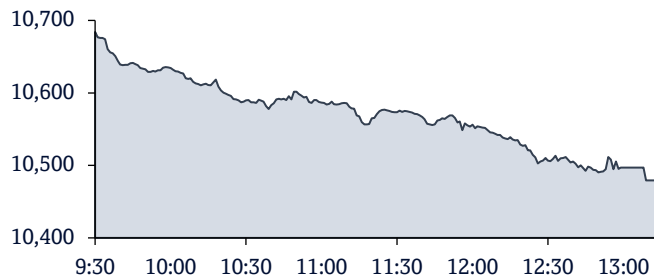


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 1.8% to close at 10,479.4. Losses were led by the Real Estate and Banks & Financial Services indices, falling 3.5% and 2.6%, respectively. Top losers were Qatar Islamic Insurance Company and Barwa Real Estate Company, falling 5.0% and 4.9%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Inma Holding gained 3.4%, while Qatar Navigation was up 3.2%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 1.0% to close at 11,230.2. Losses were led by the Utilities and Banks indices, falling 2.0% and 1.8%, respectively. Alamar Foods Co and Al-Baha Investment and Development Co both were down 4.6% each.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell 0.9% to close at 3,525.4. The Consumer Staples index declined 2.1%, while the Financials index fell 1.5%. Dubai Financial Market declined 4.1%, while Deyaar Development was down 3.5%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell 1.7% to close at 9,471.3. The Consumer Discretionary index declined 3.9%, while the Real Estate index fell 3.4%. National Corporation for Tourism & Hotels and Rak Co for White Cement both were down 10.0% each.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.8% to close at 6,847.0. The Energy index declined 2.0%, while the Financial Services index fell 1.3%. Energy House Holding Co. declined 14%, while Kuwait Business Town was down 11.0%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index gained 0.2% to close at 4,715.8. Gains were led by the Financial and Services indices, rising 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively. Oman Investment & Finance Company rose 2.7%, while Bank Dhofar was up 2.3%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.1% to close at 1,938.2. The Financials index declined 0.6% while the other indices ended flat or in green. Arab Banking Corporation declined 7.8% while National Bank of Bahrain Company was down 1.4%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Inma Holding	5.995	3.4	5,715.9	45.9
Qatar Navigation	10.53	3.2	695.1	3.7
Estithmar Holding	2.145	2.6	35,539.9	19.2
Widam Food Company	1.827	2.4	4,016.7	(10.1)
Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co.	1.352	0.7	30.0	(7.9)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Estithmar Holding	2.145	2.6	35,539.9	19.2
Qatar German Co for Med. Devices	1.672	(0.5)	18,145.1	33.0
Dukhaan Bank	3.559	(1.7)	17,852.5	0.0
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.528	(0.5)	15,344.7	0.5
Masraf Al Rayan	2.680	(2.2)	13,640.5	(15.5)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,479.41	(1.8)	(2.4)	2.9	(1.9)	179.30	168,435.8	12.5	1.4	4.7
Dubai	3,525.43	(0.9)	(1.2)	(0.5)	5.7	89.14	168,446.7	8.6	1.2	5.0
Abu Dhabi	9,471.29	(1.7)	(2.1)	(3.2)	(7.2)	367.61	719,683.9	29.1	2.6	1.9
Saudi Arabia	11,230.20	(1.0)	(1.4)	(0.7)	7.2	1,677.08	2,939,880.9	16.7	2.2	3.0
Kuwait	6,847.00	(0.8)	(1.4)	(4.1)	(6.1)	144.59	144,575.3	15.1	1.5	4.2
Oman	4,715.84	0.2	1.1	(0.0)	(2.9)	4.68	22,445.4	13.1	1.1	4.4
Bahrain	1,938.24	(0.1)	0.1	1.8	2.3	7.40	65,637.9	6.9	0.7	8.9

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

Market Indicators	15 May 23	14 May 23	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	653.2	671.8	(2.8)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	616,078.1	627,490.5	(1.8)
Volume (mn)	213.3	221.8	(3.8)
Number of Transactions	23,664	20,401	16.0
Companies Traded	49	48	2.1
Market Breadth	9:37	18:26	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	22,490.29	(1.8)	(2.4)	2.8	12.5
All Share Index	3,520.26	(1.8)	(2.3)	3.1	136.0
Banks	4,313.12	(2.6)	(3.2)	0.9	13.3
Industrials	4,056.11	(1.3)	(1.7)	7.3	13.6
Transportation	4,779.46	1.3	(0.2)	10.2	13.5
Real Estate	1,551.50	(3.5)	(4.0)	(0.5)	18.7
Insurance	2,248.08	(1.0)	(0.9)	2.8	178.7
Telecoms	1,641.23	0.2	0.2	24.5	14.5
Consumer Goods and Services	7,919.83	(1.7)	(1.5)	0.1	22.8
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,682.42	(1.6)	(2.1)	2.0	8.8

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Saudi Research & Media Gr.	Saudi Arabia	208.10	3.1	106.4	14.4
Dar Al Arkan Real Estate	Saudi Arabia	15.08	2.6	22,652.7	29.8
Bank Dhofar	Oman	0.18	2.3	10.0	0.6
Bahrain Telecom. Co.	Bahrain	0.51	2.2	92.2	6.3
Kuwait Telecommunications	Kuwait	572.00	1.2	532.3	(2.2)

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Q Holdings	Abu Dhabi	2.32	(9.0)	6,882.7	(42.0)
National Marine Dredging Co	Abu Dhabi	19.00	(5.6)	674.3	(22.4)
Barwa Real Estate Co.	Qatar	2.700	(4.9)	4,739.3	(6.0)
Fertiglobe PLC	Abu Dhabi	3.19	(4.8)	28,221.2	(24.6)
Ezdan Holding Group	Qatar	1.13	(3.9)	8,122.8	13.1

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

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Islamic Insurance Company	8.531	(5.0)	10.2	(1.9)
Barwa Real Estate Company	2.700	(4.9)	4,739.3	(6.0)
Doha Insurance	2.150	(4.9)	375.6	8.6
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.618	(4.6)	9,172.3	0.7
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	0.680	(4.6)	11,565.2	(2.3)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	16.20	(2.5)	91,492.0	(10.0)
Estithmar Holding	2.145	2.6	75,997.3	19.2
Dukhaan Bank	3.559	(1.7)	64,223.5	0.0
Masraf Al Rayan	2.680	(2.2)	36,881.0	(15.5)
Qatar Islamic Bank	17.91	(3.4)	35,607.6	(3.5)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined 1.8% to close at 10,479.4. The Real Estate and Banks & Financial Services indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from Arab and Foreign shareholders despite buying support from Qatari and GCC shareholders.
- Qatar Islamic Insurance Company and Barwa Real Estate Company were the top losers, falling 5.0% and 4.9%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Inma Holding gained 3.4%, while Qatar Navigation was up 3.2%.
- Volume of shares traded on Monday fell by 3.8% to 213.3mn from 221.8mn on Sunday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 169.1mn, volume for the day was 26.1% higher. Estithmar Holding and Qatar German Co for Med. Devices were the most active stocks, contributing 16.7% and 8.5% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	38.00%	34.39%	23,582,478.97
Qatari Institutions	23.88%	18.85%	32,860,121.26
Qatari	61.88%	53.24%	56,442,600.23
GCC Individuals	0.51%	0.30%	1,377,025.24
GCC Institutions	10.54%	2.36%	53,445,692.25
GCC	11.05%	2.66%	54,822,717.49
Arab Individuals	10.82%	11.60%	(5,077,821.73)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	10.82%	11.60%	(5,077,821.73)
Foreigners Individuals	2.06%	2.19%	(900,625.77)
Foreigners Institutions	14.19%	30.31%	(105,286,870.22)
Foreigners	16.25%	32.51%	(106,187,496.00)

