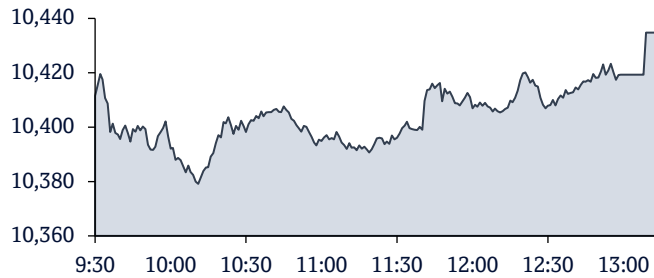


### QSE Intra-Day Movement



### Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.4% to close at 10,434.8. Gains were led by the Insurance and Transportation indices, gaining 3.0% and 0.6%, respectively. Top gainers were Djala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co. and Widam Food Company, rising 10.0% and 9.0%, respectively. Among the top losers, Doha Insurance Group fell 3.4%, while Qatar Islamic Insurance Company was down 3.3%.

### GCC Commentary

**Saudi Arabia:** The TASI Index gained 0.6% to close at 11,293.6. Gains were led by the Software & Services and Insurance indices, rising 7.1% and 3.2%, respectively. Elm Co. rose 10.0%, while Arabian Internet and Communications Services Co. was up 5.8%.

**Dubai:** The DFM Index gained 1.4% to close at 3,652.6. The Consumer Discretionary index rose 7.8%, while the Utilities index gained 5.1%. Orascom Construction rose 9.9%, while Taaleem Holdings was up 7.8%.

**Abu Dhabi:** The ADX General Index fell 0.3% to close at 9,375.8. The Consumer Discretionary and Telecommunication indices declined 1.4%, each. ADNOC Drilling Co. declined 4.1%, while Q Holding was down 3.8%.

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait All Share Index gained 0.8% to close at 6,905.9. The Energy index rose 3.1%, while the Health Care index gained 2.0%. Independent Petroleum Group rose 9.4%, while Kuwait Business Town Real Estate Co. was up 8.2%.

**Oman:** The MSM 30 Index fell 0.2% to close at 4,654.8. Losses were led by the Services and Financial indices, falling 0.7% and 0.5%, respectively. Muscat Gases Company declined 10.0%, while Al Madina Investment Company was down 9.3%.

**Bahrain:** The BHB Index gained marginally to close at 1,955.2. The Real Estate index rose 1.9% while the Industrials index gained 1.2%. Bahrain Ship Repairing and Engineering Company rose 9.4%, while Al Salam Bank was up 2.8%.

Market Indicators	05 Jun 23	04 Jun 23	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	576.4	469.0	22.9
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	617,267.0	616,140.7	0.2
Volume (mn)	206.5	186.9	10.5
Number of Transactions	22,282	16,455	35.4
Companies Traded	48	48	0.0
Market Breadth	20:22	38:7	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	22,394.50	0.4	2.2	2.4	12.5
All Share Index	3,526.17	0.4	2.1	3.2	136.0
Banks	4,357.08	0.4	2.3	(0.7)	13.4
Industrials	3,941.52	(0.1)	1.9	4.2	13.2
Transportation	4,762.16	0.6	1.3	9.8	13.6
Real Estate	1,581.67	0.4	1.7	1.4	19.0
Insurance	2,401.84	3.0	4.9	9.9	178.7
Telecoms	1,640.95	0.4	2.2	24.5	14.5
Consumer Goods and Services	7,910.83	0.1	1.3	(0.1)	22.7
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,676.79	0.4	2.1	1.9	8.7

GCC Top Gainers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Dubai Electricity & Water Authority	Dubai	2.65	6.4	122,457	15.8
Savola Group	Saudi Arabia	38.75	3.5	1,206.6	41.2
Saudi Research & Media Gr.	Saudi Arabia	194.80	3.1	78.9	7.0
Ahli Bank	Oman	0.19	2.8	405.1	8.2
Yanbu National Petro. Co.	Saudi Arabia	44.20	2.2	1,825.7	6.3

GCC Top Losers**	Exchange	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait	Kuwait	0.27	(4.6)	3,229.2	(13.5)
Q Holding	Abu Dhabi	2.30	(3.8)	13,714.7	(42.5)
Jabal Omar Dev. Co.	Saudi Arabia	25.45	(1.5)	6,382.3	54.1
Emirates Telecommunications	Saudi Arabia	22.60	(1.5)	1,237.7	(1.1)
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank	Abu Dhabi	10.14	(1.4)	817.2	11.3

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%
Djala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co.	1.512	10.0	5,655.9	32.4
Widam Food Company	2.365	9.0	6,702.0	16.4
Qatar German Co for Med. Devices	2.538	7.1	16,487.4	101.9
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.999	6.5	1,505.6	30.3
Qatar Insurance Company	2.224	5.6	3,979.2	15.7

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Masraf Al Rayan	2.694	1.1	18,174.1	(15.0)
Qatar German Co for Med. Devices	2.538	7.1	16,487.4	101.9
Vodafone Qatar	1.834	0.1	14,406.9	15.7
Ezdan Holding Group	1.141	(1.0)	13,177.8	14.0
Mazaya Qatar Real Estate Dev.	0.818	(0.7)	12,004.4	17.5

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Doha Insurance Group	2.120	(3.4)	30.4	7.1
Qatar Islamic Insurance Company	8.650	(3.3)	10.8	(0.6)
National Leasing	0.833	(2.0)	9,453.8	18.3
Mannai Corporation	6.000	(1.5)	956.2	(20.9)
Salam International Inv. Ltd.	0.730	(1.2)	7,827.2	18.9

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Industries Qatar	12.19	(0.5)	54,652.9	(4.8)
QNB Group	16.28	(0.2)	51,811.6	(9.6)
Masraf Al Rayan	2.694	1.1	48,804.7	(15.0)
Qatar Islamic Bank	18.33	1.4	42,004.1	(1.2)
Qatar German Co for Med. Devices	2.538	7.1	40,820.7	101.9

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,434.78	0.4	2.2	2.8	(2.3)	158.21	168,760.8	12.5	1.4	4.7
Dubai	3,652.64	1.4	2.0	2.1	9.5	195.51	173,419.5	8.9	1.2	4.9
Abu Dhabi	9,375.76	(0.3)	0.1	(0.3)	(8.2)	246.21	693,838.9	28.7	2.5	1.9
Saudi Arabia	11,293.59	0.6	2.5	2.5	7.8	1,703.66	2,909,574.5	17.7	2.2	3.0
Kuwait	6,905.87	0.8	1.7	1.6	(5.3)	257.26	143,893.1	17.0	1.5	3.9
Oman	4,654.80	(0.2)	0.5	0.6	(4.2)	7.11	22,328.7	15.2	1.1	4.5
Bahrain	1,955.24	0.0	(0.1)	(0.4)	3.2	10.53	65,585.1	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 #)

### Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.4% to close at 10,434.8. The Insurance and Transportation 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.
- Dlala Brokerage & Inv. Holding Co. and Widam Food Company were the top gainers, rising 10.0% and 9.0%, respectively. Among the top losers, Doha Insurance Group fell 3.4%, while Qatar Islamic Insurance Company was down 3.3%.
- Volume of shares traded on Monday rose by 10.5% to 206.5mn from 186.9mn on Sunday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 239mn, volume for the day was 13.6% lower. Masraf Al Rayan and Qatar German Co for Med. Devices were the most active stocks, contributing 8.8% and 8.0% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy %*	Sell %*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	32.26%	34.32%	(11,895,819.64)
Qatari Institutions	24.95%	26.40%	(8,339,015.46)
<b>Qatari</b>	<b>57.21%</b>	<b>60.72%</b>	<b>(20,234,835.10)</b>
GCC Individuals	0.44%	0.45%	(87,392.74)
GCC Institutions	6.16%	2.53%	20,939,680.97
<b>GCC</b>	<b>6.60%</b>	<b>2.98%</b>	<b>20,852,288.23</b>
Arab Individuals	13.09%	13.93%	(4,806,027.19)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	(11,696.06)
<b>Arab</b>	<b>13.09%</b>	<b>13.93%</b>	<b>(4,817,723.25)</b>
Foreigners Individuals	2.31%	2.32%	(78,209.31)
Foreigners Institutions	20.79%	20.05%	4,278,479.43
<b>Foreigners</b>	<b>23.10%</b>	<b>22.37%</b>	<b>4,200,270.12</b>

