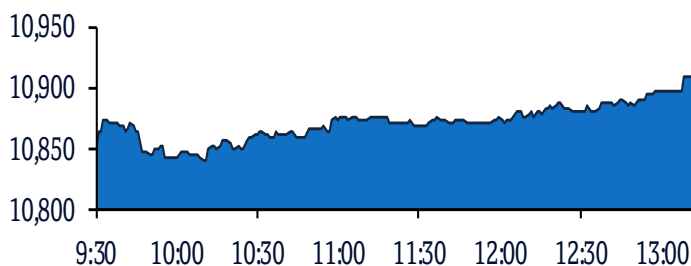


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.5% to close at 10,908.1. Gains were led by the Banks & Financial Services and Industrials indices, gaining 0.6% and 0.5%, respectively. Top gainers were Qatari Investors Group and Baladna, rising 3.9% and 2.0%, respectively. Among the top losers, Ahli Bank fell 3.8%, while QLM Life & Medical Insurance was down 1.6%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 0.4% to close at 11,209.4. Gains were led by the Capital Goods and Health Care Equipment & Svc indices, rising 1.1% each. Tanmiah Food Co. was up 19.2%, while Sahara International Petrochemical Co. were up 4.2%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 0.3% to close at 2,820.4. The Transportation index rose 1.1%, while the Real Estate & Construction index gained 0.5%. BHM Capital Financial Services rose 13.8%, while Emirates Refreshments Co. was up 11.5%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained 0.2% to close at 7,419.3. The Real Estate index rose 3.0%, while the Investment & Financial Services index gained 0.8%. Waha Capital rose 14.4%, while Sharjah Cement & Indus Development was up 10.5%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.4% to close at 6,565.8. The Health Care index rose 2.0%, while the Financial Services index gained 0.5%. Kuwait & Middle East Fin Invest. rose 22.6%, while Advanced Technology Co. was up 9.9%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index gained 0.2% to close at 4,002.0. Gains were led by the Services and Industrial indices, rising 0.2% each. Al Madina Investment Company rose 3.2%, while Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles Co. was up 2.6%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index gained 0.3% to close at 1,614.9. The Real Estate index rose 2.1%, while the Consumer Discretionary index gained 1.0%. Seef Properties rose 2.9%, while Al-Salam Bank was up 2.7%.

Market Indicators	05 Aug 21	04 Aug 21	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	434.6	549.6	(20.9)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	631,582.9	630,170.2	0.2
Volume (mn)	209.3	339.0	(38.3)
Number of Transactions	10,227	11,748	(12.9)
Companies Traded	48	46	4.3
Market Breadth	23:23	34:8	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	21,593.27	0.5	1.4	7.6	17.8
All Share Index	3,460.42	0.4	1.3	8.2	17.8
Banks	4,579.03	0.6	1.1	7.8	15.1
Industrials	3,667.78	0.5	2.5	18.4	20.9
Transportation	3,404.99	(0.0)	(0.1)	3.3	19.1
Real Estate	1,804.86	(0.2)	3.0	(6.4)	16.6
Insurance	2,607.87	0.3	(1.2)	8.8	23.1
Telecoms	1,049.40	(0.5)	0.2	3.8	N/A
Consumer	8,213.59	0.3	1.2	0.9	23.0
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,618.10	0.3	2.9	8.2	18.3

GCC Top Gainers###	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Sahara Int. Petrochemical	Saudi Arabia	33.30	4.2	6,013.2	92.3
Aldar Properties	Abu Dhabi	4.17	3.2	76,992.5	32.4
Dr Sulaiman Al Habib	Saudi Arabia	188.00	3.1	619.0	72.5
Bank Al Bilad	Saudi Arabia	37.85	2.3	2,297.9	33.5
Banque Saudi Fransi	Saudi Arabia	39.55	2.2	382.8	25.2

GCC Top Losers###	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Saudi Arabian Mining Co.	Saudi Arabia	68.10	(2.6)	2,155.6	68.1
Bahrain Telecom. Co.	Bahrain	0.58	(1.7)	912.0	(2.7)
Ezdan Holding Group	Qatar	1.64	(1.5)	6,138.0	(7.7)
Saudi Arabian Fertilizer C	Saudi Arabia	122.20	(1.3)	529.5	51.6
Jarir Marketing Co.	Saudi Arabia	200.00	(1.1)	179.0	15.3

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

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatari Investors Group	2.53	3.9	7,915.4	39.9
Baladna	1.61	2.0	17,573.6	(10.0)
Mannai Corporation	3.80	1.8	223.5	26.7
Qatar Electricity & Water Co.	17.10	1.6	416.5	(4.2)
Qatari German Co for Med. Dev.	3.02	1.5	9,473.5	35.0

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.99	(0.9)	68,515.2	52.2
Investment Holding Group	1.26	0.5	23,169.5	110.7
Baladna	1.61	2.0	17,573.6	(10.0)
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing	1.66	0.1	11,532.0	71.8
Qatari German Co for Med. Dev.	3.02	1.5	9,473.5	35.0

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Ahli Bank	3.85	(3.8)	100.0	11.7
QLM Life & Medical Insurance	4.92	(1.6)	2.2	56.2
Ezdan Holding Group	1.64	(1.5)	6,138.0	(7.7)
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	1.10	(1.4)	7,940.9	(12.6)
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co	2.86	(1.2)	172.4	(10.8)

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*	10,908.11	0.5	1.4	1.4	4.5	119.35	170,211.6	17.8	1.6	2.7
Dubai	2,820.37	0.3	2.0	2.0	13.2	43.99	104,122.8	21.0	1.0	2.8
Abu Dhabi	7,419.27	0.2	1.4	1.4	47.1	388.10	355,607.7	23.5	2.2	2.9
Saudi Arabia	11,209.42	0.4	1.8	1.8	29.0	2,003.39	2,609,807.2	30.2	2.5	2.1
Kuwait	6,565.84	0.4	(0.2)	(0.2)	18.4	173.30	124,342.8	36.5	1.6	1.8
Oman	4,002.02	0.2	(0.7)	(0.7)	9.4	5.77	18,412.2	12.6	0.8	3.9
Bahrain	1,614.91	0.3	1.1	1.1	8.4	16.04	25,854.1	11.5	0.8	3.4

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

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.5% to close at 10908.1. 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.
- Qatari Investors Group and Baladna were the top gainers, rising 3.9% and 2%, respectively. Among the top losers, Ahli Bank fell 3.8%, while QLM Life & Medical Insurance was down 1.6%.
- Volume of shares traded on Thursday fell by 38.3% to 209.3mn from 339mn on Wednesday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 134.7mn, volume for the day was 55.4% higher. Salam International Inv. Ltd. and Investment Holding Group were the most active stocks, contributing 32.7% and 11.1% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	47.01%	50.53%	(15,327,216.8)
Qatari Institutions	13.36%	15.91%	(11,080,360.9)
Qatari	60.37%	66.44%	(26,407,577.7)
GCC Individuals	0.47%	0.94%	(2,052,874.8)
GCC Institutions	1.59%	0.64%	4,136,043.2
GCC	2.06%	1.58%	2,083,168.4
Arab Individuals	15.89%	16.36%	(2,031,819.6)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	–
Arab	15.89%	16.36%	(2,031,819.6)
Foreigners Individuals	3.51%	5.96%	(10,679,153.9)
Foreigners Institutions	18.18%	9.66%	37,035,382.8
Foreigners	21.69%	15.62%	26,356,229.0

