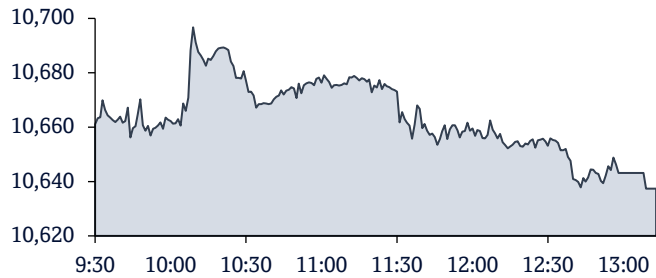


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 0.1% to close at 10,637.4. Losses were led by the Industrials and Banks & Financial Services indices, falling 0.6% and 0.3%, respectively. Top losers were Qatar Oman Investment Company and National Leasing, falling 3.7% and 2.9%, respectively. Among the top gainers, QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. gained 9.6%, while Damaan Islamic Insurance Company was up 5.7%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 0.1% to close at 11,329.2. Losses were led by the Software & Services and Insurance indices, falling 1.7% and 1.2%, respectively. Scientific and Medical Equipment House Co declined 4.1% while Elm Co. was down 3.3%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 0.1% to close at 3,549.3. The Industrials index rose 1.1%, while the Consumer Staples index gained 0.9%. Arabian Scandinavian Insurance rose 14.8% while Gulf Navigation Holding was up 9.5%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained 0.5% to close at 9,527.4. The Telecommunication index rose 3.6%, while the Industrial index gained 3.5%. Fujairah Cement rose 10.8% while Eshraq Investments was up 9.7%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.8% to close at 6,765.6. The Consumer Staples index declined 2.5%, while the Energy index fell 1.3%. National Cleaning declined 8.1%, while Privatization Holding Company was down 5.6%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.2% to close at 4,703.1. Losses were led by the Industrial index falling 0.3%, while the Services index fell marginally. National Mineral Water Company declined 5.2%, while Oman Fisheries Company was down 4.8%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index gained 0.1% close at 1,949.7. The Materials index rose 1.8% while other indices ended flat or in red. Aluminum Bahrain rose 1.9%, while GFH Financial Group was up 1.2%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	3,470	9.6	16.7	(27.7)
Damaan Islamic Insurance Company	3,970	5.7	6.8	0.0
United Development Company	1,231	5.6	29,517.6	(5.3)
Ezdan Holding Group	1,244	5.0	61,756.0	24.3
Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	1,449	3.1	4,187.7	26.9

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	0.808	2.9	64,104.2	16.1
Ezdan Holding Group	1,244	5.0	61,756.0	24.3
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.721	(1.8)	55,244.3	17.4
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1,585	1.1	54,056.3	4.3
United Development Company	1,231	5.6	29,517.6	(5.3)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,637.41	(0.1)	(0.1)	4.5	(0.4)	235.43	172,512.5	12.7	1.5	4.6
Dubai	3,549.30	0.1	(0.2)	0.1	6.4	112.44	169,148.1	8.6	1.2	5.0
Abu Dhabi	9,527.42	0.5	0.2	(2.7)	(6.7)	361.62	711,252.4	29.1	2.6	1.9
Saudi Arabia	11,329.19	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.2	8.1	1,810.31	2,893,714.0	17.3	2.2	3.0
Kuwait	6,765.57	(0.8)	(0.5)	(5.3)	(7.2)	189.01	141,491.0	16.6	1.5	4.2
Oman	4,703.13	(0.2)	0.1	(0.3)	(3.2)	6.29	22,456.5	15.3	1.1	4.4
Bahrain	1,949.71	0.1	0.3	2.4	2.9	4.73	65,188.0	6.7	0.7	8.9

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

Market Indicators	22 May 23	21 May 23	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	853.9	716.5	19.2
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	630,989.4	630,182.3	0.1
Volume (mn)	451.6	437.7	3.2
Number of Transactions	25,699	17,464	47.2
Companies Traded	49	48	2.1
Market Breadth	23:23	32:12	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	22,829.38	(0.1)	(0.1)	4.3	12.7
All Share Index	3,590.03	(0.1)	0.1	5.1	138.5
Banks	4,448.02	(0.3)	(0.2)	1.4	13.6
Industrials	4,099.17	(0.6)	(0.2)	8.4	13.7
Transportation	4,710.73	0.7	1.3	8.7	13.4
Real Estate	1,648.20	3.2	4.9	5.7	19.8
Insurance	2,267.61	0.6	0.9	3.7	178.8
Telecoms	1,623.43	0.2	(1.6)	23.1	14.4
Consumer Goods and Services	8,003.08	(0.0)	0.7	1.1	23.0
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,748.36	0.1	0.6	3.4	8.9

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Multiply Group	Abu Dhabi	3.28	5.5	29,487.0	(29.3)
Ezdan Holding Group	Qatar	1.24	5.0	61,756.0	24.3
Saudi Investment	Saudi Arabia	17.70	3.9	656.4	2.1
Emirates Telecommunications	Abu Dhabi	22.84	3.7	2,038.2	(0.1)
Q Holding	Abu Dhabi	2.25	2.7	5,691.4	(43.8)

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Saudi Arabian Mining Co.	Saudi Arabia	66.50	(2.6)	1,836.1	2.8
Sahara Int. Petrochemical	Saudi Arabia	37.50	(2.6)	6,779.5	10.5
Burgan Bank	Kuwait	0.18	(2.1)	2,919.8	(11.8)
BBK	Bahrain	0.52	(1.9)	4.3	10.2
First Abu Dhabi Bank	Abu Dhabi	13.38	(1.8)	1,214.3	(21.8)

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

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Oman Investment Company	0.710	(3.7)	4,849.3	29.1
National Leasing	0.874	(2.9)	22,105.3	24.1
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.851	(2.3)	906.6	23.9
Estithmar Holding	2.189	(2.3)	14,634.8	21.6
Qatari German Co for Med. Devices	2.070	(1.8)	8,611.5	64.7

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1,585	1.1	86,616.6	4.3
Ezdan Holding Group	1,244	5.0	76,142.3	24.3
Dukhaan Bank	3,685	1.7	64,562.6	0.0
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	0.808	2.9	52,148.3	16.1
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.721	(1.8)	41,207.2	17.4

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined 0.1% to close at 10,637.4. The Industrials and Banks & Financial Services indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from Qatari and Foreign shareholders despite buying support from GCC and Arab shareholders.
- Qatar Oman Investment Company and National Leasing were the top losers, falling 3.7% and 2.9%, respectively. Among the top gainers, QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. gained 9.6%, while Damaan Islamic Insurance Company was up 5.7%.
- Volume of shares traded on Monday rose by 3.2% to 451.6mn from 437.7mn on Sunday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 195mn, volume for the day was 131.6% higher. Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev. and Ezdan Holding Group were the most active stocks, contributing 14.2% and 13.7% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	44.97%	40.62%	37,109,649.32
Qatari Institutions	22.63%	27.62%	(42,608,193.71)
Qatari	67.60%	68.24%	(5,498,544.39)
GCC Individuals	0.38%	0.48%	(852,120.11)
GCC Institutions	5.03%	1.64%	28,981,521.89
GCC	5.41%	2.11%	28,129,401.78
Arab Individuals	15.36%	14.42%	8,050,105.85
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	-
Arab	15.36%	14.42%	8,050,105.85
Foreigners Individuals	2.78%	3.18%	(3,376,234.44)
Foreigners Institutions	8.85%	12.05%	(27,304,728.79)
Foreigners	11.63%	15.22%	(30,680,963.23)

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

Global Economic Data

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05-22	UK	Rightmove	Rightmove House Prices MoM	May	1.80%	NA	0.20%
05-22	UK	Rightmove	Rightmove House Prices YoY	May	1.50%	NA	1.70%