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

Earnings Releases, Earnings Calendar and Global Economic Data

Earnings Releases

Company	Market	Currency	Revenue (mn) 1Q 2023	% Change YoY	Operating Profit (mn) 1Q 2023	% Change YoY	Net Profit (mn) 1Q 2023	% Change YoY
Theeb Rent a Car Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	262.94	19.0%	58.2	15.4%	42.3	-0.7%
Almasane Alkobra Mining Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	143.03	-9.5%	37.3	-25.0%	32.9	-21.3%
Gulf Navigation Holding	Dubai	AED	38.88	10.9%	1.1	-54.2%	13.5	650.0%
Agility Public Warehousing Company	Dubai	KWD	320.50	142.6%	NA	NA	20.5	21.3%
Emaar Properties	Dubai	AED	6290.15	-5.2%	NA	NA	3,614.4	36.2%
Abu Dhabi National Energy Company	Abu Dhabi	AED	13139	5.8%	NA	NA	11,502	507.6%

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05-15	EU	Eurostat	Industrial Production SA MoM	Mar	-4.10%	-2.80%	1.50%
05-15	EU	Eurostat	Industrial Production WDA YoY	Mar	-1.40%	0.10%	2.00%
05-15	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	Wholesale Price Index MoM	Apr	-0.40%	NA	0.20%
05-15	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	Wholesale Price Index YoY	Apr	-0.50%	NA	2.00%
05-15	Japan	Bank of Japan	PPI MoM	Apr	0.20%	0.00%	0.10%
05-15	Japan	Bank of Japan	PPI YoY	Apr	5.80%	5.60%	7.40%

Qatar

- Baladna signs an MOU** - Baladna signs MoU with two Indonesian companies to cooperate on dairy farming initiatives. Baladna signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two Indonesian companies (PT Perkebunan Nusantara III WLL that specializes in crop processing and agribusiness and PT Berdikari WLL that primarily deals in farming infrastructure and farm management system services), the proposed joint efforts aim to enhance cooperation, exchange of information and experience to identify, assess and initiate projects relating to the dairy sector in Indonesia to reduce dependency on the import of food products by developing its agricultural and livestock industries through building a reliable livestock breeding infrastructure in Indonesia to enhance food security. It's worth mentioning that Baladna has inked similar agreements with leading companies in the Philippines and Malaysia, as part of the leading dairy company's efforts to expand its successful business model in other countries to enhance worldwide food security. (QSE)
- Ooredoo Group Appoints New Palestine CEO** - Ooredoo has announced the appointment of Dr. Samer Fares as the new Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Palestine, effective 15 May 2023, succeeding Dr. Durgham Maraee. Dr. Samer moves to Ooredoo Palestine from his most recent role

as Chief Legal and Regulatory Officer at Ooredoo Algeria, bringing to his new position over 15 years of experience in the telecoms industry and in several leadership roles within the Group. Previously, he was Legal and Regulatory Director at Ooredoo Group's Legal and Regulatory Department and was General Counsel of Ooredoo Palestine before that. He holds a PhD in Law from Ghent University in Belgium. Dr. Samer Fares succeeds former Ooredoo Palestine CEO, Dr. Durgham Maraee, who successfully drove the company's strategy and growth since 2013. Under his leadership, Ooredoo Palestine delivered strong growth in market share, subscriber base, revenue, EBITDA and net profit year after year. Dr. Maraee also oversaw the successful launch of the company's commercial services in the Gaza Strip, as well as its highly successful launch of 3G services in the West Bank. With many achievements throughout the year, he has laid solid groundwork for future success. Aziz Aluthman Fakhroo, Managing Director and Group CEO at Ooredoo Group, said: "On behalf of the entire Group, I would like to congratulate Dr. Samer Fares on his appointment as CEO of Ooredoo Palestine. Dr. Samer brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success to the role, and we are excited to see him lead Ooredoo Palestine to new heights. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Durgham Maraee for his outstanding leadership and contributions to the company during his tenure. His dedication, hard work, and vision have been instrumental in shaping

Ooredoo Palestine into the successful company it is today. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors." On behalf of the Board of Directors, Ooredoo congratulates Dr. Samer Fares on his new appointment and thanks former Ooredoo Palestine CEO Durgham Maraee for his excellent service in the past years, wishing them both great success in the future. (QSE)

- Book building set to be game changer for Qatar capital market** - The book building process, through which the market gauges the demand and price discovery of initial public offerings (IPO), is expected to be game changer for Qatar's fast developing capital market. This came in response to Qatar's first book building exercise for Meeza's IPO, whose book building period concluded on March 6. The book building system is fast becoming the most acceptable format among issuers and lead managers in the (Arab) region, sources said. Highlighting that the final pricing of Meeza's IPO was outside the latest price range; market sources said it is evident that book building process is going to be a game changer for the country's capital market, which is already eyeing developed market status. Seven qualified institutional buyers had subscribed to 37.41% of the IPO, with the book closing above the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) minimum requirement of five qualified investors subscribing to at least 30% of the offering. Final pricing outside the latest price range is a testament of the effectiveness of the book building mechanism to transparently price the IPO based on supply and demand, considering market conditions and feedback received from qualified investors during the book building subscription period. "This (Meeza IPO) would go long way in encouraging other entities, especially fundamentally strong, wishing to go public," a market analyst with a leading investment house said. Unlike the present system, where the demand could be assessed only at the time of closing of the subscription of IPO; the book-building route is dynamic as it estimates the demand as the book is built, sources said. The book-building mechanism is used in many global and regional markets to determine the share offering price by relying on qualified investors who have sufficient experience and knowledge and the necessary mechanisms for fair pricing of the security, a QSE spokesman said. Book-building is one of the mechanisms that the QFMA intends to work with as part of mechanisms for evaluating companies wishing to make public offerings of their shares to investors. "The book-building is an efficient tool of price discovery. It is one of the missing blocks that the exchange needs to get into the developed market status," an analyst with a leading global advisory firm said. "The new procedures like book building and direct listing will attract more companies to the Qatari market," QSE acting chief executive officer Abdul Aziz Nasser al-Emadi had told the media at the time of the listing of Beema early this year. (Gulf Times)
- Qatar registers real estate trade worth QR947mn in April** - The volume of real estate trading in sale contracts registered with the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice during April 2023 amounted to QR947.280mn. The data of the real estate analytical bulletin issued by the Ministry of Justice revealed that 157 real estate transactions were recorded during the month. Al Daayen, Doha, and Al Rayyan Municipalities topped the most active transactions in terms of financial value during April 2023, according to the real estate market index, followed by Umm Slal, Al Wakrah, Al Khor & Dhakira, Al Shamal and Al Sheehaniya Municipalities. (Qatar Tribune)
- Allianz Trade: Qatar's foreign exchange reserves cover significant period of imports** - Combined foreign exchange (FX) reserves of Qatar Central Bank and the QIA represent over 200% of Qatar's annual GDP and cover more than 80 months of imports, Allianz Trade said in a report. The country's annual debt-service-to-export-earnings ratio is forecast at a manageable 16% in 2023, Allianz Trade noted in its country update. External liquidity will "remain unproblematic" in the next two years. Qatar has recorded large, sometimes huge annual current account surpluses for more than two decades, with the exceptions of 2016 and 2020 when global oil and gas prices were particularly low, Allianz Trade said. These surpluses have contributed to the build-up of the QIA. Higher oil and gas prices moved the current account back into a surplus of nearly 15% of GDP in 2021 and more than 20% in 2022. That ratio is likely to narrow somewhat in 2023-2024 but should remain well in the double digits. "Meanwhile, external debt is relatively high; it rose to 126% of GDP in 2020, incurred by oil and gas investments since the 2000s, but

