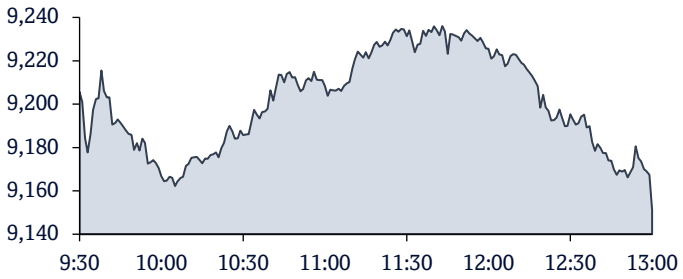
QSE Intra-Day Movement



Qatar Commentary

The QE Index declined 0.7% to close at 9,151.2. Losses were led by the Telecoms and Industrials indices, falling 1.5% and 1.4%, respectively. Top losers were Nebras Energy and Qatari Investors Group, falling 5.3% and 2.9%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co gained 7.5%, while Qatar National Cement Company was up 5.9%.

GCC Commentary

Saudi Arabia: The TASI Index fell 1.0% to close at 9,921.5. Losses were led by the Media and Entertainment and Commercial & Professional Svc indices, falling 2.6% and 2.5%, respectively. Seera Group Holding declined 7.0%, while Development Works Food Co was down 6.8%.

Dubai: The DFM General Index fell 0.8% to close at 5,770.7. The Consumer Staples index declined 1.8%, while the Financials index fell 1.3%. Dubai Islamic Insurance and Reinsurance Co and Unikai Foods both were down 4.8%

Abu Dhabi: The ADX General Index fell 0.1% to close at 9,466.3. The Health Care index declined 2.5%, while the Consumer Discretionary index fell 1.8%. RAK Co. for White Cement & Construction Materials and Aram Group both were down 5.0%.

Kuwait: The Kuwait All Share Index fell 0.4% to close at 8,454.0. The Technology index declined 3.9%, while the Telecommunications index fell 1.1%. Gulf Insurance Group Ksc declined 9.1%, while Automated Systems Co Kscc was down 7.7%.

Oman: The MSM 30 Index fell 0.4% to close at 7,346.2. Losses were led by the Financial and Industrial indices, falling 0.3% and 0.1%, respectively. Al Jazeera Services Company declined 2.8%, while Acwa Power Barka was down 2.7%.

Bahrain: The BHB Index fell 0.3% to close at 1,830.0. The Financials index fell 0.4%, while the Communications Services index was down 0.2%. Seef Properties declined 1.5%, while Bahrain Ship Repair & Engin was down 1.0%.

Market Indicators	29 Oct 26	28 Oct 26	%Chg.
Value Traded (QR mn)	440.3	506.1	(13.0)
Exch. Market Cap. (QR mn)	556,035.0	559,849.1	(0.7)
Volume (mn)	163.5	221.1	(26.0)
Number of Transactions	31,268	37,654	(17.0)
Companies Traded	52	52	0.0
Market Breadth	16:32	21:28	–

Market Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	YTD%	TTM P/E
Total Return	22,613.72	(0.7)	6.3	(12.1)	11.8
All Share Index	3,637.41	(0.6)	5.9	(10.4)	10.9
Banks	4,744.17	(0.4)	6.6	(9.6)	9.3
Industrials	3,412.24	(1.4)	5.4	(17.5)	17.5
Transportation	4,892.97	0.3	7.0	(10.5)	11.1
Real Estate	1,277.19	(0.6)	5.5	(16.5)	26.3
Insurance	2,687.75	0.4	3.7	7.5	10.3
Telecoms	2,197.05	(1.5)	3.4	(1.4)	10.5
Consumer Goods and Services	7,298.14	(0.6)	4.8	(12.4)	13.6
Al Rayan Islamic Index	4,557.68	(1.1)	6.4	(10.9)	13.0

GCC Top Gainers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
NMDC Group PJSC	Abu Dhabi	25.50	2.0	87.5	25.6
Commercial Bank	Qatar	3.870	1.8	5,079.5	(7.9)
Bupa Arabia for Cooperative	Saudi Arabia	139.0	1.8	513.2	0.1
ADNOC Drilling Co PJSC	Abu Dhabi	5.840	1.6	8,398.1	9.4
Ades Holding Co	Saudi Arabia	8.790	1.6	4,519.4	0.8

GCC Top Losers##	Exchange	Close#	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Nebras Energy	Qatar	13.73	(5.3)	1,928.7	(8.8)
Electrical Industries Co	Saudi Arabia	10.23	(4.6)	4,943.5	(7.4)
Americana Restaurants	Abu Dhabi	2.400	(4.0)	4,169.1	48.1
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank	Abu Dhabi	19.88	(3.9)	3,281.2	(3.7)
Emirates NBD Bank	Dubai	29.22	(3.5)	1,871.2	4.9

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

QSE Top Gainers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co	2.360	7.5	643.4	0.3
Qatar National Cement Company	2.738	5.9	3,333.5	(0.8)
Doha Insurance Group	3.000	5.3	17.8	16.9
The Commercial Bank	3.870	1.8	5,079.5	(7.9)
Al Khaleej Takaful Insurance Co.	2.980	1.5	698.0	30.9

QSE Top Losers	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
Nebras Energy	13.73	(5.3)	1,928.7	(8.8)
Qatari Investors Group	1.732	(2.9)	1,842.3	17.8
Vodafone Qatar	2.500	(2.7)	2,728.8	2.6
Dukhan Bank	3.060	(2.5)	3,958.7	(12.5)
Inma Holding	2.189	(2.2)	236.4	(31.4)

QSE Top Volume Trades	Close*	1D%	Vol. '000	YTD%
AlRayan Bank	1.816	(0.2)	25,762.4	(17.2)
Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co.	1.200	(0.4)	11,895.6	(25.0)
Baladna	1.199	(0.9)	10,980.2	(2.2)
Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding	0.865	(1.8)	10,893.1	(20.9)
Gulf International Services	1.456	(1.7)	10,233.0	(43.0)

QSE Top Value Trades	Close*	1D%	Val. '000	YTD%
AlRayan Bank	1.816	(0.2)	46,858.5	(17.2)
QNB Group	16.40	(0.6)	35,195.8	(12.1)
Industries Qatar	8.820	(0.9)	32,277.7	(26.1)
Qatar Islamic Bank	19.99	0.0	29,705.0	(16.5)
Ooredoo	11.84	(1.2)	28,953.4	(9.1)