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

Earnings Releases, Global Economic Data and Earnings Calendar

Earnings Releases

Company	Market	Currency	Revenue (mn) 2Q2021	% Change YoY	Operating Profit (mn) 2Q2021	% Change YoY	Net Profit (mn) 2Q2021	% Change YoY
Saudi Basic Industries Corp.	Saudi Arabia	SR	42,420.0	72.3%	10,060.0	N/A	7,640.0	N/A
Walaa Cooperative Insurance Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	842.6	182.7%	–	–	10.5	-62.8%
Saudi Steel Pipe Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	88.5	51.9%	(5.0)	N/A	(8.1)	N/A
Bawan Co.	Saudi Arabia	SR	788.8	51.4%	53.2	183.8%	43.1	178.8%
Aramex	Dubai	AED	1,570.9	21.4%	99.6	-21.4%	65.5	-30.6%
BHM Capital Financial Service	Dubai	AED	12.9	27.0%	–	–	2.9	-8.1%
Dubai Investments	Dubai	AED	1,085.4	61.4%	–	–	178.3	-15.8%
Eshraq Properties Co.	Abu Dhabi	AED	4.9	44.6%	12.6	-45.6%	7.7	-62.4%
Fujairah Building Industries	Abu Dhabi	AED	40.1	-5.7%	4.4	-45.4%	3.9	-49.8%
APM Terminals Bahrain	Bahrain	BHD	10.0	-8.8%	2.5	-32.9%	2.1	-49.4%
INOVEST	Bahrain	USD	0.9	-69.2%	(1.5)	N/A	(1.6)	N/A
Bahrain & Kuwait Insurance Company	Bahrain	BHD	20.3	19.4%	–	–	1.5	2.6%
Gulf Hotels Group	Bahrain	BHD	4.7	36.6%	–	–	(0.4)	N/A

Source: Company data, DFM, ADX, MSM, TASI, BHB.

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05/08	US	Department of Labor	Initial Jobless Claims	31-Jul	385k	383k	399k
05/08	US	Department of Labor	Continuing Claims	24-Jul	2,930k	3,255k	3,296k
06/08	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Unemployment Rate	Jul	5.40%	5.70%	5.90%
05/08	Germany	Markit	Markit Germany Construction PMI	Jul	47.1	–	47
07/08	China	National Bureau of Statistics	Exports YoY	Jul	19.30%	20.00%	32.20%
07/08	China	National Bureau of Statistics	Imports YoY	Jul	28.10%	33.30%	36.70%

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

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting 2Q2021 results	No. of days remaining	Status
QATI	Qatar Insurance Company	8-Aug-21	0	Due
IHGS	INMA Holding Group	8-Aug-21	0	Due
DBIS	Dlala Brokerage & Investment Holding Company	9-Aug-21	1	Due
QISI	Qatar Islamic Insurance Group	9-Aug-21	1	Due
QGRI	Qatar General Insurance & Reinsurance Company	10-Aug-21	2	Due
AHCS	Aamal Company	10-Aug-21	2	Due
IGRD	Investment Holding Group	10-Aug-21	2	Due
QFBQ	Qatar First Bank	11-Aug-21	3	Due
MRDS	Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Development	11-Aug-21	3	Due
MCCS	Mannai Corporation	11-Aug-21	3	Due
BLDN	Baladna	11-Aug-21	3	Due
QOIS	Qatar Oman Investment Company	11-Aug-21	3	Due
MERS	Al Meera Consumer Goods Company	11-Aug-21	3	Due
ERES	Ezdan Holding Group	12-Aug-21	4	Due
QGMD	Qatari German Company for Medical Devices	12-Aug-21	4	Due
ZHCD	Zad Holding Company	12-Aug-21	4	Due

Source: QSE

News

Qatar

- IQCD reports net profit of QR2,073.9mn in 2Q2021, above our estimate** – Industries Qatar's (IQCD) net profit rose 361.9% YoY (+41.6% QoQ) to QR2,073.9mn in 2Q2021, above our estimate of QR1,533.3mn. The company's Revenue came in at QR3,214.2mn in 2Q2021, which represents an increase of 32.8% YoY (+13.2% QoQ). EPS amounted to QR0.58 in 6M2021 as compared to QR0.11 in 6M2020. IQCD reported about five-fold growth YoY in net profit to QR3.54bn in the half (1H) of this year, mainly due to a stronger consumer demand and rising oil prices. The group revenue shot up 69% YoY to QR9.2bn (assuming a proportionate consolidation). Its EBITDA or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization almost tripled on a yearly basis to QR4.5bn in the review period. The blended product prices at the group level, increased by 35% compared to 1H2020, translating into an increase of QR3.1bn in group's net profits. The price increase was noted across all the group's segments, with fertilizer reporting a contribution of QR1.4bn, petrochemicals QR1.3bn towards the overall growth in profitability on a yearly basis. The steel segment's contribution was QR0.5bn towards current period's earnings growth versus same period of last year. IQCD's financial position continues to remain robust, with the liquidity position at the end of June 30, 2021 reaching QR11.1bn in form of cash and bank balances, after accounting for a dividend payout of QR2bn for 2020. The petrochemical segment witnessed about five-fold jump YoY in net profit to QR1.5bn in 1H2021. This notable increase in profitability was primarily driven by improved product prices owing to improved macro environment and supply shortages. The growth in product prices coupled with 8% growth in sales volumes led to an overall increase in revenue by 83% within the segment, to QR3.1bn in the review period. The fertilizer segment reported more than quadrupled net profit to QR1.54bn in 1H2021, primarily driven by an almost double in revenues to QR3.8bn. The selling prices improved by 55% YoY, which reflected positively on the segmental performance and led to improved EBITDA margins. The steel segment was back in the black, after having a difficult

first half of 2020 and following strategic restructuring initiatives implemented last year. Net profit was QR496mn in 1H2021 against a net loss of QR1.39bn the previous year period. The profitability in the steel segment has been attributed to 27% increase in the selling prices; mothballing of certain steel facilities that allowed the segment to primarily focus on profitable domestic market, which led to adjust its cost base; recognition of one-off impairment expenses during 1H2020, amounting to QR1.2bn, relating to the facilities moth-balled; and changing the raw material mix. (QNB FS Research, QSE, Gulf-Times.com)