repayment obligations are unlikely to present liquidity problems," Allianz Trade said. Meanwhile, the ratio is estimated to have fallen to approximately 84% in 2022 and should decline further. Fiscal reserves are solid, but an elevated public debt level requires monitoring, it said. Qatar's fiscal breakeven point has ranged between \$35 and \$55 per barrel crude oil over the past decade. Hence the government has recorded large annual fiscal surpluses in most years, except for 2016-2017 when oil and gas prices had been persistently low for some time. Even in 2020 a small surplus of +1.3% of GDP was achieved. The surplus widened to around 4.4% in 2021 and we estimate it to have increased to more than 10% in 2022, thanks to surging gas prices. We project continued robust surpluses close to 10% of GDP in 2023-2024. Meanwhile, public debt rose from 25% of GDP in 2014 to 73% in 2020, in part due to declining nominal GDP. However, the debt-to-GDP ratio eventually declined to 58% in 2021 and Allianz Trade expects it to fall further over 2022-2024 in the wake of the economic recovery. Yet Allianz Trade forecasts the ratio to remain elevated and it should be monitored closely. Overall, however, Qatar will remain a large net external creditor, thanks to the huge foreign asset position in the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA, a sovereign wealth fund currently estimated at approximately \$475bn). (Gulf Times)

- Official: Qatar's cruise sector sees remarkable success** - Qatar's cruise business has soared to new heights, drawing in not only a significant influx of cruise passengers but also attracting a remarkable number of turnaround visitors. Qatar Tourism COO, Berthold Trenkel said in a panel discussion recently that: "the cruise business was extremely successful, and it was not just cruise visitors, it was what we call in technical term the 'turn-around visitors', a guest who's arriving via Qatar Airways, coming through Hamad International Airport, staying in Qatar and boarding the ship and getting off the ship here, big change." "Cruise was a big factor in our numbers early in the year." The Cruise season 2022/2023, which concluded in the first week of April, saw 273,666 passengers and crew. About 55 ships were scheduled during this season which started in December last year. The ships that docked at Doha Port included Le Bougainville, MSC WORLD EUROPA, Artania, Costa Toscana, AidaCosma, Emerald Azzurra, and Mein Schiff 6, among others. Mwani Qatar said that the number is an outstanding record for the 2022/2023 season for cruise traffic which is 166% higher compared to the 2021/2022 season. A total of 19,400 visitors made their turnaround trips through the port in Qatar, according to the country's national port authority. The COO explained that the country achieved nearly 1.5mn visitors in the first four months of the year in terms of arrival numbers. Moreover, he said that another factor behind the record number of arrivals is the visitors traveling to Qatar via land. "Second one, land border, record-breaking number when you think about Eid visitors or prior to Eid when neighboring countries had vacation. We are hoping for even more records some of it this summer, and of course more of them at the end of the year." According to Trenkel, increased inbound destination spending can be attributed to two factors: the substantial recovery in travel following the COVID-19 pandemic and the surpassing of pre-pandemic arrival figures by many countries. He said both locals and foreigners would enjoy a wide range of compelling and engaging programs, and that information on these summer activities will be released by the end of this month. "There's so much to do in Qatar and they have to check it out. We're all excited, post World Cup, so many new things to do." (Peninsula Qatar)

International

- Biden, House Republicans seek debt-ceiling deal as US default looms** - President Joe Biden and Republican House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy entered a critical week for debt-ceiling talks hoping they can find common ground on spending levels and energy regulations to avert a devastating default Ahead of a planned Tuesday sit down between Democrat Biden, McCarthy and the three other top congressional leaders, the two sides did not appear close to an agreement. The White House has not ruled out the annual spending caps that Republicans say must accompany any increase in the nation's \$31.4tn debt limit. Republicans, who control the House, for their part, are not insisting on other conditions that the White House has deemed off limits, such as a repeal of the green-energy incentives in Biden's Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The two sides could also potentially find common ground on energy regulations. Biden told reporters on Sunday that he thought both sides wanted to reach

a deal. "I think we'll be able to do it," he said. McCarthy sounded a far more pessimistic tone as he arrived at the Capitol on Monday. "I still think we're far apart," McCarthy told reporters. "They want to look like they're in a meeting, but they're not. They're not taking anything serious." Biden's Tuesday meeting with McCarthy, Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell and top House Democrat Hakeem Jeffries, comes one day before he leaves for a meeting of the Group of Seven nations in Japan. That trip will leave little time for the two sides to reach a deal before the United States runs out of money to pay its bills, which Treasury officials say could come as soon as June 1. A first-ever US default would plunge the country into recession and inject chaos into global financial markets, economists say, and the standoff has started to worry investors and consumers. Biden has insisted that Congress must increase the country's borrowing capacity without conditions, but the White House says it is also willing to discuss budget matters with House Republicans. "Our expectation is that Congress will do what is necessary even as we continue to have parallel discussions on the budget," Lael Brainard, head of the White House's National Economic Council, said on CBS on Sunday. Republicans face pressure from former President Donald Trump, who said they should allow the country to default unless all their demands are met. "Better now than later," he wrote on social media. Three times during Trump's presidency, lawmakers raised the debt limit, a move Congress routinely needs to make to cover the costs of spending and tax cuts it has previously approved. House Republicans passed legislation in April that pairs a \$1.5tn debt-ceiling hike with \$4.8tn in spending cuts, largely achieved by cutting annual discretionary spending by 8% next year and capping growth in the years to come. Democrats say they will not agree to other elements of that legislation, such as a repeal of Biden's student-loan forgiveness effort and an increase in work requirements for some benefit programs. But they have not ruled out spending caps. Republican Representative Don Bacon, a leading centrist, told reporters on Friday that an agreement could potentially call for 2% annual increases, rather than the 1% specified by the Republican bill. The White House and Republicans may agree to ease permitting requirements for pipelines and other energy infrastructure - though that would require time to draft into legislation, said Brian Riedl, a fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute. The longer the two sides take to reach a deal, the smaller it is likely to be, he said. "The field of play is going to shrink because you're running out of time on broader policies," he said. (Reuters)

