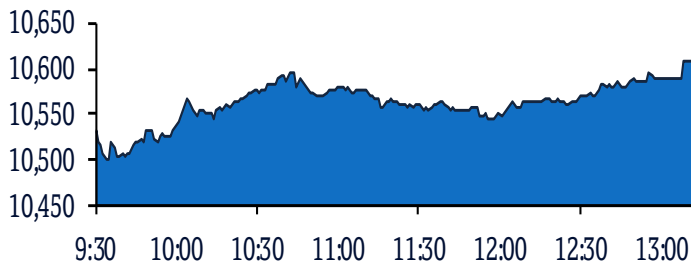


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.9% to close at 10,608.9. Gains were led by the Industrials and Real Estate indices, gaining 2.4% and 1.1%, respectively. Top gainers were Industries Qatar and Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co., rising 3.6% and 3.0%, respectively. Among the top losers, Qatar Islamic Insurance Company fell 1.7%, while Qatari German Co. for Med. Devices was down 1.1%

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index gained 1.3% to close at 10,448.0. Gains were led by the Media and Entertainment and Insurance indices, rising 2.7% and 2.2%, respectively. Saudi Enaya Cooperative Insurance Co. rose 9.9%, while Riyadh Bank was up 5.7%.

Dubai: The DFM Index gained 0.4% to close at 2,798.5. The Telecommunication index rose 1.1%, while the Services index gained 0.8%. Amlak Finance gained 3.4%, while Deyaar Development was up 3.1%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index gained 0.3% to close at 6,632.9. The Services index rose 6.3%, while the Industrial index gained 1.3%. Abu Dhabi National Hotels rose 14.9%, while Abu Dhabi National Co. for Building Materials was up 14.8%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index gained marginally to close at 6,271.2. The Consumer Staples index rose 0.6%, while the Banks index gained 0.5%. National Shooting Company rose 13.3%, while Coast Investment Development was up 8.7%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.2% to close at 3,837.9. Losses were led by the Financial index falling 0.3% and Industrial index falling marginally. Takaful Oman declined 3.8%, while Al Sharqiya Investment Holding Co. was down 3.3%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell marginally to close at 1,538.0. The Commercial Banks and Investment indices declined 0.1% each. Khaleeji Commercial Bank declined 5.6%, while Al Baraka Banking Group was down 1.4%.

Market Indicators	25 May 21	24 May 21	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	409.4	567.4	(27.8)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	616,430.4	612,417.5	0.7
Volume (mn)	152.0	232.8	(34.7)
Number of Transactions	10,458	12,553	(16.7)
Companies Traded	46	48	(4.2)
Market Breadth	33:11	6:41	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	21,001.00	0.9	(0.8)	4.7	18.0
All Share Index	3,372.06	0.7	(0.8)	5.4	18.7
Banks	4,444.64	0.1	(1.1)	4.6	15.5
Industrials	3,470.63	2.4	(0.6)	12.0	26.7
Transportation	3,375.38	0.1	(0.7)	2.4	22.5
Real Estate	1,874.88	1.1	(0.4)	(2.8)	17.8
Insurance	2,638.38	0.5	(1.2)	10.1	23.6
Telecoms	1,074.32	0.5	(0.5)	6.3	28.5
Consumer	8,127.72	0.4	(0.5)	(0.2)	28.4
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,570.93	1.1	(0.8)	7.1	19.6

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Riyadh Bank	Saudi Arabia	25.45	5.7	2,459.5	26.0
Sahara Int. Petrochemical	Saudi Arabia	28.30	4.2	4,687.2	63.4
Saudi British Bank	Saudi Arabia	30.45	3.9	1,115.7	23.2
Industries Qatar	Qatar	12.36	3.6	3,302.8	13.7
Bank Al-Jazira	Saudi Arabia	18.84	3.0	5,275.8	37.9

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Mouwasat Med. Serv. Co.	Saudi Arabia	194.80	(2.4)	406.1	41.2
Bank Nizwa	Oman	0.10	(2.1)	20.1	(1.0)
GFH Financial Group	Dubai	0.66	(1.6)	7,598.1	11.5
Mabane Co.	Kuwait	0.73	(1.4)	1,273.6	17.8
Sohar International Bank	Oman	0.09	(1.1)	837.1	(3.3)