- GISS posts net profit of QR4.8mn in 2Q2021, above our estimate** – Gulf International Services (GISS) reported net profit of QR4.8mn in 2Q2021 as compared to net profit of QR45.3mn in 2Q2020 and net loss of QR5.5mn in 1Q2021, above our estimate of QR0.6mn. The company's Revenue came in at QR726.7mn in 2Q2021, which represents a decrease of 0.1% YoY. However, on QoQ basis Revenue rose 3.1%. Loss per share amounted to QR0.0004 in 6M2021 as compared to earnings per share of QR0.0291 in 6M2020. The revenue for 2Q2021 represented a moderate increase of 3%, compared to 1Q2021, mainly on account of growth in revenue from aviation and drilling segments, offset by decline in revenue from insurance. The overall growth in 2Q2021 revenue versus 1Q2021 was mainly attributed to improved flying hours with better MRO activities within the aviation segment and deployment of three new rigs within the fleet of Gulfdrill JV during 2Q2021. Net profit for 2Q2021 amounted to QR4.8m increased by 186% compared to 1Q2021. The improvement was mainly due to constructive growth in bottom-line profitability across all the segments, on account of healthier topline by certain segments. However, higher interest rates contributed negatively towards the bottom-line. GISS reported revenue of QR1.4bn for the six-month period ended 30 June 2021, a reduction of 8% compared to 1H2020. Revenue growth from insurance segment was entirely offset by reduction in revenue from all the other segments. The Group reported an EBITDA of QR245m, while the Group posted a net loss of QR0.8m for the six-month period ended 30 June 2021. The

decline in Group revenues led to an overall decline in bottom line profitability. Finance cost for 1H2021 decreased by 34%, to reach QR65mn, compared to QR98mn in 1H2020, on the back of the drop in interest rates. Similarly, general and administrative expenses declined by 10% on account of continued optimization drive. Moreover, strategic investments repositioning in both equities and fixed income asset classes coupled with recovery in capital markets resulted in a recovery amounting to QR44mn on account of unrealized gains on revaluation of investment securities, when comparing current period's investment portfolio performance with 1H2020. Oil and gas industry continue to show positive signs of recovery with constructive macroeconomic drivers, on the back of effective vaccination campaigns leading to ease of lockdown restrictions in major markets linking to heightened economic activity. However, the post-pandemic recovery within the Group remained uneven, with Aviation and Insurance segments reported improved set of results, while the macroeconomic tailwinds were not immediately felt within the drilling segment, which continue to remain under pressure, engulfed with rig suspensions and depressed rig day-rates. With revised rig day-rates for off shore fleet and Gulfdrill JV's fleet becoming fully operational, the drilling segment is expected to improve on its performance matrix entering into second half of this year. Since the start of pandemic, Group's drilling segment had undergone rate reduction, together with suspension of certain rigs within onshore fleet, which brought an additional layer of challenges to the segment. However, on a positive note, a key milestone has been achieved by Gulfdrill JV with the deployment of the remaining three jack-up premium rigs; "Java Star", "W-Castor" and "W-Tucana" during 2Q2021. Going forward, with all the five JV rigs being operational, would result in additional revenue streams for the segment and improved operational cash flows for GDI. Moreover, starting from July'21, the new rig day-rates applicable for off shore fleet will take effect, which is expected to positively impact the segment's topline. Performance of the aviation segment improved compared to last year. COVID-19 related travel restrictions, which affected the transport demand last year for the oil and gas companies remained relaxed during the period. As a result, higher flying hours were recorded on an overall basis, which affected the overall segment's performance. Additional topline contributions from MRO business were also recorded, as a new contract was awarded to GHC during the current year. Furthermore, contracts in Libya and Angola has been successfully extended. The insurance segment managed to build up on the strong performance achieved throughout the period by further expanding both the medical and general lines of business, coupled with successful renewal of major contracts and additional coverage obtained for major contracts within the energy segment. Additionally, the segment continue to expand its footprints within the domestic SME market, specifically within medical line of business and added new clients during the period. (QNB FS Research, QSE, Peninsula Qatar)

- **QAMC reports net profit of QR164.7mn in 2Q2021, below our estimate** – Qatar Aluminium Manufacturing Company's (QAMC) net profit rose to QR164.7mn (+33% QoQ) in 2Q2021, below our estimate of QR214.3mn. The company's Share of results from a joint venture came in at QR164.9mn in 2Q2021, which represents an increase of 34.1% QoQ. EPS amounted to QR0.052 in 6M2021 as compared to QR0.003 in 6M2020. QAMC reported the highest half-yearly net profit of QR288mn at the end of June 30, 2021, reporting more than 19-fold jump YoY. The substantial improvement in the net profitability was on account of the improved global aluminum prices, linked to macro-economic recovery and supply constraints. QAMC's share of revenue from the joint venture (Qatalum) amounted to QR1.35bn in the first six months of this year. Its share of EBITDA from the JV stood at QR558mn, with an EBITDA margin of 41.72% in the first half (1H)

of 2021 against 27.9% in the year-ago period. "We benefited from a strong sequential macroeconomic recovery coupled with supply constraints, which translated into healthier demand for our premium products, resulting in an improved set of financial results, since QAMC's incorporation," said Chairman of QAMC, Abdulrahman Ahmad Al-Shaibi. While macro-conditions remained buoyant, it continued to rely on core business values, flexibility of operations, supported by efficient supply chain and persistent cost optimization efforts, he added. "Going forward, our competitive advantages coupled with our operational excellence, would position us better for our long-term goals," he said. (QNB FS Research, QSE, Gulf-Times.com)

- **MPHC's bottom line rises to QR530.5mn in 2Q2021** – Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company's (MPHC) net profit rose 579.8% YoY (+40.0% QoQ) to QR530.5mn in 2Q2021. The company's Share of profit from joint ventures came in at QR526.9mn in 2Q2021, which represents an increase of 600.5% YoY (+40.3% QoQ). EPS amounted to QR0.072 in 6M2021 as compared to QR0.011 in 6M2020. MPHC has reported about seven-fold YoY growth in net profit to QR909mn in the first six months (1H2021) of this year. The group revenue almost doubled YoY to QR1.9bn (assuming proportionate consolidation). "The main highlight of MPHC's performance was a sequential macroeconomic recovery which led to a solid demand relating to basket of our products coupled with supply constraints, and resulted in an improved set of financial results," Ahmad Saif Al-Sulaiti, chairman of MPHC said. The economic momentum carried from the latter part of last year, on the back of satisfactory vaccination drive and easing out of geographical lockdowns in major markets, led to a sequential recovery in demand for petrochemicals and chlor-alkali products, and positively reflected on selling prices. The blended product prices on an average increased by 57% on a yearly basis, translating into QR721mn increase in the MPHC's bottom line. The renewed product demand supplemented by supply constraints resulted in significant growth in commodity prices. Sales volumes grew 26% YoY, driven by improved operating rates, thus leading to an increase of QR238mn in MPHC's bottom line. The positive trajectory in product prices and improved volumes were "slightly" offset by increase in variable costs, which contributed QR191mn negatively in the 1H2021 net earnings against the same period last year. The current period net earnings were positively impacted by favorable variance amounting to QR75mn, in relation to inventory differentials, due to lesser drawdowns during the period in comparison to H1, 2020. (QSE, Gulf-Times.com)
- **Moody's announces completion of a periodic review of ratings of Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation** – Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has completed a periodic review of the ratings of Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (KAHRAMAA) and other ratings that are associated with the same analytical unit. The review was conducted through a portfolio review discussion held on 3 August 2021 in which Moody's reassessed the appropriateness of the ratings in the context of the relevant principal methodology(ies), recent developments, and a comparison of the financial and operating profile to similarly rated peers. The review did not involve a rating committee. Since 1 January 2019, Moody's practice has been to issue a press release following each periodic review to announce its completion. (Bloomberg)
- **Qatar's foreign reserves rise for the fortieth month in a row** – Qatar's international reserves and foreign currency liquidity rose for the fortieth month in a row, and last July recorded a growth of 1% on an annual basis to about QR205.6bn, according to Qatar Central Bank data. The monthly bulletin of foreign reserves in Qatar last month showed an increase in investment in the "yellow metal" gold by 10.3% to about QR12.3bn, and the