- NY Fed: New York factory activity slumps in May** - The New York Federal Reserve said on Monday its barometer of manufacturing activity in New York State plunged in May, but the survey is extremely volatile, making it harder to interpret. The regional Fed's "Empire State" index on current business conditions plummeted 42.6 points to -31.8 this month. A reading below zero signals the New York manufacturing sector is contracting. The slump followed a 35.4 points surge in April, which had lifted the index to a positive reading of 10.8. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the index at -3.75. (Reuters)
- Fed officials expect interest rates to remain high, possibly rise** - US central bankers on Monday signaled they see interest rates staying high and, if anything, going higher, given inflation that may be slow to improve and an economy showing only tentative signs of weakness. In interviews and media appearances, four regional US central bank presidents began disentangling the data and risks that will feed into a June 13-14 decision about whether to raise interest rates for an 11th consecutive time or pause the tightening cycle. Investors are betting heavily that the Fed's benchmark overnight interest rate will remain in the 5.00%-5.25% range set at the May 2-3 meeting, when policymakers opened the door to calling a halt to further increases in borrowing costs. But Fed officials on Monday said the jury is very much out. Data since the last meeting showed a continued strong job market and little progress on the inflation front, even as risks from ongoing banking sector stress and a possible US debt limit crisis argue for caution. Overall, policymakers said ensuring inflation returns to the Fed's 2% annual target remains the top priority. From tighter bank credit to potentially weaker household cash balances "you could tell yourself a story where inflation comes down relatively quickly ... with only a modest economic slowdown," Richmond Fed President Tom Barkin told Reuters. But "I'm not yet convinced ... I do wonder whether

we're not going to need more impact on demand to bring inflation down to where we need to go." Improvement has been fitful so far, he said, while the labor market has merely gone "from red hot to hot," with a historically low 3.4% unemployment rate. Barkin said that with more data to arrive before the next meeting and a political standoff over the US debt limit still unresolved, he remained open to either a pause or a further rate increase at the next meeting. His comments and those of his colleagues point to an expansive debate underway within the Fed about the next step in a rate hiking cycle that began in March 2022 and has seen the policy rate ratcheted up 5 percentage points since then. More recently, the failure of three regional banks has raised the risk of broader financial stress and prompted caution among some officials. Atlanta Fed President Raphael Bostic said that at this point he was "inclined" to pause further rate increases to be clear as to what impact tighter credit is having, with the weight of the central bank's policy changes over the last year still not fully felt. Bostic said businesses in his southeastern US Fed district "are telling me we think you're close to overdoing it ... There's a long history of the Federal Reserve overshooting their policy and driving the economy into a more negative place. I would rather avoid that if we can." Yet even Bostic said he remained open to further rate increases if necessary. (Reuters)

- Foreign buying of US Treasuries in March hits largest since June 2021** - Foreign buying of US Treasuries in March rose to its highest level in more than two years, data from the Treasury Department showed on Monday, as investors snapped safe-haven government debt in the wake of banking stress during the month. Holdings of US Treasuries rose to \$7.573tn in March, up roughly \$230bn from \$7.343tn in the previous month. The monthly accumulation of Treasuries in March was the biggest since June 2021, according to Gennadiy Goldberg, senior rates strategist, at TD Securities in New York. "The month (March) was particularly significant because it was the time when there was banking sector volatility. The most interesting thing was the sheer amount of buying of Treasuries," Goldberg said. "Investors were de-risking at the time because of the banking stress. There were lots of buying by China, lots of buying by Japan. Buying by the UK, or through the UK, was also interesting, which suggests buying by hedge funds," he added. US regional banks remain at the center of the financial turmoil with the collapses of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank in March that saw deposits flee these institutions to more stable and larger money center banks. First Republic Bank eventually failed as well and was bought by JP Morgan Chase earlier this month. The benchmark 10-year Treasury yield started March at 3.996%, falling 50 basis points to 3.49% by the end of the month. US 10-year yields hit a 15-month high of 4.338% in October last year. Japan remains the largest non-US holder of Treasuries with \$1.087tn, up from \$1.082tn in February. Japan, however, had been selling Treasuries for most of 2022 to help boost a weak yen. Data also showed holdings of China, the second-biggest non-US holder of Treasuries, also increased, rising to \$869.3bn in March from \$848.8bn in February. Its February holdings were the lowest since May 2010 when China had \$843.7bn. China had been selling Treasuries as well, like Japan for most of last year. Major US asset classes also showed inflows in March. On a per transaction basis, foreign inflows into Treasuries were \$35.8bn in March, from \$57.6bn the previous month US equities also saw foreign buying as well, with inflows of \$36.1bn, from net selling of \$16.2bn in February and outflows of \$27.5bn in January. US residents, meanwhile, increased their holdings of long-term foreign securities, with net purchases of \$22.8bn, compared with net selling of \$8.3bn in February. Overall, net foreign purchases of long-term securities are estimated to have been \$133.3bn in March, up sharply from February's inflows of \$56.6bn, data showed. (Reuters)
- China April industrial output rises 5.6%, retail sales jump 18.4%; below expectations** - China's industrial output grew 5.6% in April from a year earlier, official data showed on Tuesday, missing expectations by a large margin but accelerating from a 3.9% gain seen in March. The data, released by the National Bureau of Statistics, lagged a 10.9% increase seen in a Reuters poll of analysts but it was the quickest growth since September 2022, largely due to the recoil effect from the contraction suffered last April when the commercial hub Shanghai was under stringent COVID lockdown. Retail sales jumped 18.4%, missing forecasts for a 21.0% increase. It was significantly faster than the 10.6% increase

in March and marked the quickest growth since March 2021. Fixed asset investment expanded 4.7% in the first four months of 2023 from the same period a year earlier, versus expectations for a 5.5% rise. It grew 5.1% in the January-March period. (Reuters)

- Japan's govt, central bank debate whether sustained exit from deflation is near** - A meeting of the government's top economic council on Monday focused on whether recent rises in inflation and wage growth suggest Japan was approaching a sustained exit from deflation. With inflation accelerating globally and wage growth picking up in Japan, discussions also touched on the desirable timing to end the Bank of Japan's ultra-loose monetary policy, a government official told reporters. "While there have been some positive signs in recent data, we must ensure they are stable and sustainable so that Japan won't revert to deflation," the Cabinet Office said, according to handout material released after the meeting. The discussions between the government and central bank are looking at the role each should play in achieving sustained wage hikes to help reduce the risk of a return to deflation. Japan has not officially declared an emergence from deflation on worries price declines could return. Analysts say a decision that Japan is out of deflation would make it easier for the Bank of Japan to justify ending ultra-low interest rates. BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda spoke about the bank's resolve to maintain ultra-loose monetary policy until its 2% inflation target is sustainably met backed by wage growth, the government official said. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the government and BOJ need to coordinate given uncertainty over the economic outlook. "We're aiming to pull Japan out of deflation and achieve sustained, private demand-driven economic growth" by creating public perceptions that growth and inflation will keep rising, he said. In a separate session that included private-sector experts, Princeton University academic Nobuhiro Kiyotaki urged the BOJ to end quantitative easing when inflation stabilizes around 1-2%, his presentation material released by the Cabinet Office showed. Kiyotaki added that keeping long-term interest rates low for too long would expose Japan to speculative market attack. The BOJ's exit from quantitative easing in 2006 had been later criticized by lawmakers for being too premature and delaying an end to economic stagnation. The central bank had also come under political pressure for doing too little in pulling Japan out of deflation, before former BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda deployed in 2013 a massive stimulus program that mostly remains in place at present. With inflation exceeding the BOJ's 2% target, markets are rife with speculation that the central bank will soon phase out its massive stimulus that combines huge asset purchases and a pledge to cap long-term interest rates around zero. However, data showing Japan's wholesale inflation slowed for a fourth straight month in April may ease pressure on the BOJ to seek an early exit from ultra-low interest rates. The top economic council occasionally holds a separate session on topics relevant at the time, to take their views into account in setting fiscal and monetary policy. (Reuters)

