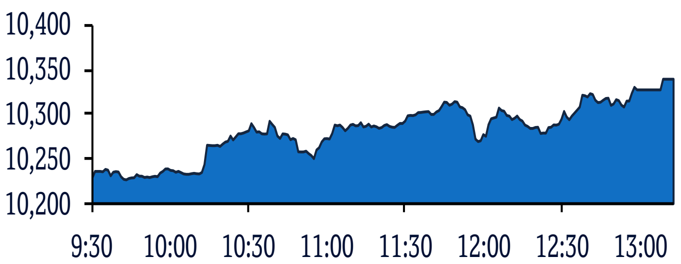
Daily Market Report

Sunday, 22 December 2019

QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 1.2% to close at 10,340.4. Gains were led by the Banks & Financial Services and Industrials indices, gaining 2.1% and 1.3%, respectively. Top gainers were Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company and Qatari Investors Group, rising 4.9% and 4.1%, respectively. Among the top losers, Qatar Oman Investment Company fell 3.3%, while Doha Bank was down 2.3%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 0.5% to close at 8,291.4. Gains were led by the Software & Serv. and Consumer Serv. indices, rising 4.2% and 1.6%, respectively. MetLife AIG ANB Coop. Ins. rose 10.0%, while United Coop. Assur. was up 5.9%.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell 0.7% to close at 2,768.6. The Services and Real Estate & Construction indices declined 1.1% each. DAMAC Properties Dubai Company declined 9.6%, while Dar Al Takaful was down 5.2%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell marginally to close at 5,092.4. The Telecom. index declined 1.8%, while the Real Estate index fell 1.3%. Methaq Takaful Insurance declined 2.4%, while Eshraq Investments was down 2.0%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.5% to close at 6,195.2. The Consumer Services index rose 1.6%, while the Basic Materials index gained 1.1%. National Shooting Company rose 19.5%, while Kuwait National Cinema Co. was up 9.9%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.7% to close at 3,916.7. Losses were led by the Industrial and Financial indices, falling 1.9% and 1.0%, respectively. Al Jazeera Services fell 7.6%, while Al Sharqia Investment Holding was down 7.0%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index gained marginally to close at 1,584.1. The Commercial Banks index rose 0.1%, while the other indices ended flat or in red. Nass Corporation rose 7.1%, while Al Salam Bank – Bahrain was up 1.0%.

Market Indicators	17 Dec 19	16 Dec 19	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	519.5	204.3	154.3
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	575,830.9	565,999.8	1.7
Volume (mn)	118.0	62.3	89.5
Number of Transactions	7,662	7,871	(2.7)
Companies Traded	42	46	(8.7)
Market Breadth	22:17	20:19	–

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	19,027.15	1.2	0.8	4.9	15.0
All Share Index	3,065.44	1.5	1.2	(0.4)	15.1
Banks	4,142.01	2.1	2.3	8.1	13.9
Industrials	2,939.05	1.3	(0.2)	(8.6)	20.2
Transportation	2,582.15	(0.1)	(0.4)	25.4	13.8
Real Estate	1,529.54	0.3	0.1	(30.1)	11.5
Insurance	2,715.19	1.1	0.7	(9.7)	15.6
Telecoms	898.71	0.6	(1.4)	(9.0)	15.3
Consumer	8,616.13	0.3	0.3	27.6	19.1
Al Rayan Islamic Index	3,943.70	0.7	0.2	1.5	16.4

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Etihad Etisalat Co.	Saudi Arabia	25.35	3.5	3,825.0	52.9
Almarai Co.	Saudi Arabia	50.90	3.4	631.9	6.0
Arab National Bank	Saudi Arabia	28.25	3.1	2,726.3	32.8
Saudi Ind. Inv. Group	Saudi Arabia	21.72	2.9	801.5	(5.1)
Abu Dhabi Comm. Bank	Abu Dhabi	8.08	2.9	22,851.0	(1.0)

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Bank Al Bilad	Saudi Arabia	26.65	(3.1)	3,069.3	22.2
DP World	Dubai	12.71	(2.2)	1,013.7	(25.7)
Rabigh Refining & Petro.	Saudi Arabia	20.44	(2.0)	3,673.9	7.1
Dubai Islamic Bank	Dubai	5.40	(1.8)	8,556.4	8.0
Emirates Telecom. Group	Abu Dhabi	16.40	(1.8)	5,963.0	(3.4)

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%
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	2.59	4.9	5,414.6	72.3
Qatari Investors Group	1.78	4.1	835.8	(36.0)
QNB Group	20.06	3.9	10,522.8	2.9
Qatar National Cement Company	5.69	3.1	158.2	(4.4)
The Commercial Bank	4.49	2.7	4,835.5	14.0

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar First Bank	0.31	0.3	25,481.0	(24.5)
Aamal Company	0.79	2.3	11,301.4	(10.6)
QNB Group	20.06	3.9	10,522.8	2.9
Masraf Al Rayan	3.96	0.3	7,075.2	(5.0)
Qatar International Islamic Bank	9.59	1.4	5,898.5	45.0

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Oman Investment Co.	0.61	(3.3)	307.8	15.0
Doha Bank	2.52	(2.3)	2,143.6	13.5
Investment Holding Group	0.57	(2.2)	2,587.8	16.0
Qatar General Ins. & Reins. Co.	2.42	(2.0)	161.2	(46.1)
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.50	(2.0)	1,815.8	15.5

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	20.06	3.9	209,124.8	2.9
Qatar International Islamic Bank	9.59	1.4	56,524.8	45.0
Industries Qatar	10.24	0.3	31,892.0	(23.4)
Qatar Islamic Bank	15.26	(0.6)	28,657.3	0.4
Masraf Al Rayan	3.96	0.3	28,006.5	(5.0)

Source: Bloomberg (* in QR)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded ($ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. ($ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*#	10,340.37	1.2	0.8	1.9	0.4	141.71	158,180.7	15.0	1.5	4.1
Dubai	2,768.56	(0.7)	1.7	3.4	9.4	71.66	102,406.2	11.0	1.0	4.2
Abu Dhabi	5,092.41	(0.0)	1.1	1.2	3.6	134.12	142,183.7	15.7	1.4	4.9
Saudi Arabia	8,291.39	0.5	3.6	5.5	5.9	2,132.56	2,413,753.2	18.6	1.6	3.7
Kuwait	6,195.18	0.5	1.3	4.5	22.0	188.78	116,049.6	15.2	1.4	3.4
Oman	3,916.70	(0.7)	(2.6)	(3.6)	(9.4)	5.48	16,967.3	7.4	0.7	7.6
Bahrain	1,584.06	0.0	1.1	3.7	18.5	4.81	24,781.4	12.8	1.0	4.9