Qatar

- QIA announces commitment to permanent market-making initiative at Qatar Stock Exchange** - Following the successful launch and initial implementation of QIA's market-making initiative in September 2022, Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), today, is pleased to announce the establishment of a permanent market-making program at the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE). In 2022, QSE saw the largest foreign investment flows in its history. On the back of this success, QIA is committing up to QR1bn to the establishment of a permanent market-making program to support the continuation of this momentum and contribute to the growth of the Qatari economy. The commitment is set to run over the next five years and will cover 90% of the size of the market capitalization listed on QSE, offering an economic incentive by way of a rebate to lower trading costs for established market makers. The permanent program will help enhance liquidity in the market, improve price discovery, and diversify the capital markets in Qatar. Through increased investor confidence, the program will support to attract further foreign asset managers to invest in Qatar. The commitment from QIA aligns with its mandate to support the development of a competitive Qatari economy. In its wider reform strategy, QSE is working to attract a greater number of listings, introduce more ETFs, improve ESG disclosures and derivatives to help investors diversify their portfolios and better manage their investment risks. QSE is working closely with Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) and Qatar Central Securities Depository (QCSD) on its wider reform strategy. (QSE)
- Prime Minister Orban: Hungary to Purchase Gas from Qatar** - Hungary plans to purchase gas from Qatar as it seeks to reduce its energy reliance on Russia, Prime Minister Viktor Orban says in a Facebook video following meetings in Doha. "It's always better to stand on several legs than on one leg," Orban says about gas purchases without disclosing details Orban says he also signed agreements on airport and infrastructure development as well as agriculture following meetings with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. (Bloomberg)
- Over 325 exhibitors to take part in Project Qatar 2023** - The 19th edition of Project Qatar (PQ), the nation's largest and most prominent construction exhibition will be held under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and with the support of The Ministry of Commerce and Industry

and in partnership with Public Works Authority (Ashghal) from May 29 to June 1, 2023, at Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre, organizer of the event IFP Qatar announced at a press conference yesterday. Addressing the event, Haidar Mshaimesh, General Manager of IFP Qatar announced that this year's edition of Project Qatar will host over 325 exhibitors from 25 different countries adding that: "Qatar's construction industry presents enormous prospects, particularly under the Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030, the government's strategic growth plan. The framework intends to transform Qatar into a self-sustaining diverse economy that is less dependent on oil. The 19th edition of Project Qatar is expected to play a significant role in achieving the goals of QNV 2030 by highlighting regional products and the importance of Qatari industry to the national economy. With the assistance of the government, the event presents several opportunities for local and foreign contractors to expand across Qatar. In addition, there will be great possibilities for Qatar to attract foreign direct investments. We are excited to meet top exhibitors and visitors from around the world who will be offering cutting-edge solutions for the industry." Furthermore, the event will bring together participants from 120 international exhibitors from 25 countries and include 8 official country pavilions and 200 local companies, led by major government and semi-governmental companies and the most prominent private sector companies. Engineer Jarallah Mohamed Al Marri, Director of the Building Projects Department at Ashghal, the strategic partner of the exhibition, said: "The Public Works Authority is participating in Project Qatar exhibition with a special pavilion for the seventh year in a row, through which it is displaying the achievements of the authority in infrastructure projects. The strategic partnership of the authority with Project Qatar comes within the authority's vision to enhance communications and partnerships with various private sector companies that contribute to the implementation of projects in the country, we look forward to the exhibition being an opportunity to meet a wide group of consultants, contractors and suppliers with whom the authority can cooperate in the future." For his part, Ahmed Mohammed Al Sada, Director of the Office of the Chief Executive Officer and Public Relations Department at the Qatari Diar Company, developer of the Lusail City project, said: "Qatari Diar is participating for the second year in a row as a sponsor of real estate development in the exhibition. This participation is based on the successful participation last year, as we hope that this session will be an opportunity for us to present our latest and

most prominent projects around the world to the audience, especially regional and international visitors, many of whom we had the opportunity to meet in last year's session." Shadi Afif, Chief Development Officer at the Suhail Industrial Holding Group, said, "The company is moving at an accelerated pace and confidence derived from the state's support for the industrial sector towards self-sufficiency to meet all the requirements of government agencies and the Qatari market on its own, and Suhail Holding Group is moving towards new horizons of existing industrial production." (Peninsula Qatar)

- Ashghal gears up to launch projects worth QR4.1bn in third quarter of 2023** - Ashghal (Public Works Authority) is gearing up to launch projects worth QR4.1bn in the third quarter of the year, Jarallah Mohamed al-Marri, director, Building Projects Department said on Monday. Addressing a media event convened to announce the 19th edition of Project Qatar in Doha (from May 29 to June 1) al-Marri said the projects included development of Hamad General Hospital and some health centers. "The Public Works Authority is participating in Project Qatar exhibition with a special pavilion for the seventh year in a row, through which it is displaying the achievements of the authority in infrastructure projects," al-Marri noted. He said, "The strategic partnership of the authority with Project Qatar comes within the authority's vision to enhance communications and partnerships with various private sector companies that contribute to the implementation of projects in the country. We look forward to the exhibition being an opportunity to meet a wide group of consultants, contractors and suppliers with whom the authority can cooperate in the future. Local entrepreneurs and local products are our first priority." Ahmed Mohamed al-Sada, director, Office of the chief executive officer and Public Relations Department at Qatari Diar, which is the developer of Lusail City project said, "Qatari Diar is participating for the second year in a row as a sponsor of real estate development in the exhibition. This participation is based on the successful participation last year, as we hope that this session will be an opportunity for us to present our latest and most prominent projects around the world to the audience, especially regional and international visitors, many of whom we had the opportunity to meet in last year's session." (Gulf Times)
- HMC approves district cooling system: Kahramaa** - Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has announced that Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has approved district cooling system, with a high level of reliability and a long life span of the district cooling plant as well as with cost-savings and cost-effectiveness. Kahramaa added that HMC has replaced traditional cooling devices with a more sustainable and efficient district cooling system, a suitable and superior alternative to its predecessor due to positive results achieved in line with health facilities' need for the continuous use of cooling, which requires the provision of adequate and continuous cooling services all the time. It noted that a number of its staff visited the west energy center, which provides Hamad General Hospital, Surgical Speciality Center, the new Trauma and Emergency Center building, administrative buildings and service facilities of the HMC with a current cooling capacity of 12,500 tonnes and a future of 20,000 tonnes of cooling. Eng. Jamal Yousef Al-Derbasti, Director of the District Cooling Services Department at Kahramaa and a number of management engineers, visited the Western Energy Center, which supplies Hamad General Hospital, the Specialized Surgery Center, the new accident and emergency building, administrative buildings and service facilities of Hamad Medical Corporation. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Chief executive: QIA restructuring bolsters alignment with best global practices** - Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) Mansoor Ebrahim Al Mahmoud said that the Amiri Decision No. 34 of 2023, restructuring the QIA, is a valuable opportunity to ensure the alignment of QIA's governance system with the best international practices followed by sovereign wealth funds. He said that the implementation of the decision would strengthen QIA's position to ensure long-term value for future generations by consolidating investor confidence, enhancing cooperation with international partners and establishing sustainable investment practices. The Amiri Decision confirms the vision, mission, tasks, role, basic responsibilities and strategic objectives of QIA as a sovereign wealth fund for future generations in the State of Qatar, Al Mahmoud said. He added that the

decision confirms commitment to support economic diversification, sustainable growth and long-term prosperity in the country. The decision renews QIA's commitment to a solid governance system that ensures proper supervision and effective management of its operations in line with international standards and practices observed by global sovereign wealth funds, which ensures adherence to transparency, accountability and sound financial management. On May 16, the Amiri Decision No. 34 of 2023 was issued, restructuring QIA, and replacing Amiri Decision No. 22 of 2005, under which the QIA was established. (Qatar Tribune)