growth of balances with foreign banks by 27.6% to reach QR41.3bn, while investment in foreign bonds and treasury bills was recorded. A decrease of 8.6% to about QR93.6bn. And "liquid assets" deposits in foreign currency recorded a growth of 1.3% last month to reach QR56.5bn, which is the highest since 2018. (Bloomberg)

- **Investments of Qatar in Jordan's stock exchange reach \$921mn** – The volume of Qatari investment in the Jordanian Stock Exchange reached 645mn Jordanian dinars (about \$921mn) at the end of July, which is the seventh place in the list of Arab investments in the Jordanian Stock Exchange, in terms of ownership of securities by nationality. Statistical data issued by Jordan's Securities Depository Center revealed that the number of securities owned by Qatari investors reached nearly 204mn in July. The statistics showed that the number of Qatari investment contributions in securities ownership reached 375,000 during that period. With Qatar's investments being valued at \$2bn in early 2018, it was the third-highest foreign investor in Jordan. (Qatar Tribune)
- **QSTP, Microsoft in new partnership** – Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation Research, Development & Innovation (QF RDI), announced Saturday a significant new partnership with Microsoft that will enhance the working environment for startups in Qatar and enable them to supercharge their productivity levels. Through the partnership, startups that are incubated at QSTP are now eligible for the acclaimed Microsoft for Startups program. The program provides cloud resources and industry mentorship needed by these businesses in their journey from idea to exit, and it offers a host of benefits tailored to the individual developmental stage of the participating company. These benefits include the use of Microsoft Azure platform, which has a strong track record in helping fledgling firms thrive. Azure enables entrepreneurs to accelerate innovation and build projects through an easy-to-use portal experience that provides the cloud services they need most. Azure has strict security protocols in place while empowering its user to protect their data and mission-critical applications. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **HSBC offers unique ESG wealth products for its customers** – HSBC has announced that it offers a unique wealth management proposition for its customers that includes over 80 ESG bonds, demonstrating its support to individuals who wish to use green finance in their efforts to recognize the global sustainability agenda. "These debt instruments encourage investments that are based on the bond issuer's adherence to environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria," said Head of Wealth and Personal Banking at HSBC Qatar, Omar Al Ansari. "Our customers are becoming increasingly aware of building a wealth portfolio that focuses on ESG as a prime requirement, and for their investments to support climate and sustainability agenda," added Al Ansari. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **QFZA, WOLF Group and Msheireb Properties to launch 3D Printing and Digitalization Hub in Qatar** – Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA), WOLF Group QFZ LLC and Msheireb Properties have signed an agreement to establish a 3D Printing and Digitalization Hub and Art Gallery in Ras Bufontas Free Zone, with its headquarters to be located in Doha Design District at Msheireb Downtown Doha. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **100 real estate brokerage licenses issued; 500 applications in process** – To streamline the real estate brokerage practice in the country, the Ministry of Justice has so far issued 100 licenses to real estate brokerage firms. "Over 500 applications by real estate brokerage firms for obtaining licenses are under process," said Director of the Real Estate Brokerage Department at the Ministry of Justice, Khalid Hassan Al Mehshadi. Speaking in a Qatar TV program, Al Mehshadi said the Ministry of Justice made necessary laws and regulations to regulate real estate brokerage practice including obtaining a license. "We received a large number of applications for registration by real estate brokerage firms, which indicates that enough grace periods were given to rectify the situation," said Al Mehshadi. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **GAC plans to connect Qatar's customs clearance system with other GCC states** – Plans are afoot to connect Qatar's single window customs clearance system Al Nadeeb with other GCC states through GCC Information Center, a customs official has said. Yousuf Ahmed Al Hammadi, Assistant Director of Land Customs Department at General Authority of Customs (GAC), said about 700 vehicles cross the Abu Samra border crossing between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia daily. "Abu Samra border crossing has witnessed a growing number of vehicles and passengers crossing since its reopening in mid of January 2021," Al Hammadi said. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Shura Council laws, decrees to ensure election success** – HE the former deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Mohamed bin Abdullah Al-Sulaiti has said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani's issuance of the laws and decrees regulating the Shura Council elections and determining its powers represents a legal safeguard to ensure the success of the elections. In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency, he said the His Highness the Amir was keen on expanding popular participation in the elections based on Qatar's permanent constitution that was approved by the citizens in 2003. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Mol: Preliminary voter lists for Shura elections to be out today** – The Ministry of Interior (Mol) has announced that the preliminary voter lists for the Shura Council elections will be published on Sunday at the electoral districts headquarters. In a statement on Saturday, the Ministry of Interior said that preliminary voter lists will be published at the electoral districts headquarters on Sunday. Immediately after the announcement of lists, the process of submitting objection and grievance requests will be started in the same headquarters for five days, from Sunday, August 8 to Thursday, August 21, 2021, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Qatar Airways says regulator has grounded 13 Airbus A350s** – The Doha-based airline continues to monitor the "significant condition across its Airbus A350 fleet in which the fuselage surface below the paint is degrading at an accelerated rate," Qatar Airways says in a statement. The aircraft to remain grounded until the root cause can be determined and a "satisfactory" solution provided. Gulf carrier returns its A330 planes into service to offset impact of grounded A350 jets. "With this latest development, we sincerely expect that Airbus treats this matter with the proper attention that it requires," CEO Akbar Al Baker says. (Bloomberg)
- **Qatar Airways launches new service to Lusaka and Harare** – Qatar Airways Friday launched a new service to Lusaka in Zambia and Harare in Zimbabwe bringing its award-winning service to two important southern African destinations. The new service to Lusaka and onwards to Harare will connect passengers in Zambia and Zimbabwe with Qatar Airways' global network of more than 140 destinations. With the addition of these two new routes the carrier will operate over 100 weekly flights to 27 destinations in Africa. The launch of Lusaka and Harare also supports increased demand for trade between Zambia and Zimbabwe and destinations on the Qatar Airways network such as London, Frankfurt and New York and from multiple points in China. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **HIA expansion work on track, says Meer** – The expansion of Hamad International Airport (HIA) is on track and all works related to the expansion is going as per schedule, the airport's chief

operating officer has said. Talking to Qatar Tribune on the sidelines of an event to mark the announcement of Skytrax World Airport Awards 2021 in Doha on Thursday, HIA Chief Operating Officer (COO) Badr Mohammed Al Meer said that all works related to Phase A of HIA expansion will be completed ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar. "Our contractors are doing a very good job. Everything is going according to plan. Everything will be completed by next year according to the commitment we have given," Meer said. HIA had reached a capacity to handle 40mn passengers per year before COVID-19, Meer said adding that once the ongoing works are complete next year ahead of the World Cup, HIA's annual passenger capacity will reach up to 58mn. (Qatar Tribune)