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (** TTM; * Value traded ($ mn) do not include special trades, if any, Data as of December 17, 2019)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 1.2% to close at 10,340.4. The Banks & Financial Services and Industrials indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from non-Qatari shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari and GCC shareholders.
- Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company and Qatari Investors Group were the top gainers, rising 4.9% and 4.1%, respectively. Among the top losers, Qatar Oman Investment Company fell 3.3%, while Doha Bank was down 2.3%.
- Volume of shares traded on Wednesday rose by 89.5% to 118.0mn from 62.3mn on Tuesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 88.6mn, volume for the day was 33.2% higher. Qatar First Bank and Aamal Company were the most active stocks, contributing 21.6% and 9.6% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	8.22%	17.79%	(49,691,800.53)
Qatari Institutions	6.16%	18.90%	(66,190,375.70)
Qatari	**14.38%**	**36.69%**	**(115,882,176.22)**
GCC Individuals	0.37%	0.53%	(833,618.75)
GCC Institutions	0.45%	2.10%	(8,563,940.94)
GCC	**0.82%**	**2.63%**	**(9,397,559.69)**
Non-Qatari Individuals	4.32%	7.00%	(13,921,267.24)
Non-Qatari Institutions	80.47%	53.68%	139,201,003.15
Non-Qatari	**84.79%**	**60.68%**	**125,279,735.91**

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

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
12/18	US	Mortgage Bankers Association	MBA Mortgage Applications	13-Dec	-5.0%	–	3.80%
12/19	US	Department of Labor	Initial Jobless Claims	14-Dec	234k	225k	252k
12/19	US	Department of Labor	Continuing Claims	7-Dec	1,722k	1,676k	1,671k
12/20	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	GDP Annualized QoQ	3Q2019	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
12/20	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	GDP Price Index	3Q2019	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%
12/18	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	CPI MoM	Nov	0.2%	0.2%	-0.2%
12/18	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	CPI YoY	Nov	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%
12/18	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	CPI Core YoY	Nov	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
12/20	UK	GfK NOP (UK)	GfK Consumer Confidence	Dec	-11	-14	-14
12/20	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	GDP QoQ	3Q2019	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
12/20	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	GDP YoY	3Q2019	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
12/20	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	Exports QoQ	3Q2019	7.9%	8.1%	5.2%
12/20	UK	UK Office for National Statistics	Imports QoQ	3Q2019	-0.3%	0.8%	0.8%
12/18	EU	Eurostat	CPI YoY	Nov	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
12/18	EU	Eurostat	CPI MoM	Nov	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.3%
12/18	EU	Eurostat	CPI Core YoY	Nov	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
12/20	EU	European Commission	Consumer Confidence	Dec	-8.1	-7.0	-7.2
12/18	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	PPI MoM	Nov	0.0%	0.1%	-0.2%
12/18	Germany	German Federal Statistical Office	PPI YoY	Nov	-0.7%	-0.6%	-0.6%
12/20	Germany	GfK AG	GfK Consumer Confidence	Jan	9.6	9.8	9.7
12/19	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	Business Confidence	Dec	106	104	106
12/20	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	PPI MoM	Nov	1.1%	–	-0.2%
12/20	France	INSEE National Statistics Office	PPI YoY	Nov	-0.8%	–	-1.3%
12/20	Japan	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Natl CPI YoY	Nov	0.5%	0.5%	0.2%

Source: Bloomberg (s.a. = seasonally adjusted; n.s.a. = non-seasonally adjusted; w.d.a. = working day adjusted)

Qatar

- **Qatar First Bank's trading stock will be suspended on December 23 to complete capital reduction process –** Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) announced that trading of Qatar First Bank's (QFBQ) stock will be suspended on December 23, 2019 for a period of one day in order to implement the capital reduction process aimed to extinguish losses encountered by the bank. However, trading of QFBQ's stock will be resumed on December 24, 2019. It is worth noting that the QFBQ has obtained its EGM's approval dated September 16, 2019 on reducing the issued capital by 65% from QR2bn to QR700mn, divided into 700mn shares with a nominal value amounting to QR1 Qatari each. QFBQ announced that it has determined the date for capital reduction after obtaining all necessary approvals to implement the capital reduction, and after coordination with the relevant authorities. The opening price of the bank's stock after the capital reduction process will be determined based on the closing price of the bank's stock at the end of December 22, 2019. (QSE)
- **QFC: Higher FOL on QSE to bolster Islamic asset management –** The increased foreign ownership limits (FOL) on QSE listed companies has led to increased foreign funds inflows into Shari'ah-compliant equities, which in turn has helped foster better growth prospect in Islamic asset management, according to the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). An incentive that has boosted the Islamic asset management sector in Qatar is the increase in the FOL on listed companies to 49% from 25%, a report of the QFC stated, prepared in association with Refinitiv. "This has attracted significant foreign investment flows that helped boost the main QSE index by more than 20% last year, encouraging greater foreign investment in Shari'ah-compliant stocks, particularly financial and energy companies," the report stated. The increase has been enacted as part of Qatar's commitment to increasing foreign ownership limits upon its upgrade to emerging market status on the MSCI global Emerging Market Index in 2014. Qatar received a similar upgrade by the FTSE Russell Global Equity Index Series, over two equal tranches in 2016 and 2017, further enhancing the stock market's depth and liquidity and expanding its international investor base. In addition, the move by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) to enforce a 1:10 stock split of listed companies' shares in June 2019, where the nominal value of a share became QR1 instead of the previous QR10, has increased the number of shares in the market tenfold and has attracted more international investment interest. The Islamic asset management sector in Qatar doubled over the past five years in terms of assets under management (AuM), which reached $399mn in the first half of 2019; more than half of total AuM. This shows how successfully the Islamic finance industry has already captured opportunities in Qatar's fund and wealth management sectors. The report also stated the Qatari market saw continued Sukuk activity during 1H2019. However Sukuk accounted for only 14% of total debt issuance mostly from government issuances. This lower share of Sukuk resulted from the sale of $12bn jumbo conventional government bond. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Qatar set for centralized Shari'ah board to bolster Islamic finance –** Qatar, which is poised to become a leading Islamic finance hub in the region, is all set to establish a centralized Shari'ah board with an aim to enhance consistency and integrity in the sector. Plans are also afoot in strengthening the regulations in Islamic finance to support Chinese Renminbi-denominated Islamic capital market products such as Sukuk. "One key initiative set to strengthen Qatar's Islamic finance sector is the planned introduction of a centralized Shari'ah board, which is expected to raise consistency and hence, improve the integrity of the industry," Qatar Islamic Finance Hub Report 2019 stated, prepared by the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) in association with Refinitiv. Qatar has been rapidly developing its Islamic finance industry, whose total assets grew by a compounded annual growth rate of 8% since 2015 to $129bn in the first half of 2019, constituting 33% of Qatar's total financial system assets. Although Islamic banks in Qatar operate separately from conventional banks, they are all governed by the same banking regulatory framework. However, the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) has recently taken a further step in enhancing Islamic banking regulations, announcing the formation of a centralized Shari'ah supervisory body in line with global best practice. A centralized body would create a more consistent governance framework that aligns Shari'ah compliance across the industry, thus reducing the risk of the Islamic banks' products and services, the report stated, adding it would also facilitate arbitration and the settlement of disputes between Islamic banks and other stakeholders. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Investments up 126% in Qatar's food sector –** Qatar has been able to achieve high levels of self-sufficiency in various agricultural products, Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari has affirmed. "The rate of self-sufficiency of dairy products has increased during the past two years from 27% to 106%, while in fresh poultry it increased from 49% to 123%," the Minister said during a panel discussion on food security at the Kuala Lumpur Summit 2019. Qatar's investments in the food sector have increased 126% to QR5.2bn in 2019 as compared to QR2.3bn in 2016. "A set of mechanisms has also been established to take advantage of Qatar's advanced infrastructure and strategic location to locally manufacture and produce food and agricultural products among other items and to export these products into regional and international markets," he added. (Qatar Tribune)
- **HE Al Kuwari hails private sector role in Qatar's food security program –** HE Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, Minister of Commerce and Industry, has hailed the role played by Baladna Food Industries in contributing to Qatar's ambitious food security program. Addressing a panel discussion on food security at the Kuala Lumpur 2019 Summit, Minister Al Kuwari said the Doha-based dairy production leader contributed to Qatar's self-sufficiency in terms of dairy products at 100%. Baladna Food Industries, Qatar's largest dairy and beverage producer, is one of the most successful national ventures in the country's industrial sector, the Minister said. The Minister noted that Baladna recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Felcra

