticipated a higher reading than 53.9. Federal Reserve officials have raised the central bank's policy rate by 5.25 percentage points over the last year and a half to bring down too-high inflation, and in recent months have welcomed signs that higher borrowing costs are beginning to bite. Inflation by the Fed's preferred measure, the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, rose 3.3% in July from a year earlier, down from a peak of 7% last summer, data published last week showed. Meanwhile a Labor Department report Friday showed monthly job growth has averaged about 150,000 over the past three months, down sharply from 238,000 in the three months through May. Also, on Friday the ISM reported that its manufacturing PMI contracted in August for the 10th straight month. Those signs of cooling have helped solidify expectations that the Fed will leave its policy rate steady at its meeting later this month and may indeed be done with rate hikes altogether. Speaking Tuesday, Fed Governor Christopher Waller -- who has been among the most hawkish of US central bankers -- said last week's "hell of a good week of data" would let the Fed proceed carefully with no pressure "to do anything imminent." Still, Fed policymakers view the services sector as key to bringing inflation down to their 2% target, and Wednesday's ISM report does little to bolster the view that any slowdown is underway. A measure of new orders received by services businesses rose to 57.5 last month from 55.0 in July. A gauge of prices paid by services businesses for inputs increased to 58.9 in August from 56.8 in July. (Reuters)

- **After big GDP revision, UK statisticians seek faster data access -** Britain's statistics office requested earlier access to key economic data on Wednesday, a few days after it sharply revised its estimate of the size of the economy at the end of 2021 which caught many analysts by surprise. A senior official at the Office for National Statistics asked Britain's statistics regulator to review the outcome of its upcoming work on how it revised its estimates of the swings in the economy around the coronavirus pandemic period. "We also wish to explore potential means by which key data might be made available to the ONS earlier in the production cycle," Michael Keoghan, ONS deputy national statistician, said in the letter to the Office for Statistics Regulation. The ONS collects a lot of data itself through surveys of businesses and households but relies on government departments and other agencies for certain numbers. The letter did not specify what data the ONS was seeking to receive earlier but said this would help it to show a wider picture of the economy sooner than is currently the case. On Friday, revised data from the ONS showed that Britain's economy performed more strongly than previously thought in its recovery from the pandemic and was ahead of other big European countries at the end of 2021 rather than lagging behind them. (Reuters)
- **Survey Shows: German exporters see decline in trade in 2023 -** Most German exporters see trade declining or even strongly declining in 2023, the Federation of German Wholesale, Foreign Trade and Services (BGA) said on Wednesday. A BGA survey of 530 companies conducted in July and August shows that 63% of respondents expect trade to decline or strongly decline in 2023. Only 6% expect a better or much better development, while 31% expect no change. "These are alarming values," Dirk Jandura, president of the BGA, said on Wednesday in presenting the survey. (Reuters)
- **Policymakers see darker days ahead in China as growth sputters -** Policymakers expect persistently slower growth in China, perhaps even more sluggish than current consensus estimates, seeing its transition from an infrastructure- and investment-led economy to becoming consumption-driven as "difficult". Viewing the crisis in the world's second largest economy as more structural than cyclical, policymakers expect it to feed into a lower growth outlook globally, but also help alleviate some inflationary pressures as commodity prices cool down. Former Bank of Japan (BOJ) board member Takahide Kiuchi told the Reuters Global Markets Forum (GMF) he expects China's growth rate to decline "to below 4%, or even below 3%," adding this might negatively impact the world economy. Another former BOJ board member, Goushi Kataoka, meanwhile, predicted a "severe future" for the Chinese economy. "The inflation rate in China is around 0% - that means distortion of domestic demand and domestic supply," he said. China's services activity expanded at its slowest pace in eight months in August, as weak demand continued to dog the economy. This follows economic growth in 2022 recorded at one of its worst levels in nearly half a century. "This is certainly a risk of a negative external demand shock for Europe and for the global economy," said European Central Bank (ECB) governing council member Boris Vujcic, as he expressed caution. The Croatian central bank chief sees narrowing room for expansionary policies in China, adding, "We have to be careful." His fellow governing council member on the ECB, Austrian central bank chief Robert Holzmann, believes economic dynamism won't return to China as long as its administration stays "hesitant about what direction to move." Through 2023, China has lost its post-Covid momentum as stimulus measures - the latest of which aimed to shore up its debt-ridden property sector - have failed to meaningfully revive consumption. At the same time the United States and European economies are looking into how to "de-risk" their relationship with China to reduce their reliance on it. (Reuters)

Regional