- **Qatar's Hamad International Airport voted the 'Best Airport in the World' at the 2021 World Airport Awards** – Qatar's Hamad International Airport has been named the 'World's Best Airport' at the 'Skytrax 2021 World Airport Awards'. The announcement that was made in London was telecast live at a media event at the Hamad International Airport tonight. The 2021 World Airport Awards recognize the efforts of global airports in adapting and meeting the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The past 18 months has been the most challenging and financially difficult period ever experienced by the world air transport industry, and airports have invested to provide the safest possible environment for their customers and staff during the global pandemic. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **LNG Tender: Pakistan state oil buys August cargo from QP near \$16** – Pakistan State Oil purchased an LNG cargo from Qatar Petroleum for August 29-30 delivery at a price equivalent of about \$15.93/mmbtu, according to traders with knowledge of the matter. Qatar Petroleum offered the cargo at a 22.1311% link to Brent oil. Tender closed on August 5. This is the most expensive cargo Pakistan has purchased since it began importing LNG in 2015. (Bloomberg)
- **International**
- **US unemployment rolls shrinking in boost to labor market recovery** – The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits declined further last week, while layoffs dropped to their lowest level in just over 21 years in July as companies held on to workers amid a labor shortage. The weekly unemployment claims report from the Labor Department on Thursday, the most timely data on the economy's health, also showed the number of people on state jobless rolls dropped in late July to its lowest level since March 2020, when mandatory closures of nonessential businesses were enforced to slow the first wave of COVID-19 cases. Though the data falls outside the survey period for July's closely watched employment report, it bolstered economists' expectations for another month of strong payrolls gains. The employment report for July is due to be released on Friday. (Reuters)
- **US labor market powers ahead with strong job gains, lower unemployment rate** – US employers hired the most workers in nearly a year in July and continued to raise wages, giving the economy a powerful boost as it started the second half of what many economists believe will be the best year for growth in almost four decades. The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday also showed the unemployment rate dropped to a 16-month low of 5.4% and more people waded back into the labor force. The report followed on the heels of news last week that the economy fully recovered in the second quarter the sharp loss in output suffered during the very brief pandemic recession. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 943,000 jobs last month, the largest gain since August 2020, the survey of establishments showed. Data for May and June were revised to show 119,000 more jobs created than previously reported. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls would

increase by 870,000 jobs. The economy has created 4.3mn jobs this year, leaving employment 5.7mn jobs below its peak in February 2020. President Joe Biden cheered the strong employment report. "More than 4 million jobs created since we took office," Biden wrote on Twitter. "It's historic - and proof our economic plan is working." Hiring is being fueled by pent-up demand for workers in the labor-intensive services sector. Nearly \$6tn in pandemic relief money from the government and COVID-19 vaccinations are driving domestic demand. But a resurgence in infections, driven by the Delta variant of the coronavirus, could discourage some unemployed people from returning to the labor force. (Reuters)

- **US June wholesale inventories revised higher** – US wholesale inventories increased more than initially estimated in June as businesses replenished stocks to meet robust consumer spending. The Commerce Department said on Friday that wholesale inventories rose 1.1%, instead of 0.8% as estimated last month. Stocks at wholesalers advanced 1.3% in May. Wholesale inventories increased 10.5% in June from a year earlier. Inventories are a key part of gross domestic product. The component of wholesale inventories that goes into the calculation of GDP increased 1.2% in June. The government reported last week that consumer spending picked up in the second quarter, with outlays on goods rising solidly, even as demand rotates back to services because of COVID-19 vaccinations. The double-digit growth in consumer spending last quarter helped to lift the level of GDP above its peak in the fourth quarter of 2019. Business inventories were depleted at a rapid clip in the second quarter. The goods trade deficit surged to a record high in June as imports rose to an all-time high, the government reported on Thursday. Sales at wholesalers increased 2.0% in June after climbing 0.8% in May. At June's sales pace it would take wholesalers 1.22 months to clear shelves, down from 1.23 in May. (Reuters)
- **Sunak unveils \$1bn state-backed insurance plan for events** – Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak unveiled a state-backed insurance plan worth more than £750mn (\$1bn) to boost the UK events industry in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program, called the Live Events Reinsurance Scheme, will run from next month until the end of September 2022, the Treasury said on Thursday in an emailed statement. The government is working with Lloyd's of London and will act as a reinsurer to give insurers the confidence they need to provide cover. The plan is designed to get the £70bn live events sector up and running again after 18 months of coronavirus restrictions. Music festivals and other businesses have been calling for such a program to reduce the risks of organizing an event in the face of the threat of a resurgent virus. "The events sector supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country, and I know organizers are raring to go now that restrictions have been lifted. But the lack of the right kind of insurance is proving a problem," Sunak said. "With this new insurance scheme, everything from live music in Margate to business events in Birmingham can go ahead with confidence, providing a boost to the economy and protecting livelihoods." Insurers in the Lloyd's market including Arch Insurance, Beazley Group, Hiscox Ltd. and Munich Re are supporting the program, according to the Treasury. (Bloomberg)
- **Halifax: UK house prices return to growth in July** – British house prices rose in July after falling in June as demand for bigger homes following pandemic lockdowns helped to soften the impact of a reduced tax break for buyers, mortgage lender Halifax said. House prices last month were 0.4% higher than in June when they fell by a monthly 0.6%, Halifax said. In annual terms, prices were 7.6% higher than in July 2020, the slowest rise since March. Halifax Managing Director, Russell Galley said he expected the market to settle after the recent buying surge which was driven by the tax incentive, but a shortage of home on the

market was likely to support prices. Under the incentive scheme, the first 500,000 pounds (\$696,000) of any property purchase in England or Northern Ireland were exempt from the stamp duty tax until the end of June. A 250,000 Pound tax-free allowance is now running until the end of September. Galley said the recovery in the economy from its coronavirus shock and higher confidence among consumers suggested annual price growth, while slowing, would remain "well into positive territory by the end of the year." Rival mortgage lender Nationwide said last week its measure of house prices showed a monthly fall of 0.5% in July, the first drop since March. That slowed the annual increase to 10.5% from June's leap of 13.4%, the steepest in 17 years. (Reuters)