Regional Indices	Close	1D%	WTD%	MTD%	YTD%	Exch. Val. Traded ($ mn)	Exchange Mkt. Cap. ($ mn)	P/E**	P/B**	Dividend Yield
Qatar*	9,151.18	(0.7)	6.3	(1.0)	(15.0)	121.0	152,353.6	11.8	1.1	3.9
Dubai^	5,770.73	(0.8)	0.6	(3.2)	(4.6)	150.0	258,629.7	8.8	1.6	5.5
Abu Dhabi^	9,466.34	(0.1)	(1.3)	(6.0)	(5.3)	239.9	642,792.9	16.3	2.1	2.6
Saudi Arabia	9,921.50	(1.0)	2.3	(5.0)	(5.4)	1,073.4	2,460,701.5	14.8	1.9	4.1
Kuwait	8,453.99	(0.4)	2.0	(3.7)	(5.1)	262.0	162,521.9	18.0	1.7	3.4
Oman	7,346.19	(0.4)	(0.5)	(2.9)	25.2	109.4	55,882.3	13.1	1.5	4.6
Bahrain	1,830.01	(0.3)	(1.2)	(4.1)	(11.4)	1.2	18,794.3	14.5	1.2	4.4

*Source: Bloomberg, Qatar Stock Exchange, Tadawul, Muscat Securities Market and Dubai Financial Market (** TTM; * Value traded ($ mn) do not include special trades if any, ^ Data as of 30 October 2026)*

Qatar Market Commentary

- The QE Index declined 0.7% to close at 9,151.2. The Telecoms and Industrials indices led the losses. The index fell on the back of selling pressure from non-Qatari shareholders despite buying support from Qatari shareholders.
- Nebras Energy and Qatari Investors Group were the top losers, falling 5.3% and 2.9%, respectively. Among the top gainers, Qatar Industrial Manufacturing Co gained 7.5%, while Qatar National Cement Company was up 5.9%.
- Volume of shares traded on Thursday fell by 26.0% to 163.5mn from 221.1mn on Wednesday. However, as compared to the 30-day moving average of 157mn, volume for the day was 4.1% higher. AlRayan Bank and Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Co. were the most active stocks, contributing 15.8% and 7.3% to the total volume, respectively.

Overall Activity	Buy%*	Sell%*	Net (QR)
Qatari Individuals	26.50%	22.18%	19,021,787.15
Qatari Institutions	31.64%	31.62%	83,707.96
Qatari	**58.14%**	**53.81%**	**19,105,495.11**
GCC Individuals	0.42%	0.29%	584,172.22
GCC Institutions	3.62%	3.90%	(1,217,509.07)
GCC	**4.04%**	**4.19%**	**(633,336.85)**
Arab Individuals	8.15%	8.39%	(1,075,850.65)
Arab Institutions	0.00%	0.00%	0.00
Arab	**8.15%**	**8.39%**	**(1,075,850.65)**
Foreigners Individuals	3.20%	2.07%	4,983,833.06
Foreigners Institutions	26.46%	31.55%	(22,380,140.66)
Foreigners	**29.67%**	**33.62%**	**(17,396,307.60)**

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

Global Economic Data and Earnings Calendar

Global Economic Data

Date	Market	Source	Indicator	Period	Actual	Consensus	Previous
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Personal Income	Sep	0.20%	0.30%	0.30%
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Personal Spending	Sep	0.50%	0.60%	--
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	PCE Price Index MoM	Sep	0.50%	0.50%	--
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	PCE Price Index YoY	Sep	3.60%	3.60%	--
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Core PCE Price Index MoM	Sep	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Core PCE Price Index YoY	Sep	3.10%	3.10%	--
10/29	US	Department of Labor	Initial Jobless Claims	24-Oct	194k	198k	195k
10/29	US	Department of Labor	Continuing Claims	17-Oct	1701k	1720k	1722k
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	GDP Annualized QoQ	3Q A	3.40%	3.20%	--
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Personal Consumption	3Q A	3.80%	3.40%	--
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	GDP Price Index	3Q A	2.30%	3.20%	--
10/29	US	Bureau of Economic Analysis	Core PCE Price Index QoQ	3Q A	2.50%	2.40%	--
10/29	US	U.S. Department of Energy	EIA Natural Gas Storage Change	23-Oct	80	72	--
10/30	US	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Employment Cost Index	3Q	0.80%	0.80%	--
10/29	UK	Bank of England	Net Lending Sec. on Dwellings	Sep	3.9b	4.2b	4.2b
10/29	UK	Bank of England	Mortgage Approvals	Sep	53.4k	54.0k	54.8k
10/29	UK	Bank of England	Money Supply M4 MoM	Sep	0.10%	--	--
10/29	UK	Bank of England	M4 Money Supply YoY	Sep	3.90%	--	4.50%
10/29	UK	Bank of England	M4 Ex IOFCs 3M Annualized	Sep	1.60%	--	3.10%
10/30	UK	Nationwide Building Society	Nationwide House PX MoM	Oct	0.00%	-0.20%	-0.30%
10/30	UK	Nationwide Building Society	Nationwide House Px NSA YoY	Oct	0.50%	0.60%	--

Earnings Calendar

Tickers	Company Name	Date of reporting results	No. of days remaining	Status
QGMD	Qatari German Co. for Medical Devices	2-Nov-26	1	Due
FALH	Al Faleh Educational Holding	4-Nov-26	3	Due