- **IATA: Middle Eastern carriers see 1.5% year-on-year increase in July cargo volumes -** Middle Eastern carriers experienced a 1.5% year-on-year increase in cargo volumes in July, International Air Transport Association (IATA)'s latest report has shown. This was also an improvement to the previous month's performance (0.6%), IATA said and noted the demand on Middle East–Asia routes has been trending upward in the past two months. Capacity increased 17.1% compared to July 2022, it said. IATA's July data for global air cargo markets showed a continuing trend of recovering growth rates since February. July air cargo demand was tracking just 0.8% below the previous year's levels. Although demand is now basically flat compared to 2022, this is an improvement on recent months' performance that is particularly significant given declines in global trade volumes and rising concerns over China's economy. Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), tracked at 0.8% below July 2022 levels (-0.4% for international operations). This was a significant improvement over the previous month's performance (-3.4%). Capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), was up 11.2% compared to July 2022 (10.8% for international operations). The strong uptick in ACTKs reflects the growth in belly capacity (29.3% year-on-year) due to the summer season. Several factors in the operating environment should be noted, IATA said. In July, both the manufacturing output Purchasing Managers Index or PMI (49.0) and new export orders PMI (46.4) were below the critical threshold represented by the 50 marks, indicating a decline in global manufacturing production and exports. Global cross border trade contracted for the third month in a row in June, decreasing 2.5% year-on-year, reflecting the cooling demand environment and challenging macroeconomic conditions. The difference between the annual growth rates of air cargo and the global goods trade narrowed to -0.8 percentage points in June. While air cargo growth is still lagging world trade, the gap is the narrowest since January 2022. In July, the global supplier delivery time PMI was 51.9, signaling fewer supply chain delays. All major economies, except China, had PMIs above 50. The US, Europe, and Japan recorded PMIs of 54.2, 57.7, and 50.4, respectively. Inflation saw a mixed picture in July, with the increase in US consumer prices picking up pace for the first time in 13 months. Meanwhile, in China, both consumer and producer prices fell, pointing to a possible deflationary economy. IATA's Director General Willie Walsh said: "Compared to July 2022, demand for air cargo was basically flat. Considering we were 3.4% below 2022 levels in June, that's a significant improvement. And it continues a trend of strengthening demand that began in February. How this trend will evolve in the coming months will be something to watch carefully. "Many fundamental drivers of air cargo demand, such as trade volumes and export orders, remain weak or are deteriorating. And there are growing concerns over how China's economy is developing. At the same time, we are seeing shorter delivery times, which is normally a sign of increasing economic activity. Amid these mixed signals, strengthening demand gives us good reason to be cautiously optimistic." (Gulf Times)

- **Saudi Crown Prince, Putin discuss BRICS summit and energy markets -** Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Salman and Russia's President Vladimir Putin hold a telephone call on Wednesday. During the phone call, the two sides reviewed the distinguished bilateral relation between Saudi Arabia and Russia and ways to develop them in different fields. The Crown Prince and Putin also discussed several topics of common interests, including the recently held BRICS summit. This is in addition to Saudi Arabia's keenness to build economic partnerships and its aspiration to cooperate with the BRICS countries. The two sides also stressed continuing efforts to stabilize global energy markets. (Zawya)
- **IMF: Saudi Arabia's 2023 GDP growth to slow due to longer oil cuts -** Saudi Arabia's overall gross domestic product growth is likely to be lower than the currently forecast 1.9% by the International Monetary Fund, but will remain in positive territory, the IMF's mission chief for the kingdom said on Wednesday. Non-oil growth is expected to remain robust this year but overall growth will be revised downwards to reflect the latest extension to oil production cuts, Amine Mati told Reuters in an interview. (Zawya)
- **IMF projects Saudi Arabia budget deficit at 1.2% of GDP in 2023 -** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects Saudi Arabia to swing to a fiscal deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2023, from a surplus of 2.5% in 2022, it said in its latest assessment report on Wednesday. The Saudi government has forecast a second consecutive budget surplus for this year, albeit narrower than in 2022. Saudi Arabia's economy grew 8.7% last year on the back of high oil prices, allowing it to record its first budget surplus in almost a decade. But cuts to production this year and lower prices are expected to hit oil revenues and weigh on growth. On Tuesday, Saudi Arabia and Russia said they would extend voluntary oil cuts to the end of the year, despite a rally in the oil market and analyst expectations of tight supply in the fourth quarter, sending prices higher. Overall economic growth in 2023 is projected to slow sharply to 1.9% according to the IMF, with oil GDP growth to decline by 2.5% this year; non-oil GDP growth is projected at 4.9% this year. "The outlook is positive -- with non-oil GDP growth momentum expected to remain strong -- despite an uncertain external environment," the IMF said in its Article IV country report, adding risks to the outlook were balanced. Government-led reforms and the growth of private investment in new sectors has supported non-oil economic growth in Saudi Arabia, a key element of Vision 2030, the kingdom's economic transformation plan overseen by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Vision 2030 is a vast economic transformation plan into which the government has been pouring hundreds of billions of dollars and aims to diversify the kingdom's economy away from oil. The IMF recommended maintaining the VAT rate at 15%, the highest among Gulf states, as well as energy subsidy reforms which should be accompanied by social programs to limit the impact on vulnerable groups. (Zawya)