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%
Industries Qatar	12.36	3.6	3,302.8	13.7
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	4.24	3.0	456.6	123.6
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co	2.92	2.8	86.3	(9.0)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	1.87	2.2	4,090.2	(8.5)
Barwa Real Estate Company	3.13	2.2	3,567.9	(8.0)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Investment Holding Group	1.04	0.6	18,547.7	73.0
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	1.15	2.0	17,746.9	(8.8)
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.96	0.5	17,264.9	46.7
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co	1.63	(0.1)	16,612.0	69.0
Al Khalij Commercial Bank	2.15	(0.1)	6,845.2	17.1

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Islamic Insurance Company	7.70	(1.7)	20.0	11.6
Qatari German for Med. Devices	2.69	(1.1)	782.6	20.4
Zad Holding Company	15.60	(1.0)	18.7	15.1
QNB Group	17.50	(0.6)	2,638.2	(1.9)
Qatar Navigation	7.35	(0.4)	296.2	3.6

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
QNB Group	17.50	(0.6)	46,224.1	(1.9)
Industries Qatar	12.36	3.6	40,484.4	13.7
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing	1.63	(0.1)	27,224.7	69.0
Masraf Al Rayan	4.40	0.5	24,583.7	(2.9)
Qatar Islamic Bank	17.15	0.9	21,520.9	0.2

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*	10,608.92	0.9	(0.8)	(2.8)	1.7	110.78	166,744.4	18.0	1.6	2.8
Dubai	2,798.50	0.4	1.7	7.4	12.3	107.43	104,393.2	21.0	1.0	2.9
Abu Dhabi	6,632.90	0.3	1.8	9.7	31.5	470.65	256,019.7	22.5	1.9	3.9
Saudi Arabia	10,448.00	1.3	1.0	0.3	20.2	2,764.89	2,572,078.4	34.3	2.3	2.0
Kuwait	6,271.15	0.0	(0.3)	2.6	13.1	214.25	119,198.7	39.1	1.6	2.2
Oman	3,837.91	(0.2)	(0.8)	2.0	4.9	4.50	17,299.0	11.4	0.7	4.7
Bahrain	1,538.03	(0.0)	0.1	3.6	3.2	1.89	23,654.1	26.4	1.0	2.2

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 0.9% to close at 10,608.9. The Industrials and Real Estate indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from GCC and Foreign shareholders despite selling pressure from Qatari and Arab shareholders.
- Industries Qatar and Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co. were the top gainers, rising 3.6% and 3.0%, respectively. Among the top losers, Qatar Islamic Insurance Company fell 1.7%, while Qatari German Co for Med. Devices was down 1.1%.
- Volume of shares traded on Tuesday fell by 34.7% to 152.0mn from 232.8mn on Monday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 249.0mn, volume for the day was 38.9% lower. Investment Holding Group and Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev. were the most active stocks, contributing 12.2% and 11.7% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	40.16%	36.79%	13,798,150.9
Qatari Institutions	12.69%	18.66%	(24,437,128.2)
Qatari	52.85%	55.45%	(10,638,977.3)
GCC Individuals	0.53%	1.26%	(2,986,073.4)
GCC Institutions	1.85%	1.02%	3,389,928.2
GCC	2.37%	2.27%	403,854.8
Arab Individuals	10.95%	12.17%	(4,977,272.7)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	–
Arab	10.95%	12.17%	(4,977,272.7)
Foreigners Individuals	4.53%	3.28%	5,125,310.0
Foreigners Institutions	29.30%	26.83%	10,087,085.2
Foreigners	33.83%	30.11%	15,212,395.2

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

Ratings

Company	Agency	Market	Type*	Old Rating	New Rating	Rating Change	Outlook	Outlook Change
Sharjah Islamic Bank	Moody's	Abu Dhabi	IR/ST-CRR (Domestic)/ST-CRR (Foreign)/ LT-CRR (Domestic)/ LT-CRR (Foreign)/ABCA/BC A/ ST-CRA/ LT-CRA	A3/P-1/P-1/A2/A2/baa3/baa3/P-1(cr)/A2(cr)	Baa1/P-2/P-2/A3/A3/ba1/ba/P-2(cr)/A3(cr)	↓	Negative	–

