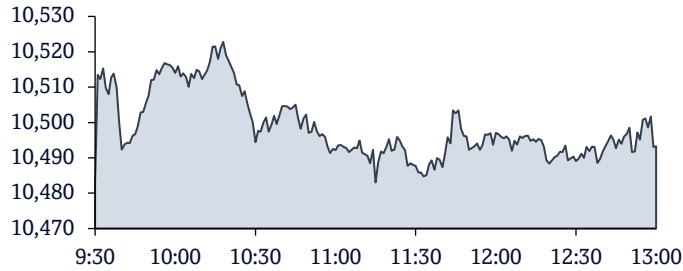


QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index rose 0.2% to close at 10,493.3. Gains were led by the Insurance and Industrials indices, gaining 2.4% and 0.8%, respectively. Top gainers were Qatar Insurance Company and Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co., rising 3.6% and 3.2%, respectively. Among the top losers, Meeza QSTP fell 1.9%, while QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. was down 1.3%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 0.2% to close at 10,995.4. Losses were led by the Utilities and Materials indices, falling 1.9% and 0.8%, respectively. Emaar The Economic City declined 4.5%, while National Agricultural Development Co. was down 4.2%.

Dubai: The DFM Index fell 0.5% to close at 5,708.8. Losses were led by the Utilities and Real Estate indices, falling 0.9% and 0.8% respectively. Unikai Foods and National Industries Group Holding both declined 4.8%.

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell 0.3% to close at 9,677.7. The Energy index declined 1.7%, while the Consumer Discretionary index fell 1.3%. ADNOC Drilling declined 4.6%, while Eshraq Investments was down 1.4%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.2% to close at 8,764.5. The Health Care index declined 3.5%, while the Insurance index fell 3.2%. Combined Group Contracting Co. (K.S.C) declined 4.5%, while Heavy Engineering Industries & Shipbuilding Co. (K.S.C.P) was down 3.7%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 2.7% to close at 7,959.7. Losses were led by the Financial and Industrial indices, falling 2.7% and 2.0%, respectively. Bank Nizwa declined 8.1%, while Galfar Engineering & Contracting was down 7.1%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.2% to close at 1,936.0. GFH Bank B.S.C. declined 1.5%, while Khaleeji Bank B.S.C was down 1.4%.

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Insurance Company	2.241	3.6	3,676.4	9.9
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.937	3.2	6,665.6	29.0
Inma Holding	2.800	2.5	303.9	(12.3)
Industries Qatar	12.33	1.4	1,343.0	3.4
Doha Insurance Group	2.902	1.3	258.2	13.1

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Baladna	1.307	(0.4)	19,433.9	2.2
Masraf Al Rayan	2.150	(0.5)	10,430.8	(2.0)
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.734	0.2	9,939.3	8.4
Estithmar Holding	4.025	0.1	9,654.8	19.9
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.937	3.2	6,665.6	29.0

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded (\$ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. (\$ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	10,493.27	0.2	(2.1)	0.1	(2.5)	96.6	169,194.7	12.0	1.3	4.8
Dubai^	5,708.78	(0.5)	(0.5)	(1.0)	(5.6)	144.7	253,745.9	8.8	1.6	5.6
Abu Dhabi^	9,677.72	(0.3)	(0.3)	(1.0)	(3.2)	253.8	734,128.1	19.0	2.3	2.6
Saudi Arabia	10,995.44	(0.2)	(0.3)	(1.7)	4.8	1,431.0	2,665,402.3	17.0	2.2	3.5
Kuwait	8,764.47	(0.2)	(1.6)	(1.1)	(1.6)	353.3	1,69,980.2	6.4	1.8	3.9
Oman	7,959.72	(2.7)	(4.7)	(4.9)	35.7	134.4	54,904.2	15.2	1.7	3.9
Bahrain	1,935.96	(0.2)	(0.3)	(1.8)	(6.3)	2.0	19,826.6	5.6	1.3	4.6

Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (** TTM; * Value traded (\$ mn) do not include special trades if any, ^ Data as of 15 May 2026)

Market Indicators	14 May 26	13 May 26	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	352.0	405.3	(13.1)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	626,647.2	624,950.1	0.3
Volume (mn)	121.6	149.7	(18.7)
Number of Transactions	24,846	25,544	(2.7)
Companies Traded	52	51	2.0
Market Breadth	25:21	11:38	-

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	25,930.19	0.2	(2.1)	0.8	12.0
All Share Index	4,079.86	0.2	(2.2)	0.5	11.8
Banks	5,117.69	0.1	(3.1)	(2.4)	10.1
Industrials	4,388.36	0.8	(1.1)	6.1	15.9
Transportation	5,389.49	(0.2)	(1.3)	(1.4)	12.9
Real Estate	1,455.21	0.1	(1.5)	(4.8)	23.7
Insurance	2,837.54	2.4	0.9	13.5	11.0
Telecoms	2,443.86	(0.1)	(0.8)	9.6	11.6
Consumer Goods and Services	8,270.43	(0.2)	(1.6)	(0.7)	17.6
Al Rayan Islamic Index	5,288.27	0.1	(1.4)	3.4	14.5

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
TECOM Group PJSC	Dubai	3.55	6.0	411.1	4.1
Dubai Residential REIT	Dubai	1.19	3.5	5,581.3	(4.0)
National Bank of Oman SAOG	Oman	0.437	2.8	2,093.0	14.4
flynas Co SJSC	Saudi Arabia	51.65	2.2	911.7	(20.6)
Makkah Construction & Developm	Saudi Arabia	79.7	2.1	324.5	0.2

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Bank Muscat	Oman	0.41	(5.9)	23,898.6	24.3
OQ Gas Networks SAOC	Oman	0.255	(4.9)	17,471.0	31.4
ADNOC Drilling Co PJSC	Abu Dhabi	5.96	(4.6)	25,091.8	11.6
Umm Al Qura for Development &	Saudi Arabia	15.02	(4.1)	5,015.0	(12.6)
Oman Telecommunications Co.	Oman	1.38	(4.0)	10,520.7	32.1

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

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Meeza QSTP	3.372	(1.9)	1,125.8	(0.8)
QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co.	2.300	(1.3)	61.6	(8.0)
Damaan Islamic Insurance Company	4.350	(1.1)	0.5	0.0
Mekdam Holding Group	2.304	(0.6)	632.0	4.5
Dukhan Bank	3.503	(0.6)	2,165.6	0.2

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Estithmar Holding	4.025	0.1	39,434.6	19.9
Ooredoo	13.30	(0.3)	28,853.0	2.1
QNB Group	17.34	0.2	28,121.2	(7.1)
Baladna	1.307	(0.4)	25,466.4	2.2
Masraf Al Rayan	2.150	(0.5)	22,500.6	(2.0)

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index rose 0.2% to close at 10,493.3. The Insurance and Industrials indices led the gains. The index rose on the back of buying support from Qatari shareholders despite selling pressure from GCC, Arab and Foreign shareholders.
- Qatar Insurance Company and Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co. were the top gainers, rising 3.6% and 3.2%, respectively. Among the top losers, Meeza QSTP fell 1.9%, while QLM Life & Medical Insurance Co. was down 1.3%.
- Volume of shares traded on Thursday fell by 18.7% to 121.6mn from 149.7mn on Wednesday. Further, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 180.7mn, volume for the day was 32.7% lower. Baladna and Masraf Al Rayan were the most active stocks, contributing 16.0% and 8.6% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	34.91%	23.50%	40,148,289.50
Qatari Institutions	30.06%	34.11%	(14,235,772.70)
Qatari	64.97%	57.60%	25,912,516.80
GCC Individuals	0.74%	1.11%	(1,318,804.72)
GCC Institutions	0.67%	0.36%	1,072,542.50
GCC	1.40%	1.47%	(246,262.22)
Arab Individuals	7.79%	8.32%	(1,867,687.22)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Arab	7.79%	8.32%	(1,867,687.22)
Foreigners Individuals	2.58%	2.46%	417,306.62
Foreigners Institutions	23.26%	30.14%	(24,215,873.95)
Foreigners	25.84%	32.60%	(23,798,567.33)

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

Global Economic Data

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
05/15	US	Federal Reserve Bank of New Yo	Empire Manufacturing	May	19.6	7.2	--
05/15	US	Federal Reserve	Industrial Production MoM	Apr	0.70%	0.30%	-0.30%
05/15	US	Federal Reserve	Manufacturing (SIC) Production	Apr	0.60%	0.20%	0.10%
05/15	US	Federal Reserve	Capacity Utilization	Apr	76.10%	75.80%	--
05/15	Japan	Bank of Japan	PPI MoM	Apr	2.30%	0.80%	1.00%
05/15	Japan	Bank of Japan	PPI YoY	Apr	4.90%	3.00%	2.90%