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

### Global Economic Data

#### Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05-06	US	Markit	S&P Global US Services PMI	May	54.90	55.10	55.10
05-06	US	Markit	S&P Global US Composite PMI	May	54.30	54.50	54.50
05-06	UK	Markit	S&P Global/CIPS UK Services PMI	May	55.20	55.10	55.10
05-06	UK	Markit	S&P Global/CIPS UK Composite PMI	May	54.00	53.90	53.90
05-06	EU	Markit	HCOB Eurozone Composite PMI	May	52.80	53.30	53.30
05-06	EU	Markit	HCOB Eurozone Services PMI	May	55.10	55.90	55.90
05-06	EU	Eurostat	PPI MoM	Apr	-3.20%	-3.10%	-1.30%
05-06	EU	Eurostat	PPI YoY	Apr	1.00%	1.70%	5.50%
05-06	Germany	Markit	HCOB Germany Services PMI	May	57.20	57.80	57.80
05-06	Germany	Markit	HCOB Germany Composite PMI	May	53.90	54.30	54.30
05-06	China	Markit	Caixin China PMI Composite	May	55.60	NA	53.60
05-06	China	Markit	Caixin China PMI Services	May	57.10	55.20	56.40
05-06	Japan	Markit	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Composite	May	54.30	NA	54.90
05-06	Japan	Markit	Jibun Bank Japan PMI Services	May	55.90	NA	56.30

### Qatar

- Meeza opens IPO subscription for 324.5mn shares** - Following the announcement of its intention to float (ITF), Meeza, the leading managed IT service provider in Qatar, announced the commencement of the subscription period for its shares today. This subscription period will be open until June 19, 2023, allowing interested Qatari individual and corporate investors to participate in the initial public offering (IPO) and take advantage of the company's strong and stable growth. The total offering comprises of 324,490,000 ordinary fully paid-up shares, priced at QR2.17 per share. Each share includes QR1.00 of nominal value, a premium of QR1.16, and Offering and Listing Fees of QR0.01 per share. Investors can now subscribe to the IPO during this period. The offering is exclusively available to Qatari citizens and legal entities incorporated in Qatar, in accordance with the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) Rulebook, the Qatar Financial Market Authority Offering Rules, and the Articles. Other investors will have the opportunity to purchase shares on the secondary market once Meeza is listed, which is expected to occur sometime in July, subject to the necessary regulatory approvals. To subscribe, investors must submit their subscription applications through any of the Receiving Banks. They can choose to apply online or manually at the respective branches. Additionally, investors need to provide a valid Qatar National ID for Individual Investors or a Commercial Registration Number for Corporate Investors. The subscription application must be accompanied by full payment for the desired number of Offer Shares. The Lead

Receiving Bank is Qatar National Bank QPSC. Other receiving banks participating in the IPO include Ahli Bank QPSC, Arab Bank Group PLC, Commercial Bank PSQC, Doha Bank QPSC, Masraf Al Rayan QPS, Qatar Islamic Bank QPSC, and Qatar International Islamic Bank QPSC. (Qatar Tribune)

- Q1 2023 State Budget Surplus at QR19.7bn**

(QR Billion)	Q1 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	YoY (% Change)	QoQ (% Change)
Oil and Gas Revenue	59.4	59.3	63.4	6.7%	6.9%
Non-Oil and Gas Revenue	5.6	5.8	5.2	-7.6%	-10.3%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>68.6</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
Salaries and Wages	15.4	15.4	15.6	0.8%	1.0%
Other Current Expenditures	16.5	19.3	17.3	4.8%	-10.4%
Minor Capex	1.1	1.4	1.0	-9.1%	-28.6%
Major Capex	18.4	17.4	15.1	-18.2%	-13.4%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>-4.9%</b>	<b>-8.6%</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>44.5%</b>	<b>69.7%</b>

The Ministry of Finance announced yesterday that the Budget of the State of Qatar for the first quarter of the year 2023 recorded a surplus of QR 19.7bn. In its briefing on the actual data of Qatar's budget in the first quarter (Q1) of 2023, the ministry said that the total revenues for this quarter amounted to QR68.6bn, of which QR 63.4bn were oil and gas revenues, while non-oil revenues amounted to QR5.2bn. The total

expenditures in the same quarter of 2023 amounted to QR48.9bn, of which QR15.6bn were for salaries and wages and QR17.3bn for current expenses, while secondary capital expenditures amounted to QR1bn and major capital expenditures amounted to QR15.1bn, the statement added. Through its data, the Ministry of Finance explained that the actual average oil price during the aforementioned quarter amounted to \$82.2 per barrel, which is higher than the estimated price in Qatar's budget for the year 2023 which amounts to \$65 per barrel. The ministry's estimated data for the state's general budget for the year 2023 estimated the surplus at QR 29bn for the entire year 2023, which means that about 68% of this amount has already been achieved during the first quarter of 2023 only. Upon issuing the State of Qatar's budget for the fiscal year 2023, HE Minister of Finance Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari stated that the surplus will be directed to paying off the public debt, supporting the reserves of Qatar Central Bank (QCB), and increasing the capital of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). His Excellency pointed out that an average oil price of \$65 per barrel, on the basis of which the general budget for the year 2023 was built, is a conservative price adopted by the Ministry of Finance as part of its strategy to ensure the ability to allocate financial resources for existing commitments expected during the year, as well as to finance programs and projects of the national development strategy. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Qatar Stock Exchange announces the issuance of the amended version of the QSE Rules Book** - Qatar Stock Exchange announces the issuance of the amended version of the QSE Rules Book on the Qatar Stock Exchange, approved by the Qatar Financial Markets Authority, to be implemented as of Thursday, June 8, 2023. It should be noted that the following articles have been amended: First: Articles from the beginning of Chapter Two to the end of Chapter Seven of Chapter Four of the Rules. Second: Articles (6.3.1 - 6.3.2 - 6.7.12 - 6.8.1) of Part Six of the same rules. Third: Definitions related to them in Article (1.1.1). (QSE)
- Dlala Brokerage and Investment Holding Company discloses the results of the Board of Directors meeting on June 04** - Dlala Brokerage and Investment Holding Company announced the results of the Board of Directors meeting held on 04/06/2023, whereas decisions related to the conduct of business in the company and its subsidiaries were approved. (QSE)
- Al Faleh Educational Holding Q.P.S.C: To disclose its Quarter 3 financial results on June 12** - Al Faleh Educational Holding Q.P.S.C discloses its financial statement for the period ending 31st May 2023 on 12/06/2023. (QSE)
- Qatar's first EV brand unveiled** - EcoTranzit Company unveiled Qatar's first electric vehicle brand under its exclusive intellectual property rights during an event in Doha on Sunday in the presence of the Minister of Transport HE Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti. The event was attended by Minister of Environment and Climate Change HE Sheikh Dr. Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali Al Thani, Minister of State and Chairman of Qatar Free Zones Authority HE Ahmad Al Sayed, Chairman of Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani, President of Kahramaa Engineer Essa bin Hilal Al Kuwari, President of Ashghal HE Dr. Eng. Saad Ahmed Al Mohannadi, alongside other esteemed dignitaries, government representatives, automotive agencies, and relevant entities. Chairman of EcoTranzit HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Thani expressed his enthusiasm for this significant achievement during his speech, stating: "We are thrilled to embark on this remarkable venture within our beloved nation through the introduction of these innovative electric vehicles. "Our paramount objective is to redefine the realm of intelligent mobility by offering environmentally conscious vehicles that seamlessly integrate contemporary design, top-notch specifications, and practical models suitable for diverse applications. We are committed to serving our environment, augmenting the quality of life for future generations, and forging a wholesome and sustainable future. "Speaking to The Peninsula, Sheikh Khalifa said: "Qatar's dedicated focus on transforming public transportation into a sustainable and eco-friendly system was a motivating factor for our company to enter the Qatari market." "Qatar plans to convert 25% of private vehicles into electric vehicles," he added. He underscored their commitment to developing and investing in electric