Berhad, which is wholly owned by the Malaysian government, to raise the industrial production capacity of both countries. He also commended the efforts of the governmental and private sectors, which bolstered Qatar's strategic position in the field of food security as the country ranked first in the Arab world and 22 globally in terms of food growth, according to the latest 2018 World Food Index. The government also boosted partnerships with the private sector, which contributed in the implementation and development of food security projects. It also proposed several projects to investors, especially in the agricultural and industrial fields. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Qatar economic growth to continue in 2020, says The Commercial Bank's CEO –** Robust economic growth is forecast to continue in 2020, The Commercial Bank's CEO, Joseph Abraham said, citing positive macro indicators, strong fiscal and external buffers, and improving trends. The CEO stressed there was a strong underpinning of the Qatari economy due to the government's very prudent management, particularly the Ministry of Finance and the Qatar Central Bank. "Qatar has very strong fiscal and external buffers, and this has allowed it to absorb the effects of the blockade, which, quite frankly, is already history. More importantly, the growth rate of Qatar's GDP is expected to continue to rise. After the blockade, GDP was 1.7% and rose to 2.2%. This year, it was 2.6% and is expected to reach 3.2% – we are on a very improving trend. If you look at the fiscal budget, it is expected to be a surplus this year and even in 2020 for over 4%; and then the current account is also in surplus, so all the macro indicators are very positive," Abraham pointed out. He also said Qatar's expansion of natural gas production to 126mn tons per year, among other announcements made by the government this year, will maintain the country's world leading position in natural gas production, providing a very positive outlook for Qatar. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Ooredoo partners with education ministry to enable innovation –** Ooredoo has announced a digital transformation partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to enable Qatar National Vision 2030's education innovation and the knowledge-based economy. This partnership is part of the ministry's efforts in building long-term relationships with international technology vendors, and supporting Qatar in meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in fostering quality education. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **QIIK receives top global certification on its information security standards –** Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIK) has received the ISO 27001 certification, one of the world's most prestigious accreditation in information security, which it stated reflects its high standing in the protection of the bank's as well as customer data. QIIK was awarded the ISO 27001 certification based on a set of criteria that were thoroughly examined, including the technological structure and procedures that the bank's cyber-security department has been adopting. Additionally, the controls that the various departments are implementing in the field of information security based on an 'integrated systematic plan' that guarantees the highest standards of information and data confidentiality were also examined exhaustively. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **APICORP: Qatar to increase downstream gas investments; retains position as MENA's top gas exporter –** Qatar, which continues to retain its position as the MENA's top gas exporter, is expected to see an increase in its downstream gas investments which makes the country one of the exceptions in the region which sees declines in gas investments, the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP) stated in its latest report released. According to The Gas Investments Outlook 2019-2023 on the MENA region's planned and committed investments for the period 2019 to 2023, Qatar is moving ahead with upgrades that will see its liquefaction capacity rise from current 77 Mtpa to 126 Mtpa by 2027. Qatar has plans to nearly double its 65-strong LNG fleet by adding at least 60 new carriers at an estimated cost in excess of $12bn, growing the current global LNG fleet of 525 carriers, as of 4Q2018, by 11-19%. Notably, Qatar is one of the exceptions, and the country is expected to see an increase in its downstream gas investments. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Ezdan sees budget boosting real estate market sentiment and real estate transactions in the week of 8-12 December stood at around QR382mn –** The 2020 annual budget unveiled has reflected the highest budgeted expenditure in the past five fiscal years, which in turn thrusts the real estate growth; an important contributor to the economic growth. The budgeting revealed an increase in expenditure earmarked for major projects of QR90bn, accounting for 0.6% increase, controlling approximately 43% of gross expenditure. This affirms Qatar's commitment to provide the financial allocations necessary to complete major projects in various sectors, especially in infrastructure, noted a weekly report by Ezdan Real Estate Company (Ezdan). The report on real estate activity indicated that one of the main drivers of the real estate market activity is that the annual budget which included new projects awarding worth of total QR8.5bn, mainly delegated to Public Works Authority (Ashghal). Such delivery plan comprises infrastructure projects across the state, including public roads, sanitation, retrofitting and refurbishment of roads, drainage, maintenance and operation projects. Over the forthcoming 5 years, the state will be budgeting around QR12bn to develop new lands owned by nationals through providing water, power and sanitation supply networks, roads and all other facilities in 13 different zones to be accomplished and delivered to citizens as per a timeframe, the report pointed out. The Ezdan weekly report noted that the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice reported a sales volume of 64 transactions with a total value of approximately QR382mn, distributed among 7 municipalities during the period from 8 to 12 December 2019. The municipalities are Umm Salal, Al Khor, Al Thakhira, Doha, Al Rayyan, Al Shamal, Al Daayen and Al Wakra. (Peninsula Qatar)