- Google Cloud launches regional hub in Doha, first time in GCC** - World's leading computing service platform, Google Cloud expanded its products and services for the first time in the GCC market, aiming to build innovative solutions for customers based in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The launching ceremony was held today at the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC) with the participation of several officials including HE Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, HE Ahmad Al Sayed, Minister of State and Chairman of Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ) and Google executives including Google Cloud President, Adaire Fox-Martin, Google Cloud Country Manager, Ghassan Kosta, partnering organizations and its representatives among others. During the event, the President of Google Cloud Adaire Fox-Martin lauded the platform's milestones in providing extensive and pioneering solutions across the globe. She said: "Over the past years, Google Cloud has invested significantly in our capabilities as we continue to grow in new industries, new markets, and bring onboard new customers. More than 60% of the world's largest companies today are our customers and we are proud to call them so." Highlighting the significance of strategic partnerships the company carries out worldwide, Fox-Martin said "Indeed Google Cloud has become the fastest technology company in the world and we want to continue to build even more opportunities for organizations and people around the world including right here in Qatar. We are very privileged and very honored towards organizations like the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Qatar Financial Center, Qatar Airways, and Alfaridan Group to help them redefine, how they work and also how they serve their customers." Google Cloud's Qatar head Ghassan Kosta accentuated that the platform will create enormous opportunities in the Arab region. He said that "This is only a testament to our continued commitment to Qatar's digital transformation. Research commissioned by google cloud and conducted by Access partnership, we feel that a new google cloud Doha region is estimated to contribute an accumulative of \$18.9bn in higher growth and economic output between 2023 and 2030 and will support and create 25,000 jobs by 2030 driven by the increased economic activity." Speaking to The Peninsula on the sidelines of the event, Ghassan Kosta said: "We are so excited to open our first region in the GCC and Africa starting from Qatar. We are so proud of this achievement and the collaboration between Google Cloud and the Qatari government. There is a very big potential in it." The executive also stressed that the region and country will positively impact by the services offered, which results in revitalizing Qatar's economy. He said: "As part of the Qatar National Vision 2030, we have witnessed how Qatar is working towards diversifying and transforming its economy by deploying more and more tech and innovation for the benefit of its citizens. That is why we were so interested and putting efforts to be able to support Qatar in its digital transformation and economy. So this is the key aspect we are hand-in-hand working with the government and also with the regulators." "When it comes to Qatar, the cloud policies are friendly and also open and help hyper scalers to come and invest in Qatar. So our relations with all the organizations and partners are very strong and we look forward to growing from Qatar to other regions," Kosta added. With the opening of its Doha region, Google Cloud has a global network of 37 regions and 112 zones serving more than 200 countries. The platforms' resilient infrastructures and resources are poised to pave the way for the enhanced digital transformation of technologies in the country. (Peninsula Qatar)
- 'Energy sector played decisive role in advancing Qatar's economic growth'** - Former Minister of Energy and Industry, HE Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah said that the energy sector played a decisive role in advancing the economic growth of Qatar, adding that the sound strategies

adopted by the State to optimally utilizing natural resources were effective in developing the national economy, as well as enabling Qatar to occupy a distinguished position in the world in terms of the strength of the economy. In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA) on occasion of the Qatar Economic Forum 2023 that will kick off today, he said that Qatar plays an important role in the global energy sector, as it is one of the largest Producers and exporters of LNG in the world, and it directs huge investments to develop oil and gas fields and various energy projects to enhance production and export, provide job opportunities and stimulate other economic activities. Its strategy relies on diversifying energy sources to enhance its position as a major player in the global market, he explained. He pointed out that Qatar possesses huge reserves of natural gas, which made it a strong competitor on the global stage, in addition to its advanced infrastructure and technology in the energy industry, which makes it capable of competing and exploiting global market opportunities. He noted that Qatar is one of the most prominent suppliers of natural gas to European market, which prompted it to enhance its investments, as well as develop and expand distribution networks and export to European markets over the past years. He expects demand for natural gas to remain strong in the European market, which provides additional opportunities for Qatar to enhance its share in this market. Qatar is also working to expand its partnerships and develop its presence in other regions of the world, as it signs agreements and strategic partnerships with other countries to develop and exploit energy sources, which contribute to strengthening Qatar's international relations and its role as a major player. on the international scene. Regarding global economy's ability to overcome energy shocks, Al Attiyah said that through his many years of experience in the energy sector, he believes in the vitality and dynamism of the energy sector, adding that the global economy was able to overcome crises of energy shocks , such as the oil price crisis in 1973 and the oil crises in 1979, 2008 and 2020. He pointed out that in each case, global interactions dealt with these shocks and were able to recover and grow again, noting that these reflect eco-nomic, social and environmental challenges and impacts. Therefore, it is important to work on promoting energy sustain-ability to reduce impact of future energy shocks on the economy, and this includes strategies to adapt to energy shocks such as improving energy efficiency, investing in diversifying energy sources. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Earthna launches reports highlighting pathway to achieving circular economy in Qatar** - Earthna Centre for a Sustainable Future (Earthna), a member of Qatar Foundation, in collaboration with policy consulting firm Global Counsel, launched the 'Circular Economy and Energy Transition in Qatar' reports during an event on Monday. It was attended by HE Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmad bin Ali al-Thani, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. Bringing together new and pre-existing national and international research to explore the challenges and opportunities associated with creating a new pathway to a circular economy, key findings show it can be achieved across several sectors in the country. The report aims to help businesses and organizations accelerate their journey towards circularity by proposing greater collaboration, encouraging innovative sustainable technologies, and promoting behavior change. Focusing on three priority sectors — food and domestic waste, hospitality, and the built environment — the reports present evidence to support the transition to a circular economy – a system-level framework that promotes economic growth, enabled by efficient use of resources throughout their lifecycle. On the importance of establishing a circular economy in Qatar, HE Sheikh Dr Faleh said: "Qatar National Vision (QNV) 2030 sets out our country's ambition to transform the economy so that it can sustain its own development and provide a high standard of living for citizens and residents for generations to come. One of the leading priorities of QNV is economic diversification – moving the country away from its dependence on oil and gas. However, it is imperative that we do this in a sustainable way, which protects and enhances our environment. Striving to create a circular economy is an important step in this process." Reflecting on the reports, and how the findings will help contribute to QNV 2030, Dr Gonzalo Castro de la Mata, Earthna's executive director, said: "We are delighted that the reports identify opportunities for Qatar to drive economic growth in a sustainable way, by supporting the journey towards a circular economy across industries in Qatar." Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, managing director at Global Counsel, added: "Qatar's sustainable

development, in both senses of the word, depends on its ability to progressively drive growth away from its carbon sectors while also striving to achieve it in a sustainable manner. The 'Circular Economy' reports make the case that there are not only economic opportunities to be gained from the transition but also advantages for the environment and future generations. Global Counsel is proud to have collaborated with Earthna on these reports to support progress on addressing climate change, preserving Qatar's ecosystems and biodiversity, and recommending policies that can act as a guide for other similar countries in the region." For more information on Earthna or the 'Circular Economy and Energy Transition in Qatar' reports, visit Earthna.qa (Gulf Times)

- QU launches taxation minor** - Qatar University's (QU) College of Business and Economics has launched a minor in taxation, in co-operation with the General Tax Authority (GTA) and Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). At the launch event yesterday, QU president Dr Hassan al-Derham said the launch reflects the university's keenness to respond quickly to the changes in the labor market and its ability to provide new programs that meet the needs of the state and the business community. "The development of this program came in response to the tax policies and legislation in the countries of the region that have been approved in recent years, to achieve further comprehensive economic diversification, which includes diversifying government revenue sources and reducing dependence on oil and gas as a main source of government revenue. "This calls for reconsidering and developing other educational programs in line with the new financial and economic policies in the Gulf countries. We expect that graduates of this program will have a major role in making and formulating economic and tax policies that reflect the direction of the countries of this region towards tax reform." HE Ahmed bin Issa al-Mohannadi, president of the General Tax Authority (GTA) said in his speech: "We have been keen to co-operate with Qatar University to introduce the new minor, which will prepare the national academic competencies, enhance efforts to localize jobs, and support the country's capabilities of qualified cadres in the tax sector, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030. "We expect this new minor to build the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs who have the ability and awareness about the importance of tax administration, the necessity of tax compliance, and its effects on business." Hamed al-Saadi, chief financial and tax officer at the QFC, said: "The QFC has always sought to strengthen partnerships with many universities and scientific research institutions, and to support programs and initiatives aimed at creating qualified national cadres to meet the requirements and challenges of the labor market, believing in the importance of advancing the education and scientific research sectors in achieving economic development goals. "This program is the first of its kind in the region, which will contribute to enhancing the business environment and diversifying the national economy." Prof Rana Sobh, dean of the College of Business and Economics, noted that the establishment of the minor could not have been implemented without the support of the efforts of the GTA and the QFC. Prof Rick Krever, a leading taxation law and policy expert and a Professor at the University of Western Australia, was the keynote speaker at the launch. He discussed the importance of offering the new program to college students. (Gulf Times)
- Sheikh Khalifa: QEF-2023 bolsters Qatar as leading global business hub** - HE the Chairperson of Qatar Chamber (QC) Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani stressed the importance of the Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) 2023 in fostering Qatar's position as a leading global business hub, particularly after its historic FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 hosting, and the country's advanced infrastructure and legislation. His Excellency said the event is an opportunity to promote the Qatari economy globally, by highlighting its incentives and facilities that attract more investments and business to the country, and increase confidence in the Qatari economy, which stimulates and accelerates the economic growth. Speaking exclusively to Qatar News Agency (QNA) ahead of the QEF-2023 which begins today, His Excellency said that the participants would be able to exchange experiences in business and investment, and the event would provide an umbrella to enhance co-operation and communication among various economic sectors, opening new horizons for future co-operation and partnership. Over the past two years, Qatar has produced two successful QEF editions, having provided a platform to discuss the most important