Qatar

- **GISS's bottom line declines 53.1% YoY in 3Q2026, misses our estimate –** Gulf International Services (GISS) reported net profit of QR77.7mn in 3Q2026 as compared to net profit of QR165.8mn in 3Q2025 and net loss of QR8.8mn in 2Q2026, missing our estimate of QR145.9mn. The company's revenue came in at QR1,108.5mn in 3Q2026, which represents a decrease of 3.7% YoY, missing our estimated revenue of QR1,179.0mn (variation of -6.0%). However, on QoQ basis revenue rose 14.1%. EPS amounted to QR0.042 in 3Q2026 as compared to QR0.089 in 3Q2025. (QNBFS, QSE)
- **ZHCD's bottom line rises 1.1% YoY and 286.0% QoQ in 3Q2026 –** Zad Holding Company's (ZHCD) net profit rose 1.1% YoY (+286.0% QoQ) to QR42.5mn in 3Q2026. The company's operating revenue came in at QR385.2mn in 3Q2026, which represents an increase of 27.2% YoY (+40.3% QoQ). EPS amounted to QR0.15 in 3Q2026 as compared to QR0.15 in 3Q2025. (QSE)
- **DBIS reports net loss of QR7.4mn in 3Q2026 –** Dlala Brokerage and Investments Holding Co. (DBIS) reported net loss of QR7.4mn in 3Q2026 as compared to net profit of QR6.7mn in 3Q2025 and net profit of QR4.7mn in 2Q2026. The company's net brokerage commission income came in at QR1.8mn in 3Q2026, which represents a decrease of 44.9% YoY (-30.7% QoQ). Loss per share amounted to QR0.040 as compared to EPS of QR0.040 in 3Q2025. (QSE)
- **QOIS reports net loss of QR5.0mn in 3Q2026 –** Qatar Oman Investment Company (QOIS) reported net loss of QR5.0mn in 3Q2026 as compared to net loss of QR0.2mn in 3Q2025 and QR0.2mn in 2Q2026. The company's rental income came in at QR0.5mn in 3Q2026, which represents a decrease of 10.1% YoY. However, on QoQ basis rental income rose 1.1%. Loss per share amounted to QR0.028 in 3Q2026 as compared to QR0.001 in 3Q2025. (QSE)

- **Qatar Gas Transport Company Ltd.: AL Mayeda – vessel incident in the Arabian Gulf** - Qatar Gas Transport Company (Nakilat) confirms that its LNG carrier Al Mayeda was hit by unidentified objects, while transiting the Arabian Gulf on Friday evening, 30th October 2026. None of the crew members onboard were injured, and there is no impact on the environment as a result of this incident. The vessel is in a safe condition, operational and the impact of the incident is being assessed. Nakilat remains in direct coordination with the vessel, its crew and the relevant maritime security authorities in the region to ensure the safety of the crew, while continuing to closely monitor the situation. The safety of our people, protection of the environment, and the integrity of our assets remain Nakilat highest priorities. (QSE)
- **Edaa announces the completion of the capital reduction process for Widam Food Company -** Edaa has reduced the capital of Widam Food Company, the new capital is now (QR 80mn) and the new total number of shares is (80mn) shares. (QSE)
- **The adjustment of Widam Food Co. reference price after the trading session of Thursday 29 October 2026 -** Qatar Stock Exchange announces that the reference price of Widam Food Co. will be adjusted after today's trading session, 29/10/2026. This follows completion of the reduction of the company's capital by 72.2%, from 180,000,000 shares to 50,000,000 shares. The closing price will be adjusted to the new reference price = QR4.554. Furthermore, the company's capital will be increased through the conversion of bonds into shares valued at 30mn Qatari Riyals for the benefit of Hassad Food Company. After this increase, the total capital of Widam Food Co., will amount to 80,000,000 Qatari Riyals, divided into 80,000,000 shares. Accordingly, all orders in the order book of Widam Food Co. (WDAM) will be cancelled. (QSE)
- **Baladna: will hold its AGM and EGM on 23/11/2026** - Baladna announces that the General Assembly Meeting AGM and EGM will be held on 23/11/2026, via Zoom online application and attendance can be registered at Tower 18 (The E18HTEEN Tower) in Lusail City - Doha and 05:00 PM. In case of not completing the legal quorum, the second meeting will be held on 25/11/2026, via Zoom online application and attendance can be registered at Tower 18 (The E18HTEEN Tower) in Lusail City - Doha and 05:00 PM. **Ordinary General Assembly Agenda**: 1. Consider the Board of Directors' proposal to distribute interim dividends for the financial period ended 30 June 2026, together with a portion of the retained earnings for the financial year ended 31 December 2025, in an aggregate amount of QR401,997,180 (four hundred and one million, nine hundred and ninety-seven thousand, one hundred and eighty Qatari Riyals), in the form of bonus shares at a ratio of three (3) shares for every twenty (20) shares held, equivalent to QAR 0.15 per share. **Extraordinary General Assembly Agenda**: 1. Approve the increase of the Company's issued and paid-up share capital from QAR 2,679,981,202 to QAR 3,081,978,382 through the distribution of 401,997,180 ordinary bonus shares as interim dividends, at a ratio of three (3) bonus shares for every twenty (20) shares held, with a nominal value of QAR 1 per share, subject to the Ordinary General Assembly's approval of the proposed distribution. Any fractional shares arising from the distribution shall be allocated in the name of Baladna. 2. Approve the amendment of Article (6) of the Company's Articles of Association relating to the Company's share capital. 3. Approve the amendment of certain provisions of the Company's Articles of Association to comply with the Corporate Governance Code for Listed Companies issued pursuant to Decision No. (5) of 2025. 4. Authorize the Managing Director to take all necessary actions and grant him all powers required to implement the resolutions of the Extraordinary General Assembly, complete all procedures for amending the Company's Articles of Association, and sign all documents before the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and any other relevant authority. (QSE)
- **Day Three of participation Barwa Real Estate Group Cityscape Qatar 2026 Sees New Agreements Signed and Continued Strong Interest in "Barwa Bay" -** Barwa Real Estate Group continued its participation on the third day of Cityscape Qatar 2026, with its pavilion attracting strong interest from visitors and investors and continued registrations of interest in residential units at its latest project, "Barwa Bay". The day also saw the signing of several agreements and partnerships supporting the Group's strategy to develop its real estate portfolio, maximise the investment value of its assets and expand its network of partnerships. (QSE)
- **Barwa Real Estate Group's second day of participation at Cityscape Qatar 2026 -** Barwa Real Estate Group continued its participation on the second day of Cityscape Qatar 2026, with its pavilion attracting significant interest from visitors and investors, including strong demand for expressions of interest in residential units at its latest development, "Barwa Bay." The Group also announced a series of agreements, partnerships and transactions supporting its strategy to grow its real estate portfolio, maximize the investment value of its assets and broaden its network of partnerships. (QSE)
- **QIIB Senior Oryx Ltd. announces results of consent solicitation for re-domiciliation to Qatar Financial Centre -** On 5 October 2026, Qatar International Islamic Bank (Q.P.S.C.), on behalf of the Trustee, circulated by electronic mail to the Certificate holders a proposed written resolution (the "Written Resolution") to approve, inter alios, certain modifications to the terms and conditions of the Certificates (the "Conditions") to reflect the proposed re-domiciliation of the Trustee from the Cayman Islands to the Qatar Financial Centre, as further described in the attachment. (QSE)
- **Reconstitution of the Board Nomination, Remuneration, and Incentives committee of Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company -** The Board of Directors of Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding Company (MPHC) has approved the reconstitution of the Board Nomination, Remuneration, and Incentives Committee, comprising the following Board members: 1. Mr. Abdulla Ahmad Al-Hussaini – Chairman 2. Mr. Ali Nasser Telfat – Member 3. Mr. Khalid Sultan Al-Kuwari – Member. (QSE)
- **Reconstitution of the Board Nomination, Remuneration, and Incentives committee of Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company (QAMCO) -** The Board of Directors of Qatar Aluminum Manufacturing Company (QAMCO) has approved the reconstitution of the Board Nomination, Remuneration, and Incentives Committee, comprising the following Board members: 1. Mr. Mohammed Essa Al-Mannai – Chairman 2. Mr. Nabeel Mohammed Al-Buenain – Member 3. Mr. Ahmed Abdulqader Al-Ahmed – Member. (QSE)
- **QatarEnergy to Purchase 3 MTPA of US LNG from Woodside Energy -** QatarEnergy announced that it entered into a long-term Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Woodside Energy (LA) Investments LLC (Woodside Energy) for the purchase of 3mn tons per annum (MTPA) of LNG from the Louisiana LNG project, located along the United States Gulf Coast, and currently under construction. QatarEnergy said in a statement on Thursday, that, under the terms of the SPA - deliveries will be on an FOB basis and are anticipated to commence in 2030 for 20 years. The signing of the agreement was celebrated at a ceremony attended by HE Minister of State for Energy Affairs, President and CEO of QatarEnergy, Eng. Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, and CEO and Managing Director of Woodside Energy, Liz Westcott. On this occasion, HE Minister of State for Energy Affairs, said, "We are pleased to further enhance our global supply and trading portfolio with another long-term purchase of LNG from the US These additional volumes make QatarEnergy the largest buyer of LNG from the US, and place us in a stronger position to meet the global growing needs for LNG. "Our Golden Pass LNG project and our expanding portfolio of US LNG purchases reinforce QatarEnergy's leadership in the LNG industry and support our long-term growth and diversification strategy," he added. The SPA reflects QatarEnergy's continued confidence in the long-term role of LNG in the global energy mix and its strategy to further develop a flexible, diversified and globally competitive LNG portfolio. (Gulf Times)
- **Qatar secures $5mn investment as ALPHA10X moves international headquarters to Doha -** Qatar is set to strengthen its artificial intelligence (AI) sector as GrowthX Capital leads a $5mn investment in ALPHA10X, which plans to establish its global headquarters in Doha and recruit talent. The investment, announced at a signing ceremony hosted by Qatar Chamber yesterday, will support ALPHA10X's expansion as a predictive AI company seeking to improve investment decisions in private markets. Founded by Qatari investor Hamad Mubarak al-Hajri, GrowthX Capital is leading the $5m Pre-Series A funding round as ALPHA10X relocates from France to Qatar, bringing its technology and international growth ambitions to the country. ALPHA10X founder and group chief executive