Source: News reports, Bloomberg (* LT – Long Term, ST – Short Term, IR – Issuer Rating, CRR (Domestic) – Counterparty Risk Rating (Domestic), CRR (Foreign) – Counterparty Risk Rating (Foreign), CRA – Counterparty Risk Assessment, BCA – Baseline Credit Assessment, ABCA – Adjusted Baseline Credit Assessment)

News

Qatar

- Mannai Corporation launches dedicated unit to accelerate Qatar's digital transformation** – Mannai Corporation, a Microsoft Gold partner, has announced it has established a new division within its Information Systems business unit that will be dedicated to Microsoft solutions with the aim to accelerate the adoption of cloud technologies across Qatar, in line with the National Vision 2030. The move comes ahead of the launch of Microsoft's new Qatar cloud region, expected to be available this year. According to IDC, spending on public cloud services in Qatar is expected to rise nearly fourfold, from approximately \$60.4mn in 2019 to \$228.6mn in 2024. The research also cites that continuous investments in cloud and digital transformation initiatives led by government and businesses in the country, are expected to generate \$3.14bn in net new revenues over the next four years. (Qatar Tribune)
- Dlala Holding discloses the collection of a sum of money** – Dlala Brokerage and Investment Holding Company (DBIS) announced that Dlala Brokerage Company, one of the subsidiary companies, has obtained an amount of nine million Qatari riyals in the civil case No. 2859/2016 filed from it against one of its clients, and this amount will affect the consolidated financial statements of the company. (QSE)
- New batch of real estate brokers obtains license** – A new batch of licensed Qatari real estate brokers took the legal oath before the Real Estate Brokers Affairs Committee at the Ministry of Justice. The batch consisted of 21 brokers, raising the

number of licensed brokers since the start of the implementation of the new law to more than 174 Qatari real estate brokers who are licensed and registered with the Real Estate Brokerage Department. The licensing of this batch, which is the eleventh since the Ministry of Justice began to activate Law No. 22 of 2017 on real estate brokerage, comes within the framework of the implementation procedures of the provisions of the law, and pushing the real estate brokerage business towards an organized legal environment to keep pace with the economic and urban renaissance witnessed by the country, and the need for reconfiguring and organizing the real estate system to achieve the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Envoy: EU strongly supports Qatar for cooperation in clean energy** – European Union strongly supports complete exchange and cooperation in initiatives with Qatari stakeholders in the field of renewable and clean energy, said HE Dr. Cristian Tudor, EU Ambassador in Kuwait and Qatar. The role of hydrogen as a clean fuel has been growing and with lowering cost of solar and wind power, hydrogen is becoming a big game-changer in the green energy. The webinar was organized by the European Union Delegation to State of Kuwait and the State of Qatar, the EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network, and the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The webinar titled 'Hydrogen, the energy carrier of the future', featured high level participation of Dr. Abdul Sattar Al Taie, Executive Director, QNRF and Frank Wouters, Director, EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network. Speaking during the webinar, Dr. Cristian Tudor said, "To