Regional

- Fall in oil output to slow down Saudi GDP growth to 3.1% in 2023** - Saudi Arabia's economy is projected to grow at a slower pace of 3.1% in 2023 compared to a robust 8.7% growth recorded last year, according to London-based data and analytics firm GlobalData. The reduction in oil production, in line with the decision by OPEC+ to cut oil production until 2023-end, is expected to impact the kingdom's economy as the oil sector accounts for more than 45% of its GDP. Additionally, the slowdown in economic activities and subdued external demand will likely affect the country's trade prospects. Bindi Patel, Economic Research Analyst at GlobalData, stated that the subdued economic activities in Europe and the Americas are expected to slow Saudi Arabia's export growth to 5.9% in 2023 from 6.3% in 2022 and 47.1% in 2021. On the other hand, benign inflation rate (2.6% in 2023 forecast vs. 2020-22 average of 3%) and declining unemployment rate (6% vs. 6.8%) are projected to keep the domestic demand buoyed with real household consumption expenditure likely to grow by 4.4% in 2023 compared to 3.7% in 2022, she added. The diversification efforts of the Saudi Arabian economy are exhibiting fruitful results as the share of the service sector in the overall gross value added increased from 40.1% in 2000 to 48.5% in 2022. In contrast, the industry sector contribution declined from 54.9% to 49.1% during the same period. "The economy still significantly depends on the oil and gas sector, which makes it vulnerable to oil price shocks," Patel said,

maintaining that the government must continue its transformation efforts at a fast pace to make the economy resilient to external shocks. (Zawya)

- Saudi Arabia's biggest IPO of year covered on first day of opening** - The Riyadh initial public offering of generic drugmaker Jamjoom Pharmaceuticals Factory Co got enough orders for all shares on offer within the first day of opening its books, a positive sign for what's set to be the biggest listing in Saudi Arabia so far this year. The owners of Jamjoom Pharma are seeking to raise as much as 1.26bn riyals (\$336mn) in the IPO, with the price range for 21mn shares set at 56 riyals to 60 riyals apiece, according to a statement yesterday. The order books for the IPO are covered throughout the price range and demand exceeds the full deal size, according to terms seen by Bloomberg. Jamjoom Pharma's IPO will be the largest in the kingdom since Saudi Aramco Base Oil Co's \$1.3bn listing in December and will serve as a test of investor appetite for share sales. Its IPO market has been subdued so far this year, with just \$72mn raised in the slowest start since 2014, a far cry from the \$4bn seen by this point last year, data compiled by Bloomberg show. Weaker oil prices on concerns that slower global economic growth might hurt demand have weighed on Saudi stocks, which dropped sharply over the past year. However, they have posted a 14% rebound since a March low after Opec+ announced a surprise oil production cut at the start of April. Saudi Economic & Development Holding Co and Al Faisaliah Group have agreed to subscribe for 24.6% of Jamjoom Pharma's offering as cornerstone investors. The price range implies a valuation of as much as 4.2bn riyals for the company. Morabaha Marina Financing, a non-bank finance institution, has also pushed ahead with bookbuilding for its Saudi IPO in which it's seeking to raise as much as \$83mn. Still, other potential issues are proceeding cautiously. ADES International Holding, an oil and gas driller backed by the kingdom's wealth fund, has pushed back its IPO to the second half of the year as it waits for the right window, while preparatory work has significantly slowed down for the IPO of Aramco's energy-trading business, Bloomberg News reported. Bookbuilding for institutional investors in Jamjoom Pharma's IPO will run from May 15 to May 22, while the retail offering will take place from May 30 to June 1. JPMorgan Chase & Co and Saudi Fransi Capital are financial advisers, bookrunners and underwriters while Al Rajhi Capital is also an underwriter. (Gulf Times)
- Saudi inflation steady at 2.7% in April, driven by housing** - Saudi Arabia's annual inflation rate was 2.7% in April, unchanged from the previous month, driven mostly by housing rental costs, government data released on Monday showed. Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels rose by 8.1% from a year earlier, while the food and beverage sector - the leading driver for inflation during much of 2022 - rose by 1.0%, the data from the General Authority for Statistics showed. Overall rents for housing grew 9.6% in April 2023. Apartment rents gained 22.2% following a similar rise in March. Within the food sector, milk, milk products and eggs rose by almost 11%. Consumer prices were up 0.4% in April from March, the statistics authority said. The inflation outlook for the Gulf countries is muted compared to that expected in many major economies, a Reuters poll found. For the full year, it forecasts the region's inflation would be between 2.1% and 3.3% and decrease further in 2024. (Reuters)
- Riyadh Calendar events create 185,000 jobs for Saudis in 8 months** - The Riyadh Calendar has been instrumental in creating more than 185,000 jobs for Saudi men and women during the last eight months since its inception until last March. These included 55,000 direct jobs and more than 130,000 indirect jobs. The Riyadh Calendar, which is being implemented by the General Entertainment Authority (GEA), has succeeded in achieving great economic successes by creating jobs in various fields. Turki Al-Sheikh, chairman of the Board of Directors of GEA, said: "With the support of the Crown Prince, more than 185,000 direct and indirect jobs have been provided." He emphasized that what is coming is greater. The GEA's activities are based on Riyadh Calendar that covers continuous activities throughout the year, including a group of various entertainment events and activities. It also includes a number of distinctive entertainment options in the areas of theatrical performances, parties, recreational facilities, and shopping, in addition to local and international restaurants and cafes, a group of new experiments and events, as well as fireworks displays. (Zawya)