Robert Marcus said the company plans to move staff to Doha, recruit locally, and establish a substantial regional presence. "We expect to have at least 50 very senior people in Doha by the end of next year," Marcus said, outlining the company's expansion plans through 2027. He described the move as a significant commitment, adding that Qatar offered access to major pools of capital and international investment networks. GrowthX Capital's investment reflects an ambition to build globally competitive technology companies from Qatar while connecting domestic investment with international expertise. Al-Hajri said the agreement represented the beginning of a larger opportunity for the country's innovation-driven economy. "Today, I'm proud to announce leading investment of $5mn from GrowthX Capital to Alpha10," he said in an interview, referring to the company's decision to make Doha its new home. He said the development aligns with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the country's ambition to shift from a traditional economy to one driven by knowledge and innovation. "This is part of a huge vision of Qatar 2030, which is moving from traditional economy to knowledge-based and innovation economy," al-Hajri said. He also expressed confidence in the company's long-term prospects, saying he believed it could become a unicorn, a privately held startup valued at $1bn or more. ALPHA10X develops predictive Decision Intelligence technology to help investors assess opportunities, evaluate risks, and make more consistent decisions in private markets, including private equity, venture capital, and investment banking. Marcus said the company operates at the intersection of AI and private capital, an area he believes has considerable scope for improvement. "Our technology is designed to make the process of investing in private markets much more efficient," he said. He argues that investment decisions remained inefficient despite technological advances, creating an opportunity for AI to improve capital deployment. According to Marcus, the company's technology could have significant applications in Qatar and the wider Middle East, where private markets represent an important part of the investment landscape. ALPHA10X's platform, powered by its proprietary reasoning system ALPHAcodex, connects investment evidence, predictive models, and institutional decision-making rules. It aims to make the reasoning behind investment decisions more transparent and measurable while leaving final decisions in investors' hands. The company said its approach could help institutions identify assumptions, assess uncertainty, and learn from past investment outcomes, translating expertise into more consistent decision-making. Marcus said the partnership with GrowthX Capital offered an opportunity to work more closely with institutional investors and help the region improve investment performance. "We feel we've found a great partnership with GrowthX and Hamad in a location where there are significant pools of capital," he said. The company has previously raised $20mn in seed funding and, through its partnership with strategy consulting firm Kearney, has delivered more than 100 engagements across 11 countries, according to the announcement. The new investment will primarily support product development and improvements to the platform's predictive capabilities, and the company also intends to link investment insights more closely to transaction execution and capital deployment. Qatar Chamber acting general manager Ali Bousherbak al-Mansouri said hosting the signing reflected the chamber's commitment to strengthening co-operation between Qatari companies and international businesses. He highlighted the growing role of AI and data analytics in transforming business, supporting startups and creating opportunities for investment and collaboration. (Gulf Times)