- **Saudi-Italian investment forum spurs collaboration with 21 agreements -** The Saudi-Italian Investment Forum, jointly organized by the Saudi Ministry of Investment and the Italian Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, made headlines on Monday as it witnessed the signing of 21 agreements and memoranda of understanding (MOUs) spanning a wide array of sectors. The prestigious event, hosted in Milan, brought together high-profile attendees, including Eng. Khalid Al-Falih, the Saudi Minister of Investment, and Adolfo Urso, the Italian Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy. Distinguished officials from both nations and representatives from the governmental and private sectors in the two countries were also present. The 21 MoUs and agreements inked during the forum encompassed vital sectors such as energy, clean energy, healthcare, real estate, waste management, technology, and manufacturing. These agreements signify as a big step toward enhancing commercial cooperation, promoting trade growth, and bolstering investment relations between the two nations. The forum featured presentations and panel discussions conducted by government entities, shedding light on investment opportunities in a variety of sectors. These sectors included clean energy, petrochemicals, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, automotive, advanced manufacturing, and real estate development within the tourism and hospitality sectors. In 2022, the non-oil bilateral trade value between Saudi Arabia and Italy surged to approximately SR5.6bn (1.4bn Euros), showcasing substantial growth potential. Italy consistently ranks among the top 20 countries investing in the Kingdom, with more than 150 Italian companies possessing foreign investment licenses in Saudi Arabia, a testament to the strength of their economic partnership. (Zawya)
- **$800mn revenues through sale of 51mn tickets since opening of Saudi cinemas -** The General Commission for Audiovisual Media (GCAM) announced that the total revenues generated from the sale of tickets have exceeded SR3bn since the opening of cinemas in Saudi Arabia. So far, a total of 51mn tickets have been sold, according to the commission sources. The number of seats in 69 Saudi movie theatres has exceeded 64,000, and there are more than seven operators in over 20 Saudi cities. There are over seven operators and the number of display screens in the theatres reached more than 620. Saudi movies have proved their strong and effective presence, as the number of screened films reached more than 33. The GCAM revealed that the highest-grossing film at the box office is the American action-drama film “Top Gun: Maverick,” of which more than 1.2mn tickets sold, and revenues crossed SR84mn. It is noteworthy that the Saudi cinema sector recorded a growth of 28% during the second quarter of 2023. According to the recent business sector bulletin of the Ministry of Commerce, there has been a surge in the commercial records of the promising sectors in the Kingdom, including cinema, entertainment and art. (Zawya)
- **Fashion sector in Saudi Arabia contributed by 1.4% to nation's GDP in 2022 -** The fashion sector in Saudi Arabia made a substantial impact on the domestic economy, as it has contributed a noteworthy 1.4% to the nation's GDP in 2022. This amounted to an impressive $12.5bn (SR46.9bn), highlighting the industry's integral role in driving economic growth and diversification. These numbers have been revealed in a forum hosted by the Saudi Fashion Commission in Riyadh, during which it has showcased its report ‘State of Fashion in Saudi Arabia (2023)’. The report clearly outlines fashion’s connection to Vision 2030, relating to the country’s aims to diversify the economy, expand job creation, and further cultural enrichment. With this significant impact, fashion sales in Saudi Arabia from 2021 to 2025 are expected to surge by 48%, representing an annual growth rate of 13%. The fashion sector in the Kingdom has also contributed impressively to job creation, as the report highlighted that, in 2022, employees engaged in fashion-related roles reached 230,000. This included 90,000 jobs in core fashion occupations dedicated to supporting the fashion industry, and an additional 140,000 jobs in non-core and ancillary occupations that contributed to the sector's vitality. During the forum, CEO of the Fashion Commission Burak Cakmak said that to date the Saudi’s fashion sector holds the largest projected growth rates of any other large, high-income markets, providing significant opportunities for Saudi businesses, investors, creatives, and the ambitious youth population. Cakmak stated that “Building on the success of our global launch of the ‘State of Fashion in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2023)’ report at Paris Fashion Week, we encourage people to follow updates on our website and social platforms, to explore the vast potential that lies ahead for Saudi Arabia's growing domestic fashion industry”. At the heart of Saudi fashion's growth was the Fashion Commission's resolute inclusivity push, seen in a dedicated program boosting women's employment. This effort resulted in women making up 52% of employees in Saudi Arabia's fashion sector, a statistic that aligns with the broader goal of promoting gender equality. The report outlined prospects for a greener fashion ecosystem, integrating material science advancements, innovative garment reuse, recycling, and heightened consumer awareness. This focus reinforced the industry's commitment to minimizing its environmental impact and fostering a sustainable future under Vision 2030. (Zawya)