Qatar

- QE Index, QE Al Rayan Islamic Index and QE All Share constituents June 2026 Semi Annual review** - QSE Index Committee announces the results of June 2026 Semi Annual review All Changes will be implemented as of the close of May 31st, 2026 so that it becomes effective on June 1st, 2026, at the open. Note: In case May 31st, 2026, is a public holiday due to Eid Al Adha, all changes to the indices will be implemented at the close of the last trading session of May 2026. QE Index: Barwa Real Estate will replace Vodafone Qatar in the QE Index. QE Al Rayan Islamic Index: No change in the Index constituents. QE All Share Index & Sectors: No change in the QE All Share Index and the Sector Indices constituents. (QSE)
- Widam Food Company: will hold its EGM on 08/06/2026** - Widam Food Company announces that the General Assembly Meeting EGM (Second meeting) will be held on Monday 08/06/2026, Company's Headquarters, Tower (B), Mezzanine Floor, Suhaim Bin Hamad Street, Bin Mahmoud, or via Zoom electronic platform and 04:00 PM: Agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly: 1. Approval of the continuation of the Company, and the reduction of the Company's capital from QR180mn to QR50mn divided into 50mn shares with a nominal value of QR1 per share, in order to cover part of the accumulated losses, and the amendment of Articles (5) and (6) of the Company's Articles of Association accordingly, after hearing the report of the Company's external auditor and obtaining all necessary approvals from the competent authorities. 2. Approval of amendments to certain provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, particularly Articles (Preamble - 5 - 6 - 9 - 33 - 37 - 58 - 65) in accordance with the amendments published on the Company's website, and granting Hassad Food Company Q.P.S.C. certain privileges under the Articles of Association of the Company, after obtaining all necessary approvals from the competent authorities. 3. Approval of the issuance of bonds against a loan in favor of Hassad Food Company Q.P.S.C. in the amount of QR 30mn, for a period of six months, convertible into shares, in accordance with the loan agreement concluded between the parties. 4. Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Directors or his delegate to implement the resolutions of the Extraordinary General Assembly, complete all necessary approvals from the competent authorities, particularly the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Qatar Financial Markets Authority, sign the amendments to the Articles of Association, complete

the procedures for amending the Commercial Register, and sign all documents or applications required to implement the resolutions of the Extraordinary General Assembly. (QSE)

- Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices will hold its investors relation conference call on 19/05/2026 to discuss the financial results** - Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices announces that the conference call with the Investors to discuss the financial results for the Quarter 1 2026 will be held on 19/05/2026 at 02:00 PM, Doha Time. (QSE)
- Qatar Stock Exchange announces reconstitution of index committee** - Qatar Stock Exchange announced the reconstitution of its Index Committee pursuant to Resolution No. 11 of the QSE Board of Directors at its first meeting of 2026. The reconstituted Index Committee will be chaired by Mr. Mansoor Rashid Al-Khater, with the membership of Sheikh Jassim bin Abdullah Al Thani, Mr. Abdulla Mohammed Al Ansari, Mr. Abdullah Hashem Al-Sada, Ms. Dabya Saad Al-Kubaisi, Ms. Fatima Abdullah Al-Emadi, and Dr. Al Anoud Ali Al-Maadeed. The Index Committee also includes an observer representing the Qatar Financial Markets Authority. The reconstitution of the Index Committee reflects QSE's continued commitment to strengthening the governance, transparency and institutional oversight of its market indices. The Committee plays an important role in reviewing index-related matters and supporting the continued development of QSE's index framework in line with market needs and international best practices. QSE's indices are an important reference point for investors, market participants and listed companies. The reconstitution of the Index Committee reinforces our commitment to maintaining a transparent, rules-based and well-governed index framework that supports market confidence and contributes to the continued development of Qatar's capital market. QSE also noted that it will publish the relevant Index Market Notice relating to the semi-annual index review in accordance with its established index review process. The notice, which is announced on a quarterly basis, will provide market participants with the relevant information and updates regarding the review, in line with QSE's commitment to transparency and timely market communication. Qatar Stock Exchange reaffirmed that the ongoing enhancement of its index governance framework forms part of its broader efforts to develop market infrastructure, improve investor access to market information, and support the continued growth and

competitiveness of Qatar's capital market. About Qatar Stock Exchange. Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) is the principal securities market of the State of Qatar. QSE gives local and international investors direct access to a deep, well-regulated capital market across equities, ETFs, sukuk, bonds, and Treasury bills. Issuers list on QSE to raise capital, broaden their investor base, and grow in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third Financial Sector Strategy. Investors trade through transparent execution, strong disclosure standards, and a corporate governance framework aligned with international benchmarks. QSE operates under the supervision of the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA). It is a full member of the World Federation of Exchanges and is included in the world's leading emerging market indices, reinforcing Qatar's position as a top investment destination in the region. (QSE)

- Cancellation of the Third Call for the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting of Al Meera Consumer Goods Company (Q.P.S.C)** - Al Meera Consumer Goods Company (Q.P.S.C) announces that the Board of Directors has resolved to cancel the third call for the Extraordinary General Assembly meeting, which was scheduled to be held on 7th June 2026, in coordination with the competent department at MOCI. This decision comes in light of the Al Meera's intention to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly meeting during August 2026 to consider the proposed amendments to the Al Meera's Articles of Association in line with the requirements of the newly Corporate Governance Code for Companies and Legal Entities Listed on the Main Market of 2025, and in order to avoid holding two Extraordinary General Assembly meetings for substantially the same purposes within a short period of time. The meeting date and agenda will be announced in due course in accordance with the applicable Laws and regulation. (QSE)
- Qatar makes strong tourism start in Q1** - Qatar received around 1.13mn visitors during the first quarter of this year, indicating strong growth in the country's tourism sector, newly released data from Qatar Tourism has shown. The figures reveal a particularly strong start to the year, with January alone accounting for 646,000 visitors, which is over half of the quarterly figures' total, followed by 423,000 in February and 63,000 in March. The considerable drop in visitors during March could be attributed to various factors, such as the timing of Ramadan and shifting travel patterns, according to industry experts, which is also part of the seasonal tourist patterns. However, the overall prospective of the tourism sector in the country remains firmly positive, building on Qatar's post-2022 FIFA World Cup tourism surge, which significantly elevated the country's global profile, generating more international interest in exploring the country. The largest number of visitors during this period came from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, accounting for 36% of total arrivals with around 408,000 visitors. In recent years, Qatar has become a major hub and a growing attraction for GCC tourists due to several factors. It mainly includes geographic proximity and easy access to the country, in addition to Qatar's sophisticated, high-end tourist facilities and infrastructure, coupled with the country's keenness to maintain and highlight its authentic heritage, traditions, and culture. Such elements have made GCC families feel at home in Qatar while enjoying excellent holiday experiences within a family-friendly atmosphere. Tourists from Europe account for the second-largest number of visitors during the first quarter of 2026, contributing 26.8% of visitors, around 303,000. The influx of tourists from European countries has grown steadily in recent years, supported by expanded flight connectivity and targeted promotional campaigns. Airlines such as Qatar Airways have played a central role in this expansion, linking Doha to more than 170 global destinations and positioning Hamad International Airport as a major transit hub, in addition to various tourist programs and easy-entry visa procedures. Further, Asia and Oceania accounted for 21.1% of the visitors to the country within the same period, with around 238,000 visitors, reflecting Qatar's increasing appeal in long-haul markets. Other Arab countries contributed 7.2%, followed by the Americas at 6.7% and Africa at 2.3%. Such broad distribution of visitors strongly indicates the success of the tourism diversification strategy adopted by Qatar Tourism. Over the past decade, the country has significantly expanded its hospitality infrastructure, with hotel room capacity more than doubling since 2015. According to estimates, Qatar now has over 40,000 hotel keys, ranging from luxury properties operated by global brands to boutique

accommodations that reflect local culture. The country has adopted an approach that places strong emphasis on quality and sustainability. Besides, the country has launched various initiatives to encourage eco-friendly tourism, where people can enjoy nature while maintaining its components and help it grow and prosper. (Gulf Times)