- Saudi Arabia's FDI in Bahrain hits \$9.1bn** - Saudi Arabia's FDI (foreign direct investment) stock in Bahrain reached \$9.1bn in 2022, making up 26% of total FDI, which totals up \$35.4bn, it was revealed during a key Saudi – Bahrain meeting. Khalid Humaidan, Chief Executive of Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB), received Eng Khalid Abdulaziz Al-Falih, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment, for a meeting during the minister's official visit to Bahrain. The visit comes in line with the ongoing efforts to maintain cooperative and collaborative economic ties between the two kingdoms. During the meeting, Humaidan highlighted the vital role of Bahrain EDB in attracting direct investment across the priority sectors outlined in the Bahrain Economic Recovery Plan (ERP), announced in 2021, which work towards further diversifying Bahrain's economy. Additionally, the Chief Executive elaborated on the mandate of Bahrain EDB of enhancing the overall investment climate to drive sustainable economic growth. The meeting also discussed potential areas of cooperation across the priority sectors, namely financial services, manufacturing, logistics, information and communications technology (ICT), and tourism, and respective strategic projects in line with ERP. During 2022, Bahrain EDB attracted over \$1.1bn, which is projected to create over 6,000 new jobs in the kingdom over the next three years. In line with the ERP, the kingdom continues to innovate its regulatory framework to create a more robust, conducive business environment and streamlined processes to achieve over \$2.5bn in direct investment between 2022-202, an EDB statement said. (Zawya)
- Saudi's SAMA: Insurance sector grew by 26.9% in 2022** - The Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) issued the 16th Saudi insurance market annual report. The report highlights the insurance sector's performance and contribution to the Kingdom's GDP in 2022. According to the report, the insurance sector grew by 26.9% in 2022, bringing gross written premiums to SAR 53bn. Health insurance, protection and savings insurance, and motor insurance recorded significant increases in gross written premiums. The penetration ratio to non-oil GDP increased from 1.91% in 2021 to 2.09% in 2022. The overall loss ratio remained unchanged at 83.4% in 2022. The report shows the rise in insurance operations income, with net profit reaching SAR 689mn in 2022 compared to a net loss of SAR 47mn in 2021. In addition, the Saudization ratio in the sector increased from 77% in 2021 to 79% in 2022. The report highlights regulatory developments in the insurance sector, notably the issuance of regulations and the development of standard insurance policies. These developments indicate a positive trend in the insurance sector, which is reflective of SAMA's endeavors to enhance the sector's performance and its economic impact, while protecting policyholders' interests and emphasizing fair pricing of insurance products. The 2022 Saudi Insurance Market Report is available on SAMA's official website. (Zawya)
- Saudi Arabia enhances partnerships with Estonia, Denmark in Digital Government** - Governor of Digital Government Authority (DGA) Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Suwayan and his accompanying delegation have concluded their visits to the Republic of Estonia and the Kingdom of Denmark, where they held a number of meetings on bilateral cooperation and expertise exchange. During the visit to Estonia, Al-Suwayan held meetings with Luukas Ilves, Estonia's Government Chief Information Officer, and Undersecretary for Digital Development at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Nele Leosk, the Ambassador-at-Large for Digital Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, among other officials. Al-Suwayan also paid a visit to the Estonian Parliament, Tallinn University, and the International Research and Development Center. Moreover, he held a number of meetings with CEOs of technology companies in Estonia to discuss strategic partnerships in the digital government field. Upon his visit to Denmark, Al-Suwayan toured the Ministry of Digital Government and Gender Equality, the Digital Government Agency, the Danish Digital Center, and the Ministry of Finance. Al-Suwayan held meetings with a number of representatives of Danish companies. (Zawya)
- Dubai Supreme Council reviews progress in clean energy projects** - HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE), chaired the 76th meeting of the Council, which was held virtually in the presence of Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the DSCE. The meeting was also attended by Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary-General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and board members Dawood Al Hajri, Director General of Dubai Municipality; Abdulla bin Kalban, Managing Director of Emirates Global Aluminum (EGA); Saif Humaid Al Falasi, CEO of Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC); Juan-Pablo Freile, General Manager of Dubai Petroleum; and Hussain Al Banna, Acting CEO of the Strategy & Corporate Governance Sector at the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA). The meeting discussed the progress of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park phases, in accordance with the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050, to provide 100% of Dubai's total power capacity from clean energy sources by 2050. The solar park's production capacity has reached 2,327 megawatts (MW) in addition to 533 MW underway. DEWA also announced the 1,800MW 6th phase, of the solar park to reach 5,000 MW of production capacity by the end of 2030. The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park includes a Research and Development Centre specializing in developing photovoltaic cells, storage batteries, and improving the efficiency of solar panels. "We work in line with the vision and directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in all strategic renewable and clean energy projects that we implement. We attach great importance to research and development in sustainability and renewable energy, including photovoltaic solar panels, concentrated solar power, hydroelectric power, and green hydrogen, among others," said Saeed Al Tayer the meeting also discussed the progress of the Hatta hydroelectric power plant, which DEWA is building and is 70% complete. The meeting also discussed the operation of the region's first green hydrogen production facility to support the strategy of diversifying energy sources and promoting sustainable development and a green economy. As part of its Space-D program, DEWA has launched the latest nanosatellites supporting its cloud computing network. This enhances the digitalization of the power and water networks, increases the efficiency and effectiveness of planning, operation and preventive maintenance for the generation, transmission, and distribution divisions; smart grids and electric vehicle charging stations, as well as research into the concentration of solar radiation and integrating them with power plant operations using Artificial Intelligence. "During the meeting, we were briefed by Emirates Gas on their initiative to introduce LPG composite cylinders to the local market in Dubai. These are highly safe and lightweight. A total of 5,000 cylinders were introduced in different areas of Dubai. The release of 5,000 cylinders in different regions of the Emirate was met with great demand from consumers. A team from Emirates Gas is spreading awareness and promoting the benefits of the shift from steel gas cylinders to composite gas cylinders to ensure safety and ease of use," said Al Muhairbi. (Zawya)
- 'Make it in the Emirates Forum' on May 31 to boost multibillion dollar industry** - 'Billions of dollars' worth of investment and procurement opportunities as well as major new partnerships are set to be announced at the second Make it in the Emirates Forum, which takes place from 31st May to 1st June under the theme 'Investment, Sustainability, Growth'. Organized by the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), in partnership with the Department of Economic Development in Abu Dhabi and ADNOC under the National Strategy for Industry and Advanced Technology, the forum aims to attract investors to UAE industries and draw manufacturers to set up in the country. Representatives from major international industrial and technology companies, national enterprises and governments will convene at the Abu Dhabi Energy Centre to build on the success of the inaugural event in 2022, which resulted in procurement opportunities worth AED 110bn, comprising 300 products across 11 sectors. The first forum witnessed the participation of more than 1,800 delegates. The forum has quickly become one of the region's most prominent industrial platforms. With the forum this year taking place in the run-up to COP28, there will be a particular focus on sustainable industrial development, carbon reduction, and increasing the industrial sector's contribution to climate action in line with the UAE's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative and the 2023 Year of Sustainability initiative. The forum invites senior decision-makers, industry and technology leaders, experts, innovators, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, investors and major industrial institutions to discover new opportunities and announce new partnerships. The forum acts as a platform for corporations and government to discuss opportunities, address challenges, and explore the competitive

advantages available in the UAE, such as incentives, enablers, infrastructure, financing, and partnerships. This year's forum will feature the first ever Make it in the Emirates Awards, which will recognize the pioneering industrial companies and individuals who are driving technological growth, localization, sustainability, and innovation. The awards celebrate visionaries, pioneers and innovators and their contributions to the UAE's industrial sector, which help to promote sustainable economic development and support the country's Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative. The forum will also host sessions highlighting advanced technologies, industrial investment opportunities in the UAE as well as incentives and enablers designed to boost entrepreneurship and business growth. The Make it in the Emirates Forum is a crucial platform for industry experts and leaders to share their insights on key topics shaping the sector. Topics will include industrial automation, the role of technology in advancing the industrial sector, and the importance of sustainability. An exhibition area will provide an opportunity to learn about the latest products and services in the sector, as well as network with industry experts and investors. MoIAT invites all entrepreneurs, start-ups, SMEs and investors to participate in the forum and contribute to the national industrial sector's growth, development and competitiveness, as well as the UAE's transformation to become a global industrial hub. (Zawya)