vehicles. "As a critical initial step, we have collaborated with our global partners to secure exclusive intellectual property rights for the vehicles unveiled today. Our goal is to design and manufacture our own vehicles," he said. Fedya Jia, Vice General Manager of Baw Qingdao International Chinese company - one of EcoTranzit's global partners - told The Peninsula that they were "delighted to cooperate with EcoTranzit. Our company looks forward to expanding its business in Qatar and further collaborating with EcoTranzit." Co-Founder and Board Member EcoTranzit Saad Doukali affirmed the company's strong commitment, alongside the Qatari government, to develop the necessary infrastructure for electric charging stations. He told The Peninsula, "Qatar's strategy for 2030 is to construct 30,000 electric charging stations by 2027. Until 2029, the public will be able to charge their electric cars free of charge at the designated charging stations." "We have partnered with a reputable automobile dealer who will serve as our brand agent, ensuring the provision of showrooms and maintenance centers," he added. (Peninsula Qatar)

- QFC PMI: Tourism, financial services demand boosts confidence in Qatar's non-energy private sector in May** - Qatar saw strongest improvement in business conditions in non-energy private sector since July 2022 on accelerated growth in output, new orders, employment and purchasing, according to the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC). The PMI rose for the sixth time in seven months to 55.6 in May, from 54.4 in April, indicating the strongest improvement in business conditions since July 2022. The latest figure moved further above the long-run trend of 52.3. "Qatar's non-energy private sector remained on an upward growth trajectory in May, as inflows of new business accelerated in part due to tourism and demand for financial services," said Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida, chief executive officer, QFC Authority. The Qatar PMI indices are compiled from survey responses from a panel of around 450 private sector companies. The panel covers the manufacturing, construction, wholesale, retail, and services sectors, and reflects the structure of the non-energy economy according to official national accounts data. The headline QFC PMI is a composite single-figure indicator of non-energy private sector performance. It is derived from indicators for new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases. The PMI figure was mainly boosted by the output and new orders components in May, while employment and stocks of purchases also had positive overall contributions. New business increased at the fastest rate in ten months in May. Companies reported signing new contracts with both existing and new customers, alongside new product offerings and tourism demand. New business in financial services was also a strong point in the latest findings. Total business activity rose further in May. Output has risen every month for almost three years straight, except for a brief correction in January following the conclusion of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The rate of expansion in May was the strongest of 2023 so far and well above the six-year survey trend. The 12-month outlook for the non-energy private sector improved in May. The Future Output Index rose for the first time in three months to 59.2, with confidence strengthening in the services, wholesale and retail, and construction sectors. Non-oil private sector employment rose to the greatest degree since July 2022, helping firms to further reduce their levels of outstanding business in May. Demand for inputs strengthened, but supply chains coped admirably as average lead times were cut again. According to the QFC PMI, May data signaled a strong month for financial services companies in Qatar. Rates of expansion in new business and total activity both accelerated since April, and the 12-month outlook strengthened. "Financial services continued to outperform the wider economy, with its key indices for activity and new business registering 61.4 and 61.8, respectively. Financial services firms also raised their charges, in contrast to little change across the non-energy sector as a whole," al-Jaida said. (Gulf Times)
- QFCRA action against two Horizon Crescent Wealth directors** - The QFC Regulatory Authority (QFCRA) has announced that it has taken disciplinary actions against two directors of Horizon Crescent Wealth LLC (HCW) for contraventions relating to the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorist Financing Rules 2010 (AML/CFTR). In 2019, the QFCRA took disciplinary action against HCW. HCW is licensed as a Trust Administrator and as such is a designated non-financial business or

profession (DNFBP), subject to AML/CFTR. The QFCRA fined HCW QR 30,000,000 for serious legal and regulatory breaches of the AML/CFTR, QFC Law No. 7 of 2005 and the Financial Services Regulations. Following its disciplinary action against the firm, the QFCRA commenced an investigation into the role played by its Directors in the firm's contraventions. As a result, the QFCRA took disciplinary action against two Directors of HCW for their failures in operating HCW. Mr Patrick Baeriswyl who held the senior executive function of HCW was fined QAR 728,000 (\$200,000) and Mr Jean Marc Mantegani, who was also the Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO) of HCW, was fined QAR 1,092,606 (\$300,000). In addition, both Mr Baeriswyl and Mr Mantegani were prohibited from carrying out any functions for firms in the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) indefinitely. The action taken by the QFCRA against Mr Baeriswyl and Mr Mantegani, emphasizes the standards required of a licensed firm and its senior management to ensure effective compliance with QFCRA rules, including those rules required to ensure that firms have effective systems and controls in place to combat illicit finance. Both Mr Baeriswyl and Mr Mantegani appealed the QFCRA's decision to impose financial penalties and a prohibition. The QFC Regulatory Tribunal upheld the financial penalties and the prohibition imposed by the QFCRA and dismissed their appeals. The Tribunal's decision related to Mr Baeriswyl and Mantegani can be found on the Court's website. (Qatar Tribune)

- **'Attracting investors with high-quality facilities, services a key pillar in Qatar'** - Real Estate sector is one of the biggest markets in the GCC for foreign and local investors said officials during the second day of the Real Estate Forum held yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel Doha. The event highlighted some of the effective ways to attract potential investors locally and internationally. In a session entitled 'The Real Estate Investor's Journey - Reality versus Hope,' experts explained the investor's requirements to be met and the best international practices and solutions to promote investments in the industry. The Panelists included Eng. Tariq Al Tamimi, Secretary of the committee on real estate sector development strategy at the Ministry of Municipality from Qatar, Sheikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Chairman & Managing Director of Qetaifan Projects, Ibrahim Jassim Al Othman, UDC President, CEO & Member of The Board, Dr. Abdulla Al Mehshadi, CEO of Al Waab City, Fahad Mansour Al Hashem, and Real Estate Managing Director, representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Sheikh Al Thani said that there are undoubtedly barriers faced by the people working in the real estate sector. However, solutions must be implemented swiftly to overcome challenges in a social aspect. He said: "It's not just about planning but from the start we need to use effective tools to attract investors that result in successful planning." "Speaking on the Qetaifan projects that are currently underway in the region he said that "There were challenges as usual, especially during the Corona pandemic. The lack of importing and high prices affected our contractors to provide us with facilities." "There are big demands in the market rights now and we need to diversify our projects as investors ask us about laws and regulations in this country. Providing the investors with high-quality services and attracting them is one of the key solutions industry officials must implement, Al Thani added. UDC President Ibrahim lauded the initiatives taken to develop major projects including The Pearl and Gewan Islands that are exhibited to attract numerous investors internationally and locally. Talking about the obstacles people in the residential units face on a day-to-day basis, he said that "We try to find solutions with the least cost because in many areas like designs and infrastructures, it will be very high and that could affect the investors." Dr. Al Mehshadi said that "I think external investors need a clear vision of Qatar. All entities in the region have their own rules that must be followed and there also must be a proper coordination and communication to draw more investors to the country." Stressing the need to analyze policies and data, Eng. Al Tamimi stated that the industry has several opinions that must be analyzed. He also provided effective strategies to implement during the session that are the key pillars of the real estate sector including foreign investors, citizens, challenges like finances, clear procedures and promoting the projects. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Private sector vital for sustaining Qatar's post-World Cup real estate gains** - Qatar's property market benefitted from the successful delivery of the FIFA World Cup 2022, but the ball is now in the court of the private sector to continue the gains of the real estate sector post-tournament, the