- Realty deals worth QR2.062bn inked in April** - The real estate sector of Qatar saw a positive growth momentum as the realty transactions index recorded a total value of QR2.062bn for 516 real estate deals in April this year. Compared to March 2026 this shows a 128% increase in the number of units, a 168% rise in trading value, and 185% surge in total area traded, showed the data by Real Estate Registration. Department at the Ministry of Justice. According to the real estate market index. Doha Municipality topped the most active transactions in terms of financial value during April this year. The real estate market index for April noted that the financial value of Doha Municipality transactions amounted to QR735.181m. On the other hand Al Rayyan Municipality totaled QR512.832m and Al Daayen Municipality's transactions reached to QR498.240m. These figures reflect the strength and resilience of Qatar's economy and the continued growth of the real estate sector as a key component of the national economy. In case of the number of sold properties in April the most active municipalities were Doha (28%), followed by Al Rayyan (27%) and Al Daayen (18%). According to the area index, the indices show that the most active municipalities were Al Rayyan (41%), followed by Doha and Al Daayen (15%) of the total deal area. The trading volume revealed that the highest value of 10 properties sold was recorded for April 2026, registering five properties in the municipality of Al Daayen municipality, four properties in Doha municipality, and one property in Al Rayyan municipality. The average per square foot price for a building stood at QR790 in Doha, QR807 in Al Daayen, QR429 in Al Rayyan, QR495 in Al Wakrah, QR503 in Umm Slal. QR293 in Al Khor and Thakira, QR229 in Al Shamal, and QR211 in Al Sheehaniya municipalities. Meanwhile, average price of per square foot of vacant land was recorded at QR516 in Doha, QR236 in Al Wakrah, QR371 in Al Rayyan, QR293 in Umm Slal, QR406 in Al Al Daayen, and QR367 in Al Khor and Thakira, and QR148 in Al Shamal. With the country's strategic focus on economic diversification and long-term urban planning, the real estate market is well-positioned to thrive, offering stable and lucrative opportunities for investors. The realty market has witnessed substantial developments and major regulatory reforms that has turned it into a promising market for investment opportunities Qatar's Third National Development Strategy (NDS3) relies heavily on the real estate sector. The goal is to make the country more attractive to for businesses and creating a welcoming environment for investors. The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) is advancing a comprehensive strategy to regulate and develop Qatar's real estate sector. focusing on digital transformation. professional licensing, and consumer protection. The newly introduced real estate platform is transforming how decisions are made in the market. The platform provides clear, transparent, and precise information, enabling Investors to make smooth and confident decisions based on real data. The Real Estate Regulatory Authority continues its efforts to stimulate and develop the real estate sector in the country, contributing to economic diversification in line with the Third National Development Strategy which emphasizes economic diversification as a crucial necessity for achieving sustainable economic growth. (Peninsula Qatar)
- Qatar achieves 35% water reserve surplus** - Qatar's average daily water demand stands at approximately 400mn gallons, while the country's maximum production capacity has reached 540mn gallons per day, creating a 35% strategic reserve surplus that further reinforces national water security and supports sustainable development goals. The announcement came as part of Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation's (Kahramaa) review of its latest achievements in the water sector in 2025, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the country's ongoing efforts to enhance quality of life and strengthen sustainable infrastructure. Sharing figures on the X, Kahramaa said that the reserve capacity plays a vital role in ensuring an uninterrupted water supply across the country and enhances preparedness to meet rising consumption demands under various operational conditions. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Qatar's real estate market shows resilience in Q1 2026: ValuStrat** - Qatar's real estate market demonstrated notable resilience during the first quarter of 2026, maintaining overall stability despite softer activity levels caused by seasonal trends and heightened regional uncertainty towards the end of the quarter, according to the latest report released by ValuStrat. The ValuStrat Price Index (VPI) for Qatar's residential sector remained unchanged on a quarterly basis while recording a 1.6% year-on-year increase, reaching 98 points against a base of 100 established in Q1 2021. According to the latest market analysis, Qatar's residential, commercial, hospitality, and industrial sectors largely held firm, with pricing levels remaining stable even as transaction volumes and leasing activity moderated. Analysts noted that the slowdown was driven more by cyclical and seasonal factors, including the Ramadan and Eid period, rather than any structural weakness in the market. The report highlighted that landlords across various sectors adopted a cautious approach, preferring to offer incentives such as extended grace periods and flexible leasing arrangements instead of direct rent reductions. According to the report, apartment capital values remained stable both quarterly and annually, averaging QAR 10,475 per square meter following the last notable increase recorded in the second quarter of 2025. Among key residential locations, sales prices averaged QR10,615 per square meter in The Pearl-Qatar, QR9,550 per square meter in West Bay Lagoon, and QR10,330 per square meter in Lusail. While most areas remained stable, Lusail recorded a 1.5% annual increase in values. The country's total residential stock reached 405,742 units during the quarter, including 256,916 apartments and 148,826 villas. New supply additions during the first quarter included an estimated 957 apartments and 173 villas. Notable villa completions included 49 high-end homes at Giardino Village in The Pearl-Qatar, while apartment deliveries were led by Fox Hills with 146 units, followed by Mesaieed and Al Sadd with 50 and 30 units respectively. Although residential prices remained stable, transaction activity experienced a noticeable slowdown during the quarter. Residential house transaction volume declined by 21.1% compared to Q4 2025, although annual activity still recorded a strong 22.7% increase. Sales transaction volume dropped sharply by 50% in March compared to February. However, analysts pointed out that a similar decline was observed during the Ramadan and Eid period last year, indicating that seasonal patterns played a major role in the slowdown alongside broader geopolitical uncertainty. Transaction activity remained strongest in Al Wukair and The Pearl-Qatar. The residential rental market also showed signs of stabilization during the quarter. Median monthly residential rents remained unchanged compared to the previous quarter while declining 4.6% year-on-year to settle at QR8,200. Apartment lease values stayed stable quarterly but declined by 4.3% annually to reach QR5,700. Median monthly rents during the quarter averaged QR5,500 for one-bedroom apartments, QR6,000 for two-bedroom units, and QR7,000 for three-bedroom apartments. One-bedroom apartment rents increased by 5% annually, while two-bedroom and three-bedroom units recorded annual declines of 5% and 4% respectively. Leasing activity also moderated during the quarter, with around 18,700 apartment lease agreements recorded, representing a 13% decline compared to Q4 2025. New lease contracts fell by 15%, while renewals declined by 2.2%, indicating reduced tenant mobility and a tendency among residents to defer relocation decisions amid uncertainty. Al Wukair registered the highest leasing activity with 3,577 contracts, followed by Al Meshaf with 1,567 agreements, reflecting sustained demand in suburban residential areas. Towards the end of the quarter, regional tensions contributed to softer tenant enquiries, prompting landlords to adopt a wait-and-see approach by offering longer grace periods rather than lowering rents directly. Qatar's office sector remained broadly stable throughout the first quarter of 2026, with limited rental volatility observed across major commercial districts. The retail sector performed strongly during the first two months of the quarter, benefiting from seasonal shopping demand and consumer activity. However, activity softened towards the quarter-end, particularly across open-air retail destinations, due to regional uncertainty and seasonal factors. Retail rents remained largely unchanged on a quarterly basis, although the sector recorded a marginal annual decline. The hospitality sector performed better than expected despite softer tourism numbers as the average daily room rates increased by 2.3% annually, highlighting continued pricing resilience within the hotel market. The month-on-month movement in average daily rates

between February and March closely mirrored trends recorded during the same period last year, suggesting that the regional conflict had only a limited incremental impact on hotel pricing performance. The industrial and logistics sectors presented mixed results during the quarter. Warehouse rents recorded quarterly increases, reflecting continued demand for logistics and storage facilities, while cold storage rental rates declined on an annual basis. (Qatar Tribune)

- Real estate trading exceeds QR550mn in one week** - The volume of real estate trading in sales contracts at the Department of Real Estate Registration at the Ministry of Justice during the period from May 3 to May 7, 2026, reached QR586,055,471, reports QNA. Meanwhile, the total sales contracts for residential units in the Real Estate Bulletin for the same period reached QR67,983,821. The weekly bulletin issued by the department shows that the list of real estate properties traded for sale included vacant land, residences, residential buildings, a residential complex, and residential units. Sales were concentrated in the municipalities of Al Rayyan, Doha, Al Daayen, Al Khor and Thakhira, Umm Salal, Al Wakrah, and Al Shamal, as well as the areas of Lusail 69, The Pearl, Al Dafna 60, Ghar Thuailib, Al Wukair, Umm Al Amad, Al Kharaej, and Al Mashaf. The volume of real estate transactions in sales contracts registered with the Real Estate Registration Department between April 26-April 30 exceeded QR550mn. (Gulf Times)
- Qatar eyes 20 climate tech unicorns by 2040** - Qatar's climate tech sector has steadily evolved from a niche sustainability drive into a strategic pillar of diversification and national resilience; even as the Iran war may appear to slow climate investment, but in reality its adoption is slated to accelerate. Qatar's market scale, private-sector maturity and oil and gas dependence are challenges; thanks to institutional support and state-backed innovation programs, climate innovation in Qatar, which abinitio focused on energy efficiency in the hydrocarbons sector, has now expanded into broader sustainability applications, including renewable energy integration, smart grids, carbon capture, desalination efficiency, biotechnology, and circular economy solutions. Facing acute environmental pressures including extreme heat, water scarcity, and rising cooling demand, Qatar offers rising opportunities for innovation in district cooling, energy-efficient buildings, desalination, and AI (artificial intelligence)-driven energy management. Emerging research also indicates growing potential for geothermal and automation-enabled clean energy systems adapted to the Gulf conditions. International collaboration has played a decisive role in accelerating the growth of climate tech in Qatar, whose environmental conditions are a natural testing ground for Greentech solutions, and will continue to be central to the country's climate tech strategy. Qatar Foundation-Rolls-Royce pact is a pointer to investing, developing, and scaling-up climate businesses, with a target to grow 20 unicorns by 2040, positioning Qatar among the top 5 countries globally investing in clean energy R&D or research and development (in terms of spend per gross domestic product). It is in line with Qatar's vision to further promote the state's economic diversification, including legislative and commercial incentives to develop projects that preserve the environment and counter climate change. QRDI (Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council) has funded the Climate Action Center of Excellence (CACE) to launch Qatar's first dedicated Climate tech Venture Capital Investment Fund, linking entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors to advance sustainable technologies and drive Qatar's low-carbon transition. Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) has emerged as the central incubator for sustainability-focused entrepreneurship, offering accelerator programs, venture funding, and industry partnerships. Transnational giants as Shell, TotalEnergies, and Iberdrola Innovation Middle East have worked closely with Qatar-based entities to support startup accelerators, pilot projects, and research programs focused on sustainability. Initiatives like the Shell.ai Futures Pitch Qatar Edition and the QSTP X TotalEnergies WaterTech Accelerator demonstrate the country's intent to attract local and international startups working on AI-enabled energy systems, water conservation technologies, and industrial decarbonization solutions. The Qatar Edition of Shell.ai Futures Pitch 2025 competition, held for the first time in Doha through a strategic partnership between QSTP and Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre has recognized three pioneering startups for their innovative digital energy solutions. Qatar, which can

leverage its expertise in energy systems, offers immense potential to be regional leader in climate tech innovation, on growing global demand for decarbonization technologies, sustainable infrastructure, and climate adaptation solutions. The sector's prominence has risen more than ever, especially after threats to water desalination plants that many regional governments now view climate tech as part of the national security and economic resilience than simply environmental policy. The Middle East crisis has rather exposed the vulnerabilities, posing short-term operational and investment-related hurdles; even as it reinforces the importance of decentralized renewable energy systems, water security technologies, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Investments in renewable energy, battery storage, smart grids, water security technologies, carbon capture, and AI-enabled infrastructure management are slated to accelerate as they have not only become urgent strategic priorities but also the region seek to reduce dependence on vulnerable hydrocarbon assets. The conflict has underscored risks to desalination facilities and critical utilities, creating strong demand for sustainable water technologies and resilient urban infrastructure across the Gulf. In the short-term, supply chain disruptions remain a concern as many climate tech firms depend on imported components like solar panels, batteries, semiconductors, and advanced industrial equipment. Geopolitical tensions, shipping delays, and rising logistics costs have temporarily increased project expenses and slowed down implementation timelines across the region. Long-term potential far outweighs short-term woes; Qatar's future climate tech success will likely depend on its ability to commercialize research, scale startups regionally, and balance energy leadership with sustainability commitments in an increasingly carbon-conscious world. Qatar has all the ingredients — capital, infrastructure and strategy — to become an international laboratory for climate resilience innovation. (Gulf Times)