- **Saudi's SAMA targets to raise FinTech companies to 525, with 18,000 new specialized jobs -** Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) Governor Ayman Al-Sayari said that SAMA targets to increase the number of financial technology (FinTech) companies to 525. He said this while reviewing the most prominent objectives of the SAMA’s FinTech strategy for the coming years. Addressing the Arab Banking Conference in Riyadh on Monday, Al-Sayari emphasized that the FinTech strategy aims to achieve the desired economic impact, as it targets increasing FinTech companies to 525. “The FinTech strategy will contribute to creating 18,000 specialized jobs, as well as contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP) by an amount exceeding SR13bn by 2030. The Saudi financial sector has been supportive of economic growth in Saudi Arabia, as financial institutions

have worked to expand the scope of their services to include all private and individual borrowers from the sector." He indicated that the number of FinTech companies exceeded 200 companies by the end of last month. He pointed out that the Saudi economy recorded a growth of 8.7% in 2022, exceeding the global average of 3.5%. The SAMA governor said that the capital adequacy ratio (CAR) in the Saudi financial sector reached 20.1% by the end of the second quarter of 2023. He noted that the Saudi Arabian banking system enjoys solid performance indicators, as the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) reached 188.3% by the end of the second quarter while the net stable funding ratio (NSFR) stood at 115%. He pointed out that the private sector continues to support the Kingdom's economic growth, noting that non-oil activities grew by 5.4 and 5.5% in the first and second quarters of this year respectively. Al-Sayari stated that Saudi banks expanded their lending activity to meet the continuing demand for bank credit while risk results remained moderate. This reflects the strength of the local economy, and in this context, credit increased 10.2% in the second quarter on an annual basis. He pointed out that as global challenges continue, SAMA continues to monitor local and global developments to maintain the stability and strength of the financial system. Al-Sayari said that SAMA paid great attention to the banking system due to its central role in the economy, as all precautionary ratios for the banking system exceeded the ratios specified in Basel requirements. "This reflects a banking system with strong performance indicators," he added. (Zawya)

- **Saudi Arabia's real estate and infrastructure projects top $1.25tn -** The value of Saudi Arabia's real estate and infrastructure projects launched in recent years have crossed $1.25tn in the Kingdom, but affordability remains a key concern in the residential sector, according to a new study. The total value of commissioned projects has crossed $250bn in the country, with housing developments accounting for a large part the country's pipeline as it targets a population forecast of 50mn by 2030, according to the findings from the latest Saudi Giga Projects Report by real estate consultancy firm Knight Frank. More than 600,000 residential units are currently in the pipeline, with Saudi capital Riyadh accounting for 18% of all real estate and development projects underway, totaling some $229bn; this includes plans to accommodate over 241,000 homes by 2030, the report said. "... The volume of residential units planned [in Saudi Arabia] has risen to 660,000 units, up 30% in the last 12 months, which will come as welcome news to house hunters prevented by the recent spike in values, which has underpinned a nation-wide decline in the volume of homes being sold," said Faisal Durrani, Partner – Head of Research, Middle East & North Africa. "That being said, affordability is still a key hurdle for many buyers and so price points for the new inventory will be critical to reigniting domestic demand." A shortage in Grade A office space has also been a concern in financial hubs such as Riyadh, with development projects underway to address this market gap as well to 3.6mn sqm of office space in the Saudi capital, with a nation-wide plan that takes that figure up to 6mn sqm or more. "Separately, the office pipeline is steady at 6mn sqm. This figure has of course been influenced by the 300,000 square meters of office projects that have been completed since last autumn. The swelling of the office pipeline is set against a backdrop of a severe shortage of prime Grade A space in cities such as Riyadh, which stands in stark contrast to other global centers where occupancy levels still trail pre-pandemic levels," Durrani continued, adding: "Elsewhere in the commercial market, 5.3mn sqm of retail space is now planned, with a further 289,000 hotel rooms that will go some way to supporting Saudi Arabia's goal of hosting 100mn visitors by 2030, up from around 17mn last year, which made the Kingdom the 14th most visited nation in the world." (Zawya)