Qatar Real Estate Forum was told Monday. Engineer Nasser Hassan al-Ansari, chairman of Just Real Estate Company, made this observation during the first session of the day, titled 'The Post-World Cup Real Estate Sector'. He was joined by other members of the panel, including Omar al-Jaber, director of Shared Services, Qatar Tourism; Ahmad Mohamed Tayeb, chief of investments, Qatari Diar; Jassim Mohamed, director, Personnel Housing and Government Buildings Affairs; and Mohamed al-Asmakh, director of operations, Katara Hospitality. "We have responded to the requirements of the World Cup, and I think the real estate sector was able to respond to all the needs of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Today, the responsibility is on the shoulder of the private sector. "The government has executed and implemented all the infrastructure, and it enacted laws and legislations that are necessary to revitalize the real estate sector... the private sector shall not and should not depend on the government," al-Ansari stressed. He underscored the need to attract foreign companies and businesses to pump investments into the country's property market, saying the World Cup has placed Qatar on the world stage, making it a tourism destination and investment haven. "We need to exit from Qatar and promote our real estate products. We need to promote the real estate sector in order to respond to the requirements of the market. We should not rely on the domestic investor. "There are external investors that like to come to Qatar as a destination for their real estate investments. We have the best healthcare, universities, schools, education, and everything is available; that responds to the investor's needs," explained al-Ansari, who also called on the banking sector to provide the necessary investment funds to enhance the country's property market. For his part, Mohamed said the Qatari government forged a partnership with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) to provide housing units for fans and other visitors during the World Cup. "The idea was that we will provide these units for the World Cup and would later take hold of them after the tournament so that we can use and distribute them among government employees. There is a great legacy since the beginning; we can assure the investor and that he will not come for a short period, but also to enhance the real estate sector in Qatar," Mohamed said. According to Tayeb, Qatari Diar's Lusail Project has "played a great role in responding to the needs of the 2022 FIFA World Cup." He said Lusail city offered investment opportunities to the private sector before and after the World Cup, citing dedicated lands for education, healthcare, and recreation areas like Al Maha Island and the Lusail Winter Wonderland. Tayeb also stressed that Qatari Diar is maximizing its global operations in more than 20 countries to market and promote Qatar as an ideal destination for international companies and investors. He noted that despite a global economic recession, Qatar remains stable: "Our situation is very much better than other countries because the World Cup increased the number of tourists coming to the country, Qatar is focusing on several touristic projects in order to develop this sector, and the state rented more than 45,000 housing units for five years. This is a support for the real estate investor after the World Cup." On the other hand, al-Jaber said Qatar Tourism (QT) has announced its calendar for the first and second quarter of the year, adding that it will soon announce many activities in its calendar for the summer season. He said there are continuous investments in Qatar's tourism sector, as well as promotions, especially in the international market through QT's global offices in 18 countries. Similarly, al-Asmakh said Katara Hospitality is continuously working to provide "the best hotels" and to meet the needs of the local market. He also underscored its role and efforts to attract more tourists to the country. (Gulf Times)

- **Iberdrola to expand footprint in Qatar's innovation ecosystem** - Qatar is on the right track in growth and in the light of challenges that are associated with National Vision 2030 in terms of sustainability and energy conservation. Iberdrola is focusing on expanding its footprint in the Qatari market by collaboration with local partners, Santiago Bañales, Managing Director of Iberdrola Innovation Middle East, said. Iberdrola, the world's second largest electric utility company, based in Spain, has been a strategic partner of Qatar in the last 20 years, collaborating in the construction of a knowledge-based economy and developing solutions for a sustainable future. In 2016, Iberdrola Innovation Middle East, a global digital solutions development center aiming at "defining the digital utility", was incorporated at the Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP). Speaking to The Peninsula, Santiago Bañales said, "We

established the company in 2016 following an agreement with our shareholders Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). Iberdrola Innovation Middle East was officially inaugurated in 2018 and since then, we have grown with Qatar's support for its business model, investing in renewable energy, smart grids, storage and smart solutions for our customers." "The next milestone is the agreement that we signed last year with the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA Qatar) to expand our activities. The main purpose of our company is to develop innovations in Qatar that are deployed worldwide. We also provide specialized technology consulting services to fellow utilities in the Middle East, in countries like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon mainly in the design and deployment of smart grids programs," he added. "The big challenge in the future is energy efficiency, demand electrification and energy conservation and we expect to be working on these concepts quite a lot in the next few years. To this end, we are stepping up our investment in innovation capabilities, such as state-of-the-art office and labs, hiring top-end energy and artificial intelligence engineers and expanding our technical cooperation with Qatar's innovation ecosystem." Qatar has made a lot of progress as it is a 100% natural gas generation country. It also has one of the largest photovoltaic (PV) plants in the world. The 800MW Al Kharsaah PV power project is the first large-scale solar power plant being developed in Qatar. The country has been deploying smart meters and digitizing the distribution network. Also, there is a lot of work done in electricity conservation with Tarsheed program. He pointed out that there are still opportunities to push forward energy efficiency and conservation to meet Qatar's ambitious goals. "I think there is a lot to be done in the decarbonization of demand via electrification and green hydrogen, in particular in heavy industries such as ammonia production or steel manufacturing." (Peninsula Qatar)

- SCO secretary-general: Qatar's SCO membership 'on the way'** - "We will be welcoming Qatar as SCO family member soon," Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretary-General Zhang Ming has said. Talking to Qatar Tribune on the sidelines of the two-day SCO Conference on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development, Secretary-General Zhang Ming said that Qatar joined SCO last year as a Dialogue Partner and is among the neighboring countries of SCO member states. The conference was organized by China-SCO Good-Neighborly Friendship and Cooperation Committee, National Rural Revitalization Bureau, and Shaanxi Provincial People's Government. In his keynote speech, Zhang Ming said that poverty is a common challenge faced by the whole world. Eliminating poverty in all its forms ranks first among the 17 goals of SCO. He said that in recent years, multiple crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, regional conflicts, food security and others have resulted in downward pressure on the global economy, and our efforts in poverty reduction are being hit hard. Ming stressed that the more difficult the time is, the more we must strengthen our confidence, unity and cooperation. In this regard, SCO member states have a consistent understanding, advocate the concept of people-centered development, and deepen cooperation on improving people's livelihood, living standards and well-being in the SCO region. He said that during his official visits to member states, he has been often hearing strong concerns and common aspirations for eradicating poverty and improving people's livelihood. He said that with the great attention and strong support of all parties, poverty reduction has become an important part of the SCO agenda. The SCO 2025 development strategic action plan adopted at the Moscow summit incorporated the "Cooperation Conception of Member States for the Development of Remote and Rural Areas in the Digital Era". Proposals initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping on poverty reduction at the successful Samarkand summit of SCO and agreed to by the leadership of participating member states call for immediate implementation of capacity-building measures to improve people's livelihood and well-being. Ming said that China's open attitude has also created favorable conditions for all parties to share their experiences and solutions. It was announced at the Samarkand Summit in July that it would provide 5,000 human resources training places for SCO countries and perform 2,000 free cataract surgeries for the public free. He praised the efforts of the China-SCO Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Committee on its numerous practical good works including implementation of the Chinese leaders' proposals and organizing poverty reduction training courses, effectively consolidating the efforts of the SCO member states in poverty

reduction. These efforts have provided conditions for all parties to strengthen cooperation and in-depth exchanges. He hoped that the outcome of the conference will be translated into concrete actions as soon as possible, so as to contribute to the improvement of people's livelihood and well-being in SCO countries. He said that SCO is willing, as always, to provide a platform to member states to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this area. (Qatar Tribune)