- MoECC starts digital service for safe disposal of electronic waste** - The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) has announced the launch of a new digital service for the safe disposal of electronic waste through its official website. This comes as a part of the ministry's efforts to enhance the digital transformation of its environmental services provided to the public. In a statement released on Thursday, the ministry explained that the service allows individuals to submit requests for the disposal of electronic waste through the ministry's website, in cooperation with licensed national companies that receive, transport and handle the waste in accordance with approved environmental requirements. The service is accessed by submitting an electronic request and specifying the type of waste and its location, after which there will be coordination with the competent authority to collect and transport in a safe manner. This ensures that this type of waste is isolated from other wastes and treated in an effective and safe manner. Director of the Industrial Inspection and Pollution Control Department at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Dr. Mohammad Ayed Al Shammari confirmed that the digital service for the safe disposal of electronic waste through the ministry's website represents a step within a broader national path to develop waste management, moving it from traditional methods to a more organized and efficient system based on employing digital solutions, increasing community participation, and strengthening partnership with the private sector. Dr. Al Shammari said that electronic waste has become an important environmental issue, in light of the expansion in the use of electrical and electronic devices and the accelerating pace of their replacement. This calls for the development of practical solutions that help in collecting, sorting and directing them to approved routes, instead of remaining in homes or being disposed of improperly. He added that this service reflects the ministry's keenness to transform environmental awareness into an easy daily practice, through the contribution of community members to protecting the environment via the ministry's website. He pointed out that the success of modern environmental initiatives does not depend on the efforts of the government sector alone, but on the integration of the roles of individuals and all parties. He explained that launching this service represents an important step towards regulating the handling of this type of waste, and facilitating access for members of society to a safe and approved mechanism for disposing of unused electrical and electronic devices. Dr. Al Shammari stressed that electronic waste requires special management, given that it may contain hazardous materials, such as heavy metals,

batteries, and some components that may affect the environment and human health if disposed of improperly. He pointed out that the digital service allows users to submit a request for electronic waste collection by entering the required data and specifying the type of devices and their location on the ministry's website. Then coordination will be made with licensed national companies to receive, transport and handle them in accordance with approved environmental regulations. Dr. Al Shammari stated that the ministry is proceeding with the implementation of quality initiatives that contribute to establishing a culture of sustainability and reducing reliance on traditional waste disposal methods, in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, and supporting the state's efforts to protect the environment and preserve its resources for future generations. (Qatar Tribune)

- More than 44,660 government services accomplished during April** - The Civil Service and Government Development Bureau has revealed strong performance indicators for government service centers across the country during April with a total of 44,663 services completed across various sectors, underscoring the country's ongoing efforts to modernize public services, and enhancing efficiency of transactions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs topped the list of government entities in terms of services delivered, completing 15,525 transactions during the month. The Ministry of Justice ranked second with 10,712 completed services, followed by the Ministry of Labor in third place with 8,143 services. Other ministries and institutions also recorded notable performance levels. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry completed 5,099 services, while Qatar Civil Service and Government Development Bureau itself processed 1,286 services. The Ministry of Social Development and Family delivered around 990 services, and Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation completed 988 services during the same period. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Municipality processed 945 services, while Qatar Central Securities Depository completed 518 services. The Supreme Judiciary Council recorded 376 services, and the General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority finalized 81 services. The report further highlighted the growing public engagement through customer satisfaction surveys designed to evaluate government services. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs again led in this category with 1,689 submitted surveys, followed by the Ministry of Justice with 1,427 surveys. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry recorded 872 surveys, while the Ministry of Labor received 666 responses. Such indicators demonstrate the commitment of the government entities to improving service quality and enhancing the customer experience by developing operational mechanisms, boosting institutional efficiency, and adopting faster and more flexible solutions for processing transactions. Government entities also encouraged the public to participate in service evaluations through the "Sharek" platform, which supports continuous improvement efforts by collecting feedback and suggestions aimed at raising the quality of public services. In the meantime, the statistics issued by the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau showed that Al Hilal Service Center ranked first among government service centers in April, completing 20,376 services and receiving 1,480 customer evaluation surveys. Al Rayyan Service Center came second with 12,733 completed services and 1,378 surveys, while Al Wakrah Service Center processed 3,833 services and received 529 evaluations. Lusail Pearl Service Center completed 3,779 services alongside 446 customer surveys. Meanwhile, Rawdat Al Hamama Service Center handled 2,287 services and received 380 surveys, Al Khor Service Center completed 1,381 services with 218 surveys, and Al Shamal Service Center processed 202 services alongside 23 evaluations. (Gulf Times)
- Aqarat Chairman meets officials of Saudi real estate institutions** - Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat) Eng. Khalid bin Ahmed Al Obaidli met yesterday with CEO of the Real Estate General Authority in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Eng. Abdullah bin Saud Al Hammad, and CEO of the Saudi Real Estate Development Fund, Eng. Loaye Al Nahedh, separately, during His Excellency's visit to Riyadh, KSA. Aqarat said that the two meetings addressed ways to enhance joint cooperation and activate the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides, in addition to opportunities to develop the partnership and exchange experiences in the fields of real estate regulation and development. The meetings also reviewed the best practices related to real estate governance, digital transformation, and

the development of real estate systems and legislation. Cooperation in the areas of finance and real estate development was also discussed, along with the most prominent initiatives and experiences supporting the real estate sector, which contribute to raising the efficiency of the real estate system and keeping pace with the rapid growth witnessed by the sector in both countries. These meetings come as part of efforts to enhance integration and cooperation in the real estate sector between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (Peninsula Qatar)

- Qatar Chamber, QFC sign MoU to strengthen private sector and attract investment** - Qatar Chamber and Qatar Financial Center (QFC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening cooperation in supporting the private sector's contribution to sustainable development in Qatar through attracting global investments, expertise, and technologies to the Qatari market. The MoU was signed by Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Financial Center Mansoor Rashid Al Khater and Acting General Manager of Qatar Chamber Ali Bu Sharbak Al Mansori, in the presence of HE Chairman of Qatar Chamber Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani. Commenting on the agreement, CEO of Qatar Financial Center Mansoor Rashid Al Khater, said, "This partnership with Qatar Chamber reflects our shared commitment to empowering the private sector and supporting the business community. Together, we aim to foster a more efficient and flexible environment for companies operating in the State of Qatar, further strengthening the country's position as a leading regional hub for business and investment. This collaboration will also enhance the competitiveness of the national economy and support economic diversification efforts, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030." For his part, Acting General Manager of Qatar Chamber Ali Bu Sharbak Al Mansori said the agreement reflects the close cooperation between Qatar Chamber and Qatar Financial Center in supporting the business community and strengthening partnership between the public and private sectors. He expressed hope that this cooperation would achieve its objectives in serving the private sector and contributing to the enhancement of the national economy. The agreement includes cooperation between the two parties in organizing joint events and seminars, promoting initiatives and activities of mutual interest, and coordinating efforts to facilitate foreign direct investment and economic cooperation within the country. Under the MoU, companies affiliated with Qatar Financial Center will be able to benefit from the services provided by Qatar Chamber, particularly the issuance of certificates of origin and the certification of documents in accordance with the Chamber's approved procedures. On the sidelines of the ceremony, Qatar Financial Center delivered a presentation highlighting the Center's role, services, and the incentives and benefits it offers to companies operating under its platform. (Gulf Times)
- Bloomberg and Qatar deepen QEF partnership amid global uncertainty** - Global events platforms have become more valuable, not less, as geopolitical uncertainty intensifies, and few partnerships illustrate that dynamic better than the one underpinning the Qatar Economic Forum (QEF). Karen Saltser, Bloomberg Media CEO, said: "This year has reinforced the importance of being flexible and thoughtful when operating global convenings in a fastmoving geopolitical environment. Our priority was making sure the forum continues to deliver the level of participation, access and conversation that people around the world now expect." In an exclusive interview with Gulf Times, Saltser said the collaboration between Bloomberg and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has grown considerably in recent years, driven by the Middle East's expanding role in the global economy. "QEF's combination of both regional relevance and international reach has been especially important. Bloomberg brings a worldwide audience, editorial authority, and cross-platform amplification, while Qatar has continued positioning itself as a major hub for international business and diplomacy," she emphasized. Together, she noted, that dynamic has allowed QEF to become "a meaningful forum for conversations that extend far beyond the region itself across business, policy, technology and investment." Saltser said, "Looking ahead, I think the opportunity is to deepen that role. In periods of geopolitical uncertainty, there's actually greater demand for trusted convening and direct dialogue. Business leaders and policymakers want spaces where they can engage seriously on the forces reshaping markets, trade, technology and geopolitics." According to Saltser, this is