- DMCC announces representative office in Mumbai** - DMCC, the world's flagship free zone and Government of Dubai Authority on commodities trade and enterprise, has announced its partnership with business services firm PP Shah and Associates to open a representative office in Mumbai, India. The announcement took place in the final Mumbai leg of the Made For Trade Live trade roadshow last week in India. Throughout the roadshow, which covered the Indian cities of Mumbai, Surat and Jaipur, DMCC highlighted Dubai as a platform for Indian companies to expand internationally. Through the new office, DMCC aims to boost the relationship between the UAE and India in support of the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed last year. Leveraging DMCC's strong regulatory framework and reputation within Indian business circles, the representative office will provide a one-stop solution for Indian businesses looking to expand through Dubai and help them establish a presence in DMCC. Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, DMCC, said: "Bilateral trade between UAE and India has reached historical levels, increasing by 14% to hit \$76.9bn in the 11 months after the implementation of CEPA. With over 3,700 Indian businesses in our free zone, DMCC has been fundamental in facilitating bilateral trade and investment between the UAE and India. Opening a representative office in Mumbai is the next pivotal step in this relationship's evolution, demonstrating our deep commitment to business in India and across the subcontinent." Held in partnership with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), the roadshow saw senior DMCC executives address 500 Indian government bodies and business leaders from a range of sectors. Conversations focused on Dubai's unique, business-friendly environment and the host of benefits of setting up in DMCC. PP Shah and Associates said: "Through this partnership with DMCC, we will bridge the gap between our nations and further support the success of Indian businesses. DMCC offers a unique ecosystem that provides confidence through strong regulations and frameworks, cost benefits through competitive office spaces, and a range of facilities and services that increase the ease of doing business for Indian entrepreneurs and large companies alike. "We look forward to facilitating the international expansion of a greater number of Indian businesses through this promotional Initiative, in turn helping them thrive in Dubai." DMCC's representative office in Mumbai, India, is led by industry veteran Siddharth Shah, a graduate of IIT-Bombay and Wharton Business School with 15 years of banking and consulting experience. The office will handle all regulatory, compliance and company registration solutions and will provide exclusively curated license packages for Indian businesses. India and the wider subcontinent have been earmarked as a region of high strategic growth for DMCC in multiple industry sectors. Earlier this year, DMCC and the Bharat Subcontinent Agri Foundation (BSAF) signed a memorandum of understanding to advance the global agricultural (agri) commodities sector between the UAE and South Asia. Targeting the growth of the global agri commodities sector and solidifying agri trade ties between the

UAE, the MoU will see DMCC and BSAF partner in FoodTech and AgriTech projects, share prospective business opportunities and enhance knowledge transfer through exhibitions and conferences. (Zawya)

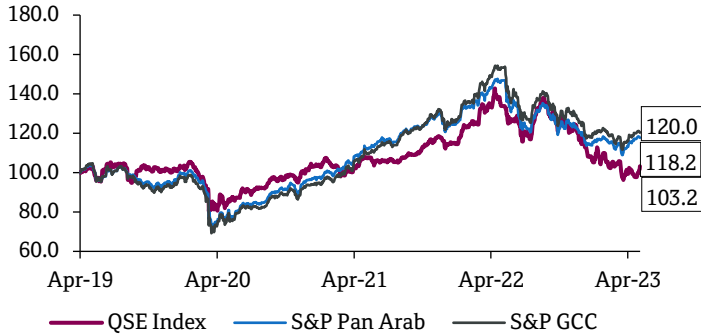
- Dubai International Chamber's initiative connects UAE, Uzbek renewable energy companies** - Dubai International Chamber, one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, has brought together UAE-based company Empereal Ruby Energy and Innovations, and Uzbekistan's SOLAR NATURE to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for joint cooperation on solar photovoltaic and solar thermal projects in Uzbekistan and the Middle East. Empereal Ruby Energy and Innovations participated in Dubai International Chamber's New Horizons Central Asia roadshows in March 2023. The program aimed to drive the international expansion of Dubai businesses into select Central Asian markets while also promoting Dubai as a thriving global investment hub for companies from the region including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. \$100mn investments over five years Under the terms of the MoU, which was signed in the presence of Alisher Salomov, Consul-General of Uzbekistan in Dubai, the two companies will join hands in designing and providing medium to large-scale solar solutions for generating clean renewable electricity, as well as collaborating on projects to use solar energy for water recycling and desalination. Both parties have committed to investing the necessary funds and will focus their efforts to grow the cooperation to more than \$100mn over a five-year period. Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President & CEO of Dubai Chambers, commented, "The MoU supports the UAE's efforts ahead of COP28 and the nation's renewable energy and sustainability ambitions. The agreement also reflects our commitment and strategic approach to boosting private sector projects that focus on enabling the energy transition to support our net zero goals. This involves maximizing the share of clean energy sources and ensuring greater efficiency to reduce CO2 emissions from power generation, investing in innovative water desalination technologies, and fostering innovation through Research & Development in these vital areas. (Zawya)
- UAE, GCC: Opening up of Saudi property market for expats to give a fillip to hospitality, tourism projects as well** - Competition in the Gulf property sector is set to heat up, with the region's largest economy, Saudi Arabia, gearing up to open its property market for foreign investors, including its religious cities Makkah and Madinah. Property market pundits say that the opening of the Saudi market will not only provide another attractive and stable avenue for foreign investors, similar to the UAE, but this will also be an opportunity for regional and global developers to expand their portfolio to the region, where the return on investment is much higher than many other major countries which have reached the maturity level. The regional residential property market is already facing a shortage of homes, which will also attract more investment and will lift the prices as well. According to Statista, led by Saudi Arabia, the GCC countries were short of over 6mn housing units by 2022. Currently, the UAE, a pioneer in introducing freehold property in the Gulf, leads the region in terms of the offerings of freehold properties. Dubai allows people of any nationality to buy property in nearly three dozen areas. Similarly, different areas in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and other northern emirates also offer freehold properties. Real estate, according to the UAE Central Bank, is the sixth most important non-hydrocarbon sector, accounting for 8.2% of non-oil GDP. In addition, Bahrain has around 10 areas, while Qatar offers 10 localities where foreigners can buy property. Neighboring Oman also allows expats to buy property in certain projects in the Sultanate. In the regional bloc, the kingdom will be the latest entrant to offer freehold property to expatriates as it is in the process of finalizing laws surrounding it. Recently, Abdullah Alhammad, CEO of Saudi Arabia's Real Estate General Authority (Rega), said that work is in the final stages to allow non-Saudis to own property in all parts of the kingdom, including the cities of Makkah and Madinah – the two holiest cities for Muslims. While he acknowledged that property prices in the kingdom are high due to the gap between supply and demand, he added that the new law will be published soon. The real estate sector accounts for nearly 5.1% of the kingdom's GDP and 12.8% of the non-oil GDP. He added that foreigners will be able to buy all kind of properties including residential, commercial and agriculture. However, he assured that the sector will be monitored for any kind of ill-practices, and that solutions are being developed with any such