strategic issues that top the priorities of the global economy, His Excellency said, highlighting the previous editions' meetings, discussions, round tables, memoranda of understanding and various agreements that brought together a host of business leaders and policy makers worldwide. To be held from May 23-25, the third edition will see greater international participation, with the aim of highlighting the necessary innovations to push the global economy ahead, His Excellency noted. Commenting on the impacts of the event on the national economy, His Excellency said it would contribute to enhancing Qatar's position as a leading business hub. It will bolster economic promotion and open new horizons for co-operation and partnerships, His Excellency added, extending invitations for local companies to actively participate in the forum to enhance their communication and co-operation with other foreign companies. His Excellency said that the private sector plays an important role in stimulating the national economy and enhancing bilateral trade exchange with various countries of the world through exchanging investments with trading partners and focusing on innovation and technology. By providing an attractive investment environment and launching partnerships with foreign entities, the private sector also contributes to stimulating intra-foreign trade and enhances trade exchange between the State of Qatar and world countries, His Excellency elaborated. In this context, His Excellency added, the State of Qatar has provided world-class infrastructure and modernized its economic legislation, which contributed to enhancing the investment environment, reviving commercial and industrial activities, and attracting foreign investors. His Excellency highlighted the incentives and exemptions and procedures, which created an attractive climate that made Qatar a leading destination and international business hub. His Excellency stressed the wise leadership's non-stop backing for the Qatari private sector, based on its keenness to provide it with the opportunity to play its aspired role in economic development. His Excellency also highlighted the government's support for national industry, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs by establishing free and logistical zones to attract foreign investment, transfer technology to Qatar, promote non-oil activities, and increase its contribution to the national economy. An effective and strong private sector of outstanding local companies, and the construction of free economic zones make an appropriate environment for investors to expand, develop, diversify, and enter new markets, His Excellency elaborated. Commenting on the role of the investment environment in attracting investors and the role of the QC in this respect, Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani hailed the State of Qatar's advanced infrastructure and investment environment as stimuli for more local and foreign investors looking for a safe environment and profitable revenues. The State is committed to providing a promising environment in sectors that are considered a priority for the national economy, supported by an advanced administrative and legislative system that stimulates the practice and development of business, His Excellency added. As a result, Qatar topped the best countries attracting foreign direct investment in the world for the year 2023, according to fDi Intelligence's foreign direct investment report, His Excellency said, highlighting the country's success in promoting this economic boom during its World Cup hosting. (Gulf Times)

- Al-Jaidah: QFC eyes family business around the world** - The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is keen on attracting both domestic and overseas family businesses in view of their preeminent role in ensuring economic stability for the economies, according to its top official. "Considering their indispensable role in economic development, the QFC is keen on creating opportunities for family businesses from Qatar and around the world, allowing them to diversify their activities across various sectors within the Qatari market and beyond," QFC Authority Chief Executive Officer Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaidah told the inaugural 'Family Business Community Retreat', organized by QFC in association with Julius Baer, a leading wealth manager. Family businesses, according to him, play a critical role in the stability of economies, contributing largely to GDP (gross domestic product) and employing a great percentage of a market's labor force. The two-day Retreat was organized to explore the latest trends and shifting priorities in global family businesses, emphasizing shared responsibility and a sense of duty. The event commenced with an evening networking gathering attended by HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, the guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Sheikha Alanoud bint Hamad al-Thani, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Business Officer, QFC, said family businesses continue to drive economic growth and development in the Middle East and North Africa and have been a cornerstone of the QFC's community in the past decade. "We are proud to officially launch our Family Business Community as a valuable resource and a trusted space for over 100 family business leaders and their next generation to address common challenges and exchange best practices on building resilience among leading families. At the QFC, we are committed to supporting their growth and success," she said. The forum comprised interactive dialogues and in-depth discussions to facilitate the exchange of insights, stimulate meaningful debates, and drive action on critical issues pertaining to family business management. Key topics addressed included wealth management and preservation, succession planning, governance, adapting family businesses to digital transformation, leveraging technology and artificial intelligence, and philanthropy. Slim Bouker, Chief Executive Officer, Julius Baer (QFC), said family businesses are the foundation on which the Gulf Cooperation Council is built. Highlighting that Julius Baer as a wealth manager has its origins as a family business; he said "this provides us with a unique insight into the topic and we strive to support families in navigating their multi-generational wealth journeys with the belief that how we invest today is how we live tomorrow." (Gulf Times)

- QR800mn deals made at Build Your House Exhibition 2023** - Build Your House (BYH) Exhibition 2023, which was held under the patronage of HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani wrapped up its fourth edition with incredible accomplishments. This highly immersive and engaging event saw a footfall of over 14,560 visitors over the course of four days, while its knowledge sharing conference, brought over 40 presentations from guest speakers from academic institutions, architectural associations, government entities and leading industry businesses. Establishing itself as a platform that's crucial for business, Build Your House Exhibition connects Qatari citizens looking to build their home, fit out an existing business or renovate their current property to an array of services and products from consultants, contractors, suppliers – including smart home and general service industry leaders. The fourth edition saw an incredible number of deals signed over the four days estimated at QR800mn. This year's event hosted 250 exhibitors, offering a wealth of services from smart home suppliers to engineering industry leaders. Many of these exhibitors were part of the expanded international pavilion, which welcomed more Turkish companies, and exhibitors from Canada, Iran, Italy, Oman, and the UK, and companies from Sri Lanka, KSA, Belgium, China, Algeria, Jordan and India for the first time. Rawad Sleem, co-founder and general manager, NeXTfairs or Exhibitions and Conferences, said, "I would like to thank our event partners, supporters, and sponsors for their commitment to ensuring that Build Your House Exhibition continues to bridge the gap between government, business, and Qatari house builders. "Their attendance and contribution have been vital to ensuring that Build Your House Exhibition empowers local citizens to execute homes fit for the future and become a catalyst for business. This year we strengthened our event offering, giving visitors access to over 250 exhibitors from world-class industry experts and high-quality suppliers from Qatar. Enriching our exhibitors and extending the event to become four days, saw an incredible QR800mn deals made – testament to impact BYH Exhibition has on the construction sector and Qatar's urban renaissance." Regarding next year's BYH Exhibition, Sleem said, "We are delighted with the involvement of Build Your House Exhibition. Each year, we assure visitors an even greater experience with a heightened number of exhibitors with an expanded number of services and products on display. Building on this, we are already preparing for the launch of the fifth edition of the BYH Exhibition 2024 at Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC)." Speaking about their participation at the event, Talal Nabina, deputy chief executive officer, Nabina Holding said, "We are thrilled to have participated in the Build Your House Exhibition for the third time as exhibitors. The undeniable success we've experienced with each edition has led us to eagerly rebook for future events. "This year, the turnout surpassed all expectations, exceeding the attendance of previous years combined on the very first day. It's clear that this event has become an essential gathering, showcasing remarkable marketing prowess. We extend our best wishes for continued success to the Build Your House

Exhibition in its upcoming editions." Omar Ali, general manager, Nabina Group, said: "As first-time exhibitors at the Build Your House Exhibition, we are extremely pleased with the event's focus on Qatari house builders, which aligns perfectly with our target audience. It has provided us with valuable opportunities to connect with attendees and lay the foundation for lasting relationships. "Based on our positive experience, we highly recommend that other companies consider participating in future editions of this event. It promises to be a fruitful platform for engagement and business growth." Jassim Mohammed al-Emadi, CEO, Al Emadi Stones, said: "We are no strangers to the Build Your House exhibition. As expected, the organization was impeccable, just like in previous years. The turnout was impressive, with attendees flocking to witness the event. "Speaking candidly, this exhibition stands out for its uniqueness, offering a diverse range of items essential for one's home or property, all conveniently gathered under one roof. It truly presents an opportunity to explore and acquire everything a person might need in a single exhibition visit." (Gulf Times)