support cooperation with Qatar and the GCC on clean energy the EU mobilizes flexible mechanism, the EU-GCC clean energy technology network is one of the most notable of them. This network was created in 2010, which is funded by the EU and has already carried out important activities in Qatar in cooperation with the Qatari authorities and research institutes," he added. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **QFC eyes Russia businesses in digital, sports, financial services** – Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) is eyeing Russian businesses, especially in the areas of digital, sports, media and financial services, as part of its efforts to further strengthen trade, economic and investment relations between the two countries. In this context, QFC, a leading financial and business center on land in the region, is ready to participate in the 24th edition of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), which will be held from 2 to 5 June. QFC joins over 50 leading Qatari public and private sector entities as part of the Qatari delegation as a guest country. (Gulf-times.com)
- **QIA withdraws Emadi from QNBK board** – Qatar National Bank (QNBK) announced that the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) has decided to withdraw the board membership from Mr. Ali Shareef Al-Emadi as a representative of QIA on the Board of Directors of Qatar National Bank. Therefore, the Deputy Chairman, H.E. Sheikh Fahad Bin Faisal Bin Thani Al-Thani will perform the duties of the Chairman until a new Chairman is elected to the board of Qatar National Bank. (QSE)
- **Qatar commercial banks post robust growth in credit to public sector** – Qatar's commercial banks witnessed a robust double-digit growth in credit to the public sector and domestic debt as their total assets reached QR1.75tn this April, according to the central bank data. The Qatar Central Bank (QCB) data also highlighted that the government debt and Sukuk were in the decline, while that of the banks were on the increase in April 2021. The robust growth in the domestic and foreign assets led the commercial banks total assets to expand 11.57% YoY this April, indicating the sector's support to the country's economy in the review period. The monthly Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) of the Qatar Financial Centre suggests strong quarterly expansion, indicating the recovery of the non-energy economy. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Doha Bank enters into a liquidity provision agreement** – Doha Bank announced that it has entered into a liquidity provision agreement with The Group Securities after obtaining Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) approval and in accordance with the approved liquidity provisioning scheme. The Group Securities will commence the liquidity provisioning for Doha Bank effective from Monday, May 31, 2021. (QSE)
- **EIU: Qatar's fiscal account set to return to surplus in 2021 on oil price, easing public debt pressures** – Qatar's fiscal account will return to surplus in 2021 as a result of recovering international oil prices, easing public debt pressures, The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has said in an update. Qatar's ability to fully service its sizeable debt obligations remains strong, supported by ample foreign reserves and the assets of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the sovereign wealth fund. The country's economic risk stemming from regional disputes has "considerably lessened", EIU said on account of the end of the blockade. On currency, EIU said the "Qatari riyal's peg to the US dollar will continue to be backed by healthy foreign reserves and QIA assets." The currency risk has been 'BB' rated by EIU, underlined by a recovery in international oil prices and an expected shift from a deficit on the current account to a surplus in 2021. In terms of the Qatari banking sector, it said the banking sector risk rating is 'BB'. The rating is supported by a robust regulatory framework and solid capital and liquidity indicators. The ratio of non-performing loans to total loans has

historically been low but is likely to rise in the short term. EIU also noted Qatar Government's "decisive" response to the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, including a fiscal stimulus package. (Gulf-Times.com)

- **Ooredoo launches new 5G mobile broadband plans for business customers** – Ooredoo has announced the launch of new Aamali mobile broadband plans. Drawing upon the power of 5G and the successful Aamali brand, these new plans constitute Ooredoo's first-ever launch of a range of entirely business-focused mobile broadband plans. The new Aamali mobile broadband plans will offer greater allowances at competitive prices, as demanded by business customers. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Qatar, Egypt aim to bolster co-operation** – His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani sent a written message to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, pertaining to bilateral relations and the means to enhance them. The message was delivered by HE the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, during a meeting with the president yesterday in Cairo. At the outset of the meeting, HE the Deputy Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of the Amir to the president, and the Amir's wishes of good health and happiness to al-Sisi and for the Egyptian people continued progress and prosperity. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Labor minister, Jordanian minister discuss relations** – Minister of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs HE Yousef bin Mohammed Al Othman Fakhroo met with Minister of Social Development of Jordan Ayman Riad Al Mufleh and his accompanying delegation. On the sidelines of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to enhance cooperation between the two sides in the fields of family affairs and social development. The memorandum of understanding included the exchange of experiences, information, studies and legislation in the fields of social affairs. The cooperation comes in the context of following up the implementation of joint projects between the two countries and the means of strengthening them. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Ashghal's South Duhail and Umm Lekhba Infrastructure Project to boost local development** – The Roads and Infrastructure Project in South Duhail and Umm Lekhba (Package 1) by the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) will provide full infrastructure for the area, with well-developed services and internal streets network in order to improve traffic flow and provide connectivity with public utilities. According to an Ashghal statement, construction works of the QR422mn project that started in the first quarter of 2020 are progressing. The project is implemented as part of Ashghal's plan to develop roads and infrastructure to serve citizens' subdivisions and plots in different areas nationwide. (Gulf-Times.com)
- **Qatar supports countries and organizations in combating Covid-19 pandemic** – Qatar, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, has supported the efforts of countries and organizations in combating Covid-19, and funded dozens of nations in their fight against the pandemic, HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari has stressed. "Qatar has allocated \$20mn to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and, more recently, Qatar signed a \$10mn core contribution agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to support WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13) and the initiative of accelerating the access to Covid-19 tools in countries most in need," she said in her speech at the World Health Assembly. HE Dr al-Kuwari heads the Qatari delegation at the World Health Assembly's 74th session, which is taking place virtually until June 1. (Gulf-Times.com)