challenges. In order to increase construction activity in the country and build more homes, the Saudi government imposed a 2.5% tax on undeveloped land bought by landowners in urban areas. Global ratings firm S&P foresees sustained property market growth in Saudi Arabia, fueled by Vision 2030 and the Iskan program, with \$1tn slated for real estate and infrastructure projects. At least eight new cities are planned in the kingdom, with more than 1.3mn new homes by end-2030. Numerous projects are also slated for existing main cities, with Riyadh set to become one of the 10 largest cities in the world. Industry executives say that Makkah and Madinah will see strong interest from Muslims around the world, while other tourist-focused cities such as Neom, the Red Sea Project and Qiddiya will attract more international buyers. As a result of the opening up of the property sector by Gulf countries, the contribution of the real estate market to the region's overall economy will increase, and help the regional government diversify away from the oil income. Pundits say that the benefits of freehold laws will not be limited to residential and commercial properties, but also expedite the development of affiliate sectors such as theme parks and hotels. (Zawya)

- New jewelry exposition center inaugurated signifying strong UAE-India ties** - An India Jewelry Exposition Centre (IJEX) has been inaugurated in Dubai to commemorate the first anniversary of the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This will serve as an important gateway to the MENA region for the Indian gemstone and jewelry sector. Under the ambit of the Gem & Jewelry Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) IJEX will provide a platform for India's micro, small and medium jewelry enterprises (MSMEs) to showcase their products to the Middle East market in Dubai's Gold Souq. This move reflects the significance of the Middle East to India's gem and jewelry industry, which makes up 30% of its exports. This also displays the impact of the decrease in import tariffs on gold following the implementation of the CEPA last year. His Excellency Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Economy and Chief Trade Negotiator for the UAE, says, "This week we have not only been able to celebrate the achievements of the first year of the UAE-India CEPA but also forge new partnerships, new investments and new platforms for collaboration. The launch of the India Jewelry Exposition Centre is CEPA in action, and clear evidence of the opportunities for greater trade and investment that our nations can deliver. Central to both our cultures, the gems and jewelry sector is a key driver of bilateral trade – and among the industries that will gain the most from the agreement." Meanwhile, the UAE-India CEPA has resulted in continued growth in bilateral non-oil trade between the two countries, which climbed 6.9% to reach \$45.5bn in the first 11 months of the deal. The figures in Q1 2023 show an impressive quarter-on-quarter growth of 24.7%. Al Kait was joined at the launch ceremony by representatives from both the UAE and India including Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to UAE; Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary at DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India; Dr Srikar K. Reddy, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India; and Kirit Bhansali Vice Chairman of GJEPC. (Zawya)
- Kuwait, Switzerland trade crosses \$783mn in 2021** - Trade exchanges between Kuwait and Switzerland reached \$783mn in 2021, Deputy Chairman of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Fahad Al-Joan declared on Monday. Al-Joan, speaking during a reception of a Swiss delegation at the chamber headquarters, called for increasing volume of the commercial exchanges between the two countries, in light of the solid political ties between them. He noted that such meetings could be helpful for expanding economic cooperation, examining investment opportunities and establishing commercial partnerships particularly in the technology and clean energy sectors. Swiss Ambassador Tiziono Balelli, who attended the meeting, affirmed that the Swiss delegation's visit is partly aimed at presenting investment opportunities in the European nation and prospects of launching joint ventures. For his part, the Swiss Consul General in Dubai Frank Eggmann -- also the head of the Swiss Business Council for the Middle East -- urged entrepreneurs in the two countries to cooperate for establishing common projects. The meeting included a presentation of the investors' services in the Direct Investment Authority and the incentives provided in Kuwait such as 100% ownership and pardon of taxation for ten years. (Zawya)

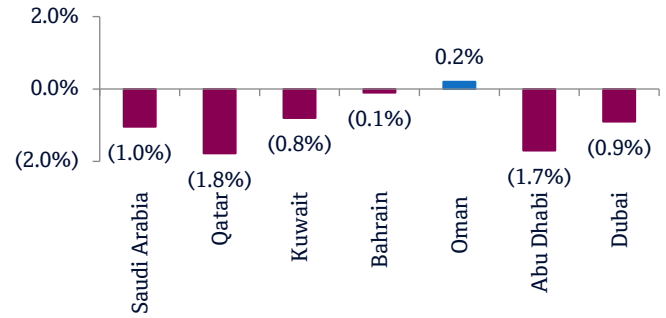
- Moody's upgrades Oman rating to Ba2, keeps positive outlook** - Moody's Investor Service said on Monday it upgraded Oman's credit rating one notch to Ba2, citing stronger fiscal metrics on the back of a revenue windfall from hydrocarbons. "The upgrade reflects the improvements in Oman's debt burden and debt affordability metrics during 2022, mainly as a result of the large oil and gas revenue windfall, which increase the sovereign's resilience to potential future shock," Moody's said, maintaining a positive outlook. (Reuters)
- Bahrain's nogaholding plans new bond issue, offers cash for existing notes** - Bahrain's state oil holding firm, nogaholding, has made a tender offer to buy back existing bonds due in next year for cash, conditional on a planned new debt issuance, it said in a bourse filing on Monday. Nogaholding will buy "any and all of" its \$750mn bonds that were issued in 2018, "subject to the satisfaction of the New Certificates Condition" and other conditions, the filing said. (Reuters)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	2,016.49	0.3	0.3	10.6
Silver/Ounce	24.09	0.5	0.5	0.5
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	75.23	1.4	1.4	(12.4)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	71.11	1.5	1.5	(11.4)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.25	13.6	13.6	(36.1)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	64.10	0.2	0.2	(9.4)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	62.30	(0.3)	(0.3)	(38.6)
Euro	1.09	0.2	0.2	1.6
Yen	136.12	0.3	0.3	3.8
GBP	1.25	0.6	0.6	3.7
CHF	1.12	0.2	0.2	3.2
AUD	0.67	0.8	0.8	(1.7)
USD Index	102.43	(0.2)	(0.2)	(1.1)
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.20	0.6	0.6	8.1

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,819.47	0.4	0.4	8.3
DJ Industrial	33,348.60	0.1	0.1	0.6
S&P 500	4,136.28	0.3	0.3	7.7
NASDAQ 100	12,365.21	0.7	0.7	18.1
STOXX 600	466.67	0.5	0.5	11.6
DAX	15,917.24	0.3	0.3	16.1
FTSE 100	7,777.70	1.0	1.0	8.1
CAC 40	7,418.21	0.3	0.3	16.4
Nikkei	29,626.34	0.5	0.5	9.3
MSCI EM	977.48	0.5	0.5	2.2
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,310.74	1.3	1.3	6.3
HANG SENG	19,971.13	1.8	1.8	0.5
BSE SENSEX	62,345.71	0.5	0.5	3.1
Bovespa	109,029.12	0.8	0.8	6.9
RTS	1,037.13	(0.1)	(0.1)	6.9

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns)

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