International

- Biden, McCarthy meeting ends with no deal on debt ceiling** - President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy could not reach an agreement Monday on how to raise the US government's \$31.4tn debt ceiling with just 10 days before a possible default that could sink the US economy but vowed to keep talking. The Democratic president and the top congressional Republican have struggled to make a deal, as McCarthy pressures the White House to agree to spending cuts in the federal budget that Biden considers "extreme," and the president pushes new taxes that Republicans have rejected. Both sides stressed the need to avoid default with a bipartisan deal after Monday evening's meeting, however, and signaled that they'd be talking regularly in the coming days. A source familiar with the situation said that White House negotiators were returning to Capitol Hill on Monday night to resume talks. "We reiterated once again that default is off the table and the only way to move forward is in good faith toward a bipartisan agreement," Biden said in a statement after the meeting, which he called "productive." McCarthy told reporters after over an hour of talks with Biden that negotiators are "going to get together, work through the night" to try to find common ground. "I believe we can still get there," McCarthy said. He is not willing to consider Biden's plan to cut the deficit by raising taxes on the wealthy and closing tax loopholes for the oil and pharmaceutical industries, he said, and is focused on reducing spending in the 2024 federal budget. Democrats and Republicans have until June 1 to increase the government's self-borrowing limit or trigger an unprecedented debt default that economists warn could bring on a recession. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Monday offered a sobering reminder of how little time is left, saying the earliest estimated default date remains June 1 and that it is "highly likely" that Treasury will no longer be able to pay all government obligations by early June if the debt ceiling is not raised. Republican Representative Patrick McHenry, who was in the White House meeting, ruled out any partial budget agreement to raise the debt ceiling. "No one's going to agree to anything until we have a finalized deal," he said. He said the tone in the Biden meeting was the most positive yet. therefore, to raise the limit must pass both chambers of Congress, and therefore hinges on bipartisan support. McCarthy's Republicans control the House 222-213, while Biden's Democrats hold the Senate 51-49. A failure to lift the debt ceiling would trigger a default that would shake financial markets and drive interest rates higher on everything from car payments to credit cards. US markets rose on Monday as investors awaited updates on the negotiations. It will take several days to move legislation through Congress if and when Biden and McCarthy come to an agreement. McCarthy said that a deal must be reached this week for it to pass Congress and be signed into law by Biden in time to avoid default. (Reuters)
- US Treasury cash balance rises slightly to \$60.66bn as of Friday** - The US Treasury said on Monday that its cash balance as of Friday was \$60.66bn, compared to \$57.34bn a day earlier and \$139.94bn a week earlier, amid tense negotiations over raising the federal debt ceiling. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said the Treasury could run short of sufficient cash and borrowing resources to pay all of the US government's bills as soon as June 1 without action by Congress to increase the debt ceiling. As

of May 17, the Treasury had \$92bn in borrowing capacity remaining under available extraordinary cash management measures to avoid breaching the debt limit. Wrightson ICAP had forecast cash balance of \$55bn for Friday but estimated that this would sink to \$25bn on June 1. A Goldman Sachs note to clients on Friday noted that Treasury in past debt limit episodes has used a \$30bn cash threshold as a minimum needed to pay US obligations. (Reuters)

- Fed Survey: Inflation has eroded US households' financial security** - The inflation wave that crested at a 40-year high last year and remains elevated has eroded US households' sense of financial security, the Federal Reserve reported Monday, with many saying they had reduced their savings to make ends meet, felt less secure about retirement, and had delayed purchases or swapped into cheaper products as they shopped. In an annual survey showing the corrosive effects of inflation on Americans' economic confidence, the Fed said the percentage of respondents who said they were doing "at least okay financially" in 2022 tumbled by 5 percentage points - the most since the survey was launched a decade ago - to 73%. It had stood at a record high the year before. The share of those saying they were worse off shot up 15 points to 35%, the highest level by far since the Fed first started asking that question in 2014. The Fed launched the "Survey of Household Economics and Decision-making" in 2013. Those who considered their retirement savings "on track" fell to 31% among those not yet retired, compared to 40% in 2021. With a 2024 presidential campaign already in its early stages, the survey also suggested Americans' souring mood about their own finances carried over to their view of the national economy. Even though the unemployment rate has been low, below 4%, since January of 2022, only 18% of respondents rated the national economy as "good" or "excellent," down from 50% as of 2019. The survey was conducted in October, and the results included responses from a representative sample of 11,775 people. Inflation emerged as a key risk for the US in 2021 as the economy reopened from the pandemic-era restrictions imposed on many public and commercial activities the year before. Annual inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index peaked at 9.1% last summer, the highest since the early 1980s, and remains elevated now at 4.9%. Fed officials have raised interest rates aggressively in response and have repeatedly expressed their determination to bring inflation to heel by whatever means necessary. 54% of adults said that their budgets had been affected "a lot" by price increases, with parents of children under 18, Black and Latin American adults and those with disabilities ranking among the most likely to report an impact from inflation. Indeed, overall one-third of households cited inflation as their main financial challenge, up more than fourfold from 2016. A question meant to measure households' wherewithal to overcome a modest financial emergency showed fewer thought they had the ability to meet an unexpected \$400 expense using cash or the equivalent, such as a credit card expected to be repaid in full at the next statement. Sixty-three% said they would use cash for such a cost, down from a record high 68% in 2021. Meanwhile, the survey's measures of household incomes and respondents' sense of the job market showed more adults last year received or asked for a pay increase or promotion. (Reuters)
- NABE poll: Economists push back expected Fed rate cut to 2024** - Economists have pushed back their expectations of when the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates and have raised their forecasts for inflation and the strength of the job market, a survey released on Monday showed. Economists now believe the US central bank, which is debating whether it needs to raise rates again, will lower its targeted policy rate in the first quarter of next year, according to the survey released by the National Association for Business Economics. In February, survey respondents saw the Fed cutting rates in the final three months of this year. Forecasters maintained their view on the peak level of the Fed's benchmark overnight interest rate, which jibes with the central bank's current target range of between 5% and 5.25%. The NABE survey showed respondents split over whether the US economy would fall into recession, although the poll's median view sees modest levels of growth prevailing through 2024, with an expected 0.4% rise between the fourth quarter of 2022 to the final three months of 2023. Respondents upsized their estimate of inflation in 2023, seeing the consumer price index up by 3.3% from the last quarter of 2022 to the final quarter of 2023, according to the

survey. In February, respondents expected inflation would be up 3% over the same period. The survey also found upgraded outlooks for the job market, with respondents now saying they expect an average 142,000 jobs to be gained per month, up from 102,000 in the February survey. The jobless rate, currently at 3.4%, is projected to average 3.7% this year, down from 3.9% in the February poll. (Reuters)