also reflected in Bloomberg's broader regional commitment. She pointed out that the company has invested in the Middle East for more than 15 years across journalism, television, live events, and partnerships, describing the Gulf as "one of the world's most dynamic and influential economic regions." "That conviction has not changed," she pointed out. The QEF has grown into what Saltser described as "one of the most important global business gatherings in the region," bringing together influential leaders at a moment when the world is seeking clarity, context and dialogue. She further stated that in uncertain periods, the demand for trusted information and high-quality convening becomes stronger, with leaders seeking credible journalism, meaningful conversations and direct engagement with those shaping markets and policy, areas where Bloomberg is differentiated "both editorially and through Bloomberg Live." Asked how resilient events revenue amid the current global geopolitical and macroeconomic environment is, Saltser said: "We operate in a world where volatility is increasingly part of the operating environment, whether that's geopolitical uncertainty, economic shifts or changes in how audiences engage with media. So flexibility and diversification are already built into how we run the business. "What gives us confidence is that demand for trusted, high-quality convening remains very strong. In many ways, it becomes even more valuable during uncertain periods because leaders are looking for credible information, meaningful dialogue and direct access to decision-makers. That's one reason Bloomberg Live continues to grow." She emphasized that Bloomberg's events strategy is diversified across regions, industries and formats, from QEF and the New Economy Forum to Bloomberg Invest, Tech and Screentime, describing it as "a global portfolio for our audience and partners, rather than one focused on one specific market." Bloomberg's long-term strategy in the region, Saltser said, remains unchanged: continue investing in the Middle East, build platforms that connect regional and global audiences, and bring together Bloomberg's journalism, data and convening power "in ways that help leaders make better decisions." (Gulf Times)

- Qatar's summer calendar turns the season into vibrant hub of activity** - Despite rising temperatures, Qatar's summer is unfolding as a vibrant season of events, with national campaigns and curated experiences creating a safe, engaging environment for families, residents, and visitors. Qatar is redefining the summer experience, with an expanding calendar of events and initiatives positioning the country as a dynamic seasonal destination despite the region's rising temperatures. Driven by coordinated efforts from government entities, Visit Qatar, and the wider hospitality sector, the country has introduced a diverse program designed to enhance public engagement while prioritizing safety, comfort and accessibility. At the center of this seasonal push is Visit Qatar's "Hala Summer" campaign, running from April to September, complemented by the "Summer is Free" initiative, which offers a range of family-friendly incentives and experiences aimed at making summer more accessible and engaging. Together, these campaigns reflect a strategic effort to transform the traditionally quieter season into a period of sustained activity. According to Qatar Calendar, May marks the beginning of a packed program that reinforces Qatar's positioning as a leading summer destination. From major cultural events, such as the Doha International Book Fair 2026 (DIBF 2026) to high-profile sporting fixtures, including the Amir Cup Final, the calendar reflects a deliberate effort to cater to varied audiences. Family-focused entertainment remains a key pillar of the program. Events such as Fontana Circus at Hyatt Plaza, Eid al-Adha activations across multiple venues, and themed experiences like "Summer Splash" at Meryal Waterpark Beach featuring popular global characters highlight a strong emphasis on engaging younger audiences and families. At the same time, cultural and artistic offerings continue to shape the season. Exhibitions across Qatar Museums (QM), alongside concerts, theatre productions and educational workshops, provide diverse opportunities for engagement. Seasonal markets, such as Torba Market at The Pearl Island further contribute to a community-focused atmosphere. Amid ongoing regional uncertainty, the scale and consistency of these initiatives underscore a broader commitment to maintaining stability and ensuring a safe and welcoming environment. Event planning and public messaging continue to prioritize visitor comfort, accessibility and crowd management. As the country moves into the peak summer period and the Eid holidays, the breadth of programming signals a shift in how the season

is experienced. Rather than slowing down, Qatar's summer is evolving into a time defined by connectivity, curated experiences and community engagement, reinforcing its appeal as an active and resilient destination in the region. (Gulf Times)

International

- Fed names Powell as chair pro tempore until Warsh is sworn in** - The Federal Reserve Board on Friday said it has named Jerome Powell as chair pro tempore until Kevin Warsh is sworn in as the new head of the U.S. central bank. Warsh is expected to be sworn in soon by U.S. President Donald Trump but no date has been announced. Powell's eight-year run as Fed leader formally expired on Friday. Fed board members Stephen Miran and Michelle Bowman said in a joint statement they did not support the measure that keeps Powell as chair because it does not include a fixed time period for his temporary status. Although Powell is stepping down as chair, he has said he will stay on the Fed's Board of Governors until he is satisfied the Trump administration has ended its criminal probe of him. (Reuters)
- Motor vehicles, AI boost US manufacturing production; supply shortages from war loom** - U.S. factory production posted its largest increase in 14 months in April, driven by motor vehicles and demand for technology goods amid an artificial intelligence spending boom, but supply disruptions from the war with Iran cast a shadow over the manufacturing sector. Those constraints were flagged by a survey from the New York Federal Reserve on Friday showing delivery performance by suppliers in New York state deteriorated in May. The U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran has disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, raising energy prices, as well as straining global supply chains and causing shortages of a wide range of goods, including fertilizers, aluminum and consumer products. Producer prices increased at their fastest pace in four years in April. Oil prices jumped on Friday after comments from President Donald Trump and Iran's foreign minister dented hopes of a deal to end ship attacks and seizures around the Strait. "Overall, firmer demand and continued expansion in output point to some resilience in the manufacturing sector," said Michael Gapen, chief economist at Morgan Stanley. "However, uncertainty around supply and prices leaves risks to the near-term outlook tilted to the downside." Manufacturing output increased 0.6% last month, the largest rise since February 2025, after an upwardly revised 0.1% gain in March, the Federal Reserve said. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast production at factories rebounding 0.2% after a previously reported 0.1% dip in March. Factory production advanced 1.3% on a year-over-year basis in April. Motor vehicle and parts output jumped 3.7%. Production at high-technology industries increased 1.0% after rising 0.5% in March. Output was boosted by computers and peripheral equipment, which increased 1.5% for a second straight month. Production of semiconductors and related electronic components rose 1.0% while that of communications equipment increased 0.6%. Businesses are rapidly adopting AI, investing billions of dollars, and helping to prop up manufacturing, which accounts for 9.4% of the economy. AI spending contributed significantly to the economy's 2.0% annualized growth pace in the first quarter. Excluding high-technology industries and motor vehicles, manufacturing rose 0.3% in April after a similar gain in March. Durable goods production shot up 1.2% last month. But output of nondurable goods eased 0.1%, with chemicals falling 0.9%. Production of plastics and rubber products also dropped 0.9%. Output of petroleum and coal products, however, increased 1.0% for a second straight month. Production also rose for food, beverage and tobacco products. Some of the increase in manufacturing production could be related to businesses front-loading orders to avoid potential shortages and higher prices from the Middle East conflict. (Reuters)
- Japan's wholesale inflation spikes on energy shock, bolsters case for June rate hike** - Japan's wholesale inflation accelerated in April at the fastest pace in three years as the Iran war boosted oil and chemical goods prices, data showed on Friday, bolstering the case for the central bank to raise interest rates as soon as June. The data came after a Bank of Japan (BOJ) policymaker called for raising rates "at the earliest stage possible" as soaring fuel costs from the Middle East war stoked price pressures. A lagging central bank and looming fiscal stimulus risk a policy clash that keeps inflation pressure, and market anxiety, running hotter for longer.

The jitters sparked a bond selloff that pushed the benchmark 10-year bond yield to a 29-year high of 2.665% on Friday. "Today's inflation print was stronger than expected, so markets have pretty much priced in a rate hike in June," said Naomi Muguruma, chief bond strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities. "But a June rate hike won't stop the bond selloff. Markets suspect the BOJ is behind the curve in dealing with inflation and have doubts over its ability to fight inflation with the government seemingly opposed to further rate hikes." The corporate goods price index (CGPI), which measures the price companies charge each other for their goods and services, rose 4.9% in April from a year earlier, BOJ data showed, hitting the fastest annual increase since May 2023. The gauge blew past median market forecasts for a 3.0% gain and accelerated sharply from a 2.9% increase in March. The yen-based import price index spiked 17.5% in April from a year earlier, the fastest rise since December 2022, a sign the currency's decline was adding to the energy shock in squeezing corporate margins through higher costs. On a month-on-month basis, wholesale prices rose 2.3% in April after a 1.0% gain in March. The data showed the strain caused by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which is cutting off oil supplies for an economy heavily reliant on imports from the Middle East. Petroleum and coal goods prices rose 5.3% in April from a year earlier, reflecting higher costs for crude oil and jet fuel, the data showed. Chemical goods prices surged 9.2% last month, the fastest pace since September 2022, with the price of naphtha spiking 79.4%. Prices of aluminum, copper and other nonferrous metal goods also jumped 37.9%. "Wholesale inflation is likely to continue accelerating as a trend," said Masato Koike, senior economist at Sampo Institute Plus. "If price rises are contained to oil-related goods, there is little need for the BOJ to respond. But if they broaden to a wide range of goods, the BOJ will likely have to raise rates." (Reuters)