International

- **US Senate Republicans prepare new infrastructure offer** – US Senate Republicans plan to unveil a counteroffer to President, Joe Biden's \$1.7tn infrastructure proposal on Thursday, though one of their leaders said on Tuesday the two sides remain far apart. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, leading a six-member Republican negotiating team, told reporters the group could also seek another meeting with Biden in an 11th-hour bid to reach a bipartisan deal to revitalize America's roads, bridges and other facilities. The No. 3 Senate Republican, John Barrasso, sounded a pessimistic note, telling reporters: "We are now very far apart. We were pretty close when we met with President Biden in the White House." It was not clear what the updated Republican package would contain. The group initially proposed a \$568 billion, five-year framework here. Capito said the proposal has been recalibrated along the same eight-year horizon as Biden's plan. Such a change could increase its size to around \$1tn. (Reuters)
- **ELFA survey: US business borrowings jump 19% in April** – US companies borrowed \$9.8bn for capital investments in April, up 19% from a year earlier, benefiting from an economic recovery triggered by mass COVID-19 vaccinations and easing restrictions, the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association (ELFA) said. Borrowing in April rose 5% from the previous month, as companies across several sectors lined up for loans, leases and lines of credit. "An increasing number of businesses are opening up, as more Americans are receiving a vaccination, traveling and otherwise trying to return to some semblance of normalcy," ELFA Chief Executive Officer, Ralph Petta said on Tuesday. (Reuters)
- **US new home sales drop in April; March sales revised sharply lower** – Sales of new US single-family homes dropped in April as prices surged amid a tight supply of houses, which is threatening to slow the housing market momentum. New home sales dropped 5.9% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 863,000 units last month, the Commerce Department said on Tuesday. March's sales pace was revised lower to 917,000 units from the previously reported 1.021mn units. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast new home sales, which account for a small share of US home sales, at a rate of 970,000 units in April. New home sales are drawn from a sample of houses selected from building permits and tend to be volatile on a month-to-month basis. Sales surged 48.3% on a YoY basis in April. Monthly sales declined in the populous South, the Midwest and Northeast, but rose in the West. The market for new homes is being boosted by near record low inventory of previously owned houses, especially entry level homes. The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled demand for spacious and more expensive accommodations as millions of Americans work from home and take classes remotely. (Reuters)
- **US consumer confidence little changed in May** – US consumer confidence was little changed in May as consumers' short-term optimism of conditions retreated on expectations for decelerating growth and softening labor market conditions in the months ahead. The Conference Board said on Tuesday its Consumer Confidence Index dipped to a reading of 117.2 this month, following a reading of 117.5 in April. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast a reading of 119.2 in May. (Reuters)
- **UK retail sales slip back after post-lockdown surge** – British retailers said sales fell back to more normal volumes earlier this month after a flurry of demand in April when a relaxation in lockdown rules allowed non-essential shops to reopen for the first time in months. The Confederation of British Industry said its monthly balance for whether sales were above or below normal for the time of year dropped to -3 in May from +16 in April, indicating roughly normal volumes. "Some retailers have suggested the increase in demand after the initial reopening of non-essential retail in early April was either short-lived or less strong than expected," CBI Economist, Ben Jones said. Clothing and specialist food stores reported below-average sales, while demand remained strong at supermarkets, hardware and furniture shops. Official retail sales data for April showed sales volumes jumped by a hefty 9.2% MoM and that volumes were 10% higher than pre-crisis levels. (Reuters)
- **UK borrowing shows first annual fall since start of pandemic** – Britain's massive public borrowing began to head downwards last month for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, bolstered by a brightening economic outlook that pointed to a potentially faster improvement in public finances. Public sector net borrowing in April totaled GBP31.7bn, official figures showed on Tuesday, down from a record GBP47.3bn a year earlier when the government finances felt the greatest impact of the pandemic. Britain's government has spent heavily over the past year on health measures to limit the impact of COVID-19 as well as wage guarantees to stop unemployment rising significantly during the sharpest economic downturn in more than 300 years. Borrowing in the 2020/21 financial year was GBP300.3bn or 14.3% of annual economic output, the highest share on this measure since the end of World War Two but slightly below an initial estimate a month ago. (Reuters)
- **Japan's PM fine-tunes spending plans as way out of COVID-19 slump** – Japanese Prime Minister, Yoshihide Suga on Tuesday unveiled a plan for targeted government spending, steering a careful course between the twin aims of reviving economic growth after a coronavirus-induced slump and balancing the budget. Suga identified four areas - digital transformation, a greener society, regional revival and childcare - as engines of new growth that the heavily indebted state would allocate funds to. "While putting our utmost priority on the coronavirus response, we are keeping an eye out for a post-coronavirus era where we will lead the world with strong economic growth," Suga said. "We won't abandon the flag of achieving a primary budget surplus," he also told his top economic advisory panel, while setting out mid-year policy objectives that also included doubling foreign direct investment to \$735bn by 2030. The panel, the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy (CEFP), will address the draft policy roadmap in more detail at a meeting in June. (Reuters)
- **Japan's service prices creep up as freight costs pinch firms** – Japan's corporate service prices rose for the second straight month in April due to a rebound in advertising and freight fees, data showed on Wednesday, a sign the economy was gradually emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic's initial hit. But the gain was driven mostly by fuel costs and the base effect of the previous year's sharp drop, suggesting higher commodities and transportation prices could pinch corporate bottom lines. The services producer price index, or the price companies charge each other for services, increased 1.0% in April from a year earlier, Bank of Japan data showed, accelerating from a 0.7% gain in March. Property rent and advertisement fees rose in April largely in reaction to last year's plunge caused by the outbreak of the pandemic, which triggered Japan's first state of emergency curbs. (Reuters)
- **India said to plan COVID-19 economic stimulus package** – India is preparing an economic stimulus package for the sectors worst affected by COVID-19, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday, citing sources. The finance ministry is working on proposals to bolster the tourism, aviation and hospitality industries, along with small and medium-sized companies, Bloomberg reported. The discussions were at an early stage and no timeline for an announcement was decided, the report added. (Reuters)