International

- **US consumers put economy on moderate growth path in third quarter –** US economic growth nudged up in the third quarter and the economy appears to have maintained the moderate pace of expansion as the year ended, supported by a strong labor market. Other data on Friday showed consumer spending increased solidly in November, adding to a string of upbeat data that have helped to quell recession fears which gripped financial markets in the summer. GDP increased at a 2.1% annualized rate, the Commerce Department said in its third estimate of third-quarter GDP. That was unrevised from November's estimate. The economy grew at a 2.0% pace in the April-June period. Growth estimates for the fourth quarter range from as low as a 1.5% rate to as high as a 2.3% pace. Growth has slowed from the 3.1% rate notched in the first three months of the year in part because of the 17-month trade war between the US and China and the fading stimulus from last year's $1.5tn tax cut package. When measured from the income side, the economy grew at a 2.1% rate in the last quarter, rather than the 2.4% pace estimated in November. Gross domestic income (GDI) increased at a rate of 0.9% in the second quarter. The economy's moderate growth speed appears to have persisted in the fourth quarter. In a second report on Friday, the Commerce Department said consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, rose 0.4% last month as households stepped up purchases of motor vehicles and spent more on healthcare. Consumption increased 0.3% in October. Consumer spending is being supported by the lowest unemployment rate in nearly half a century. However, inflation stayed tame last month and could remain so for a while. In the GDP report, growth in consumer spending was raised to a 3.2% rate in the third quarter from the previously reported 2.9% pace. Inventories rose at a $69.4bn pace instead of the $79.8bn rate reported last month. Business investment dropped at a 2.3% rate in the third quarter, rather than contracting at a 2.7% pace as previously reported. Spending on nonresidential structures such as mining exploration, shafts and wells declined at a 9.9% rate instead of the previously reported 12.0% pace. (Reuters)

- **US labor market on solid ground; mid-Atlantic factories sputter –** The number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits dropped from a more than two-year high last week, pointing to sustained labor market strength that should continue to underpin consumer spending and the economy. While other data on Thursday showed factory activity in the mid-Atlantic region almost stalling this month, manufacturers received more orders, increased shipments and boosted hours for employees. Their outlook for capital expenditure over the next six months was also upbeat, offering some tentative signs of stabilization in manufacturing amid an easing in tensions in the 17-month trade war between the US and China. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits decreased 18,000 to a seasonally adjusted 234,000 for the week ended December 14, the Labor Department said. The drop, which only partially unwound the prior week's jump of 49,000, likely does not indicate a material shift in labor market conditions as claims data tend to be volatile in the period following the Thanksgiving Day holiday. A second report from the National Association of Realtors showed existing home sales dropped 1.7% in November. Home resales, however, increased 2.7% from a year ago. The solid labor market and low mortgage rates are driving demand for housing. In a third report, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve said its business conditions index dropped to a reading of 0.3 in December from 10.4 in November. However, there were increases in measures of new orders, unfilled orders, factory hours and shipments. While manufacturers reported paying higher prices for raw materials and other inputs, they appeared unable to pass on the higher costs to consumers in a significant way. (Reuters)
- **US job openings rise from 18-month low in October –** US job openings rebounded from an 18-month low in October and layoffs declined sharply, which could ease some fears that demand for workers was ebbing. Job openings, a measure of labor demand rose 235,000 to 7.27mn, the Labor Department said in its monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS, on Tuesday. However, the rise did not recoup all of the drop of 269,000 in September, which pushed vacancies down to their lowest level since March 2018. Vacancies have been trending lower this year since hitting an all-time high of 7.63mn in late 2018. Job openings in October were led by the retail trade sector, which saw an increase of 125,000 unfilled jobs. Vacancies in the finance and insurance industry rose by 56,000 jobs and there were an additional 50,000 open jobs in the durable goods manufacturing industry. (Reuters)
- **Mnuchin: US-China to sign 'Phase one' trade pact in early January –** US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the US and China would sign their so-called Phase one trade pact at the beginning of January, adding that it was completely finished and just undergoing a technical "scrub." Mnuchin, speaking to reporters at the White House, said the trade deal had already been put down on paper and translated, and that it would not be subject to any renegotiation. He said the focus would be on implementing the first phase, which calls for US farm product exports to China to roughly double over the next two years. (Reuters)
- **ELFA: US business borrowing for equipment falls 3% YoY in November –** The Equipment Leasing and Finance Association (ELFA) said US companies' borrowings for capital investments fell about 3% in November from a year earlier. The companies signed up for $7.8bn in new loans, leases and lines of credit last month, down from $8bn a year earlier. Borrowings fell 23% from the previous month. Washington-based ELFA, which reports economic activity for the nearly $1tn equipment finance sector, said credit approvals totaled 75.7% in November, down from 76.3% in October. ELFA's leasing and finance index measures the volume of commercial equipment financed in the US. It is designed to complement the US Commerce Department's durable goods orders report, which typically follows a few days later. The Equipment Leasing and Finance Foundation, ELFA's non-profit affiliate, reported monthly confidence index of 56.2 in December, up from the November index of 54.9, ELFA said. A reading of above 50 indicates a positive business outlook. (Reuters)
- **UK economy's growth in third quarter revised up, smallest current account gap since 2012 –** Britain's economy grew a little faster in the third quarter than first estimated and the country's current account deficit shrank to its smallest since 2012, official data showed on Friday. Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed the economy grew 0.4% in the third quarter of the year, better than a previous estimate of 0.3% and boosted by upward revisions to services and construction output. The ONS said a surge in goods exports helped Britain's current account deficit narrow to 15.86bn Pounds in the third quarter of 2019 from 24.15bn Pounds in the second quarter, roughly in line with expectations. As a percentage of economic output, the deficit fell to 2.8%, its smallest since early 2012. BoE Governor Mark Carney described Britain as dependent "on the kindness of strangers" before the 2016 Brexit referendum and on Monday the BoE said the current account deficit still posed

economic risks. Britain's economy has slowed since the Brexit referendum, and now faces increased headwinds from trade tensions between the US and China and a slowdown in Europe. The economy grew by 1.1% in the year to the end of September, up from an earlier estimate of 1.0%. A Reuters poll of economists suggested the economy will grow 1.3% this year. The BoE said on Thursday it was waiting for more signals about how much last week's election was easing the uncertainty that has weighed on the economy. (Reuters)