Regional

- Aramco opens its empire to Wall Street in \$35bn push** - Days after a BlackRock-led group signed an \$11bn lease agreement for some of Saudi Aramco's natural gas facilities, the energy giant was inundated with calls from funds around the world eager for a slice of the business Emboldened by that demand and driven by a desire to shore up the balance sheet, Aramco executives in Dhahran have lined up the most ambitious privatization plan in the company's 93-year history. In the months since that deal with BlackRock's Global Infrastructure Partners, the firm has pushed ahead with a wave of divestments spanning everything from energy facilities and even real estate. In all, the deals are likely to eventually raise as much \$35bn, according to people familiar with the matter. The assets are seen as lucrative and likely to generate interest from a swathe of Wall Street firms despite a regional war that began on February 28, the people said. Aramco didn't immediately respond to a request for comment outside normal business hours. Bankers and dealmakers expect Aramco to open up more assets to global private equity and infrastructure investors. The energy giant is keen to retain full control of its upstream assets but is open to selling minority stakes in downstream and midstream assets, they said. declining to be identified as the information is confidential. The proposed sales would hand Wall Street firms a lucrative pipeline of deals at a time when regional conflict threatens broader dealmaking, while helping Saudi Arabia bolster foreign investment inflows that remain far below the kingdom's ambitious targets. Aramco is pressing ahead with these deals as the war in the Middle East has disrupted Gulf exports. The company was able to reroute most shipments away from the Strait of Hormuz through its East-West pipeline to the port of Yanbu, helping keep exports flowing even as traffic through the waterway slowed sharply. And Aramco has said it is taking measures to boost that flexibility further The deals also serve another purpose, displaying Saudi Arabia's ability to attract money, even in the face of Iran's attacks on Gulf cities and infrastructure across the region. In the months leading up to the war, the kingdom had ramped up efforts to draw foreign capital and pivoting away from some costly endeavors. "Before the spending cuts in mega projects and the Iran War hit to export volumes, this might have been interpreted as Aramco reducing exposure to non-core assets" said Hasnain Malik, head of emerging market equity and geopolitical strategy at Tellimer. "But now this is going to be considered as maximizing access to liquidity for Aramco and its sovereign shareholder." Long a lynchpin of the Saudi economy, revenue from energy

sales and the firm's hefty dividends help support the kingdom's expensive economic revamp, which has been hamstrung by growing costs. Aramco has also spent years signaling it wants to extract more value from its sprawling asset base, using infrastructure sales and leverage to help fund expansion while preserving cash for the state. Now, planned divestments are moving ahead even as the tumult the war is causing across global markets has slowed deal activity elsewhere. Transactions currently in the works include plans to sell and lease back real estate assets, which could include the sprawling campus that houses its headquarters in the kingdom's Eastern Province, the sale of a stake in its oil export and storage terminals, as well as transactions involving gas-fired power plants and its water infrastructure business. These efforts not only promise a windfall for Wall Street firms, they also help the kingdom bolster a key metric, foreign direct investment, which remains well below Saudi Arabia's target of attracting \$100bn annually by the end of the decade. "FDI is set to remain a challenge," said Rachel Ziemba, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security. That means "the Saudi state needs even more cash than in the past and can get it, in part, in the form of Aramco's massive dividends as well as taxes and royalties on oil revenue. Aramco's plan is "a combination of two trends of optimizing the balance sheet and trying to deploy as much capital to energy and perhaps some other high-priority infrastructure," said Ziemba, who also founded consultancy Ziemba Insights. The Saudi company has tradition ally relied on joint ventures and partnerships that have given it stakes in key industries like refining and petrochemicals from the US Gulf coast to China, helping it secure guaranteed outlets for its crude. Aramco has been working to rationalize its assets and build its debt position since even before the company's 2019 initial public offering. It's sold off stakes in key infrastructure units like the company's oil and natural gas pipeline network, listed a subsidiary on the Riyadh exchange and is working to sell a stake in a domestic refinery to a Chinese partner. For decades, Aramco's vast oil fields underpinned Saudi Arabia's economy. Now the kingdom is increasingly looking beyond crude itself, turning pipelines, power plants, ports and even real estate into financial assets that can draw in foreign capital and help bankroll its next phase of growth. "The key question for investors is not the individual transaction, but the cumulative impact over time how much future cash flow is being monetized today, and what that means for Aramco's long-term free cash flow profile," said Salah Shamma, head of equity investment for Middle East and North Africa at Franklin Templeton. (Gulf Times)

- Saudi Arabia, Spain sign strategic partnership council deal, visa exemption agreement** - Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah visited the Spanish capital, Madrid, on May 13, 2026, during which he met with Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain José Manuel Albares Bueno. During the meeting, discussions focused on ways to strengthen bilateral relations, elevate them to a strategic partnership, and advance the deep and growing relationship built upon historical ties and bonds of friendship between the leadership and people of the two kingdoms. The visit culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding on the Establishment of the Saudi-Spanish Strategic Partnership Council. The two ministers expressed their satisfaction with the level and development of bilateral relations and welcomed the progress achieved in areas of cooperation, particularly in areas of shared priority, including security, defense, trade, investment, and culture, as well as multilateral cooperation. They expressed their commitment to further strengthen the strategic partnership and the future opportunities it offers. The visit culminated in the signing of an Agreement on the Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Service Passports. The two sides exchanged views on regional and international developments, expressing their concern over the escalating tensions in the region. They emphasized the importance of adhering to international law and the necessity of consolidating the ceasefire in Gaza, Iran, and Lebanon, prioritizing dialogue and diplomatic solutions to contribute to regional and international security and stability. Both sides reiterated their call for restraint and prudence, and for ensuring the security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. The Spanish side reaffirmed the Spanish government's solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the face of the blatant attacks to which their countries have been

subjected, and commended the balanced and responsible approach adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and its continued calls for de-escalation and prioritizing diplomatic solutions. The Saudi side commended the Kingdom of Spain's position calling for de-escalation in the Middle East, and its condemnation of Iranian aggression against the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, and Spain's position on the Palestinian cause and its efforts to support the two-state solution. (Zawya)

- EGA in advanced talks to take stake in Sohar Aluminum, sources say** - Emirates Global Aluminum, the largest aluminum smelter in the Middle East, is in advanced talks to take a stake in Omani rival Sohar Aluminum as it expands its footprint outside the United Arab Emirates, six sources with knowledge of the matter said. EGA, which was forced to shut down around 60% of its roughly 2.5mn metric ton per year smelting capacity in the UAE after an Iranian attack in late March, has recently been using the port of Sohar on the Gulf of Oman after the Iran war closed its usual shipping route via the Strait of Hormuz. Its discussions over 400,000-ton-per-year producer Sohar Aluminum - in which Oman's state-run energy firm OQ and Abu Dhabi National Energy Co (TAQA) each own 40% alongside Rio Tinto (RIO.L), on 20% - predate the start of the conflict by several months, however, the sources said. EGA is jointly owned by Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Co and Investment Corporation of Dubai. 'DEEP POCKETS' Three of the sources said EGA would take over TAQA's stake in Sohar Aluminum, with the holding effectively being transferred from one UAE government entity to another, while a fourth source said EGA was seeking to acquire Rio's stake. The two remaining sources said EGA was trying to acquire both the TAQA and Rio stakes. "They have deep pockets," one said of the UAE government, adding he did not think EGA would build another smelter at home because of potential environmental issues and the need to secure more electricity supply. However, the Omani government would not accept the Emiratis having majority control over Sohar Aluminum and it was likely OQ's stake would increase as part of the deal to prevent that from happening, the source said. All the sources declined to be identified because the discussions are private. Spokespeople for EGA and Rio said their companies did not comment on market rumors, while Sohar Aluminum and TAQA did not immediately respond to requests for comment. EGA, which exports 90% of its aluminum production, has been expanding overseas to build a bigger presence closer to its core customers. The firm last month announced its intention to buy 80% of Italian aluminum recycling company Eco Green and later this year plans to start building the first primary aluminum smelter in the United States in almost 50 years, alongside Century Aluminum (CENX.O). Sohar Aluminum sells around 60% of its aluminum to local downstream customers, with the rest exported via Sohar port, which the company also uses to bring in raw material alumina. Oman's biggest aluminum export markets in 2024 were Japan, Italy and India, according to Trade Data Monitor. Sohar Aluminum is currently the only aluminum smelter in Oman, but further south, work is under way on a 530,000-tons-per-year green aluminum project in Duqm led by China's CMOC (603993.SS), the Duqm Economist, a quarterly magazine for special economic zones, reported last month. (Reuters)
- UAE President and Indian Prime Minister witness exchange and announcement of agreements and MOUs** - UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, today witnessed the exchange of several agreements and memoranda of understanding aimed at advancing cooperation between the two countries within the framework of their strategic partnership. The agreements exchanged during the Indian Prime Minister's official visit to the UAE include:
 - A Strategic Collaboration Agreement between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRIL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). The agreement was exchanged by His Excellency Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Group CEO of ADNOC, and His Excellency Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India.
 - A Strategic Collaboration Agreement between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) on supplies of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The agreement was exchanged by His Excellency Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Group CEO of ADNOC, and His Excellency Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary

of India. • An Agreement on the Framework for the Strategic Defense Partnership between the Ministry of Defense of the United Arab Emirates and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of India. The agreement was exchanged by Lieutenant General Ibrahim Nasser Al Alawi, Undersecretary of the UAE Ministry of Defense, and His Excellency Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India. • A Term Sheet between G42 Group, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for the establishment of an 8-Exaflop Supercomputing Cluster in the Republic of India. It was exchanged by His Excellency Mansour Al Mansoori, Chief Executive Officer of G42 International, and His Excellency Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India. • A Memorandum of Understanding between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Drydocks World (DDW) on setting up a Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar. It was exchanged by His Excellency Essa Kazim, Chairman of DP World, and His Excellency Deepak Mittal, Ambassador of India to the UAE. • A Memorandum of Understanding between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Drydocks World (DDW) and Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS) on Skill Development in Ship Repair. It was exchanged by His Excellency Essa Kazim, Chairman of DP World, and His Excellency Deepak Mittal, Ambassador of India to the UAE. The two sides also announced a number of agreements, including: • Investment by Emirates NBD of AED 11.02bn (equivalent to 28,300 crore Indian rupees) to acquire a 60% stake in RBL Bank. • Investment by Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) of AED 3.67bn (equivalent to 9,440 crore Indian rupees) in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). • Investment by International Holding Company (IHC) of AED 3.67bn (equivalent to 9,440 crore Indian rupees) to acquire an equity stake in Sammaan Capital. (Zawya)