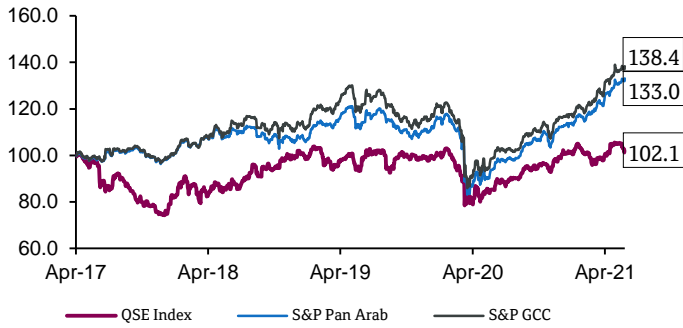
Regional

- **High confidence among business leaders in Middle East reflects resilience** – PwC Middle East has launched its Middle East findings of the Global Crisis Survey "Building a more resilient tomorrow, today", which examines how Middle East business leaders and organizations prepared for and responded to the unprecedented disruption of COVID-19 and, significantly, what actions helped companies to emerge stronger. The survey findings revealed that Middle East organizations had less of a negative impact as a result of the pandemic, with 41% responding that it had a positive impact, compared to only 20% globally. (Peninsula Business)
- **Saudi Arabia closes May Sukuk program at SR3.53bn** – Saudi Arabia's National Debt Management Center closed on Tuesday its local issuance for May 2021 of the government's Saudi Riyal-denominated Sukuk, or Islamic bonds, program at a total of SR3.53bn, the finance ministry said. The issuance was divided into two tranches; the first, amounting to SR3.305bn, matures in 2028. The second amounted to SR225mn and matures in 2033. (Reuters)
- **Russia offers cooperation with Saudi Arabia on hydrogen production** – Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Alexander Novak offered to work with Saudi Arabia on hydrogen production, speaking during an online meeting of the intergovernmental commission of Russia and Saudi Arabia. "We have a proposal to create a working group on hydrogen energy," Novak said. Hydrogen has gained traction as the future green fuel of choice, increasingly touted as a way to decarbonize emissions-intensive heavy industry and transportation. Oil and gas rich Russia has been slow in developing production of hydrogen gas, a fuel that emits only water vapor and warm air when burned, rather than carbon dioxide. Saudi Arabia, which plans to diversify the economy, is considering several large-scale project to produce hydrogen. Novak said that both Russia and Saudi Arabia have great potential to develop traditional and renewable sources of energy. (Reuters)
- **Dubai, Etihad Energy sign cooperation pact on cooling services** – Dubai's Real Estate Regulatory Agency (RERA) has signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoU) with Etihad Energy Services to reduce total service charge for unit owners in freehold properties. It will explore possibility of implementing energy efficiency solutions in the buildings to reduce energy costs RERA to provide 10 buildings to implement the pilot project. (Bloomberg)
- **Emaar Entertainment to renew local market focus as tourist traffic falls** – Emaar Entertainment, a subsidiary of Dubai-listed developer Emaar Properties, is ramping up its focus on the domestic market following a slump in international visitor traffic, its Chief Executive Officer, Zeina Dagher said. The entertainment sector, along with other industries, suffered at the onset of the pandemic last year, as businesses grounded to a halt while millions of customers stayed home. In Dubai, where international tourism receipts account for more than \$21bn as of 2018, the impact was very evident, as foot traffic at tourist landmarks, attractions and cinemas had plummeted. "The whole world came to a standstill. The whole world had closed and industries like entertainment, hospitality and air travel, unfortunately, have been the most hit," she said. (Zawya)