- **QNB Group announces full allocation of Dandy IPO shares, trading expected in November 2026 -** QNB Group, a leading financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, has announced the successful allocation of all shares subscribed in the initial public offering (IPO) of Dandy Ltd Company (Dandy), marking a key milestone in the company's planned listing on the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE). With the final share allocations confirmed, Dandy will now proceed with the remaining stages of the IPO process. Trading in the company's shares is expected to commence in November, subject to the finalization of its admission to the exchange. Through the IPO, Dandy is offering 40% of its equity to investors, reflecting its move to broaden its ownership base and access Qatar's capital markets. The offering has attracted strong interest from institutional investors, including insurance companies and private investment firms, according to QNB Group. A total of 41.2mn shares have been allocated at a price of QR5.01 per share. The total offering size amounts to QR206.412mn, inclusive of offering and listing fees. Following its listing, Dandy is expected to have a market capitalization of QR515mn. QNB Group acted as the lead receiving bank for the offering, with Ahli Bank, AlRayan Bank, The Commercial Bank, Doha Bank, Dukhan Bank, Qatar International Islamic Bank and Qatar Islamic Bank also serving as receiving banks. Maroon Capital Advisory acted as the offering and listing advisor. The completion of the share allocation represents an important step in Dandy's transition to a publicly listed company and adds to the range of investment opportunities available in Qatar's capital market. The listing will allow investors to participate in the company's equity through the stock exchange once trading begins. QNB Group's role in the IPO also highlights the banking sector's contribution to the development of Qatar's financial markets by supporting companies seeking to raise capital through public offerings. A broader investor base and increased participation in the capital market are among the mechanisms through which such transactions can support private-sector growth and strengthen the country's investment ecosystem. QNB said its participation in the offering reflects its continued commitment to supporting Qatar's economic growth, the development of its financial markets and the country's economic diversification and sustainable development objectives under Qatar National Vision 2030. The expected November listing remains subject to the completion of the remaining admission procedures, after which Dandy's shares will be available for trading on the exchange. (Qatar Tribune)

- **QIA focuses on preserving Qatar's wealth for future generations -** CEO of the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) Mohammed Saif Al Sowaidi affirmed that QIA was established with the objective of preserving and growing the nation's wealth for future generations, enabling it to operate with a long-term vision, insulated from short-term fluctuations and considerations. This came during his participation in a panel discussion as part of the "Global Perspectives: In Doha" event, organized by CNN in collaboration with Media City Qatar, which served as the host partner, marking the event's debut in the Middle East and the Gulf region. QIA CEO added that QIA's nature as a long-term investor provides it with a significant advantage in building partnerships with companies and investment institutions. It offers stable, patient capital and supports the companies in which it invests to develop their businesses and achieve sustainable growth. He noted that one of his primary objectives upon assuming the position was to prepare the organization for the next phase of liquefied natural gas (LNG) production expansion in Qatar, and the significant revenue growth expected to accompany it. He indicated that the challenge lies in how to absorb these revenues and deploy them efficiently through diversified investments capable of generating sustainable returns, while maintaining the flexibility needed to navigate economic and geopolitical shifts. He added that QIA follows a structured approach in managing the relationship between the state's fiscal policy and its investment policy, while maintaining appropriate safety margins and reserves. This ensures the capacity to meet future obligations, including addressing the needs of current generations, when necessary, without compromising the objective of preserving wealth for future generations. On the other hand, QIA CEO affirmed that the United States represents one of the QIA's most important investment destinations, given the scale of its economy, the depth of its financial markets, and its leadership in innovation. He noted that the QIA is focused on building long-term investments, enhancing its technical and investment capabilities, and preparing for the anticipated growth in the State of Qatar's revenues as LNG production increases. Commenting on the announced $500bn investment commitment in the United States over the next ten years, the CEO noted that this approach is linked to the scale of the US market and its standing in the global economy, as well as the broad range of investment opportunities across public and private equities, private credit, technology, and innovation. He underscored that the United States accounts for approximately one-quarter of global GDP and holds a significant share of investable financial markets, making it a key destination in QIA's strategy to expand the scope of its investments and enhance the efficiency of its capital deployment. He emphasized that QIA is working to strengthen its presence in the United States, including expanding its New York office team, with a target of increasing its headcount to between 40 and 45 employees over the next two years. He

added that the continuation of this trend depends on the existence of an attractive investment environment, indicating that any policies that might stifle innovation or investment, or impose additional restrictions on foreign investors, could necessitate adjustments to the investment strategy. Regarding AI and technology investments, the CEO emphasized that the organization adopts a selective approach, focusing on companies with clear business models and a demonstrated capacity to generate revenue and enhance productivity over the medium to long term. He stressed the significance of distinguishing between true economic value and the exaggerated expectations that can accompany new technologies, noting that investment in this field requires a deep understanding of the future, a precise assessment of risks, and the ability to identify companies capable of transforming innovation into a sustainable economic activity. CEO of the QIA Mohammed Saif Al Sowaidi added that demand for computing power is expected to remain strong in the coming years, driven by major technology companies. He cautioned, however, that some startups may face competitive pressures, particularly given the greater financial and technological resources of larger companies. He emphasized that QIA focuses on investment quality and economic viability, while acknowledging the potential for market disruptions, including the impact of interest rate levels on financing and private credit. Discussing QIA's investments in advanced technology companies, including Anthropic, which specializes in artificial intelligence, the CEO highlighted that the investment reflects confidence in the company's potential to develop innovative software solutions for institutions and businesses. He added that the value of these investments extends beyond financial returns to include stronger technical expertise, opportunities to connect with leaders, experts, and scientists, and a deeper understanding of future economic and technological trends. The QIA CEO noted the Authority's participation in an investment alliance in the media sector, given the evolving content consumption patterns of younger generations and the increasing competition from social media platforms. He said that the media sector needs to adapt to these changes and develop content delivery methods that meet audience needs, emphasizing that the Authority views these investments from a long-term perspective, relying on the executive leadership's ability to implement the required transformations. He further said that developing institutional capabilities is a key priority for the Authority. Strengthening technical expertise and building specialized teams, he noted, can add significant value to the companies in which it invests, even where its stake is limited. He said the QIA has been studying long-term investment trends and identifying sectors in which it can outperform markets, drawing on its diversified portfolio, asset classes, and investment strategies. Looking ahead, he pointed out that the QIA's success is measured not only by financial returns, but also by its ability to support companies through transformation and innovation, build strong leadership within the organization, and develop the expertise needed to understand global markets and the economy. The QIA CEO concluded by emphasizing the importance of building trust with international partners, noting that the Authority's presence in major financial centers, such as New York and Singapore, strengthens communication and helps bridge gaps between investors and companies. He added that QIA seeks to combine long-term partnerships with rigorous due diligence in legal and negotiation aspects, stressing that trust is essential to successful partnerships and sustainable investment opportunities. (Qatar Tribune)