- **UAE's new oil pipeline push to double export capacity bypassing Hormuz** - The United Arab Emirates will accelerate construction of a new oil pipeline to double its export capacity via the port of Fujairah by 2027, the government's Abu Dhabi Media Office said on Friday, vastly expanding its ability to bypass the Strait of Hormuz. Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed directed the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to fast-track the West-East Pipeline project during an executive committee meeting, ADMO said, adding the pipeline is under construction and expected to start operating next year. Since the outbreak of the Iran war, Tehran has significantly expanded its definition of the strait and, consequently, the maritime area it claims control over. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy published a map on May 4 showing a new zone of control encompassing much of the UAE's Gulf of Oman coastline. That move coincided with a drone attack on an ADNOC tanker and a barrage on Fujairah's oil zone, which the UAE's foreign ministry called an "unacceptable transgression" and "economic blackmail." On Tuesday, the IRGC announced a further expansion, redefining the strait as a "vast operational area" stretching up to 300 miles (482.8 km) wide. **BYPASSING THE STRAIT** Tehran has effectively shut the maritime chokepoint since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, disrupting about a fifth of global oil supplies. Energy prices have surged due to the disruption, prompting fuel rationing in some countries and fears of an economic downturn as inflation builds. ADMO did not disclose the original timeline for the project. The existing Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline (ADCOP), also known as the Habshan-Fujairah pipeline, can carry up to 1.8mn barrels per day and has proved crucial as the UAE seeks to maximize exports from the Gulf of Oman coast, just outside the strait. (Reuters)
- **\$1.7bn Sphere Abu Dhabi to be built on Yas Island** - Abu Dhabi is set to host the world's second Sphere, a futuristic venue that is transforming live entertainment through its massive spherical design, ultra-high-resolution wraparound screens and cutting-edge multi-sensory technology. Rising on Yas Island at a construction cost of \$1.7bn, Sphere Abu Dhabi will be the first such venue outside the United States and is expected to become one of the emirate's most iconic attractions, blending entertainment, technology and culture to deliver immersive productions, major concerts and global events on a scale never before seen in the region. The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) and Sphere Entertainment Co announced the decision on Thursday. Poised to become a global icon, the venue will attract tourists

from around the world, boost economic diversification, and strengthen Abu Dhabi's sense of place for residents and visitors alike, a statement said. (Zawya)

- **ENEC signs deal to train Emirati nuclear talent** - The Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) has signed a strategic Cooperation Agreement with the Department of Government Enablement – Abu Dhabi (DGE), represented by Mawaheb Talent Hub, to establish a comprehensive framework for the training and employment of UAE Nationals. The partnership is designed to empower Emirati talents by providing them with the specialized skills required to be part of the UAE's growing civil nuclear energy sector. Under the five-year agreement, the two parties will cooperate to qualify at least 100 UAE Nationals holding high school diplomas, vocational diplomas, or postgraduate degrees. DGE's Mawaheb Talent Hub will provide ENEC with a curated list of candidates and grant access to its state-of-the-art facilities to conduct awareness workshops, technical assessments, and interviews. ENEC will lead the development and funding of the training programs and financial support for trainees. Upon completion of the program and meeting hiring criteria, the selected trainees will be integrated into the workforce at ENEC and its subsidiaries, joining the teams responsible for continued operational excellence of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant. Mohamed Al Hammadi, Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of ENEC, and Mariam Al Musharrakh, Director General of GovTalent at DGE, witnessed the signing agreement by Dr Abdulla AlShimmari, Executive Director of National Workforce Enablement Sector at DGE, and Ahmed Alshamsi, Chief Human Capital Officer at ENEC. Al Hammadi said: "Since its inception, ENEC has been dedicated to cultivating a world-class team of Emirati professionals who are the backbone of our success at the Barakah Plant today and for the many decades of operations ahead. This agreement with the Department of Government Enablement – Abu Dhabi, allows us to expand our talent pipeline, ensuring that the next generation of UAE Nationals is equipped with the expertise to lead and secure our nation's carbon-free future and drive long-term sustainable growth. This Initiative also supports the UAE's transition to a knowledge-based economy by equipping job seekers with specialized skills for high-tech industries". Ibrahim Nassir, Undersecretary, Department of Government Enablement – Abu Dhabi: "We believe that the most important investment any nation can make is in its people. This agreement with ENEC reflects exactly that – a shared commitment to placing Emirati talent at the heart of one of the UAE's most strategically vital sectors. Through Mawaheb, we are not simply connecting job seekers to vacancies; we are building a pipeline of nationally qualified experts who can lead the UAE's clean energy future for generations to come. Partnerships of this depth and ambition are what transform national vision into lasting reality." (Zawya)
- **EDGE Group to acquire CMD, a top-tier Italian engine firm** - EDGE Group has signed an agreement to acquire a controlling stake in Costruzio ni Motori Diesel — CMD — a leading Italian company specialized in the design, prototyping, and development of advanced propulsion systems for automotive, marine, and aeronautical applications. The signing ceremony took place at the CMD plant in Atella, in the Basilicata region of Southern Italy. The agreement, which is subject to customary closing conditions and applicable regulatory and governmental approvals, represents a strategic move to expand EDGE's footprint in advanced engineering, Industry 4.0, and power solutions. CMD, recognized for its expertise in precision engine components and powertrain technologies, is expected to benefit from increased capital investment and access to new regional and international markets, while contributing its 35-year legacy in the development and manufacturing of high-performance, high-quality engines for land, sea, and air applications. Hamad Al Marar, Managing Director and CEO, EDGE Group, said: "By entering into this agreement with CMD, we are taking an important step in building a highly capable European propulsion hub that will complement and reinforce EDGE's global industrial footprint. Through CMD's proven expertise in piston engines and advanced propulsion technologies, we will accelerate the development of competitive, export-ready products that meet the most demanding requirements of our aeronautical, automotive, and marine customers." EDGE outlined plans to scale CMD's manufacturing capabilities, accelerate research and development initiatives, and enhance its position across both conventional and next-generation

propulsion systems. The transaction is designed to unlock synergies by combining CMD's engineering heritage with EDGE's global reach and financial strength. Mariano Negri, Chief Executive Officer, CMD Group, said: "Joining forces with EDGE represents a powerful industrial opportunity for CMD, our employees, and our partners. With EDGE's support, we will be able to scale our technologies, expand our international reach, and invest further in innovation, while maintaining and strengthening our Italian industrial roots and our commitment to quality, reliability, and technological excellence." Leaders from both organizations emphasized a shared vision centered on innovation, sustainability, and long-term value creation. The combined platform is expected to strengthen its ability to meet evolving demands across the automotive, aerospace, marine, and industrial sectors, while supporting continued growth and technological advancement. Founded in 1989 by the Negri family, whose engine-making legacy dates back to before the Second World War, CMD has spent over 35 years designing, prototyping, and developing high-performance piston engines for the automotive, marine, and aeronautical sectors. The company has earned an international reputation for technical precision, innovation, and uncompromising quality standards. Until the closing of the transaction, which is expected to occur by year-end, CMD will continue to operate as an independent company under its current management team, ensuring full continuity for customers, suppliers, and employees. Upon completion, EDGE and the current shareholders of CMD, who will remain invested in the company with a significant minority stake and will continue to cover key managerial roles, will jointly define a detailed integration plan aimed at maximizing industrial synergies, safeguarding critical know-how, and accelerating the deployment of a comprehensive propulsion offering across the aeronautical, automotive, and marine segments, said the statement. (Zawya)

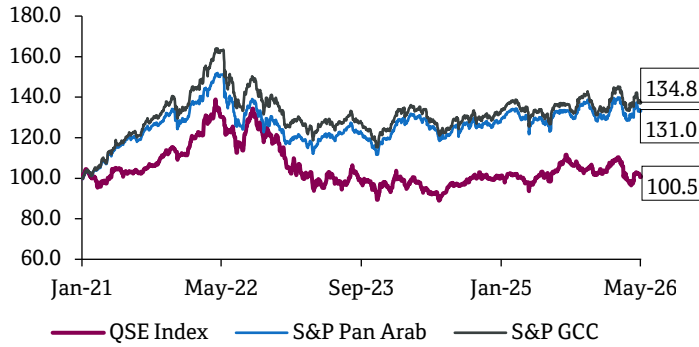
- Oman updates Net Zero Strategy, launches carbon framework** - The Ministry of Energy and Minerals unveiled the updated Net Zero Strategy and the regulatory framework for carbon markets during a media briefing held at the Ministry's headquarters on May 13, 2026, reinforcing the Sultanate of Oman's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and strengthening its position as a regional hub for green hydrogen and renewable energy. The briefing was attended by Eng Salim Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals; Mohsen Hamad Al Hadhrami, Under-Secretary of the Ministry, alongside officials and media representatives. The updated strategy developed by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, represented by the Oman Net Zero Center, is grounded in a realistic assessment of emissions pathways based on the latest data. It outlines emissions reduction priorities in alignment with the national economy, identifies the required enablers and financing mechanisms, and explores opportunities to transition towards a low-carbon economy. Al Aufi stated that the adoption of the updated national Net Zero Strategy marks a strategic step towards building a resilient, sustainable, and low-carbon economy, further strengthening Oman's global standing and aligning with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. He explained that the net zero pathway delivers significant economic and climate benefits by advancing green industries and enhancing the Sultanate's competitiveness in the sector, while also introducing advanced emissions-reduction technologies and contributing to GDP growth. Al Aufi added that the regulatory framework for carbon markets represents one of the key enablers supporting the implementation of the strategy. The framework establishes a comprehensive national regulatory structure for carbon markets in the Sultanate of Oman, setting out clear rules and streamlined procedures that encourage the participation of the private sector as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. This, in turn, is expected to create broader employment opportunities and diversify sources of income for the national economy. The regulatory framework for carbon markets aims to achieve several key objectives, including transforming the targeted 33% emissions reduction by 2035 into investable, verifiable, and tradable carbon credits. It also seeks to attract international and private investments into mitigation and adaptation projects across seven key national sectors, while reinforcing Oman's position as a trusted supplier of high-integrity carbon credits governed by robust standards in global markets. Oil and Gas Sector Eng Al Aufi noted that the oil and gas sector recorded balanced performance in 2025, combining sustainable production, expanded exploration activities, and enhanced operational