- **Emirates NBD launches sustainable finance framework, picks banks -** Dubai's top lender Emirates NBD Bank (ENBD.DU) has picked banks to arrange investor meetings to present Emirates NBD's newly established sustainable finance framework, fixed income news service IFR reported on Wednesday. The lender has mandated HSBC and ING as joint sustainability structuring agents to present a sustainable finance framework to investors that would allow the lender to issue green and sustainability-linked debt instruments, IFR reported. (Reuters)
- **UAE's ADNOC to proceed with Habshan carbon capture project -** Abu Dhabi National Oil Company [ADNOC.UL] (ADNOC) said on Wednesday it had reached a final investment decision to develop the Habshan carbon capture project. The carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) project will have the capacity to capture and permanently store 1.5mn metric tons of carbon dioxide a year, ADNOC said in a statement. ADNOC brought forward its net zero carbon emissions target by five years to 2045 in July as the United Arab Emirates prepares to host a major U.N. climate conference in December. The Habshan project will triple the state oil giant's carbon capture capacity to 2.3mn metric tons per year. The project will be built, operated and maintained by ADNOC Gas on behalf of ADNOC, the statement said. "This landmark project is one of many tangible initiatives that ADNOC is delivering as we accelerate our decarbonization plan to meet our Net Zero by 2045 ambition," Musabbeh Al Kaabi, ADNOC Executive Director of Low Carbon Solutions and International Growth, said. It will include carbon capture units at the Habshan gas processing plant, pipeline infrastructure and a network of wells for carbon dioxide injection. The UAE is hosting the United Nations COP28 climate summit, whose incoming president is ADNOC Chief Executive Sultan al-Jaber, at the end of the year. The OPEC producer supplies nearly 3% of global oil, which is a major source of greenhouse gases. ADNOC said in January it would allocate $15bn to decarbonization projects by 2030. (Reuters)
- **Mohammed bin Rashid witnesses signing of agreement between Masdar and DEWA -** His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, witnessed the signing of an agreement between the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, to build and operate the 1,800 megawatt (MW) sixth phase of the landmark Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, featuring a cost of up to AED5.51bn. The agreement was signed in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court; H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Mohammad bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid said, "Today, I witnessed with Mansour bin Zayed the signing of an agreement between the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and Masdar, Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, to implement the sixth phase of the world's largest single-site solar park, at a cost of AED5.5bn. This phase will power over half a million residences while reducing carbon emissions by 2.36mn tonnes annually. All phases of this landmark project are expected to be completed by 2030, with a total investment of AED50bn. We're on track to achieve our ambitious goal - 100% clean energy for Dubai by 2050." Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Chairman of Masdar, and COP28 President-Designate; and Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of DEWA, signed the agreement in Abu Dhabi. The UAE's clean energy powerhouse was selected from 23 high-caliber international bidders and offered a Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) of US$1.6215 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), the lowest of any of DEWA's solar Independent Power Producer (IPP) model projects to date. The current total production capacity of solar projects at the solar park is 2,427MW. DEWA is building another project with a total capacity of 433 MW. The 1,800MW sixth phase of the solar park will increase total production capacity to 4,660MW. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said, "Being awarded this landmark renewable energy project on the world's largest single-site solar park is another significant milestone for Masdar. It is a testament to Masdar's track record in pioneering clean energy projects as we continue to support the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative. Ahead of our nation hosting COP28 later this year, it is vital that the world triples global renewable energy capacity by 2030 to keep the ambition of 1.5 degrees within reach. This landmark project demonstrates definitive action in our shared journey towards a cleaner, greener future." (Zawya)
- **Dubai: Half a million residences to be powered by clean energy from world's largest solar park -** An agreement signed on Wednesday will power over half a million residences in Dubai with clean energy. The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (Dewa) and renewable energy firm Masdar signed an agreement to implement the sixth phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. The project is the largest

single-site solar park in the world. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai said the Dh5.5-bn sixth phase will reduce carbon emissions by 2.36mn tonnes annually. “The completion of all phases of this massive project is expected by 2030, with a total investment of Dh50bn. Our goal is to achieve 100% clean energy for Dubai by 2050,” Sheikh Mohammed wrote on microblogging platform X, formerly known as Twitter. (Zawya)

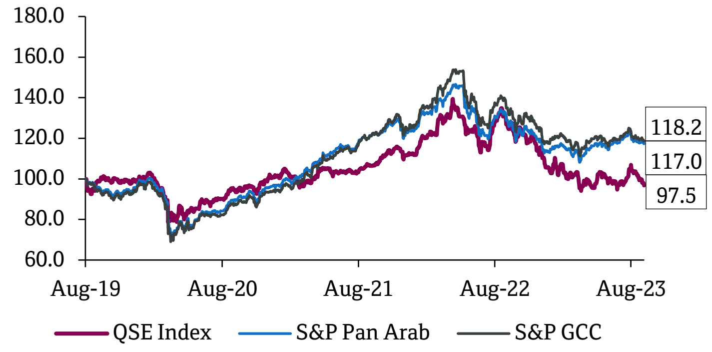