- **Abu Dhabi sells \$2bn in bonds despite oil rebound** – Abu Dhabi sold \$2bn in seven-year bonds on Tuesday in its first foray into the international debt markets this year, raising cash for state coffers despite a recent rebound in oil prices. The oil-rich Emirate sold the bonds at 45 basis points (bps) over US Treasuries. That was tightened from initial guidance of 70-75 bps over Treasuries after the debt sale received over \$6.9bn in orders. The UAE, where Abu Dhabi is the capital, was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and last year's crash in oil prices, but a rebound in global crude demand as economies re-open has reduced the urgency to borrow for budget purposes. "Seven years is the sweet spot in the market right now. A lot of issuers are choosing seven or 12 years because of the macros of rates," said Zeina Rizk, executive fixed income director at Arqaam Capital, adding some of the funds might end up boosting foreign currency reserves. Citi, First Abu Dhabi Bank, HSBC, JPMorgan and Standard Chartered are joint lead managers and joint bookrunners for the deal, according to a document from one of the banks, seen by Reuters. "This is more of an updating-the-curve kind of issuance. They didn't have a seven-year paper and hence the curve was being interpolated," another fund manager said. Abu Dhabi is expected to post a budget deficit of around AED43bn in 2021 against AED37.2bn last year, the preliminary prospectus for the new bond offering, reviewed by Reuters, showed. (Reuters)
- **ADNOC signs gas delivery deals with two UAE industrial firms** – The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has signed long-term gas sales agreements with UAE's leading industrial companies: Emirates Steel (ES), and Arkan, underscoring the energy giant's strategy to deliver sustainable gas supply and enable gas self-sufficiency for the Emirates. Emirates Steel is the largest integrated steel producer in the UAE, while Abu Dhabi-based Arkan is a construction and building materials company. ADNOC will supply natural gas to Emirates Steel and Arkan for the next 10 years to support their growing energy demand. (Zawya)
- **ADIA buys minority stake in healthcare IT group Dedalus** – The private equity arm of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) said on Tuesday it had bought a significant minority stake in healthcare software provider Dedalus Holding from private equity firm Ardian. Florence-based Dedalus provides healthcare information and clinical and administrative software to hospitals, clinics and laboratories, in more than 40 countries. Ardian will remain Dedalus' majority shareholder. (Zawya)
- **NPCC wins \$744mn Abu Dhabi oilfield development contract** – Abu Dhabi-headquartered National Petroleum Construction Company (NPCC) has been awarded a \$744mn local oilfield development contract, state news agency WAM reported on Tuesday, citing state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC). The engineering, procurement and construction contract is for the full field development of the Belbazem Offshore Block in Abu Dhabi, WAM said. The contract awarded by Al Yasat Petroleum Operations Company, a joint venture between ADNOC and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). (Reuters)
- **Abu Dhabi judge rules in favor of Dubai Islamic Bank in NMC case** – A judge in Abu Dhabi ruled in favor of Dubai Islamic Bank and against the administrators of NMC, in a case that could complicate the private healthcare firm's multi-billion-dollar debt restructuring. NMC ran into trouble last year after the disclosure of more than \$4bn in hidden debt and its UAE operating businesses were placed into administration in the courts of Abu Dhabi's international financial center ADGM. Dubai Islamic Bank, with over \$400mn in exposure to NMC, lent to the company using collateral known as insurance receivables, which relate to payments by insurance companies for medical treatment. NMC's administrators Alvarez & Marsal filed a suit in ADGM courts last month to obtain power over those securities, claimed by Dubai Islamic Bank, and possibly to use them to pay other creditors. (Reuters)
- **Abu Dhabi's KIZAD announces plans for green ammonia plant** – Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD) on Tuesday announced plans for the construction of a green ammonia