efficiency. During 2026, a bid round covering five concession areas was announced for investment, alongside continued efforts to maintain production levels and ensure reserve stability. The Minister highlighted that current indicators reaffirm the continued contribution of this vital sector, which remains a cornerstone of the Sultanate's economy. Average daily production of crude oil and condensates reached approximately 1mn barrels per day, with total annual output standing at 365.8mn barrels. A total of 64 exploration and appraisal wells were drilled, including 47 oil wells and 17 gas wells, reflecting continued investment in strengthening reserves, which reached approximately 4.7bn barrels of oil and condensates, in addition to 22.3tn cubic feet of natural gas. (Zawya)

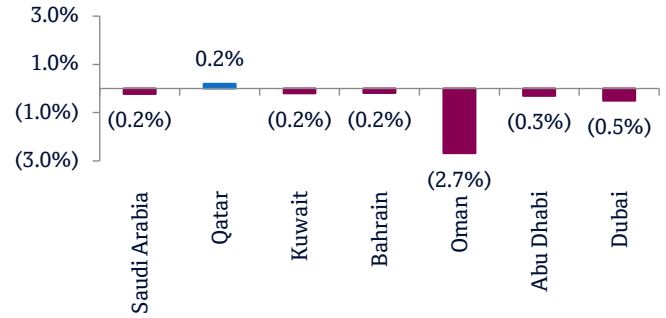
- Oman targets renewables share of 60-70% by 2040** - Oman witnessed the implementation of several strategic projects, spanning renewable energy and green hydrogen in 2025, alongside the expansion of electricity projects and related infrastructure. A number of initiatives and agreements were also launched and advanced across the hydrogen and renewable energy sectors, in addition to the establishment of export corridors to global markets. According to officials of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, policies and strategies were introduced targeting at least 10% of energy production from renewable sources by the end of the year, while setting a clear roadmap for the transition towards sustainable energy. The roadmap aims to increase the share of renewable energy to between 60% and 70% by 2040, reaching between 90% and 100% by 2050. As part of the net zero pathway, the Ministry continues to implement ambitious initiatives aimed at reducing emissions and enhancing energy efficiency. At the end of 2024, the Oman Net Zero Center was inaugurated, alongside the adoption of policies supporting the energy transition and the launch of the national energy efficiency program "Kafa'a" in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Sultan Qaboos University, with the objective of qualifying Omani talent in the field of energy auditing. The program represents one of the national pillars for improving energy consumption efficiency across various sectors through the development of policies and standards, enhancing the efficiency of appliances and buildings, promoting optimal energy use across industrial, commercial, and residential sectors, and raising awareness of the importance of energy conservation. The Ministry is also continuing to adopt policies that support the energy transition in alignment with the Sultanate of Oman's target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Eng Salim Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, affirmed that the Ministry remains committed to advancing its strategic plans and strengthening local and international partnerships in a manner that reinforces Oman's position in the energy and minerals sectors, while achieving a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability in support of Oman Vision 2040 objectives. Eng Hamood al Sawafi, Director General of Renewable Energy and Hydrogen, presented a visual overview of a package of strategic plans and projects in the energy and hydrogen sectors. The plans include reviewing the structure of the electricity market in cooperation with relevant entities and activating a national energy model to assess the impact of various variables on the sector, supporting more efficient technical and financial decision-making. The initiatives also cover the implementation of the recommendations of Oman's Energy Transition Strategy following its approval, alongside the execution of recommendations under the Integrated Energy Strategy. In addition, awareness campaigns aimed at promoting a culture of energy transition will be launched through the introduction of the "Rushd" Energy Efficiency Award during Sustainability Week 2026, while efforts continue to develop mechanisms for meeting electricity demand within the industrial sector. (Zawya)
- Oman: 3 new mining blocks, 3 projects to be offered for investment in 2026** - 2025 marked a qualitative shift in Oman's minerals sector, underscoring the accelerated development of mining as a promising driver of economic diversification, said Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals. This was demonstrated through the signing of several agreements and mining concession areas covering copper, chromium and salt resources, contributing to future revenues and increasing the sector's contribution to GDP, with expectations of accelerated growth in the coming years driven by the commencement of operations in new concession areas. Speaking at the annual media briefing, Al Aufi said this direction also aligns with a national vision to

strengthen local content through the development of national capabilities and the localization of industries and services associated with the sector. In addition, a significant milestone was achieved with the completion of the digitalization of all operations through the “Taqa” platform, enhancing efficiency, transparency and the overall investment environment. In 2025, four concession areas were offered for investment, with bids currently under evaluation, alongside 28 active concession areas operated by 13 companies. He added that further progress will be advanced during 2026 through the offering of three additional concession areas and three public investment sites, reflecting growing confidence among investors and international partners in the Omani market. Eng Saud al Mahrouqi, Director General of Minerals, delivered a visual presentation highlighting the continued positive growth indicators achieved by Oman’s minerals sector, driven by a package of development policies aimed at enhancing investment attractiveness, maximizing added value and reinforcing environmental sustainability principles, thereby supporting the sector’s role as a key driver of economic diversification. Data presented showed that the sector recorded the signing of six new concession agreements during 2025, bringing the total number of mining concession areas to 28. Copper concentrate exports also witnessed notable growth, reaching approximately 95,000 tonnes, while total investments exceeded RO 105mn. As part of efforts to further develop the investment environment, focus was placed on expanding the offering of concession areas and public investment sites, alongside enhancing the business environment through the digital “Taqa” platform and adopting smart regulatory systems to monitor mining operations, strengthening governance and compliance standards. The sector also achieved strong production performance, with total output reaching approximately 65mn tonnes, while sales amounted to 60mn tonnes with a total value nearing RO 159mn. On the sustainability front, the sector continues to adopt responsible mining practices through reducing environmental impact, requiring companies to conduct environmental impact assessments, implementing mine rehabilitation programs and supporting innovation in low emission mining technologies, in line with the transition towards a low-carbon economy. Looking ahead, the sector’s ambitious strategy is focused on expanding the exploration of strategic minerals, strengthening local manufacturing to reduce the export of raw materials, supporting the Minerals Trading Company as a national arm for marketing mineral products and offering additional concession areas and public investment sites. This upward trajectory underscores the minerals sector’s accelerating role in strengthening its contribution to the national economy, while creating broader opportunities for investment and the sustainable utilization of natural resources. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close (\$)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	4,540.08	(2.4)	(3.7)	5.1
Silver/Ounce	75.99	(9.0)	(5.4)	6.0
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	109.26	3.3	7.9	79.6
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	105.42	4.2	10.5	83.6
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.89	4.0	8.0	(27.6)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	90.90	3.3	3.4	42.7
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	129.10	1.7	4.0	67.4
Euro	1.16	(0.4)	(1.4)	(1.0)
Yen	158.74	0.2	1.3	1.3
GBP	1.33	(0.6)	(2.2)	(1.1)
CHF	1.27	(0.4)	(1.3)	0.7
AUD	0.72	(1.0)	(1.3)	7.1
USD Index	99.28	0.5	1.4	1.0
RUB	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BRL	0.20	(1.4)	(3.3)	8.7

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	4,741.61	(1.3)	(0.3)	7.0
DJ Industrial	49,526.17	(1.1)	(0.2)	3.0
S&P 500	7,408.50	(1.2)	0.1	8.2
NASDAQ 100	26,225.14	(1.5)	(0.1)	12.8
STOXX 600	606.92	(1.9)	(2.0)	1.6
DAX	23,950.57	(2.5)	(2.8)	(3.3)
FTSE 100	10,195.37	(2.5)	(2.5)	1.7
CAC 40	7,952.55	(2.0)	(3.1)	(3.3)
Nikkei	61,409.29	(2.3)	(3.3)	20.2
MSCI EM	1,668.17	(2.8)	(2.5)	18.8
SHANGHAI SE Composite	4,135.39	(1.4)	(1.2)	6.9
HANG SENG	25,962.73	(1.6)	(1.7)	0.7
BSE SENSEX	75,237.99	(0.6)	(4.3)	(17.3)
Bovespa	177,283.83	(2.2)	(7.0)	19.0
RTS	1,089.60	(1.7)	(1.7)	(4.7)

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

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