- **UAE: Family businesses need massive growth to allow future generations to live comfortably -** Family businesses in the region need a double-digit growth rate so that the next generation continues enjoying the luxury lifestyle, businessmen and analysts said during a conference on Wednesday. Businesses must also work on sustainability as the governments are very focused on this aspect. This was stated during a panel discussion at the Innovate, Inspire and Influence (i3) Conference held in Dubai on Wednesday. The conference was organized by Khaleej Times, the first English newspaper in the UAE. Many diplomats, businessmen, CEOs of large family-owned businesses and senior officials from various sectors attended the one-day conference, which was held in Dubai Downtown. Amin Nasser, private business senior advisor, PwC Middle East, said family businesses need to work hard for a common vision with technology and innovation among the biggest drivers of growth. “Family businesses have the opportunity to leverage the passion and enthusiasm of the next generation,” he said. During the panel discussion, executives delved into the world of family-run businesses, exploring the unique strengths and challenges faced by these legacy enterprises. Neeraj Teckchandani, CEO and director, Apparel Group, said they always challenged themselves to remain relevant and ahead of the competition and this has been the core of the group’s success. Suresh Vaidhyanathan, CEO of special projects - Ghassan Abboud Group, said, historically, family businesses had humble beginnings but have grown into conglomerates. “Family businesses typically started with one sector and over time there was a diversification in terms of products and geographies. They built sold organizations with a lot of employees. Over the decades, there was always the scenario where the chairman continued to have a strong influence on the company. When it comes to innovation, it is always the founder who is doing it from day one." “But during the pandemic, there was some major disruption to the entire business model and they suddenly found themselves with depleting revenues and cost was too huge. Their readiness for digital disruption was poor. So, they were caught in a situation where entire business viability was questioned,” said Vaidhyanathan. Venkat Mahadevan, head of consumer business for the UAE at Citi, also stressed on planning of succession for family-owned businesses. “It is not an easy task and it is a very sensitive process,” he added. Globally, it is estimated that only 30% of businesses have done proper succession plan. “If we look at family-owned businesses, from first generation to the second, the survival rate is 50%, and from the second to third is 10%. And some of them may not even survive at all because of lack of succession planning,” he added. (Zawya)

- **Government entities in Ajman discuss developing emirate's economic sector -** Abdullah Al Muwaiji, Chairman of the Ajman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and Member of the Ajman Executive Council, chaired the second consultative meeting of the Executive Council in Ajman to discuss opportunities for developing and growing the economic sector in Ajman. The meeting also tackled enhancing the attractiveness of investments in the emirate and developing recommendations that support the ease of doing business and diversifying tools to empower the business community in Ajman. The meeting was attended at the Ajman Chamber headquarters by Abdullah Ahmed Al Hamrani, Director-General of the Department of Economic Development in Ajman (Ajman DED); Salem Al Suwaidi, Director-General of ACCI; Ismail Abdul Salam Al Naqi, Director-General of the Ajman Free Zones; Dr. Ohood Ali Al Shuhail, Director-General of the Ajman Digital Government; Dr. Hajar Saeed Al Hubaishi, EO of Ajman Statistics and Competitiveness Centre; and Fatima Ahmed Al Suwaidi, Director of the Policy and Strategy Department at the Ajman Executive Council. The meeting highlighted the importance of strengthening the partnership between the government and private sectors and unifying efforts in implementing various projects that contribute to achieving the emirate’s objectives in the industrial, service, tourism, educational, health, and other fields, and the impact of complementary roles between government entities concerned with economic affairs in the emirate on the development of direct investments. The attendees were briefed on a detailed report presented by Ajman DED on the study of business tracking and competitiveness of the emirate of Ajman and the results of the study, in addition to the consumer confidence report and the Excellence Award for Economic Establishments in Ajman “The Best”. Al Muwaiji stressed the importance of economic studies and reports and their role in raising the quality of services and facilitating the launch of qualitative government initiatives that support the emirate’s directions. He also praised the efforts of local government entities in providing digital infrastructure that directly contributes to facilitating the customer’s journey and enhancing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the economic and investment sector in the emirate. He also praised the outcomes of the meeting as an effective platform for coordinating cooperation and unifying efforts among officials of government entities to discuss the reality of the local economy and develop recommendations to improve the quality of government services provided to institutions and individuals in general and to achieve the emirate’s development plan and its goals. (Zawya)