- Fed's Daly offers no hint on prospect of June rate hike** - San Francisco Federal Reserve President Mary Daly on Monday said it's too soon to say whether the US central bank will raise interest rates at its June 13-14 policy meeting. "We have to be extremely data-dependent, and that's why, even three weeks in advance of the meeting, our next meeting, it's still a lot of time to collect information before we make a decision about what to do in June or what to do for the rest of the year," Daly said in a virtual appearance before a gathering held by the National Association for Business Economics and Banque de France. Daly, who does not have a vote on the central bank's rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee, was tacking a question about whether, after just over a year of aggressive rate rises aimed at lowering inflation, officials will stand aside and not raise the target for the benchmark overnight interest rate at next month's meeting. Officials have opened the door to not raising what is now a federal funds rate target range of between 5.00% and 5.25% amid signs the Fed's past actions are slowing inflation and bank sector stresses may weigh on growth. Daly noted in her remarks that tighter credit conditions, some of which would be expected and some of which are tied to troubles faced by some banks in March, are equivalent to perhaps one to two rate rises. Speaking last Friday, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said "our policy rate may not need to rise as much as it would have otherwise to achieve our goals" given the tightening in credit conditions. Daly said "it's a distraction really, to say what we're going to do necessarily in June" and that attention is better focused on what the Fed is looking at to drive its policy choices. "Meeting-by-meeting decisions become really the most prudent path" for central bankers right now, she said. Daly also noted that it would be a "historic anomaly" for the Fed to get inflation back to its 2% target and keep the unemployment rate, now at 3.4%, under 4%. Instead, she said some rise in the jobless rate looks probable and noted it would be "completely reasonable" to see the jobless rate go to 4.5%. (Reuters)
- Fed's Daly: Expects unemployment rise as price of controlling inflation** - Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco President Mary Daly on Monday said it would be quite surprising for the central bank to get inflation under control without causing some amount of job loss. "It would be a historical anomaly and quite a feat" to get inflation back to 2% and keep the unemployment rate, last at 3.4%, under the 4% mark, and it would be "completely reasonable" to expect the unemployment rate to go up given Fed actions aimed at lowering inflation, Daly said in a virtual appearance. (Reuters)
- Survey: Record number of British firms pessimistic about China business** - A record number of British companies are pessimistic about doing business in China and are taking a "wait and see approach", according to a survey by the British Chamber of Commerce in China. Increasingly, strained geopolitical relationships, a slowing global economy, increased talk of self-sufficiency and shifting investor perceptions were the top challenges clouding the business outlook, the survey released on Tuesday said. "British companies are willing and want to invest in China...there is, however, some uncertainty around that and that's where the survey results we have give us a little cause for concern," Julian MacCormac, chair of the British Chamber, told reporters in Beijing. "Seventy% of companies are saying it is too early to make these long-term commitments to the China market," he added. AstraZeneca (AZN.L), BP (BP.L), Jaguar Land Rover and Shell (SHEL.L) are among some of the members of the chamber. Foreign direct investment (FDI) into China has slowed substantially since the country abandoned its strict COVID-19 curbs late last year, with dollar-denominated FDI down 3.3% in January-April compared with the same period last year. Trade between the UK and China was worth 111bn pounds (\$140.09bn) last year, according to the British National Bureau of Statistics, making China the UK's fourth largest trading partner. (Reuters)
- Foreign investment in Germany steady in tough environment** - Foreign investment in Germany was stable in 2022, data from Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI), showed on Monday, although the body's head said it could

be a challenge to retain investment from the biggest spender the United States. Last year, Germany attracted 1,783 new projects and expansions, 23 fewer than in 2021, but 101 more than in 2020, the economic development agency said. "Given the adverse circumstances, with the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis and the pandemic aftermath, this is a success," GTAI managing director Robert Hermann told Reuters on Monday. However, the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), introduced last year, offers subsidies for manufacturers based in North America that is luring companies away from Europe. "We assume that the IRA will have an impact on the investment conditions in Europe and therefore also in Germany, but that wasn't yet the case in 2022," Hermann said. Germany's top investor in 2022, the United States accounted for 279 projects. The value of announced investments rose to 25bn euros (\$27.52bn) in 2022 - a 261% year-on-year increase - chiefly because US semiconductor manufacturer Intel (INTC.O) picked Germany for a new chip-making complex, with initial spending of 17bn euros. Excluding the Intel investment, announced investments totaled 8bn euros, exceeding the 2021 result by 1bn. Apart from semiconductors, foreign direct investment went into clean energy, digitalization, logistics and the service sector, the GTAI said. Switzerland was the second biggest investor with 208 projects and the United Kingdom the third with 170. Neither country is in the European Union, but Hermann said they wanted "a supporting leg there" and had chosen Germany. "Companies from all over the world appreciate Germany's market size, secure legal framework, highly qualified workforce, infrastructure and research and development environment," Hermann said. China took fourth place with 141 projects, the lowest since 2014. Hermann blamed China's strict COVID-19 policy which meant business trips could not take place. Separate figures earlier this month showed German business hopes for a revival of trade with China following the end of COVID measures had yet to happen. (Reuters)

- PMI: Japan's factory activity expands for first time in 7 months** - Japan's manufacturing activity expanded for the first time in seven months in May, while the service-sector hit record growth, a survey showed on Tuesday, as the post-COVID recovery shored up business conditions. The au Jibun Bank flash Japan manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to a seasonally adjusted 50.8 in May, from a final 49.5 in April. It's the PMI's first reading above 50, which separates contraction from expansion, since October. Output and new orders also returned to expansion territory for the first time since last June. Manufacturers in the survey suggested supply chain disruption brought by the pandemic which battered the sector showed "signs of improvement". "The Japanese private sector economy continued on an upward trajectory," said Usamah Bhatti, economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, which compiles the survey. "Service providers continued to report strong growth momentum with a renewed record increase in business activity, while manufacturers indicated an improvement in operating conditions for the first time in seven months," he said. Service-sector activity expanded at the strongest pace on record in May led by the restart of both domestic and international tourism and continued recovery from pandemic disruptions, the survey showed. The au Jibun Bank flash services PMI advanced to a record seasonally adjusted 56.3 in May, from 55.4 in the previous month. The service sector also showed record expansion in other areas such as total new business, exports and outstanding business. Data showed last week that visitors to Japan rose to a post-pandemic high of almost 2mn in April, benefiting from a relaxation of outbound travel restrictions in China. The au Jibun Bank Flash Japan composite PMI, which covers both manufacturing and service sector activity, stood at 54.9 in May, the highest reading since October 2013. (Reuters)

Regional

- 89% of Gulf CEOs see a rise in distressed businesses** - Some 89% Gulf CEOs expect an increase in businesses experiencing distress in 2023-2024 and see a need for specialist intervention in critical areas including liquidity management, cost reduction, capital efficiency and margin optimization. This is as per the first edition of its Middle East Turnaround and Restructuring Survey for Q1 2023 by leading global professional services firm Alvarez & Marsal (A&M). The survey asked respondents to indicate whether they anticipate an increase or decrease in businesses experiencing financial distress across the GCC, together with their views on the extent of intervention by turnaround specialists that will be

required. Key findings were as follows: •75% of respondents expect economic growth to slow or reverse, with the greatest issues expected to face businesses including cost of capital, inflation, market volatility, weakening demand and changes in tax and regulation •Businesses across the GCC are expected to see an increasing need to transform or restructure in a volatile market. Ongoing macro-economic headwinds mean that respondents expect businesses across many sectors to experience a period of under-performance leading to increased liabilities and cash constraints •Retail, financial services, real estate and industrial companies dominated restructuring activity in 2022 and remain under pressure in 2023. •A large majority (79%) of respondents see many restructurings that deal only with debt without an accompanying operational fix. Those same respondents (70%) consider that an operational restructuring should indeed accompany a financial restructuring in most cases Paul Gilbert, Managing Director, and Co-Head of Alvarez & Marsal in the Middle East, commented: “The results of the survey are fascinating. While a number of economies and sectors across the Middle East are bucking the trend, it is clear that respondents consider other sectors to experience further under-performance and liquidity pressures in the face of global economic headwinds. With rising interest rates and inflation, many struggling businesses are seeking short-term solutions to their debt burden. “Unless the underlying operational business issues are also fixed, then too often a “restructured” business will find itself in distress again further down the line. Respondents to the survey clearly agree that fixing a business’s underlying performance issues at the same time as carrying out a financial restructuring is the best way to deliver a longer-term and more sustainable turnaround.” The Survey aims to help businesses and restructuring and law specialists to keep a finger on the pulse of anticipated trends and be prepared to act. A&M surveyed C-suite executives based in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. (Zawya)