- **Supply problems cause fall in German industrial output –** German industrial output unexpectedly fell again in June, data showed on Friday, suggesting recovery is slowing in Europe's biggest economy, held back by supply bottlenecks for intermediate goods. The Federal Statistics Office said industrial output dropped by 1.3% on the month after a downwardly revised decline of 0.8% in May. A Reuters poll had pointed to a rise of 0.5%. The fall was driven by a drop in the production of capital goods, such as machinery and vehicles, which fell 2.9%, the data showed. Consumer goods output continued to grow, rising by 3.4%. Industrial production fell by 0.6% in the quarter ending in June compared to the previous quarter, with the automotive industry reporting a drop of 11.2%. In addition to timber shortage impacting the construction industry, the economy ministry said the drop was due to semiconductor supply bottlenecks. "The eagerly awaited semiconductors in Europe will continue to be a long time coming," said Thomas Gitzel, an economist at VP bank said. Earlier on Friday, an Ifo economic institute survey showed that German industry cut its production outlook in June due to the supply issues. "Bottlenecks for important intermediate products are now making themselves felt," Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe, the head of surveys at Ifo, said. But the ministry and analysts remained cautiously optimistic about the overall outlook due to high demand and strong exports. "If the flow of material starts up again, industrial production will be able to wipe out its gap," Gitzel said. (Reuters)
- **Japan's household spending unexpectedly falls as firms cut bonuses –** Japan's household spending unexpectedly fell in June as cuts to summer bonuses hit consumption, data showed, adding gloom to an economy already struggling with the hit from a resurgence in coronavirus infections. The figures underscore the challenge policymakers face as they seek to support a fragile economic recovery, while battling a spike in Delta variant cases that has forced Japan to expand state of emergency curbs during the Olympic Games. Household spending fell 5.1% in June from a year earlier, government data showed, confounding market forecasts for a 0.1% gain and marking the first drop in four months. Compared with May, household spending fell 3.2%, reinforcing the need for export-driven growth as domestic demand remains weak due to the state of emergency curbs. Separate data showed wages fell 0.1% in June from a year earlier, marking the first annual decline in four months after a 1.9% rise in May. Special payments in June, which mostly account for summer bonus payments, were down 2.3% from the previous year, as firms hit by the pandemic slashed compensation. The weakness in spending and wages casts doubt on the Bank of Japan's forecast that the benefits of an export-driven recovery will spread to households, and add to an expected boost to consumption from steady progress in vaccinations. Japan's economy has emerged from the doldrums as solid exports offset weak domestic demand, though growth lags other advanced nations as slow vaccinations weigh on consumption. The country has expanded curbs lasting through August to deal with a spike in infections, dashing policymakers'

hopes for a strong rebound in July-September economic growth. Japan's preliminary April-June gross domestic product (GDP) data, due on Aug. 16, will likely offer clues to what extent exports and government spending have offset the hit to service consumption from the pandemic. (Reuters)

- **China's export slowdown in July may signal more bumps ahead –** China's export growth unexpectedly slowed in July following outbreaks of COVID-19 cases, while imports also lost momentum, pointing to a slowdown in the country's industrial sector in the second half even as easing global lockdowns boost commerce. The world's biggest exporter has staged an impressive economic rebound from a coronavirus-induced slump in the first few months of last year after quickly containing the pandemic, and its rapid vaccination rollout has helped drive confidence. But new infections in July, mainly caused by the highly transmissible Delta strain have spread to tens of Chinese cities, prompting local authorities to lock down affected communities, order millions to be tested and temporarily suspend operations of some businesses, including factories. Seasonal floods and bad weather last month also affected industrial production in some areas such as central China. Exports in July rose 19.3% from a year earlier, compared with a 32.2% gain in June. Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast a gain of 20.8%. Outbreaks of COVID-19 cases in eastern and southern Chinese provinces, the country's main export hubs, had crimped factory output. Aside from the drag from efforts to counter the spread of the Delta variant, Chinese exporters also struggled with an ongoing global semiconductor shortage, logistics bottlenecks, and higher raw material and freight costs. (Reuters)
- **China July trade surplus with US at \$35.4bn –** China's trade surplus with the US stood at \$35.4bn in July, Reuters calculations based on Chinese customs data showed on Saturday, up from \$32.58bn in June. For the first seven months of the year, the surplus was \$200.32bn, up from \$164.92bn during the first half of 2021. Amid worsening relations between the world's two largest economies, US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman had a face-to-face meeting with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the end of July. However, no specific outcomes were agreed and the meeting did not mention the prospect of a meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. (Reuters)
- **China July exports rise 19.3% YoY, imports up 28.1% –** China's exports in July rose 19.3% from a year earlier, and imports increased 28.1%, customs data showed. Analysts in a Reuters poll had forecast exports would rise 20.8% from a year earlier, compared with 32.2% growth in June. Imports were expected to have grown 33.0%, in contrast to a 36.7% gain in June. China posted a trade surplus of \$56.58bn in July, compared with the poll's forecast for a \$51.54bn surplus and \$51.53bn surplus in June. (Reuters)
- **China's July forex reserves rise to \$3.236tn –** China's foreign exchange reserves rose more than expected in July, official data showed on Saturday, likely due to changes in the value of currencies and global assets that it holds. The country's foreign exchange reserves - the world's largest - rose by \$21.88bn to \$3.236tn last month, compared with \$3.217tn tipped by a Reuters poll of analysts and \$3.214tn in June. Foreign inflows into Chinese stocks and bonds have been strong as China led other major economies in its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, lifting reserves back to levels last seen in 2016. But widening regulatory crackdowns in recent months has revived worries about the risks of investing in China. The Yuan fell 0.06% against the dollar in July, while the Dollar fell 0.3% in July against a basket of other major currencies. China held 62.64mn fine troy ounces of gold at the end of July, from 62.64mn ounces at the end-June.

The value of China's gold reserves rose to \$114.37bn at the end of July from \$110.45bn at the end-June. (Reuters)

- **India central bank keeps rates on hold as expected** – The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee (MPC) kept interest rates steady at record lows on Friday, as widely predicted, but traders were awaiting its commentary about liquidity normalization for clues on its next policy move. The RBI held the repo rate, its key lending rate, at 4% and kept the reverse repo rate, the borrowing rate, unchanged at 3.35%. All 61 economists polled by Reuters late last month had said they see no change in the repo rate which has been steady at 4% since May last year. (Reuters)