- **UK inflation holds below BoE target before rates meeting –** British inflation remained at a three-year low in November, comfortably below the Bank of England's (BoE) 2% target before its next interest rate announcement on Thursday, official data showed. Consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 1.5% for a second month running in November, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said on Wednesday, a little stronger than the median expectation for a 1.4% increase in a Reuters poll of economists. The BoE said last month that inflation would probably fall to 1.25% in early 2020 because of caps on energy and water prices, but was likely to be back above its 2% target in about three years' time. Separate data from the ONS showed house prices in October rose by an annual 0.7% across the UK, the smallest increase in more than seven years, after a 1.3% rise in September. Prices in London alone fell by 1.6%, the biggest drop since June. (Reuters)
- **QNB Group sees 'extension of transition arrangement' as most likely scenario on UK's Brexit –** A rapid trade deal between the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) is unlikely and allowing transition arrangement to end in 2020 with no-trade-deal will be a severe and unnecessary shock to the UK economy, QNB Group has said in an economic commentary. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's promise to "Get Brexit Done" was a powerful slogan for the election and gifted him a landslide victory and a large parliamentary majority of 80, it said. "That means that he will almost certainly win a vote in Parliament on his version of the 'EU Withdrawal Agreement'. Then, the UK will formally leave the EU in January 2020. Brexit will be implemented within a transition period during which rules and regulations remain aligned with the EU," QNB Group said. The transition period ends in December 2020, according to the withdrawal agreement, and PM Johnson has committed not to extend it. However, a trade deal with the EU will likely be even more difficult to negotiate than the withdrawal agreement and could easily drag on well beyond the December 2020 deadline he has set. The UK and EU only have until the summer to strike a deal that can be implemented by the end of 2020 or to seek an extension of the transition period, if no trade agreement is ready. This, QNB Group noted, is because formal ratification of EU trade deals requires over four months of legal checks and translation. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **BoE holds interest rates at 0.75% as Brexit looms –** The Bank of England (BoE) froze interest rates at 0.75% before Brexit next month, but left the door open to a reduction in the event of fresh turmoil. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted 7-2 to hold borrowing costs, according to minutes of the two-day December gathering, with policymakers Jonathan Haskel and Michael Saunders repeating their November call for a 0.5 percentage point cut. The decision was the first since British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's election triumph one week ago, and comes ahead of Britain's departure from the European Union on January 31 — when BoE governor Mark Carney is also due to step down. The premier, whose ruling Conservative Party won the biggest majority since the 1980s heyday of Margaret Thatcher, wants to embrace Brexit and kick-start growth in Britain's stalling economy. The BoE's chief task is to keep British 12-month consumer price inflation close to a 2.0% target. "Monetary policy could respond in either direction to changes in the economic outlook in order to ensure a sustainable return of inflation to the 2.0% target," the minutes read. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Cautious UK shoppers send retail sales growth to 19-month low –** British shoppers kept a tight grip on their wallets last month as retail sales grew at their slowest annual pace since April 2018 amid uncertainty about Brexit and December's election. Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) were collected before Black Friday sales promotions, but the ONS said it was confident the slowdown in YoY sales growth to 1.0% in November from October's 3.1% was not distorted by the timing. Spending by shoppers had been supporting the overall economy for most of the time since 2016's Brexit referendum; Thursday's figures added to other signs of a slowdown in the run-up to last week's election. Excluding fuel purchases, retail sales growth was the weakest since October 2017. Retail sales in November were down 0.6% from October, and have now failed to show any monthly growth for four months in a row - the longest such run since at least 1996. (Reuters)
- **Eurozone inflation confirmed at 1% as food prices jump –** Eurozone inflation accelerated in November, the European Union's statistics office said on Wednesday, confirming its earlier estimate as food prices rose at a steeper pace. Inflation in the 19-country bloc was 1.0% YoY, up from 0.7% in October, in line with initial estimates Eurostat published on November 29. The acceleration came as unprocessed food prices rose 1.8% in November, from 0.7% in October. Energy prices were 3.2% lower, about the same decline as a month earlier. The narrower inflation indicator, which strips out volatile energy and unprocessed food prices and is monitored closely by the European Central Bank, was revised to 1.4% from the previous estimate of 1.5%. Excluding energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, a measure on which many economists focus inflation was also trimmed to 1.4% in November from the initial 1.5%. (Reuters)
- **DIW: German economy likely to contract in fourth quarter –** The DIW economic institute said that the German economy probably shrank in the fourth quarter as export-oriented manufacturing continued to decline. DIW said Europe's largest economy probably contracted by 0.1% in the October-December period. DIW's forecast contrasted with a rosy estimate by the Ifo institute, which this week said Europe's biggest economy probably expanded by 0.2% in the fourth quarter. Manufacturing has been weakening since the start of the year, slowing a 10-year growth cycle. Consumption, state spending and construction have been cushioning the economy. German manufacturers are coping with trade disputes and Brexit uncertainty. The car industry also faces a costly shift to electric vehicles and stricter emissions rules. DIW said that despite the gloom, German industry was showing signs of optimism. The economy narrowly avoided recession in the third quarter, growing by 0.1% in the

third quarter after contracting by 0.2% in the April-June period. A strong labor market is expected to continue providing support for the economy. Data published on Friday showed that real wages rose by 1.9% in the third quarter compared with the same quarter in 2018 - the largest increase since early 2016. (Reuters)