- Shura Council discusses environment issues, reviews conservation strategies** - The Shura Council held its ordinary weekly meeting at Tamim bin Hamad Hall Monday under the chairmanship of HE the Speaker Hassan bin Abdullah al-Ghanim. In the presence of HE the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Nasser bin Ahmed bin Ali al-Thani, the Council discussed issues related to environment, plans and strategies for conserving the environment, along with the most prominent challenges and projects in this field. At the outset of the session, HE al-Ghanim praised the efforts being exerted by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) to implement the National Environment and Climate Change Strategy (QNE), pointing, in this context, to the close connection between the Qatari people and their environment since ancient times, and their keenness to never damage it, something which is rooted in their behaviors and habits they inherited from their ancestors. He asserted that the ancestors had consolidated sustainability concepts and environment conservation through their coexistence with terrestrial and marine environments. HE al-Ghanim said that the ancestors instinctively realized that they are an extension of that environment, and their survival is linked to its sustainability. Therefore, he said, respect for the environment stems from Qatar's culture, heritage, and reality, and is rooted in the country's behavior. HE Sheikh Dr Faleh delivered a presentation that addressed a myriad of environmental issues, including the most prominent challenges facing this sector and the exerted efforts made to counter them, and reviewing the QNE's strategy as a core pillar for public policies to preserve environment for the current and future generations. The minister affirmed that Qatar – thanks to the vision of its wise leadership and with the efforts of the people of Qatar and its scientists and institutions – has become a model in achieving integrated development, preserving the environment and reducing the influence of carbon emissions on climate change, HE Sheikh Dr Faleh stated that the MoECC is currently working on developing the climate change and environmental sustainability plan within its third National Development Strategy 2023-2030, which includes five areas of work, 29 strategic goals and 89 initiatives that encompass 99 strategic projects, in addition to laying out and implementing the National Climate Change Action Plan which identified 300 actions to reduce the actual or anticipated effects of climate change. The minister pointed out that the ministry has achieved a number of projects and initiatives in three areas – the environment affairs sector, protection and natural reserves affairs sector and climate change affairs sector – underscoring the MoECC's keenness to have the overall infrastructure projects and architectural and engineering constructions fulfill the country's vision in conserving the environment and reducing the pollution with its all forms. In addition, he noted the country's keenness to achieve the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whether in terms of infrastructure, or building and establishing numerous eco-friendly smart cities and green buildings, other than dependence on technology to overcome all challenges that faced that process. During the presentation, he addressed the efforts in safeguarding biodiversity in the State and emphasized the MoECC's keenness to propagate the culture of environment conservation through engaging the community. Responding to comments and questions raised by members of the Shura Council, HE Sheikh Dr Faleh underlined the country's capability to handle various emergencies, such as radioactive contamination via an early warning network to be rigorously modernized, followed by pre-emption through special courses to handle these cases. He outlined the steps that the MoECC is taking to overcome all problems raised by the Shura Council and stressed that the ministry is interested in all comments, proposals and envisions laid out in the council. The Shura Council members lauded the MoECC's role, along with its efforts to conserve the environment, and emphasized the council's keenness to support these efforts. The interventions made by the members were primarily focused on protecting the environment against encroachment, conserving and strengthening

vegetation, and achieving ecological balance to protect wildlife with the essential utilization of the country's natural reserves for the service of eco-tourism and highlighting Qatari heritage, traditions, and customs through it. The members also raised many questions focused on air quality in the State and the percentage of pollutants in the air, whether they are industrial, or natural, along with the MoECC's efforts to improve air quality. They also tackled the importance of improving the productivity of agricultural land and interest in groundwater. (Gulf Times)