- **India tops list of new Dubai Chamber of Commerce members during H1 2023 -** Dubai Chamber of Commerce, one of the three chambers operating under the umbrella of Dubai Chambers, has revealed that Indian investors topped the list of nationalities behind new companies joining the chamber during the first half of 2023. A total of 6,717 new Indian-owned companies signed up for membership in H1 2023, compared to 4,845 in H1 2022, representing year-over-year growth of 39%. In total, Indian companies accounted for 22.3% of the 30,146 new companies that joined the chamber in H1 2023. The number of Indian companies registered by the end of June 2023 increased to 90,118, reflecting the important role Indian companies play in supporting the sustainable growth of Dubai's economy. The UAE ranked second in the number of new companies joining the chamber during the first half of this year, with 4,445 new companies registered. Pakistan ranked third with 3,395 new companies, an increase of 59% compared to H1 2022, bringing the total number of Pakistani companies registered to 40,315. Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers, commented, "The diversity of nationalities represented among the new companies joining the chamber reflects the vibrancy of Dubai's dynamic business environment, together with the emirate's strong ability to consistently attract a broad range of foreign direct investment." Lootah highlighted that the number of new chamber members increased by 43% during the first half of 2023, adding, "Our extensive facilities, services, and activities add tremendous value for businesses and are closely aligned with the chamber's drive to achieve the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda and our strategic priorities." Other countries with large increases in new memberships included Egypt, with 2,154 new companies joining the chamber. This represents an increase of 102% compared to H1 2022 and brings the total number of Egyptian member companies to 18,028. Additionally, 1,184 new Syrian-owned companies joined during H1 2022, an increase of 24% from the 956 recorded during H1 2022. The overall number of Syrian companies registered with the chamber now stands at 10,678. The total number of new Bangladeshi companies registering with the chamber witnessed a year-over-year increase of 47%, rising from 711 in H1 2022 to 1,044 in H1 2023, contributing to 10,975 companies. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom saw an increase of 40%, with the chamber welcoming 963 new UK-owned member companies during H1 2023 to bring the total number to 10,010. China was also among the top nationalities for new chamber members, with 664 new companies joining in H1 2023, up 69% from the H1 2022 figure and bringing the number of Chinese-owned enterprises to 8,265. Six hundred thirty-nine new Jordanian companies joined during H1 2023, a 36% increase from the 469 recorded during H1 2022, bringing the number of Jordanian businesses registered with the chamber to 8,368. The number of Lebanese businesses registering witnessed year-over-year growth of 26% in H1 2023, with 588 new members compared to the 468 businesses that joined during the same period last year. This brought the total number of Lebanese businesses registered as chamber members at the end of June 2023 to 6,175. The list of countries with the highest growth rates in new member company ownership during H1 2023 included Japan, which increased by 253% to reach 60 – up from 17 new companies registered in H1 2022. New Kyrgyzstan-owned company registrations increased 167%, rising from 21 in H1 2022 to 56 in H1 2023. Tanzania's new business registrations increased from 14 companies in H1 2022 to 34 in H1 2023, while Hungary saw a 138% increase from 16 businesses in H1 2022 to 38 during H1 2023. Trading and repair services accounted for 42.4% of the total activities among new member company registrations during H1 2023, followed closely by the real estate, renting, and business service sectors, which made up 30.8% of new member companies. Businesses in the construction industry took third place with 7.2%, while the transport, storage, and telecommunications sectors ranked fourth, accounting for 6.3% of the total activity among new companies joining the chamber during the first half of the year. (Zawya)

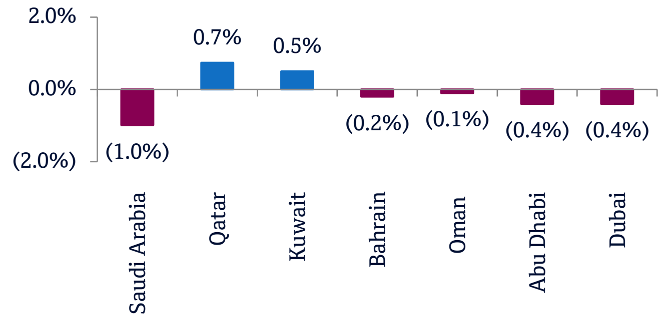
- **ADEX signs $100mn line of credit agreement with National Bank of Egypt to boost Emirati exports -** Abu Dhabi Exports Office (ADEX), the export-financing arm of Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), has signed a financing agreement with the National Bank of Egypt (NBE), reinforcing trade and economic relations between the UAE and Egypt. This landmark collaboration solidifies the longstanding bond between the two nations and showcases their commitment to mutual prosperity and growth. Under the terms of the agreement, a revolving loan facility of US$100mn has been established, with the primary aim of supporting transactions involving UAE exports to Egypt. This initiative seeks to bolster economic activities and promote cross-border trade relations, further enhancing the already fertile trade landscape between the two nations. Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director-General of ADFD and Chairman of the Exports Executive Committee of ADEX, said, “The agreement with the National Bank of Egypt aligns with our leadership’s vision, demonstrating its dedication to strengthening national exports. The financing extended by ADEX represents a significant stride forward – a mission that actively contributes to the growth of our national economy and enriches a strategic partnership that enhances trade relations between our two countries.” He added that the agreement would bolster ADEX’s ambitions to tap into emerging regional and global markets, noting, “Our aim is to empower Emirati exporters to expand their international presence and enhance their competitiveness on a global scale, thus increase their contribution to the economy.” The agreement marks a milestone in ADEX’s ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation with Egypt and other countries. The partnership was a result of unilateral signings by each party, which were subsequently combined to cement the collaboration’s foundation. The Abu Dhabi Exports Office extends loans and guarantees to Emirati exporters to enhance their contributions to the economy and foster their global expansion. The agreement reflects a strategic collaboration designed to strengthen the export sector, aligning with mutual interests. (Zawya)