- **CNN's 'Global Perspectives' series makes Middle East and Gulf debut in Doha -** CNN's flagship "Global Perspectives" events series made its Middle East and Gulf debut in Doha on Thursday with the launch of "Global Perspectives: In Doha," bringing together prominent international leaders and experts to examine the forces reshaping politics, the global economy, technology, investment, culture, sports and media. Organized by CNN in partnership with Media City Qatar, the event's host partner, the Doha edition provides a platform for dialogue on the key issues, trends and developments shaping the global landscape. In his opening remarks, Chairman of Media City Qatar Sheikh Dr. Abdulla bin Ali Al Thani underscored the importance of dialogue, exchange of perspectives and mutual understanding, saying Doha's hosting of the event reflected its role as a meeting point for ideas and expertise from around the world. He said Media City Qatar was building an integrated media ecosystem that connects international organizations with the region, its people and its ideas, while amplifying regional voices on the global stage and fostering a deeper international understanding of the Middle East, its priorities and its evolving landscape. The ecosystem comprises more than 550 licensed companies, around 70% of which are based outside the region, including leading international media organizations, he noted. Media City Qatar has also supported more than 30 local projects across documentaries, drama series, films, gaming and podcasts. Two original Arabic drama series have recently completed production, while three film companies licensed by Media City Qatar have been selected to participate in an international film festival this year. Highlighting the partnership with CNN, Sheikh Dr. Abdulla pointed to the CNN Academy's first program in Qatar, held last week, which brought together 35 students from universities across the country for practical training with experienced journalists in storytelling, mobile journalism, news verification and field reporting. He expressed hope that the discussions would deepen understanding of the region and challenge preconceived notions about the world, stressing that the exchange of expertise and perspectives was essential to understanding the forces driving global change. For his part, Sir Mark Thompson, chairman and CEO of CNN Worldwide, praised Qatar's steadfast commitment to diplomacy and dialogue during exceptionally challenging times, noting that its efforts extended beyond resolving conflicts to laying the groundwork for a more prosperous and cooperative future. He said CNN had maintained a presence in the region for nearly 25 years, with its operation in Qatar strengthening its ability to bring coverage of the Middle East to audiences across the region and worldwide. Thompson said the network's experience over the past year had further deepened its appreciation of Qatar's resilience and adaptability, as well as the opportunities the country offers. He also commended the CNN team behind the event's program and thanked the speakers who had travelled from around the world to take part, highlighting the partnership with Media City Qatar as instrumental to the event's success. Moderated by leading CNN anchors and correspondents, the event's sessions explore key developments shaping artificial intelligence, the global economy, energy, sports and culture. Held under the theme "The Invisible World," the discussions examine the forces and emerging trends reshaping the global landscape. (Qatar Tribune)
- **Qatar researchers develop AI platform to transform maternal healthcare -** A group of researchers from Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) has developed an artificial intelligence-powered platform aimed at making maternal and foetal healthcare more efficient, consistent and accessible by bringing ultrasound analysis, clinical knowledge, decision support and medical reporting together in a single system. AI Scholar MaternaCare, developed by HBKU's College of Science and Engineering (CSE), uses AI to analyse foetal ultrasound images, identify anatomical structures and extract clinically relevant measurements and indicators. MaternaCare recently secured second place in the Ghain Mena Scale-Up Award and a $17,500 grant, providing additional support for its transition from research innovation towards clinical application. The researchers involved in the project are: Dr Mowafa Househ, Professor; Dr Marco Agus, associate professor; Dr Mahmood AlZubaidi, post-doc researcher and Dr Zain Tariq, post-doc researcher, all from College of Science and Engineering, HBKU. "MaternaCare is designed to support doctors rather than replace them, with clinicians retaining responsibility for reviewing AI-generated information and making final decisions based on each patient's individual circumstances," said Dr Househ. By providing an additional layer of analytical support, MaternaCare could help clinicians identify structures, measurements and potential indicators that may warrant closer attention, while also reducing the time spent on repetitive documentation. The platform then combines these findings with evidence-based medical knowledge to provide structured information that can assist healthcare professionals in interpreting results and preparing clinical reports. "For expectant mothers and their families, the potential impact is more consistent and timely care. MaternaCare is being developed as an end-to-end clinical informatics and decision-support platform rather than simply an AI tool that analyses ultrasound images," explained Dr Househ. Its capabilities include AI-assisted foetal ultrasound analysis, anatomical segmentation and measurements, foetal assessment support, image-quality enhancement, evidence-based clinical intelligence, automated and structured medical reporting, explainable AI outputs, and maternal-health education and awareness. A key element of

MaternaCare is the incorporation of responsible-AI safeguards, including human oversight, privacy and security mechanisms, auditability, performance monitoring and assessment of potential bias across different patient populations, institutions and ultrasound equipment. "These safeguards are particularly important because the technology is intended to operate in clinical environments where AI-generated information can contribute to medical decision-making. The project forms part of the broader HikmaTech research ecosystem at HBKU, which explores AI-based approaches to knowledge discovery, healthcare and education," highlighted the researcher. Rather than focusing solely on automation, the initiative seeks to use AI to help healthcare professionals manage complex information, reduce repetitive work and make relevant evidence more readily available at the point of care. "The next stage of MaternaCare is expected to focus on expanding its imaging capabilities and integrating them more closely with clinical decision support, evidence-based reasoning, automated reporting and responsible-AI safeguards. An important part of the scale-up will be testing the platform in real healthcare environments to assess not only technical performance but also usability, workflow integration, clinical relevance and safety across different users and ultrasound equipment," continued Dr Househ. The researchers have adopted a phased approach to deployment, with clinical validation, governance, privacy, safety and institutional requirements taking priority over a fixed public launch date. "Healthcare AI, particularly when technology contributes information to clinical decision-making, requires safety, validation, governance, privacy and clinician acceptance," the researchers said, stressing that the objective is to develop a system that can be deployed responsibly and sustainably in real clinical settings. Qatar could serve as an important testing and development environment for the technology, given its digital infrastructure, research ecosystem and healthcare institutions. For the country, MaternaCare could contribute to building locally developed expertise in AI-enabled maternal healthcare, improving clinical workflow efficiency and providing an environment for evaluating responsible AI in real healthcare settings. The researchers also see significant potential across the Middle East and North Africa, where healthcare systems differ in terms of specialist availability, resources, equipment and access to advanced medical services. The longer-term vision is to validate the technology in Qatar while building regional adaptability and scalability into its design from the outset. (Gulf Times)