- **German exports to remain subdued in coming months –** German exports are likely to remain subdued in the coming months as slowing world trade and global risks continue to hurt manufacturers, the Finance Ministry said in its monthly report. The German economy has been going through a soft patch. Its export-oriented manufacturers are struggling with trade disputes, its car industry is adapting to a costly shift to electric vehicles, and Britain's planned departure from the European Union is creating uncertainty for businesses. The Finance Ministry added that Germany's robust labor market should continue to support the domestic economy. (Reuters)
- **GfK: German consumer morale darkens heading into January –** The mood among German consumers deteriorated unexpectedly heading into January, a survey showed on Friday, suggesting that household spending in Europe's largest economy could weaken at the beginning of next year. The consumer sentiment indicator, published by the Nuremberg-based GfK institute and based on a survey of around 2,000 Germans, edged down to 9.6 from 9.7 in December. A Reuters poll of analysts had predicted an increase to 9.8. Household spending has turned into a steady and reliable driver of growth in Germany helped by record-high employment, inflation-busting pay hikes and historically low borrowing costs, providing a buffer against trade-related problems. (Reuters)
- **BoJ's Kuroda warns of risks to Japan economy despite trade war truce –** Bank of Japan (BoJ) Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said the global economic outlook has brightened somewhat due to a preliminary US-China trade deal but warned that risks to Japan's recovery remain high, signaling his resolve to keep the money spigot wide open. However, Kuroda said there were limits to how much the BoJ could deepen negative interest rates as prolonged ultra-low borrowing costs hurt financial institutions, suggesting that no immediate expansion of stimulus was forthcoming. As part of efforts to ease the side-effects of its huge asset buying, the BoJ unveiled details of a scheme first flagged in April to lend some of its holdings of exchange-traded funds (ETF). Kuroda made the comments after the BoJ's widely expected decision to maintain its short-term rate target at -0.1% and that for 10-year bond yields around 0%. The central bank also kept intact its assessment that Japan's economy continues to expand moderately as a trend, pointing to an expected boost to growth from the government's $122bn spending package unveiled on December 5. However, the BoJ offered a gloomier view on factory output, a nod to the fallout from soft global demand and trade tensions. (Reuters)
- **Japan's November core CPI rises 0.5% YoY –** According to government data Japan's core consumer prices rose 0.5% in November from a year earlier. The core consumer price index, which includes oil products but excludes fresh food prices, compared with economists' median estimate for a 0.5% annual gain. Stripping away the effect of fresh food and energy, consumer prices rose 0.8% in November from a year ago. (Reuters)
- **Japan raises economic growth forecast for next fiscal year –** Japan's government raised its economic growth forecast for the next fiscal year, helped by an expected boost from a $122bn fiscal package that would help cushion the hit from weaker global demand. The economy is now expected to expand 1.4% in price-adjusted real terms in the fiscal year starting April 2020, according to the Cabinet Office's projections, approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday. The upgrade largely stemmed from an improvement in domestic demand due to stronger corporate investment and a boost to growth from public spending from the fiscal package approved by the Cabinet this month. The government expects capital spending to grow a robust 2.7% next fiscal year, compared to 1.9% in the previous assessment in July. Public demand was seen adding 0.5 percentage point to GDP growth in fiscal 2020, up from 0.2 percentage point seen previously. The boost from the fiscal package is expected to more than offset weakness in external demand as slowing global growth threatens to leave a deeper mark on the economy. (Reuters)
- **Japan's exports shrink for 12th month as US, China demand falls –** Official data released showed Japan's exports fell 7.9% YoY in November, a smaller decline than the 8.6% decline expected by economists in a Reuters poll. However, it was the longest run of declines in exports since a 14-month stretch to November 2016 as shipments of cars and construction machinery to the US and chemical products to China fell. Exports in volume terms, which exclude the exchange rate impact, dropped 5.0% in the year to November, the largest fall since August and the fourth consecutive month of declines. Industrial output slipped at the fastest pace in nearly two years in October while retail sales and household spending slumped after consumers tightened their purse strings following the sales tax hike. (Reuters)
- **Li Keqiang: China's economy may face greater downward pressure in 2020 –** China's economy could face more downward pressure in 2020 than it did this year, but the government will take steps to keep growth within a reasonable range, state television quoted Premier Li Keqiang as saying. The government will strive to stabilize economic growth while promoting reforms and preventing risks, Li was quoted as saying. Li said the government is on track to achieve its key economic targets this year despite difficulties. China's economic growth slowed to 6.0% in the third quarter, a near 30-year low, but full-year growth is expected to be within the government's target of 6% to 6.5%. Growth in China's industrial and retail sectors beat expectations in November, as government support propped up demand in the world's second-largest economy and amid easing trade hostilities with Washington. China plans to set a lower economic growth target of around 6% in 2020, relying on increased state infrastructure spending to ward off a sharper slowdown, policy sources said. (Reuters)
- **China announces new tariff exemptions for US chemical, oil products –** China unveiled a new list of import tariff exemptions for six chemical and oil products from the US, days after the world's two largest economies announced a Phase 1 trade deal. The Finance Ministry said that the exemptions will be for one year from December 26, without providing a value for the imports excluded from duties. The ministry added that duties

already imposed on US products would not be refunded. (Reuters)

- **India's elevated food inflation limits scope for further rate cuts –** India's volatile food prices are yet again posing a sticky inflation problem for its central bank, preventing it from cutting rates as deep as it would like to support a stuttering economy. After slashing rates five times this year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stunned markets earlier this month by resisting a sixth reduction as many had predicted. Accelerating inflation is a concern, the RBI said after its decision, while signaling it had room to ease policy further to lift an economy growing at its weakest pace in six years. Earlier this week RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das reiterated the central bank's readiness to ease if needed. Yet traders expect price pressures will be a hurdle to pushing down the key repo rate much below the current 5.15% over coming months. Food inflation in November rose to an almost six-year high and is seen staying around those levels over the next few months. (Reuters)