- **UAE has the highest public crypto adoption rate globally -** The UAE has the highest public crypto adoption rate in the world along with Singapore, according to the Henley & Partners’ Crypto Wealth Report released on Tuesday. The UAE and Singapore scored 7.1 out of 10 on the Crypto Adoption Index, which covers six key parameters – public adoption, infrastructure adoption, innovation and technology, regulatory environment, economic factors, and tax-friendliness. Public adoption measures the level of awareness, interest, and engagement with cryptocurrencies in the general population. It includes indicators such as the percentage of crypto users relative to the total population, Google search interest related to cryptocurrencies, and the number of institutions offering courses on blockchain and cryptocurrency. Higher public adoption indicates a more crypto-friendly environment. Overall, the report ranked the UAE third after Singapore and Switzerland with a score of 50.2 out of 60. Out of 10 points, the UAE scored 10 in tax-friendliness, 9.3 in innovation and technology, 8.9 in economic factors, 8.5 in the regulatory environment, 7.1 in public adoption and 6.4 in infrastructure adoption. While Hong Kong, USA, Australia, the UK, Canada Malta, Malaysia, Thailand, Netherlands, Italy, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, New Zealand, Monaco, Portugal, Cyprus and Mauritius were ranked among the top 20 countries in the Crypto Adoption Index. “The UAE stands out as a leading jurisdiction for crypto investors, with its strong public adoption score evidencing a vibrant interest in the crypto ecosystem. The Middle Eastern powerhouse also offers favorable tax policies and a high level of economic stability,” said Henley & Partners. “In the UAE, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Abu Dhabi Global Market (FSRA-ADGM) was the first to provide rules and regulations regarding cryptocurrency purchasing and selling. The Emirates are generally very open to new technologies and have proposed zero taxes for crypto owners and businesses,” it said. (Zawya)
- **KPC: Oil sector achieves $8.4bn for 2022-2023 following successful strategy -** Kuwait's oil sector achieved "exceptional" profits of KD 2.6bn ($8.4bn) for the fiscal year 2022/2023. The remarks were made by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah in a speech on Wednesday, during the annual meeting of senior oil sector officials, organized by the Petrochemical Industries Company. KPC is following international standards in the field in training and preparing young employees to develop their skills, he said. Meanwhile, the CEO said that one of the prominent achievements of the oil sector is fully operating Al-Zour Refinery, producing 615,000 barrels a day, which is one of the biggest refineries in the world. The other one is fully operating Duqm Refinery with a capacity of 230,000 barrels a day, the biggest joint-GCC oil project, he added. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah also said that KPC is one of the pioneers in supervising projects and creating global partnerships, leading the company to gain profits worth KD 1.7bn ($5.5bn) in the past ten years. On her part, CEO of the Petrochemical Industries Company Nadia Al-Hajji said the event is a chance to celebrate the oil sector's 2022 achievements, despite the many challenges in the field, posed by the global economic and political crises. She affirmed the need to execute strategic initiatives on sustainability, turning to renewable energy, protecting the environment, digitalization and encouraging innovation. The meeting focuses on discussing the previous year's achievements and the upcoming years goals, with the aim of achieving the oil sector's 2040 strategy. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close ($)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,916.56	(0.5)	(1.2)	5.1
Silver/Ounce	23.17	(1.6)	(4.2)	(3.3)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	90.60	0.6	2.3	5.5
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	87.54	1.0	2.3	9.1
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.49	(4.2)	(8.1)	(29.3)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	73.40	0.1	1.2	3.7
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	64.30	(2.3)	(1.1)	(36.7)
Euro	1.07	0.0	(0.5)	0.2
Yen	147.66	(0.0)	1.0	12.6
GBP	1.25	(0.5)	(0.7)	3.5
CHF	1.12	(0.2)	(0.7)	3.7
AUD	0.64	0.0	(1.1)	(6.3)
USD Index	104.86	0.1	0.6	1.3
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.20	(0.1)	(0.6)	6.2

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,955.82	(0.6)	(1.1)	13.6
DJ Industrial	34,443.19	(0.6)	(1.1)	3.9
S&P 500	4,465.48	(0.7)	(1.1)	16.3
NASDAQ 100	13,872.47	(1.1)	(1.1)	32.5
STOXX 600	454.30	(0.7)	(1.4)	7.0
DAX	15,741.37	(0.3)	(1.2)	13.2
FTSE 100	7,426.14	(0.8)	(1.2)	3.0
CAC 40	7,194.09	(0.9)	(2.0)	11.2
Nikkei	33,241.02	0.7	0.6	13.1
MSCI EM	981.42	(0.4)	(0.4)	2.6
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,158.08	(0.1)	0.1	(3.6)
HANG SENG	18,449.98	(0.1)	0.4	(7.2)
BSE SENSEX	65,880.52	(0.1)	0.1	7.6
Bovespa	115,985.34	(1.5)	(2.5)	12.2
RTS	1,038.58	(1.2)	(1.6)	7.0

Source: Bloomberg ($ adjusted returns if any)*

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