- **GCC states, Egypt vie to become global leaders in green hydrogen** - Sovereign funds and other government entities in the Gulf states and Egypt have partnered with international energy firms, investing billions of dollars to develop green hydrogen plants. Hydrogen, which is the lightest and most abundant element in the universe, can be burned as a fuel, producing only water as a by-product, used to store excess energy produced by renewable electricity, or converted into other substances. It is also a vital ingredient in many industrial processes such as steelmaking. Historically, hydrogen has been manufactured from coal or gas in a process that creates huge carbon dioxide emissions. But its green variant, which currently represents less than 1% of global production, uses electrolysis powered by renewable electricity to split water into its constituent elements – oxygen and hydrogen - and so is carbon-free. Cost remains a key challenge, although a European Investment Bank report says green hydrogen can be price competitive versus conventional hydrogen by 2030. Saudi Arabia has pledged to become net zero in terms of carbon emissions by 2060 and the United Arab Emirates vows to do likewise by 2050. Both see green hydrogen as key to meeting their commitments. Saudi Arabia is building a green hydrogen plant that will be the world’s largest, producing 219,000 tonnes of hydrogen annually. The cost of the project has ballooned to \$8.5bn from \$5bn previously. State-owned NEOM, U.S. company Air Products and Saudi Arabia’s ACWA each hold a one-third stake in the NEOM Green Hydrogen Company. Production will start in 2026 and will mitigate 5mn metric tonnes of carbon emissions each year, ACWA claims. Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA) will produce green hydrogen that will be used to manufacture green steel in partnership with Emirates Steel, while in February TAQA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japan’s top power generator JERA to develop thermal power and other green energy projects in the Middle East. Another Abu Dhabi government entity, Masdar, aims to produce up to 1mn tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030 via various joint venture projects that it says will establish the emirate as a global hub for hydrogen production and export. It predicts half of this output will be produced in the emirate. Masdar has teamed up with national carrier Etihad Airways, Siemens Energy, TotalEnergies and others to develop green hydrogen for use in sustainable aviation fuels. Masdar is in a consortium building a 200 megawatt (MW) green hydrogen plant in Abu Dhabi as part of a wider \$5bn “strategic alliance” with French utility Engie and will also be co-owner of a 2,000

MW offshore wind and green hydrogen project in Azerbaijan. The Abu Dhabi firm has signed an agreement with Egypt to develop green hydrogen plants with a combined capacity of 4,000 MW and has agreed to invest in a green hydrogen plant in England. (Zawya)

- **Saudi NEOM Green Hydrogen Co closes deals on \$8.4bn green hydrogen plant** - Saudi Arabia's NEOM Green Hydrogen Company (NGHC) has signed financial documents with 23 local, regional and international banks and investment firms on a green hydrogen production facility at a total investment value of \$8.4bn. The company also said it concluded a \$6.7bn agreement with Air Products (APD.N) for the plant's engineering, procurement and construction (EPC). NGHC, a joint venture between ACWA Power, Air Products and NEOM, will produce 600 tonnes a day of carbon-free hydrogen by the end of 2026 using 4 GW of solar energy, the statement said. The company secured an exclusive 30-year off-take agreement with Air Products for all the green ammonia it will produce. (Reuters)
- **HADAF's contribution in employing Saudis surges by over 26% in Q1 of 2023** - The Human Resources Development Fund (HADAF) has contributed in supporting the employing of 96,000 Saudi men and women to work in the private sector's establishments during the first quarter of 2023. This contribution, through HADAF's diverse programs and initiatives, has led to an increase in percentage of hiring the Saudis by more than 26%, compared to the same period in 2022, which have supported during that time about 76,000 Saudi men and women. The Director General of HADAF Turki Aljawini has praised the Saudi leaderships' support and guidance in developing human capital, sustaining employment, and stimulating the private sector to contribute in localization. The Kingdom's leadership has also strengthened the partnership with all the relevant authorities in training, hiring and empowering the local cadres, in addition to increasing their competitiveness in the labor market, he said. Aljawini noted that the new strategy of HADAF has enhanced the number of beneficiaries from the programs and services, both at the same level whether to the individuals and the private sector's establishments. About 836,000 Saudi men and women have benefited from the empowering, training and counseling services within the first 3 month of 2023, with a growth rate of approximately 29%, compared to 646,000 beneficiaries during the same period in 2022. As for the establishments, he said that nearly 73,000 establishments working in all the vital sectors in Saudi Arabia have benefited directly and indirectly from HADAF's programs. This comes with a growth rate of 30%, compared to 56,000 establishments during the same period of the previous years. Aljawini said that the expenditures of the supporting programs amounted to SR2.2bn in the first quarter of 2023. He affirmed the importance of continuing the efforts and enhancing HADAF's role, in order to keep pace with the changes, requirements and developments of the labor market, as well as to improve its efficiency, and taking into account the needs and priorities that are related to the sectors. It is also important to work in developing the supporting, empowering and counseling programs that are directed to the national cadres in a way that contributes in achieving Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 in developing the human capabilities, and the labor market strategy. Aljawini noted that HADAF is working to enhance the relationship between the various governmental and private sectors, in a way that reflects in stimulating the different sectors and activities to participate in current national development, and to attract further investments that creates qualitative jobs. (Zawya)
- **Dubai's debt burden set to decline in 2023 on robust economic growth** - S&P Global Ratings expects Dubai's government debt burden as a share of GDP will decline to about 51% of GDP in 2023 from a cyclical high of 78% in 2020 amid robust economic growth. In a report issued on Monday titled, “Dubai's Debt Reduction Strengthens Government Balance Sheet”, the ratings agency said the government's debt stock could fall even faster if the reduction in nominal debt, which occurred in 2021 and to a more significant extent in 2022, continues over the coming years. “Nevertheless, broader public sector debt will remain high at about 100% of GDP, when considering liabilities from nonfinancial government-related entities (GREs) of about 48% of GDP,” analysts Juli Pargaonkar and others wrote in the report. This year, S&P expects Dubai's real GDP to expand about 3%, slowing from an estimated 5.0% in 2022 and 6.2% in

2021. "In our view, this year will be more reflective of regular economic activity in the emirate compared with the post-pandemic recovery years. We expect continued strong momentum in the hospitality, real estate, trade, and financial services sectors to support growth." Moreover, local and UAE-wide structural and social reforms and programs should support longer-term growth. (Zawya)

- Adnoc Boosts Size of Logistics Unit IPO Amid Strong Demand** - Abu Dhabi's main energy company boosted the size of its maritime logistics unit's initial public offering by more than a quarter to as much as \$769mn, indicating appetite for Gulf listings remains healthy despite weaker market conditions. Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. will now sell 1.41bn shares in Adnoc Logistics & Services, or a 19% stake, up from 1.11bn previously, according to a statement on Monday. Order books for the IPO were covered minutes after the sale opened last week. At the top of the 1.99 dirhams (\$0.54) to 2.01 dirhams price range, the IPO could raise as much as \$769mn. It's set to be the second-biggest listing in the Middle East so far this year, after the \$2.5bn IPO of Adnoc's gas business in March. The subscription period for the retail and professional investor offerings remains unchanged and the final price is expected to be announced on May 25. Proceeds from initial public offerings in the Middle East have dropped 69% from the same period a year ago and stand at \$3.5bn, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Lower oil prices and concerns about slower economic growth globally have weighed on the market, and the MSCI GCC Countries Index has fallen almost 13% in the past year. It's still faring better than other regions like Europe where IPOs are struggling to recover as investors remain wary of backing new companies. Listing activity is also starting to pick up in Saudi Arabia - the Persian Gulf's biggest market - which had until recently remained dormant. Citigroup Inc, First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC, HSBC Holdings Plc and JPMorgan Chase & Co. are joint global coordinators on the Adnoc L&S IPO. (Bloomberg)
- Abu Dhabi Global Market continues epic journey as fastest-growing IFC in region** - Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) is continuing to reinforce its position as a global hub for businesses looking to expand their operations in the region. ADGM's rapid progress and achievements in just 8 years of operations have made it the fastest-growing international financial center (IFC) in the MENA region in terms of numbers as well as geographic coverage. Last year, ADGM began expanding its jurisdiction across Al Maryah Island in order to cater for the growing demand for a wider choice of office space, adding an additional 32,000 sqm with the introduction of the Al Maryah Tower. Earlier this month, the financial district announced the expansion of its jurisdiction as a financial free zone to combine the area of Al Maryah Island and Al Reem Island to enlarge its footprint by a factor of 10, and now covers a total area of 14.38mn sqm, becoming one of the largest financial districts in the world and attracted industry giants such as Bridgewater Associates, the world's largest hedge fund, and more recently the IPA for Goldman Sachs to open a branch. The success of ADGM, according to CEO Dhafer Al Mheiri, is reflected in the rising demand for its services and for companies to be based in the UAE's capital city. "With more than 6,000 companies currently registered and licensed at ADGM, we are delighted to have witnessed such huge growth, culminating in 2022's achievement of a 30% increase," he told Khaleej Times. Al Mheiri explained that the achievement of ADGM's mission and goals is based on its four key strategic themes that focus on people, performance, efficiency and progressive regulatory framework. He said, "Growth as a driver of the main pillars is the combination of progress in both the size and numbers of ADGM. The expansion of ADGM's jurisdiction stands as a testament to it being the fastest-growing IFC in the region, in addition to its recently published achievements of 2022." When asked about additional towers being added, Dhafer explained: "ADGM and its authorities are currently working with key government stakeholders and other local authorities to work towards creating a seamless transition." He reiterated ADGM's alignment with Abu Dhabi's overall goals when speaking of what he envisions for the IFC in the coming years, saying: "Our efforts underline Abu Dhabi's economic vision as well as ADGM's Growth Strategy 2023-2027, which aims to grow the financial sector of Abu Dhabi and position it as a leading financial hub with the sector becoming a key contributor to GDP." Al Mheiri attributed the majority of ADGM's successes to its progressive yet strong regulatory framework that offers a holistic ecosystem to well-established firms,

investment companies, start-ups and entrepreneurs, offering accessibility and customer-centricity, describing the framework as a differentiating factor, making it a launchpad for both regional and international businesses. (Zawya)