Regional

- **World Bank: GCC set to return to 2.2% growth** – Economies of the GCC countries are expected to return to an aggregate growth of 2.2% this year after a 4.8% contraction in 2020 caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and lower oil prices, the World Bank said. "With recent progress made with the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine globally and with the revival of production and trade worldwide, the prospects for an economic recovery are firmer now than at the end of last year," the Washington-based institution said in the latest issue of its Gulf Economic Update (GEU). The UAE, the report said, is expected to swing back to growth in 2021, estimated at 1.2%, before accelerating to 2.5% in 2022 and 2023 driven by government expenditures and the staging of Expo 2020 in October 2021. (Zawya)
- **Europe's fuel imports from Mideast jump to a 9-month high** – Europe's imports of refined oil products from the Middle East, mostly middle distillates, surged to the highest in nine-months in July with arrivals looking like they might be elevated into August. Inflows on the trade route jumped to about 1.96m tons on 29 tankers in July, the most since October. Arrivals in the UK rose to the highest this year at 360k tons, most of which was jet fuel and middle distillate inflows to the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp hub also climbed to a nine-month high of 687k tons. (Bloomberg)
- **SNB posts 1.4% YoY rise in net profit to SR2,117mn in 2Q2021** – The Saudi National Bank (SNB) recorded net profit of SR2,117mn in 2Q2021, an increase of 1.4% YoY. Total operating profit rose 57.4% YoY to SR7,501mn in 2Q2021. Total income from Special Commissions/Financing & Investments rose 42.4% YoY to SR6,698mn in 2Q2021. Total assets stood at SR896.4bn at the end of June 30, 2021 as compared to SR556.9bn at the end of June 30, 2020. Loans and Advances Portfolio (Financing & Investment) stood at SR503.2bn (+59.3% YoY), while Clients' deposits stood at SR588.1bn (+54.6% YoY) at the end of June 30, 2021. EPS came in at SR1.41 in 6M2021 as compared to SR1.58 in 6M2020. (Tadawul)
- **Saudi Arabia's ranking on global indexes improves** – The US State Department released its annual Investment Climate Statement on more than 170 countries and economies around the world as Saudi Arabia's ranking on several global indexes improved from two years ago. "In recognition of the progress made in its investment and business climate, Saudi Arabia's rankings on several world indexes improved between 2019 and 2021," the US State Department said in the report. Investment Climate Statements provide country-specific information and are prepared by economic officers stationed in embassies and posts around the world. The reports analyze a variety of economies that are or could be markets for US businesses of all sizes. (Zawya)
- **Saudi Arabia leads in global digital economy, minister says** – Saudi Arabia topped the list of leading countries in the digital economy, SPA reported, citing Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Abdullah Alswaha, during his speech to the G20 digital economy ministers' meeting. Bridging the digital gap globally is the way to achieve inclusiveness and prosperity of societies, Alswaha said. Regulations in the field of innovation should be flexible enough to stimulate creativity and keep pace with the rapid pace of change that is driven by digital transformation, he said. The Green Saudi Arabia and Green Middle East initiatives, launched by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, are an addition to investment in new environment-friendly industries and markets. (Zawya)
- **Saudi oil challenged in Asia by delta and cheap alternatives** – Saudi Arabia's move to push up the cost of its oil in Asia may backfire as an outbreak of the delta virus variant in China damps demand, while the US and Russia offer more competitively priced alternatives. Saudi Aramco raised its Arab Medium and Heavy grades by 20 to 30 cents a barrel to the highest in at least four months for September sales to the region. While that's less than the difference in the Dubai structure Aramco references in its pricing, demand for these medium and heavy-sour barrels may suffer as China battles an outbreak of the highly infectious Covid-19 strain. US varieties such as Mars of a comparable medium quality are being offered at rates that are lower than last month, while Russia's Urals is also becoming cheaper, according to traders who buy and sell those barrels. Brent's premium to Dubai oil was at \$3.51 a barrel as of Friday, compared with \$4.36 a month earlier. (Bloomberg)
- **Maharah concludes acquisition of Spectra Support Services** – Maharah Human Resources Company has completed the acquisition and transfer of 90% of Spectra Support Services Company's shares, according to a bourse filing on Thursday. Maharah and Spectra also entered into a settlement agreement where the selling parties would waive the acquisition transaction value in return for the listed firm to capitalise in Spectra's paid-up capital an equal amount from the debt owed by Spectra to Maharah. The two entities earlier agreed to extend their agreement until 30 October 2021 to provide more time to conclude the acquisition. (Zawya)
- **Retal and Alpha Capital launch \$130mn Saudi-focused property fund** – Property developer Retal has partnered with Alpha Capital to launch the Saudi Alpha Capital Fund for Real Estate Development 1, with the aim of raising more than half a billion riyals to invest in a project called Marassi on the coast road between Khobar and Dammam. Retal will undertake the full development of the project, including infrastructure and superstructure and the division of the project into more than 750 residential plots, along with public services, including mosques, schools and essential services, the company said in a press conference. The residential plots will range between 375 and 600 square meters, while there are also plots available for investment with areas ranging between 1,800 and 2,200 square meters. Retal will also develop more than 200 modern residential units with integrated services. (Zawya)
- **Innovest Properties launches SR755mn Al-Ahssa Real Estate Investment Fund** – Saudi Arabia's Innovest Properties, one of the Kingdom's largest investment and property companies, has launched the SR755mn Al-Ahssa Real Estate Investment Fund with Lebanon's Blominvest. Innovest Properties has previously developed the residential communities in Al-Bayraq in the Eastern Province, which provided more than 1,100 housing units under the Sakani Program, it said in a statement. Al-Ahssa Real Estate Investment Fund is a closed private investment fund licensed by the Saudi Capital Market Authority (CMA) and compliant with the regulations of the Shariah Supervisory Board. The fund aims to invest in the urban area west-south of Al-Ahssa city. The plan is to acquire a sector of raw land to be developed and marketed in the form of residential plots and commercial facilities. (Zawya)
- **Fitch warns Mashreqbank over capitalization and leverage** – Fitch Ratings has placed Mashreqbank's bbb- viability rating (VR)

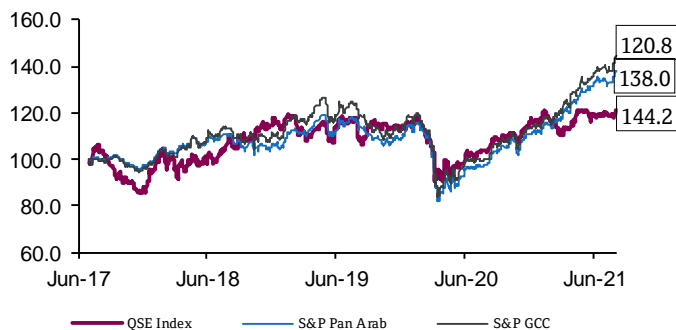
on rating watch negative, following a sharp and unexpected drop in the bank's capitalization, while other ratings are unaffected, the agency said in a statement. Mashreq's common equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital ratio and total capital adequacy ratio (CAR) fell to 12.8% and 14%, respectively, at the end of the first half of this 2021, from 14.9% and 16% at end of 2020. The decline in capitalization was mainly due to an increase in risk-weighted assets by 12% year-on-year as Mashreqbank grew its balance sheet by 9% in the first half. That led to an 81 basis point reduction in the capital adequacy ratio while changes related to the Basel III framework shaved off another 70 basis points.