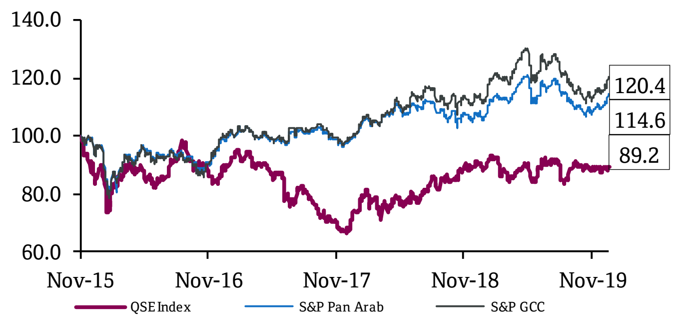
Regional

- **Investments in MENA gas sector see $70bn fall over next 5 years –** The Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP), a multilateral financial development institution, stated that investments in the MENA gas sector sees $70bn YoY decline over the next five years. In its 'Gas Investments Outlook 2019-2023' report, APICORP stated that the decrease is driven by high global gas output, slowing regional demand and financing issues. The industrial sector accounts for roughly 30% of total gas consumption in Middle East, the report added, while liquefied natural gas (LNG) continues to benefit from the very low regional gas connectivity. The report noted that two-thirds of MENA countries expect lower planned investments in their upstream gas sectors, with share of government investments in committed upstream gas projects stands at just under 92%. However, petrochemicals investments for 2019-2023 increase 50% from previous 2018-2022 outlook. APICORP's research indicates that the total committed and planned investments fell largely due to Saudi Arabia successfully commissioning major projects and lower prospects for Iran's gas sector. Out of the nine countries with committed upstream investments in the 2018 outlook, seven of them saw a YoY decline, including Iran, which saw its share of projects under execution fall by 77%. The UAE and Qatar are expected to see an increase in their downstream gas investments. Overall, the decline in MENA committed investments was most notable in Kuwait (close to 80%), Saudi Arabia (60%) and Algeria and Iran at around 50%. By contrast, APICORP's Annual MENA Gas Investments Outlook shows petrochemicals investments as a bright spot, with a 50% y-o-y increase compared to its 2018-2022 outlook. Two-thirds of the MENA countries will record lower planned investments in their upstream gas sectors, the report revealed. (Zawya)
- **OPEC+ cuts not enough to lift prices –** Global oil demand growth is expected to decelerate from 1.4mn bpd in 2018 to 1.0mn bpd in 2019 and 2020. Growth in global demand for oil continues to be dominated by emerging and developing economies, with China accounting for half of the incremental increase and India one-fourth, Institute of International Finance (IIF) noted. Slower global growth, even with an agreement on de-escalation of the trade war between the US and China, could mean slower oil demand in 2020. The recent increase in inventories in the US and other major OECD countries raises concerns that the weakening of growth in the OECD and China will dampen the demand for oil, the IIF noted in its updated Oil Market report. IIF analysts believe that December 6 decision by OPEC+ on additional production cuts of 0.5mn bpd is still not enough to balance the market in 2020. They see global liquid fuels inventories rising by about 1mn bpd in 2020 after the estimated rise of 0.2mn bpd in 2019. Consequently, IIF expect a decline in average Brent oil prices to $60/ bbl in 2020, compared with $64/ bbl in 2019. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **JODI: Saudi Arabia's crude exports rise 5.8% in October –** Saudi Arabia's crude oil exports in October rose 5.8% to 7.06mn bpd, from 6.67mn bpd in the previous month, official data showed. The country's total crude output climbed by 1.17mn bpd to 10.30mn bpd in October. Crude stocks rose by 15.60mn bpd to 168.08mn bpd while domestic refinery crude throughput dipped by 387,000 bpd to a 34-month low of 2.20mn bpd, the data from the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI) showed. Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister, Prince, Abdulaziz bin Salman had said the Kingdom's oil production would recover in October and November to levels above those seen before attacks on its energy installations in September. Earlier this month, oil producers led by Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed to cut output by an extra 500,000 bpd in the first quarter of 2020. Saudi Arabia and other members of the OPEC provide monthly export figures to JODI, which publishes them on its website. (Reuters)
- **Dubai Islamic Bank shareholders approve Noor Bank acquisition –** Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB), the UAE largest Shari'ah-compliant bank, stated that it has received shareholder approval for the acquisition of unlisted Dubai-based Noor Bank. With the acquisition, DIB will become one of the largest Islamic banks in the world, with total assets worth AED275bn, from AED230bn as of the end of September. The deal would enhance Dubai's position as the capital of Islamic economy by creating the region's most progressive Shari'ah banking group," DIB stated. Dubai's sovereign investment group, Investment Corp of Dubai (ICD) is a common shareholder in the two banks. Shareholders gave approval for the acquisition through an increase of DIB's capital from 6.6bn shares to 7.2bn shares, with a share swap ratio of 1 new share in DIB for every 5.49 Noor Bank shares, translating into an issuance of about 651mn new DIB shares. "Completion of this deal will provide opportunities for economic growth, ensuring that the UAE's financial sector remains at the forefront of the Islamic economy," DIB's Chairman, Mohammed Al Shaibani said. (Zawya)
- **MAG Development considering IPO in Dubai –** The UAE-based property developer MAG Development plans to sell shares to the public and list in Dubai, Khaleej Times reported. The company will announce its IPO plans soon, the paper reported, citing Chief Executive Officer, Sar Haffar. He said the sale was in a preparation phase and it could take more than a year, the paper reported. The planned listing comes as MAG Development invests in a $546mn project known as MAG City, which will be made up of 5,100 villas and apartments, the report stated. (Bloomberg)
- **ADNOC appoints Finance Director Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi as CFO –** Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's (ADNOC) Finance and

Investment Director, Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, is taking on additional role as CFO of the government-owned energy producer, according to sources. ADNOC's previous CFO, Mark Cutis, remains with the company as Chief Finance and Investment advisor. Cutis will advise on debt strategy as ADNOC seeks new opportunities to raise funds. (Bloomberg)