- **Weekly real estate trading volume exceeds QR600mn -** Qatar's real estate trading volume reached QR520,192.098 during the week from October 18 to 22, according to the weekly bulletin issued by the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice. The total value of sales contracts for residential units listed in the real estate bulletin during the same period reached QR80,226,206, bringing the total volume of real estate trading for the week to QR600.418mn. The properties traded Included vacant plots. houses, residential buildings, commercial shops, and residential units. Sales were recorded in the municipalities of Doha, Al Rayyan, Al Wakra, Al. Daayen, Umm Slal, Al Khor and Al Thakhira, as well as Al Shamal. Transactions also took place in The Pearl Island, Lusail 69, Al Wukair, Al Gharrafa, Al Kharaij, Al Sakhama, and Al Umm Slal All. Real estate trading volume in registered sale contracts exceeded QR500mn during the previous reporting period, from October 11 to October 15. (Gulf Times)

- **Qatar's delegation in Iran diplomacy push -** Qatari delegation was in Tehran yesterday for talks A with Iranian officials as mediators press efforts to revive peace talks with the United States. According to the IRNA state news agency, the delegation, headed by a senior adviser to Qatar's prime minister, came to discuss "bilateral relations... as well as regional developments" with senior Iranian officials. Senior officials from several countries have flown to Tehran in recent days as fears rise of a return to hostilities in the Middle East war, which started eight months ago. The Qatari visit came a day after Iranian media said Iran had received a letter from US Vice-President JD Vance ad-dressed to security chief Mohsen Rezael. The Wall Street Journal said the letter focused on a possible framework for negotiations rather than specific terms for a peace deal. The New York Times reported that Vance "made the outreach in a letter sent last week via Qatari mediators and de-livered to Gen Mohsen Rezaei" Qatar and Pakistan have been mediating efforts to revive peace talks following a ceasefire agreement in. April. Also earlier this week, senior officials from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye which signed a defense alliance in Makkah in August flew to Tehran for talks. On Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran was discussing a plan with both mediators, Qatar and Paki stan, to end the war and reopen the waterway. Tehran insists that Washington meet seven conditions for reopening the strait, including a ceasefire across the Middle East, unfreezing Iranian assets abroad, lifting sanctions on its oil sector and ending the US naval blockade. (Gulf Times)

- **4th Qatar Real Estate Forum, Cityscape Qatar 2026 conclude -** The fourth edition of the Qatar Real Estate Forum 2026 concluded on Thursday after three days at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). The event was organized in partnership by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Aqarat), Informa Tharawat, and Cityscape Qatar 2026. The forum addressed key topics, including diversifying investment portfolios across residential, commercial, and mixed-use properties; real estate financing and publicly traded real estate investment trusts (REITs); digital asset tokenization; property valuation and market data; quality of life; infrastructure; and long-term urban planning. It also featured interactive workshops and an innovation platform exploring how technology is transforming real estate ownership, management, and operations. The final day included panel discussions on Qatar's advantages as an investment destination, health-focused real estate investment, the everyday impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on cities, Qatar's urban development strategy, and the Law on Owners' Associations. Participants in one panel emphasized the importance of preserving the distinctive characteristics of Qatari residential neighborhoods in urban planning to promote family cohesion and social harmony. Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Fahad bin Mohammed al-Khayarin stressed that security extends beyond the safety of roads and buildings to include family stability within residential neighborhoods. He highlighted the importance of convenient access to facilities and preserving residents' traditions, including the culture of majlis gatherings. Director of Urban Development, Planning and Building Permits at Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company Mohammed al-Emadi said that successful residential neighborhoods in Qatari cities depend on integrated services, while real estate developers must preserve urban plans and adhere to design standards. During a panel on investment in Qatar, executive director of Strategy at the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar Hamad Rashid al-Nuaimi said the country offers foreign investors a comprehensive range of services and seeks to build long-term partnerships. He added that investors receive support to grow their businesses and expand internationally from a base in the Qatari market. Speaking at a session on "Live, Work, Play and Thrive: Why Should Qatar Be Your Next Destination", al-Nuaimi outlined the services provided by Qatar and the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar, from initial information gathering and company establishment to ongoing guidance, support, and business visits to the country. He also highlighted Qatar's advantages in healthcare, security, and the quality of its education system and institutions, noting that investors often place greater weight on these factors than on economic considerations. At a panel on the use of AI in real estate, Ooredoo Qatar chief corporate services officer Hassan Ismail al-Emadi said the company focuses on three key priorities when handling data: ensuring local data remains within Qatar, managing individual and corporate data transparently, and maintaining cybersecurity. He added that Ooredoo verifies cybersecurity measures, follows applicable regulations, and complies with relevant requirements. Speaking at a session on "The Livable City, Reimagined: The Everyday Impact of AI in Qatar", he said that the company works to address gaps early and integrate control centers, such as those managing electricity, with maintenance centers. He noted that Ooredoo seeks to enable connectivity among these services. Ocgrow Ventures founder and chief executive Harish Consul said that Qatar is making significant progress in adopting AI, noting the sector's rapid growth and the considerable potential for further applications in the future. On the relationship between real estate investment and health, regional general manager of Chiva-Som and JayaSom-affiliated companies Ammar Samad stressed the importance of investing in resorts and the wellness sector, which offers services beyond those provided by traditional hotels. Speaking at a panel

on "Healthy Real Estate: The Investment Case for Health-Centered Development", he said that wellness resorts can become valuable real estate assets by preserving authenticity, avoiding imitation, and conducting thorough market research. He noted that such resorts differ from traditional hotels by offering specialized healthcare services and consultations throughout guests' stays. Samad expected demand for wellness services to increase in the coming years. He projected annual growth of 5-6% in the hospitality sector, compared with approximately 20% in the wellness sector. The forum coincided with Cityscape Qatar 2026, which showcased more than 400 real estate projects from Qatar and international markets. The exhibition provided investors, developers, and buyers with a direct platform to explore opportunities and establish partnerships, featuring interactive presentations and virtual project tours. The event brings together decision-makers, regulators, investors, and developers under one roof at a time of rapid regulatory and technological change across the real estate sector. (Gulf Times)