production facility, which will target regional and international markets. Helios Industry, a privately owned special project vehicle company, will invest "over \$1bn in the construction of the facility over several years," KIZAD said in a statement. Green ammonia is produced without fossil fuels and is used in the production of carbon-neutral fertilizer products. The project will be developed in two phases, the statement said. Once completed it is forecast to produce 200,000 tons of green ammonia from 40,000 tons of green hydrogen. (Reuters)

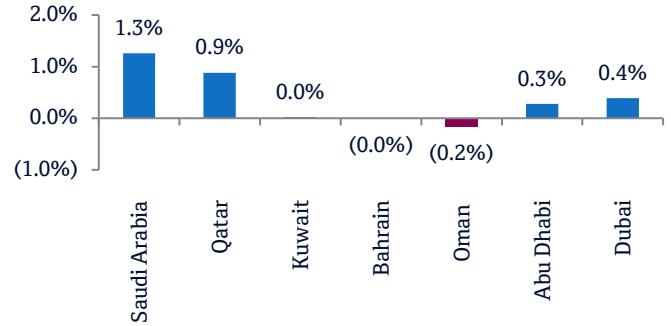
- **Oman orders speedier job creation over unemployment –** Oman state's new ruler, who ordered the government to accelerate plans to create thousands of jobs. Under the directive of Oman's ruler, the government launched initiatives to create more jobs and support employees, state-run Oman TV reported. The initiatives include creating 2,000 jobs in the public sector. Private sector should give 15,000 of their newly hired employees an additional OMR200 for two years, 15,000 business owners will get a one-off payment of OMR200.500. (Reuters, Bloomberg)
- **Bahrain sells BHD100mn 364-day bills; bid-cover at 3.06x –** Bahrain sold BHD100mn of 364-day bills due on May 26, 2022. Investors offered to buy 3.06 times the amount of securities sold. The bills were sold at a price of 98.272, have a yield of 1.74% and will settle on May 27. (Bloomberg)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,899.25	1.0	1.0	0.0
Silver/Ounce	28.00	0.8	1.6	6.0
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	68.65	0.3	3.3	32.5
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	66.07	0.0	3.9	36.2
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.84	2.2	1.4	18.8
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	86.00	2.1	4.6	14.3
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	88.25	1.1	2.3	27.0
Euro	1.23	0.3	0.6	0.3
Yen	108.78	0.0	(0.2)	5.4
GBP	1.42	(0.0)	0.0	3.5
CHF	1.12	0.2	0.3	(1.2)
AUD	0.78	(0.0)	0.2	0.7
USD Index	89.64	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.3)
RUB	73.50	0.0	(0.2)	(1.2)
BRL	0.19	(0.2)	0.6	(2.5)

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,965.51	(0.0)	0.8	10.2
DJ Industrial	34,312.46	(0.2)	0.3	12.1
S&P 500	4,188.13	(0.2)	0.8	11.5
NASDAQ 100	13,657.17	(0.0)	1.4	6.0
STOXX 600	445.20	0.2	0.8	11.7
DAX	15,465.09	0.8	0.8	12.3
FTSE 100	7,029.79	(0.4)	0.1	12.7
CAC 40	6,390.27	(0.1)	0.7	15.3
Nikkei	28,553.98	0.6	0.9	(1.3)
MSCI EM	1,345.49	1.4	1.2	4.2
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,581.34	2.5	3.1	5.0
HANG SENG	28,910.86	1.8	1.6	6.0
BSE SENSEX	50,637.53	0.1	0.3	6.4
Bovespa	122,987.70	(0.7)	1.0	0.6
RTS	1,580.69	0.6	0.7	13.9

Source: Bloomberg (*\$ adjusted returns)

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