### International

- US Treasury can meet all obligations after debt ceiling suspension** - The US Treasury said it can now meet the federal government's payment obligations after a debt ceiling suspension, following earlier warnings that it would run short of funds on Monday if Congress failed to act. "Now that Congress has acted to suspend the debt limit, Treasury has the tools needed to ensure that the US continues to meet all of our obligations," Treasury spokesperson Christopher Hayden said in an emailed statement on Monday. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had warned Congress that without a debt ceiling increase, Treasury would be unable to make an estimated \$92bn in payments and transfers this week, including a \$36bn adjustment to the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. The Treasury on Friday auctioned \$15bn worth of one-day cash management bills that settled on Monday and mature on Tuesday. After President Joe Biden signed the debt ceiling legislation on Saturday, the Treasury auctioned \$61bn in six-month bills and \$68bn in three-month bills that settle on Thursday. The debt ceiling suspension allows the Treasury to maintain its planned auction schedule for total borrowings of \$726bn in the April-June quarter. The plan assumes an end-June cash balance of \$550bn. The Treasury has said it expects to borrow \$733bn in the July-September quarter, for an end-September cash balance of \$600bn. The Treasury's cash balance as of Thursday fell to just \$22.9bn -- below the \$54bn on hand on Aug. 2, 2011, when Congress also had narrowly avoided a debt ceiling default. (Reuters)
- US factory orders rise in April** - New orders for US-made goods rose for a second month in April, boosted largely by defense spending, but the overall manufacturing industry continued to struggle under the weight of higher interest rates. Factory orders increased 0.4% after a 0.6% gain in March, the Commerce Department said on Monday. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast orders rising 0.8%. Orders increased 1.4% on a year-on-year basis in April. The sector, which accounts for 11.3% of the economy, is being dragged down by the Federal Reserve's fastest interest rate hiking campaign since the 1980s. Banks have tightened lending also following the recent failures of three US banks, while spending is shifting away from goods, typically bought on credit, to services. Businesses are cutting back on restocking in anticipation of weaker demand later this year. The Institute for Supply Management last week said its manufacturing PMI contracted for a seventh straight month in May. (Reuters)
- IATA chief: Airline industry set to register \$803bn revenue, \$9.8bn net profit in 2023** - Airline industry is en route to a profitable, safe, efficient, and sustainable future, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director General Willie Walsh said and noted that with \$803bn of revenues, airline net profits are expected to reach \$9.8bn in net profit this year. The estimated net profit this year is more than double the previous forecast of \$4.7bn in December 2022. In his report to the 79th IATA Annual General Meeting here Monday, Walsh said global air passenger traffic is currently more than 90% of 2019 levels. Some 4.35bn people are expected to travel in 2023, which is closing in on the 4.54bn who flew in 2019. Cargo volumes are expected to be 57.8mn tonnes, which has slipped below the 61.5mn tonnes carried in 2019 with a sharp slowing of international trade volumes. Total revenues are expected to grow 9.7% year over year to \$803bn. This is the first time that industry revenues will top the \$800bn mark since 2019 (\$838bn). Expense growth is expected to be contained to an 8.1% annual increase. "Airports are busier, hotel occupancy is rising, local economies are reviving, and the airline industry has moved into profitability. The pandemic years are behind us, and borders are open as normal. Despite economic uncertainties, people are flying to reconnect, explore, and do business. Walsh said: "Airline financial performance in 2023 is beating expectations. Stronger profitability is supported by several positive developments. China lifted Covid-19 restrictions earlier in the year than anticipated. Cargo revenues remain above pre-pandemic levels even though volumes have not. And, on the cost side, there is some relief. Jet fuel prices, although still high, have moderated over the first half of the year "Margins are, however, wafer thin. With \$803bn of revenues, airlines will share \$9.8bn in net profit this year. Put another way, airlines will make, on average, \$2.25 per passenger. So, the value retained by airlines for the average plane trip won't even buy a subway ticket in New York City. "Clearly that level of profitability is not sustainable. But considering we lost \$76 per passenger in 2020, the velocity of the recovery is strong," Walsh noted. The IATA chief, however, insisted "challenges remain." He said: "Inflation continues, cost pressure is acute, and in some areas, labor is in short supply. Unfortunately, many of those we do business with are adding to these pressures." On safety, Walsh said: "We can also be impressed by the industry's safety record. This year marks 20 years of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA). In September 2003, Qatar Airways was the first to join the IOSA registry. Today, over 400 airlines are on the registry. It is the global standard for managing operational safety. "More importantly, it is clear that IOSA helps to improve safety. In 2022, IOSA registered carriers outperformed those not on the registry by a factor of four. It is never 'job done' on safety. So, we are marking two decades of success by making IOSA even more effective with a transition to a risk-based approach. "Of course, IOSA is not the only global standard improving safety. We prevent future accidents by learning from accident reports. But, of the 214 accidents in the last five years, only 96 final accident reports are available. This is an inexcusable violation of the Chicago Convention and a disservice to the safety of our passengers and crew. Governments and their agencies must improve." As an industry connecting people and goods across jurisdictions, global standards are at the core of airlines' success—starting with safety and permeating everything they do. For example, Walsh noted: "Consumers the world over appreciate the ability to purchase air travel in a single currency for any destination in absolute confidence. That's achieved with the global standard processes of the IATA Financial Settlement Systems. With half a century of experience and global scale, they are cost effective, safe and reliable. And we are constantly evolving them to deliver the value you expect." (Gulf Times)
- UK consumers slow spending in May as rising food costs bite** - British retail sales growth slowed to a seven-month low in May as soaring food prices prompted shoppers to rein in spending on non-essential items and dashed hopes of a boost from three public holidays, the British Retail Consortium said on Tuesday. The BRC said spending in its members' stores increased 3.9% in annual terms last month, well above the 1.1% fall a year ago. However, sales were below the 5.2% rise in April. May's retail sales growth was the slowest since the 1.6% recorded in October 2022 when consumers cut back on purchases as inflation soared to a 41-year high of 11.1%. The BRC data is not adjusted for inflation, so May's sales growth reflects a fall in the volume of goods purchased. Food was almost the only area where consumers spent more last month, due to higher prices as well as celebrations to mark the coronation of King Charles. "The wild card for the retail sector remains uncontrollable food inflation, which shows little sign of coming down in the near future, and this is having a significant knock-on effect on non-essential spending," said Paul Martin, UK head of retail at accountants KPMG, who sponsor the data. Official figures showed consumer price inflation fell less than expected in April, while food price inflation remained near a 46-year high at 19.1%, raising markets' bets that interest rates will peak at 5.5% later this year. The Bank of England, which is expected to increase Bank Rate to 4.75% from 4.5% on June 22, has said it will keep raising interest rates if inflation looks persistent. The BRC said retail sales in May were 3.7% higher on the year on a like-for-like basis - a measure favored by equity analysts which adjusts for changes in retail space, down from 5.2% growth in April. Separate figures from Barclays on Tuesday also showed high inflation and rising food prices continued to eat away at consumers' spending power. Barclays said consumer spending on payment cards rose by 3.6% year-on-year in May, of which spending on groceries increased 8.9%, the highest growth in the category since February 2021 when it stood at 27.0%. (Reuters)

- **German exports rise unexpectedly in April** - German exports rose unexpectedly in April, increasing by 1.2% on the previous month, data showed on Monday. A Reuters poll had predicted a month-on-month decline of 2.5%. Imports fell by 1.7% compared with March, the federal statistics office reported, versus analysts' expectations for a 1.0% fall. The statistics office publishes more detailed economic data on its website. (Reuters)

### Regional

- **GCC economic growth placed at 2.5% in 2023 and 3.2% in 2024** - The GCC region's economic growth is projected at 2.5% in 2023 and 3.2% in 2024, while Kuwait's non-oil sector is expected to grow by 4.4% in 2023. The World Bank expects Kuwait's economic growth to slow to 1.3% in 2023, down from 7.3% in 2022. The decline in oil and gas revenues and the slowdown in global economic activity are the main reasons for the fall in Kuwait's growth forecast, Kuwait Financial Centre Markaz recently released its Monthly Market Review report for May. On the positive side for the economy, the World Bank also expects Kuwait's inflation to decrease to 2.6% in 2023 and the current account surplus to reach 22% of GDP, compared to 26% in 2022. (Zawya)
- **Analyst: Saudi economy could contract in 2023 following oil output cut** - Saudi Arabia's economy is likely to contract by 0.5% this year following its decision on Sunday to cut oil output, Capital Economics forecasts. The research firm had previously forecast Saudi gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 1% this year. The kingdom's energy ministry said on Sunday the country would cut its oil output to 9mn barrels per day (bpd) in July from around 10mn bpd in May, the biggest reduction in years as the country and other producers seek to shore up flagging oil prices. Despite the production cut, Capital Economics still expects the kingdom to run a budget surplus this year. It sees the kingdom's breakeven oil price at \$80 a barrel. Brent crude was trading at about \$76.8 a barrel on Monday. "And we have left our end-year Brent crude price forecast unchanged at \$90pb for end 2023, just that prices may be a little more elevated in the interim than we had envisaged," James Swanston, emerging market economist at Capital Economics, said. Besides the global financial crisis and COVID-19 pandemic, the GDP contraction "would be the weakest pace of growth in the last 20 years," Capital Economics said in its research note. Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, said if the production cuts are maintained from July to end-2023, it would result in a GDP contraction. "We estimate that if the 1.0mn b/d oil production cut is only maintained for July, it will reduce Saudi Arabia real headline GDP growth by c.0.3 percentage points. However, if it is extended for the remainder of the year (i.e. July to December), we estimate it will lower Saudi Arabia's headline GDP growth by 2.0 percentage points," she said. Malik had previously forecast GDP growth of 1% for Saudi Arabia in 2023 and a fiscal breakeven price of \$86.3 a barrel. (Zawya)
- **Non-oil business activity in Saudi Arabia slows** - Business activities in Saudi Arabia's non-oil private sector slowed during May as growth in new orders and output eased, a new business survey revealed on Monday. However, rate of job creation picked up to the joint-fastest since the beginning of 2018. At 58.5 in May, the headline Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) dropped from 59.6 in April amid downward movements in the index's two largest components - New Orders and Output. Nevertheless, the index remained well above the 50.0 growth threshold and was higher than its long-run average of 56.9. The Riyadh Bank PMI highlighted that new order inflows at non-oil private sector businesses continued to rise considerably in May, after growth quickened to its highest in just over eight-and-a-half years in April. The rate of expansion slowed slightly, despite a renewed upturn in sales from foreign clients. "While a slower oil economy and rising interest rates will create a challenging environment for some establishments, most Saudi firms are in good shape and experiencing robust business conditions," Naif Al-Ghaith, Chief Economist at Riyadh Bank, said. "May results show a small retracement from the strong April outcome, reinforcing the view that overall economic activity is holding up well as we enter the summer months," he added. Activity levels also rose markedly in May, although the rate of expansion softened and was the weakest recorded in 2023 so far, the survey said. Firms increased their purchases of inputs and key components sharply but to the least extent for five months. Employment growth was relatively

strong, with the rate of job creation picking up to the joint-fastest since the beginning of 2018. "New orders grew considerably, reflecting a strong demand growth, particularly in tourism activities and construction. This led to the joint-fastest rate of job creation since 2018, which allowed firms to work through backlogs at a quicker pace this month," Al-Ghaith said. Higher employment and activity levels allowed firms to work through backlogs at a quicker pace during May. Business expectations for the next 12 months eased slightly but still indicate optimism regarding future output. "The government continues to implement large scale diversification policies and accelerate the development of mega-projects, aiming to boost the private sector, the engine for job creation," Al Ghaith added. (Zawya)