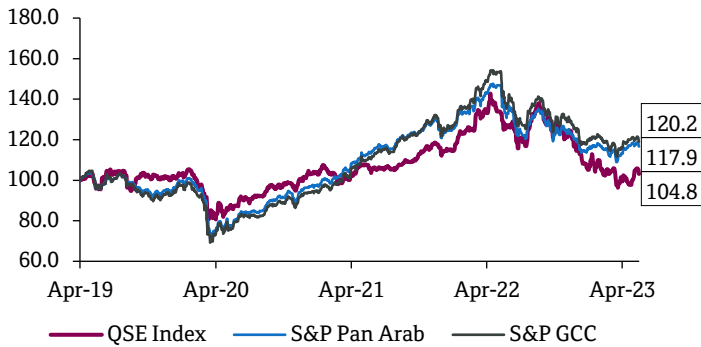
- 3-year UAE work permit plan: FNC approves proposal** - The Federal National Council (FNC) — the UAE's parliamentary body — has approved extending the duration of work permits from two years to three. This came after an FNC committee recommended the move to reduce the financial costs associated with obtaining work permits. Currently, work permits in the UAE are issued for two years. The document is issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization. It is illegal for a person to work in the country without a valid permit. A report submitted by the FNC Committee on Financial, Economic and Industrial Affairs suggested that the duration be increased to three years. It also proposed other recommendations, including waiver of work permit fees for job change. Another recommendation that the FNC approved was that workers must spend at least a year with an employer after the probation period. However, this requirement can be waived if the employer agrees. (Zawya)
- UAE has highest percentage of 'digital-first' construction firms in EMEA** - Despite economic headwinds plaguing the global construction industry, the vast majority (89%) of construction decision makers in the UAE feel confident about the market conditions over the next 12 months, a study showed on Monday. The 'How We Build Now' report was commissioned by leading construction management software provider Procore Technologies, Inc. surveying construction decision makers across the UAE. According to the findings, confidence is backed up by the high volumes of work in the pipeline, with just under half (46%) of businesses expecting the number of projects to increase by up to 20% over the next 12 months, while over a third (34%) expect it to go up by 20% or more. The research offers insight into the factors that stand to impact the growing momentum of the construction industry in the UAE. For example, the top three challenges facing decision makers are a lack of certainty/visibility on the potential pipeline of future work (26%), collecting pricing quotations from different companies in a centralized location (26%), and understanding business status in real-time to inform future business decisions and forecasts (25%). The report also found that construction companies in the UAE lose significant resources to rework with respondents stating that, on average, a quarter of a typical project's time was spent on rework or rectifying issues. Embodying the country's characteristic tenacity, rather than caving into economic and industry volatility, the large majority (71%) of construction decision makers in the UAE say these pressures have instead prompted an increase in their digital transformation investment over the past three to six months, with a quarter (25%) saying it has driven a significant increase. Moreover, in the UAE, this increase appears to follow considerable investments that have already been made in technology solutions as in the country, a global high of 20% of respondents described themselves as digital-first businesses. Among the main technologies used by regional construction firms are construction management platforms (38%), Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (38%), drones (40%) and Internet of Things (48%). "With the real-estate boom in the UAE, and the impressive number of iconic mega projects now underway in the country, construction firms are presented with an unparalleled opportunity. Recognizing that these projects are not without their pressures and challenges, companies are increasingly turning to technology to enable them to capitalize on these opportunities, achieve profitability, and deliver projects on time," said Mohamed Swidan, Head of the Middle East & North Africa at Procore. "For those firms (40%) just starting out on their digital transformation journey, the impetus is there to unlock the true potential of digital construction." Following the success of COP27 in Egypt last year, and with the upcoming edition of the conference set to take place in the UAE in the last quarter of 2023, sustainability has been a key theme for the country's governments and businesses. This is perhaps why Procore's report found the UAE to be the most globally aware of the challenges pertaining to sustainability with 94% of respondents in the country saying decarbonization of construction projects will be an important challenge within the next 3 years. But firms in the UAE are not only recognizing the challenge – they are also rising to address it. At

present, over a third (36%) already follow the ISO 14001 — environmental management system standard, and a further 46% intend to become compliant within the next 12 months. “UAE construction decision makers understand the vital role of data in enhancing decision-making, visibility, security, and client satisfaction, as well as promoting sustainability. The continued investments in digital transformation not only enhance the industry’s efficiency and financial performance in the present, but also equip it with the capability to adapt to unforeseen challenges and meet future expectations,” concluded Swidan. (Zawya)

- **Abu Dhabi identifies \$2bn in investment opportunities in South Korea -** Abu Dhabi organizations have identified about \$2bn of investment opportunities in South Korea after the two sides agreed to expand business ties in January, a joint statement said on Monday. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) pledged during South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's visit to Abu Dhabi in January to invest up to \$30bn in the Asian country in sectors including energy and information technology. "To date, Abu Dhabi organizations have helped identify approximately \$2bn of potential investment opportunities in Korea," read the statement on Monday from Korea Development Bank and Mubadala Investment Company. It did not elaborate on the potential investments. The two agencies have been exploring follow-up investment since the summit. (Reuters)
- **Egyptian-Omani trade exchange jumps 66% YoY in 2022 -** The trade exchange between Egypt and Oman surged 66% year on year (YoY) in 2022 to around \$1.80bn, versus \$651mn, Egyptian Minister of Trade and Industry Ahmed Samir said in a speech at the forum of the Egypt-Oman Business Council on May 22nd. Omani investments in Egypt have reached about \$80.5mn across 110 projects in the sectors of industry, agriculture, tourism, services, construction, financing, communications, and information technology, Samir noted. On the other hand, Egypt's investments in Oman amounted to nearly \$860mn, covering 142 projects in the fields of road construction, infrastructure, sanitation, and real estate and tourism investments, he added. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,971.86	(0.3)	(0.3)	8.1
Silver/Ounce	23.63	(0.9)	(0.9)	(1.4)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	75.99	0.5	0.5	(11.5)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	71.99	0.6	0.6	(10.3)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.30	(3.0)	(3.0)	(34.7)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	63.50	0.3	0.3	(10.2)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	59.50	0.8	0.8	(41.4)
Euro	1.08	0.1	0.1	1.0
Yen	138.60	0.4	0.4	5.7
GBP	1.24	(0.1)	(0.1)	2.9
CHF	1.11	0.2	0.2	3.0
AUD	0.67	0.0	0.0	(2.3)
USD Index	103.20	0.0	0.0	(0.3)
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.20	0.6	0.6	6.4

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,845.71	0.1	0.1	9.3
DJ Industrial	33,286.58	(0.4)	(0.4)	0.4
S&P 500	4,192.63	0.0	0.0	9.2
NASDAQ 100	12,720.78	0.5	0.5	21.5
STOXX 600	468.91	(0.1)	(0.1)	11.4
DAX	16,223.99	(0.4)	(0.4)	17.6
FTSE 100	7,770.99	(0.2)	(0.2)	7.1
CAC 40	7,478.16	(0.3)	(0.3)	16.6
Nikkei	31,086.82	0.4	0.4	12.6
MSCI EM	983.27	0.6	0.6	2.8
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,296.47	0.1	0.1	4.7
HANG SENG	19,678.17	1.0	1.0	(0.9)
BSE SENSEX	61,963.68	0.3	0.3	1.7
Bovespa	110,213.12	(0.2)	(0.2)	6.9
RTS	1,035.80	(0.1)	(0.1)	6.7

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

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