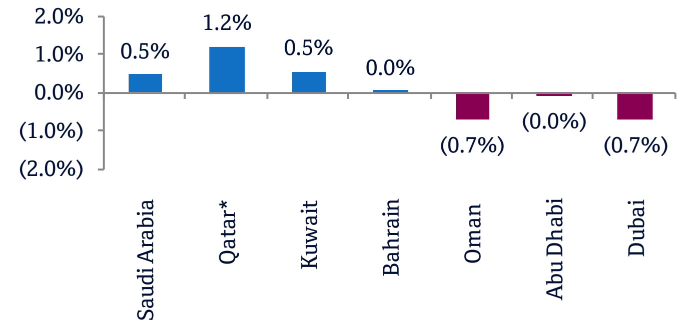
- **Abu Dhabi bets on food delivery boom with investment in Glovo –** Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund, Mubadala is placing a bet on the growing demand for food delivery platforms with an investment in Spanish startup Glovo. Mubadala was the lead investor in Glovo's $167mn funding round closed Wednesday, according to a statement, bringing its valuation to over $1bn. Other backers in Barcelona-based Glovo included Drake Enterprises, Lakestar and Idinvest, all of which were already investors. A Glovo courier in Barcelona, Spain. This was the third round in which Glovo raised more than EUR100mn over the past 17 months, as it seeks to bolster its position in the booming food delivery sector by expanding into new markets and increasing its software development teams. Glovo operates in 26 countries. Investors are flocking to delivery companies, as consolidation unfolds across the globe. The Spanish startup has also been weighing the possibility of holding an IPO, sources said. Like a number of its rivals, Glovo is not solely focused on food delivery, however, is also open to other types of products and is rolling out so-called darkstores from which it services groceries and other products to clients. The company has seven in four cities and plans to open 100 by 2021. (Bloomberg)
- **MSCI to boost Kuwait indexes to emerging markets status in 2020 –** MSCI Inc stated that it will reclassify the MSCI Kuwait Indexes to emerging markets as the Kuwaiti equity market had met all the necessary requirements. Global Head of Index Solutions and Chairman of the MSCI equity index committee, Sebastien Lieblich said: "Kuwait's addition adds further diversification to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index with an estimated weight of 0.69%." The index compiler will include the MSCI Kuwait index in the Emerging Market Index in the May 2020 semi-annual index review. "We welcome the latest market accessibility enhancements introduced by the Kuwaiti authorities that now allow international institutional investors to benefit from omnibus account structures and same National Investor Number (NIN) cross trade capabilities," he added. MSCI is the world's largest index provider, whose emerging-market group of indexes has about $1.8tn of assets tied to it. (Reuters)
- **Kuwait MSCI inclusion could generate KD1bn in inflows –** Kuwait's inclusion into the MSCI Emerging Market Index could generate inflows of KD1bn, Trade and Industry Minister, Khaled Al-Roudhan said. He was speaking at a news conference following the announcement of Kuwait's inclusion into the MSCI Emerging Market Index. (Reuters)
- **Boursa Kuwait Securities Company IPO oversubscribed 8.5 times when it closed earlier this week –** Kuwait's Capital Markets Authority (CMA), the regulatory body for capital markets and securities activities, announced the final share allotments following the successful public offering of its 50% stake in Boursa Kuwait Securities Company (BKSC), which was oversubscribed 8.5 times when it closed earlier this week. The public offering of 50% of BKSC, led and managed by KAMCO Investment Company, is the second and final phase of the privatization process of Boursa Kuwait. The first phase involved the sale of 44% of the company to strategic investors in February 2019 through an open and transparent process per the governing laws. The offering shares were allotted in two consecutive stages. The first stage was the distribution of the legal quota of 70 shares for every Kuwaiti citizen who exercised their right to participate in the offering (Kuwaiti citizens also had the right to acquire less than their allocated quota, and some exercised that right). The total number of citizens who exercised their right to acquire these shares was 82,777 and they were allotted 5,772,592 shares in total. The remaining 'undistributed shares' (94,615,283 shares) were then distributed to citizens who requested additional shares. The allotment ratio for these shares was 11.05% and was equally applied to all requests for additional shares. (Bloomberg)
- **KAMCO repays Murabaha facilities –** KAMCO Investment repaid Murabaha facilities worth KD5mn from a national bank, the company stated to Boursa Kuwait. As a result, KAMCO's total liabilities will decline by KD5mn, the company stated, dismissing any impact on the income statement. Last week, KAMCO announced that it sold major stakes in special purpose entities outside Kuwait. (Zawya)
- **Salhia Real Estate repays credit facilities –** Salhia Real Estate has repaid credit facilities worth KD9.638mn obtained from an Islamic bank, the company stated. The settlement will result in the reduction of financing costs in Salhia's consolidated income statement, the real estate company stated in a disclosure to Boursa Kuwait. On a side note, Salhia saw its profit falling by 18.7% YoY in the first nine months of 2019 to KD11.5mn from KD14.15mn. (Zawya)
- **Al Khair Global committed to buying Arkan Al Kuwait' remaining shares –** Al Khair Global for Buying and Selling Shares stated that it is committed to put forward a mandatory acquisition offer for the remaining shares of Arkan Al Kuwait Real Estate, according to a bourse disclosure. This came after Al Khair Global announced earlier in the day raised its stake in Arkan Al Kuwait to 35.876% from 29.58%, with the aim of acquiring according to a Boursa Kuwait statement. Arkan Al Kuwait's capital stands at KD25.115mn, distributed over 251.15mn shares, at 100 fils per share. (Zawya)
- **Oman Oil, Orpic Group integrate core businesses under a new brand OQ –** Under the patronage of Oman's Minister of Oil and Gas, and Chairman of its Board of Directors, Mohammed bin Hamed Al Rumhi, Oman Oil and Orpic Group announced the culmination of a year of integrating nine core businesses under a new brand identity called 'OQ'. It also represents quality and the company's essence of questioning the norms on its quest to pursue a new and exciting tomorrow. Kickstarted in December 2018, an experienced Integration Leadership Team (ILT) led by Group CEO, Musab Al Mahruqi, embarked on an integration program, code-named Nakhla, which has already generated over $280mn in Quick Wins, translating to cost savings and revenue uplift in 2019. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg (*Data as of December 17, 2019)

Asset/Currency Performance	Close ($)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,481.64	0.2	0.4	15.5
Silver/Ounce	17.20	0.8	1.6	11.0
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	66.14	(0.6)	1.4	22.9
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	60.44	(1.3)	0.6	33.1
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.27	2.7	0.9	(28.8)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	49.00	(2.5)	(4.4)	(22.8)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	68.00	(1.4)	(6.1)	(2.9)
Euro	1.11	(0.4)	(0.4)	(3.4)
Yen	109.44	0.1	0.1	(0.2)
GBP	1.30	(0.1)	(2.5)	1.9
CHF	1.02	(0.4)	0.1	(0.1)
AUD	0.69	0.2	0.3	(2.1)
USD Index	97.69	0.3	0.5	1.6
RUB	62.27	(0.2)	(1.0)	(10.7)
BRL	0.24	(0.8)	0.2	(5.4)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,349.87	0.4	1.3	24.7
DJ Industrial	28,455.09	0.3	1.1	22.0
S&P 500	3,221.22	0.5	1.7	28.5
NASDAQ 100	8,924.96	0.4	2.2	34.5
STOXX 600	418.40	0.3	1.1	19.8
DAX	13,318.90	0.3	(0.2)	22.0
FTSE 100	7,582.48	(0.0)	0.8	15.1
CAC 40	6,021.53	0.3	1.3	23.0
Nikkei	23,816.63	(0.5)	(1.0)	20.0
MSCI EM	1,107.64	0.1	1.9	14.7
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,004.94	(0.4)	1.1	18.3
HANG SENG	27,871.35	0.2	0.6	8.3
BSE SENSEX	41,681.54	0.2	1.1	13.3
Bovespa	115,121.10	(0.7)	3.1	24.2
RTS	1,523.77	0.3	1.5	42.6

Source: Bloomberg (*$ adjusted returns)

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