- **Saudi Arabia re-elected chair of MENA region's research councils at GRC** - The member states of the MENA Region of the Global Research Council (GRC) have voted to re-elect the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as their representative on the GRC Governing Board. This decision was made during the council's 11th annual meeting in The Hague, The Netherlands. The President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) and the General Supervisor of the founding team of the Research, Development and Innovation Authority, Dr. Munir Eldesouki, will continue to represent Saudi Arabia at the GRC. The re-election of Eldesouki reaffirms the Kingdom's prominent position in the scientific and research fields and its commitment to fostering cooperation among research centers in the MENA region. This achievement is a testament to the unwavering support of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Head of the Higher Committee of Research, Development and Innovation. During the annual meeting, which took place from May 29 to June 2, Eldesouki chaired a meeting of the heads of research councils from the MENA region. He also participated in a panel discussion on the funding of climate change research. Additionally, the Kingdom presented a working paper on the challenges and opportunities faced by the research councils in the MENA region. The Saudi delegation actively engaged in various sideline meetings, including those of the GRC's Executive Committee and the International Consultative Committee. (Zawya)
- **Saudi: King Abdullah Economic City gets a special Economic Zone license** - King Abdullah Economic City has been granted a license for the Special Economic Zone. Situated at the crossroads of global trade routes, the city enjoys direct access to all markets in the Middle East and North Africa region. Spanning a total area of 60 km<sup>2</sup>, the zone will be under the direct supervision of the Special Economic Cities and Zones Authority (ECZA). The Special Economic Zone's strategic location facilitates the operations of various logistics services and light industries. It is a promising investment environment, offering economic incentives with globally competitive advantages. The zone benefits from cutting-edge infrastructure, including the King Abdullah Port, the Industrial Valley, and a modern and vibrant community. This community encompasses diverse commercial and social facilities, catering to the needs and aspirations of residents, visitors, and workers in the city. Moreover, the Special Economic Zone focuses on economic sectors such as car manufacturing, consumables, food, medicine, logistics, and associated industries. It aims to boost domestic output, attract foreign direct investment, generate new employment opportunities, and maximize the Kingdom's exports by hosting a diverse and extensive range of industries. (Zawya)
- **Cloud to add \$181bn to UAE economy by 2033** - The UAE has the potential to unlock \$181bn in additional economic value over the next decade (2023-2033), or 2.5% of the country's cumulative gross domestic product by accelerating the adoption of cloud services, according to a study commissioned by Amazon Web Services. In the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region, the UAE stands out as the country where cloud adoption drives the most significant economic growth through spillover effects. A one% increase in cloud adoption by UAE organizations leads to average GDP growth of 0.21%, equivalent to \$854.7mn, according to the study. This growth rate is three times higher than the Mena average, making it the highest in the region. Remarkably, over 91% of this impact can be attributed to the national productivity gains or spillover effects on the economy, while the remaining nine% is driven by cloud spending from

both public and private organizations in the UAE. "As an economic catalyst, cloud computing proves to be 17% more effective in stimulating the UAE's economy compared to mobile broadband," said the report. The UAE has ambitious plans to diversify its economy through digitization. In 2021, 43% of organizations in the UAE region adopted cloud computing, versus 49% in Western Europe and North America. With the government's focus on digital transformation, it is well-positioned to become a hub for cloud computing in the region. "The widespread adoption of cloud has already led to increased efficiency, cost savings, and job creation in various industries. As more businesses and organizations continue to migrate to the cloud, the economic benefits are expected to grow even further," said Yasser Hassan, managing director of the commercial sector in the region at AWS. He said the findings underscore a remarkable opportunity for the UAE to expedite its economic growth and establish itself as an appealing and influential economic center, which aligns with the government's "We the UAE 2031" vision. "As cloud computing continues to gain momentum, it is imperative for the UAE to continue to support cloud adoption and develop a skilled workforce to enhance the country's competitiveness on a global scale. With the support of AWS, the UAE can accelerate its digital transformation and unlock new opportunities for economic growth and social development," he added. The study revealed that the UAE experienced a significant boost in its economy in 2021, thanks to the widespread adoption of public cloud services. This adoption contributed 2.26% to the country's GDP, resulting in an economic value of \$9.5bn. "Notably, this contribution represents the largest impact of public cloud adoption on GDP in the region. The positive influence on the economy is not limited to productivity alone but also encompasses the construction aspect of establishing and operating cloud infrastructures within the UAE," said the report. The study, performed by Telecom Advisory Services, identifies four key advantages of cloud computing: First, it enhances business efficiency and effectiveness, streamlining processes and improving outcomes; second, it offers access to a wide range of services, enabling businesses to leverage advanced technologies; third, it boosts productivity by facilitating collaboration, mobility, and agility within the workforce; and fourth, cloud computing promotes environmental sustainability by reducing carbon emissions per unit of data transmitted. (Zawya)

- PMI: UAE non-oil private sector growth dips in May, but outlook is positive** - While the UAE's non-oil private sector grew at a slightly slower pace in May, improved operating conditions drove business confidence among firms to their strongest level since October 2021, according to a latest business survey. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global UAE Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) posted 55.5 in May, dropping from 56.6 in April to a three-month low. The index remained above the 50.0 no-change mark and its long-run average (54.2); the report noted on Monday. The upturn reflected strengthening demand conditions in the domestic economy, as well as a sharp improvement in supply chains which helped to keep cost pressures subdued, the report said. David Owen, Senior Economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said the latest headline reading signaled a robust improvement in business conditions, driven by marked upturns in activity and new work. "Moreover, rising new work intakes and strengthening demand conditions gave firms greater confidence for the year ahead. The Future Output Index showed optimism rising to the highest level since October 2021, with firms pinning their hopes on projections that the strong run of demand momentum will continue." However, the rising new order inflows exerted great pressure on business capacity in May, extending the current sequence of backlog accumulation to almost two years. Notably, employment levels also grew at the second-fastest pace since July 2016. Purchasing activity at non-oil firms increased sharply, although to a lesser extent than in the previous month. Meanwhile, expectations for output over the next 12 months rose improved for the fifth consecutive month to the highest level since late-2021 as firms grew more confident about economic prospects. (Zawya)
- Arab Monetary Fund: UAE on robust growth track** - Driven by higher oil prices and improved business confidence, the UAE's economic growth is on track to remain robust, averaging 4.6% from 2022 to 2024, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has said. In 2023, the AMF's "Arab Economic Outlook Report" forecasts a 4.2% growth rate, accompanied by a decline