- **Dubai's 2021 real-estate investments reached \$20.42bn in July** – The value of real estate investments in Dubai from the beginning of 2021 until July reached AED75bn, according to a real estate report. The Dubai Land Department's (DLD) real estate market performance report for July states that 46,038 transactions worth AED163bn were conducted since the beginning of 2021 until the end of July. This represents a 43% increase in the number of transactions and 68% increase in the value of transactions, respectively, over the same period in 2020. According to the DLD, 17,979 new investors were registered in July, and they represented 69% of the number of real estate investors registered since the beginning of 2021 until the end of July. (Zawya)
- **Dubai Islamic Bank increases foreign ownership to 40%** – Dubai Islamic Bank, the largest Islamic bank in the UAE by assets, said on Thursday that it had "successfully executed the increase in its foreign ownership limit" (FOL) from the current level of 25% to the new enhanced one of 40%. DIB's move followed the regulatory approvals received from the Central Bank of the UAE and the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA). DIB is the latest financial institution in the UAE to join leading other banks, including First Abu Dhabi Bank and Emirates NBD, in raising the FOL from 2019. The enhancement of FOL was executed through the Dubai Financial Market (DFM), the bank said.
- **Abu Dhabi ADIA's units invest in \$1.1bn Brazil Development Fund** – GLP, a logistics market leader in Brazil, has closed one of the largest logistics-focused funds in Latin America, GLP Brazil Development Partners II (GLP BDP II), whose investors are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments). With BRL 2.63bn of total equity commitments, GLP BDP II is expected to reach BRL 5.2bn in assets under management (AUM) when fully leveraged and invested, according to a recent press release. CPP Investments has allocated BRL 1.04bn of equity, representing a 39.6% interest. (Zawya)
- **Kuwait's 2020-21 budget deficit increases 175% to record KD10.8bn** – Kuwait's budget deficit increased 174.8% in the 2020-21 year to KD10.8bn, the finance ministry said on Saturday, noting it was the highest deficit in the country's fiscal history. Revenue dropped to KD10.5bn in the financial year that ended on March 31, down 38.9%, while expenditure increased 0.7% to KD21.3bn, the ministry said in a statement. Kuwait's parliament in June approved the 2021-22 state budget proposed by the government in January, which projected KD23.05bn in expenditure and a deficit of KD12.1bn. (Reuters)
- **KUNA: Kuwait's emir appoints KIA board for four years** – Kuwait's emir on Saturday issued a decree appointing the Kuwait Investment Authority's (KIA) board of directors for four years, the state news agency (KUNA) reported. The Gulf state's sovereign wealth fund board consists of Khaled Al-Fadhel, Meshaal Jaber Al-Sabah, Fahad M Al-Rashed, Faisal Al-Hamad and Ghanem Suleiman Saqr Al-Ghunaiman, KUNA added. The move was

approved by Kuwait's cabinet on Monday, the newspaper al-Qabas said. (Reuters)

- **Kuwait names new wealth fund board after three-month delay** – Kuwait appointed a new board to its \$700bn sovereign wealth fund after a delay of more than three months due to disagreement over the make up the nine-member body. The formation of a new management team ends a period of limbo at the world's third-largest sovereign wealth fund following the completion of the former board's tenure on April 20. The conflict had complicated the Kuwait Investment Authority's ability to make major decisions, even though the finance minister as its chairman can decide on important issues. The new board, named by ruling decree, will appoint a new managing director on the finance minister's recommendation to replace Farouk Bastaki. The new MD will most likely have already been chosen. (Bloomberg)
- **SALAM's net profit falls 0.3% YoY to BHD4.6mn in 2Q2021** – Al Salam Bank-Bahrain (SALAM) recorded net profit of BHD4.6mn in 2Q2021, registering decrease of 0.3% YoY. Finance Income fell 1.2% YoY to BHD18.3mn in 2Q2021. Total operating income fell 1.2% YoY to BHD25.9mn in 2Q2021. Total assets stood at BHD2,633.9mn at the end of June 30, 2021 as compared to BHD2,261.4mn at the end of June 30, 2020. Financing assets stood at BHD822.6mn (+1.0% YTD), while placements from financial institution stood at BHD157.1mn (+34.4% YTD) at the end of June 30, 2021. EPS remained flat YoY at 2 fils in 2Q2021. (Bahrain Bourse)
- **53% growth seen in Bahrain's tourism sector** – Bahrain's tourism sector is expected to register a 53% growth this year compared with last year, according to an industry expert. The sector is among the hardest hit by the ongoing global pandemic with a loss of between \$1.7tn and \$2.4tn in 2021, compared with 2019 levels, according to the latest report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). However, the latest market trends indicate an uptick in the hospitality and tourism sector, with four- and five-star properties doing decent business in Manama this year compared with 2020. (Zawya)

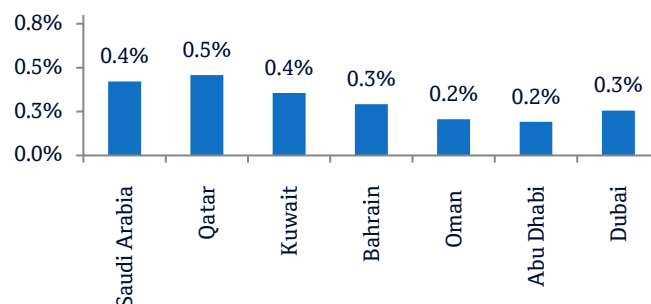
Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg
Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,763.03	(2.3)	(2.8)	(7.1)
Silver/Ounce	24.33	(3.3)	(4.6)	(7.8)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	70.70	(0.8)	(7.4)	36.5
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	68.28	(1.2)	(7.7)	40.7
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	4.20	0.0	7.5	76.5
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	109.88	0.8	(2.8)	46.0
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	123.00	(2.1)	(5.0)	77.0
Euro	1.18	(0.6)	(0.9)	(3.7)
Yen	110.25	0.4	0.5	6.8
GBP	1.39	(0.4)	(0.2)	1.5
CHF	1.09	(0.9)	(1.1)	(3.3)
AUD	0.74	(0.7)	0.2	(4.4)
USD Index	92.80	0.6	0.7	3.2
RUB	73.47	0.5	0.4	(1.3)
BRL	0.19	0.3	(0.4)	(0.7)

Daily Index Performance



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

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	3,098.06	(0.1)	0.9	15.2
DJ Industrial	35,208.51	0.4	0.8	15.0
S&P 500	4,436.52	0.2	0.9	18.1
NASDAQ 100	14,835.76	(0.4)	1.1	15.1
STOXX 600	469.97	(0.7)	0.9	13.3
DAX	15,761.45	(0.6)	0.5	9.9
FTSE 100	7,122.95	(0.4)	1.0	12.0
CAC 40	6,816.96	(0.2)	2.2	18.1
Nikkei	27,820.04	(0.2)	1.5	(5.1)
MSCI EM	1,292.53	(0.6)	1.2	0.1
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,458.23	(0.6)	1.5	0.3
HANG SENG	26,179.40	(0.1)	0.7	(4.2)
BSE SENSEX	54,277.72	(0.5)	3.4	11.9
Bovespa	122,810.40	0.1	(0.5)	2.1
RTS	1,632.87	(1.2)	0.4	17.7

Contacts

QNB Financial Services Co. W.L.L.

Contact Center: (+974) 4476 6666

info@qnbfs.com.qa

Doha, Qatar

Saugata Sarkar, CFA, CAIA

Head of Research

saugata.sarkar@qnbfs.com.qa

Shahan Keushgerian

Senior Research Analyst

shahan.keushgerian@qnbfs.com.qa

Mehmet Aksoy, PhD

Senior Research Analyst

mehmet.aksoy@qnbfs.com.qa

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