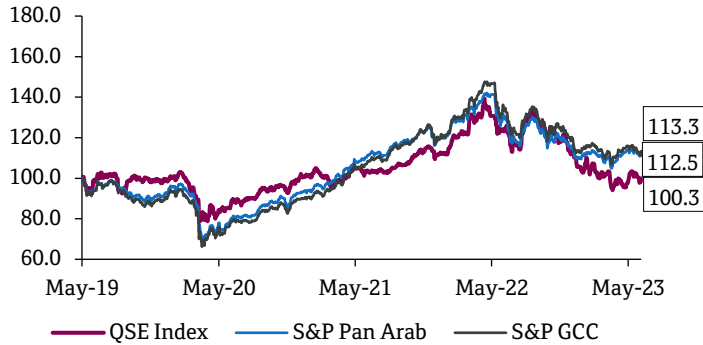
in the consumer price index to 2.9% in 2023 and 2.57% in 2024. The report projected a 3.4% growth for Arab economies on the back of stable oil and gas prices and lower prices for basic goods, such as agricultural products, accompanied by tighter monetary policies to curb inflation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that the UAE economy will expand at a faster pace next year and lowered the global growth outlook slightly amidst uncertainty in global financial system. It projected that the UAE GDP will expand at 3.9% as compared to 3.5% this year, while the World Bank projected the GCC's second-biggest economy to grow at 3.3% in 2023, down from 4.1% forecast in October. The UAE's non-oil sector is poised to achieve stronger growth of 4.8%, driven by robust domestic demand, particularly across tourism, real estate, construction, transportation, and manufacturing sectors. The fastest growing economy within the GCC in 2023 is projected to be Oman, with growth seen at 4.3%. The AMF report said that most Arab countries will improve their resilience, enhance business environments, empower the private sector and invest in human capital on the back of economic reform programs and strategies to diversify their economies. The economic growth rate of Arab countries will rise to 4.0% in 2024, mainly due to the expected stability of oil and gas prices, basic goods prices, and controlled inflation. Higher energy prices will boost the economic growth of major Arab oil exporters in 2023 and 2024, with their economies expected to grow by 3.4% in 2023 and by 4.2% in 2024, the report noted. Arab countries that import oil will see their growth rate increase from 3.1% in 2023 to 4.0% in 2024, after inflation is controlled by the end of this year and monetary policies are eased, said the report. The GCC countries have a positive outlook for 2023, with an expected GDP growth of 3.4%, mainly due to their efforts to diversify their sources of income, the report added, noting that oil prices are likely to remain stable and high, resulting in higher oil revenues and improved financial outcomes, foreign exchange reserves and fiscal positions, said the AMF. The report stressed that promoting workforce localization and increasing the participation of citizens in the private sector is another key approach to achieving growth in GCC countries, most notably in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. (Zawya)

- Dubai Chamber registers 17.3% increase in members' export value** - Dubai Chamber of Commerce, one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, has announced several achievements in the first quarter of 2023, as part of its ongoing drive to support Dubai's development and economic aspirations, boost the competitiveness of the emirate and its private sector, and contribute to the goals outlined in the ambitious Dubai Economic Agenda (D33). Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair, Chairman of Dubai Chambers, commented, "Our primary focus at the Dubai Chamber is to achieve the strategic priorities we have set as part of our strategy for the 2022-2024 period. Shaping the future requires concerted efforts and a unified vision to achieve the goals needed for the stages ahead." The Chamber revealed that 15,366 new member companies registered with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce in Q1 2023. This represents a record growth of 48.7% as against the same period last year, underlining the emirate's strong appeal among investors and the competitiveness of its business environment. The total exports and re-exports reported by Dubai Chamber of Commerce members reached AED71.7bn during Q1 2023, around 17.3% higher than the AED61.1bn recorded in Q1 2022. This positive growth reflects the Chamber's continuous efforts to support its members and their commercial activities in global markets through its network of international offices, a full calendar of events, and economic studies on business opportunities. The Chamber issued 182,266 Certificates of Origin during Q1 2023, achieving annual growth of around 2% as against the same period last year. In addition, 1,527 ATA Carnets worth AED1.1bn were issued and received in Q1 2023. Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers, stated, "Dubai Chambers remains committed to supporting the private sector and enhancing its competitiveness to achieve our wise leadership's vision and strengthen partnerships between the public and private sectors." The year's first quarter also saw the Dubai Chamber of Commerce achieve its goal of establishing more than 100 Business Groups representing various sectors and economic activities in the emirate. The groups seek to enhance the private sector's contribution toward drafting policies and legislation related to the local business environment. Currently, there are 105 Business Groups, reflecting a high level of private sector



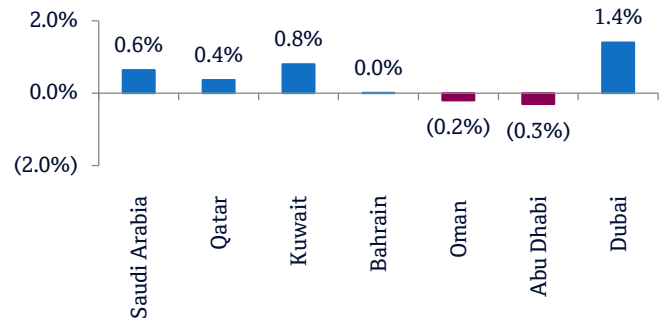
representation, the agility of the emirate's economy, and the notable role the private sector plays in supporting sustainable growth. The Chamber reviewed more than 32 laws and drafted laws during the first three months of the year as part of its efforts to protect the interests of the business community and also received 18 cases for mediation. Al Ghurair emphasized Dubai Chambers' strong commitment to achieving its strategic objectives, which include improving the business environment in the emirate, increasing the effectiveness of advocacy, supporting members in expanding their businesses globally, attracting foreign business and investment into Dubai, growing the digital economy, and sustaining institutional and customer excellence. He also underlined the importance of enhancing the competitiveness of Dubai's economy in line with the vision of the emirate's wise leadership. Lootah also revealed there would be numerous new initiatives in 2023 designed to bring added value to the emirate's business community, in line with the chambers' strategic priorities. Dubai Chamber of Commerce also launched the Business Sectors Platform. The platform offers an innovative package of quality services designed specifically to meet the needs of Business Groups and Business Councils to enable them to operate effectively and achieve their objectives. Dubai Chamber of Commerce works to support business activities in Dubai. The chamber plays a crucial role in representing, supporting, and protecting the interests of businesses in Dubai while exploring new ways to meet the evolving needs of the emirate's dynamic and fast-growing business community. (Zawya)

### Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

### Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	1,961.86	0.7	0.7	7.6
Silver/Ounce	23.55	(0.3)	(0.3)	(1.7)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	76.71	0.8	0.8	(10.7)
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	72.15	0.6	0.6	(10.1)
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	1.93	7.6	7.6	(45.2)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	59.90	2.4	2.4	(15.3)
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	55.00	27.9	27.9	(45.8)
Euro	1.07	0.0	0.0	0.1
Yen	139.58	(0.2)	(0.2)	6.5
GBP	1.24	(0.1)	(0.1)	2.9
CHF	1.10	0.3	0.3	2.0
AUD	0.66	0.1	0.1	(2.9)
USD Index	104.00	(0.0)	(0.0)	0.5
RUB	110.69	0.0	0.0	58.9
BRL	0.20	0.5	0.5	7.1

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	2,870.27	(0.1)	(0.1)	10.3
DJ Industrial	33,562.86	(0.6)	(0.6)	1.3
S&P 500	4,273.79	(0.2)	(0.2)	11.3
NASDAQ 100	13,229.43	(0.1)	(0.1)	26.4
STOXX 600	459.93	(0.5)	(0.5)	8.3
DAX	15,963.89	(0.5)	(0.5)	14.7
FTSE 100	7,599.99	(0.2)	(0.2)	4.8
CAC 40	7,200.91	(0.9)	(0.9)	11.2
Nikkei	32,217.43	2.3	2.3	15.8
MSCI EM	986.69	0.2	0.2	3.2
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,232.44	(0.1)	(0.1)	1.6
HANG SENG	19,108.50	0.8	0.8	(3.8)
BSE SENSEX	62,787.47	0.2	0.2	3.4
Bovespa	112,696.32	1.0	1.0	10.4
RTS	1,048.37	(0.3)	(0.3)	8.0

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

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