- **QIA maintains investment pace, looks at long-term opportunities, says CEO -** The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) is expanding its US presence and pursuing opportunities in several areas, chief executive Mohammed Saif al-Sowaidi said, stressing the importance of long-term investment and strategic partnerships. He said during a discussion with CNN's Becky Anderson at the "Global Perspectives: In Doha" event, organized by CNN in collaboration with Media City Qatar, that the QIA is maintaining its investment pace despite regional geopolitical tensions, focusing on long-term opportunities in global markets while preparing to manage the expected growth in Qatar's revenues from expanding liquefied natural gas (LNG) production. "The leadership in Qatar established Qatar Investment Authority to be a long-term investment and preserve capital for the long term," he stressed. Al-Sowaidi noted that the sovereign wealth fund remains active but selective in its investments, emphasizing that its mandate is to preserve and grow national wealth for future generations. He acknowledged that a prolonged regional conflict could increase risks across financial markets, affecting inflation, logistics and infrastructure, but said the situation had not altered the fund's investment pace. The official added that the QIA follows a structured approach in managing the relationship between the state's fiscal policy and its investment policy, while maintaining appropriate safety margins and reserves. "This ensures the capacity to meet future obligations, including addressing the needs of current generations when necessary, without compromising the objective of preserving wealth for future generations," he continued. According to the official, the US remains central to the QIA's investment strategy as the fund prepares to deploy additional capital in line with Qatar's anticipated LNG revenue growth. Commenting on the announced $500bn investment commitment in the US over the next 10 years, al-Sowaidi noted that this approach is linked to the scale of the US market and its standing in the global economy, as well as the broad range of investment opportunities across public and private equities, private credit, technology, and innovation. He said that the US accounts for approximately one-quarter of global GDP and holds a significant share of investable financial markets, making it a key destination in the QIA's strategy to expand the scope of its investments and enhance the efficiency of its capital deployment. "This scale, combined with the country's innovation ecosystem and depth of capital markets, makes it an important destination for the fund's growing investment activity," al-Sowaidi said. "The fund is also expanding its American operations," he added. "Its New York office is expected to grow to around 40-45 employees within three years, strengthening its ability to work with companies and investment partners." (Gulf Times)
- **Qatari govt projects win three GGC digital awards -** The State of Qatar secured three awards at the GCC Digital Government Award 2026, presented during a ceremony held in the Kingdom of Bahrain in recognition of outstanding Qatari government projects in artificial intelligence, digital government services, and digital inclusion. The Council of Ministers Secretariat General received the Winning Project Award in the 'Best Use of Artificial Intelligence' category for its Smart Legislative Advisor Program, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). MCIT also received the Distinguished Project Award in the 'Best Comprehensive Government Application' category for Hukoomi, while the Ministry of Social Development and Family received the Distinguished Project Award in the "Best Digital Inclusion Initiative" category for Yusr Platform for Persons with Disabilities. These achievements reflect Qatar's progress in advancing digital government services, harnessing emerging technologies to improve government efficiency, expanding access to digital services, and enhancing the beneficiary experience, in line with the objectives of the Digital Agenda 2030. The new version of Hukoomi, which serves as the government portal for digital services, is the first major outcome of MCIT's Digital Factory initiative. Built around the 'Life Moments' concept, it brings together services from multiple government entities around key stages and needs in people's lives. It also enables users to complete government transactions directly, with features including Single Sign-On, transaction tracking, advanced search, and a virtual assistant. These capabilities help simplify procedures and deliver a more connected and accessible digital government experience. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **UDC concludes Cityscape Qatar 2026 with strong interest in Perlita Gardens, Crystal Residence opportunities -** United Development Company (UDC), concluded its participation in Cityscape Qatar 2026 following three days of strong engagement with prospective homeowners, investors, brokers and industry stakeholders, with particular interest generated around the newly launched Perlita Gardens and the completed residential offering at Crystal Residence. UDC's participation brought together two distinct residential propositions across its destinations: Perlita Gardens, a new community of 150 standalone villas across seven typologies within The Pearl Island, and Crystal Residence, offering completed one-to four-bedroom apartments within the growing destination appeal of Gewan Island. The exhibition provided a platform for UDC to engage directly with the market, with discussions focused on villa configurations, lifestyle preferences, ownership options, investment considerations and the advantages of buying within established destinations. Interest also centered on the commercial opportunities available at Crystal Residence, including its flexible ownership pathways and the limited-time promotional offer announced during Cityscape. The response provided UDC with valuable insight into the priorities shaping current residential demand and the information prospective buyers require as they consider their next property investment. Yasser Salah al-Jaidah, UDC president & chief executive officer, said: "Cityscape gave us the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with buyers, investors and brokers about what they value in a home and in a destination. The remarkable turnout of visitors and the strong interest from prospective buyers brought real energy to the exhibition. It was a powerful reminder of real estate's enduring resilience as an asset class, and of its unique ability to shape the way people live, connect and grow." He further added: "Perlita Gardens and Crystal Residence reflect two distinct ways of responding to those needs. Perlita Gardens adds to the vitality of The Pearl Island as an established residential community, while Crystal Residence offers completed homes on Gewan Island with flexible ownership options. Together, they demonstrate how we are developing our destinations with a long-term perspective; balancing new opportunities with the qualities that make each place distinctive." Perlita Gardens was officially introduced at Cityscape Qatar as a new residential chapter within The Pearl Island, with Expression of Interest registrations now open and the limited release of Phase One sales launched during the exhibition. Buyers can benefit from UDC's flexible in-house payment plan, paired with bank mortgage financing through Commercial Bank and Dukhan Bank. Development of the project is planned over 36 months from the commencement of construction. The seven villa collections have been thoughtfully designed around key family needs and lifestyle preferences, including privacy, entertaining, multigenerational living, and seamless indoor-outdoor living. Alongside Perlita Gardens, UDC presented Crystal Residence on Gewan Island, providing completed one- to four-bedroom apartments within an increasingly established lifestyle destination. (Gulf Times)
- **Fourth Qatar Real Estate Forum tops QR1bn in sales, doubles last year's total -** The 4th Qatar Real Estate Forum and its accompanying Cityscape exhibition generated more than QR1bn in real estate sales, marking a 100% increase from last year. According to a statement by the Real Estate

Regulatory Authority (Aqarat), the three-day forum and exhibition attracted 16,000 visitors to the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC), drawing a broad array of experts, investors, real estate developers and decision-makers. The statement said strong attendance at the forum's main sessions, innovation platform, workshops and exhibition underscored growing interest in Qatar's real estate market and its investment opportunities, while reinforcing the forum's standing as a platform for dialogue, interchange of knowledge and substantive discussions on developments in Qatar's real estate sector and the wider region. The forum highlighted Qatar's investment opportunities and legislative and regulatory advances that were instrumental in promoting transparency and bolstering investor confidence. New real estate projects launched by participating exhibitors further underscored the market's growth potential, reflecting developers' efforts to deliver projects that meet investor aspirations and market needs. The event further reinforced the State of Qatar's stature as a prime regional hub for real estate development, showcasing its experience in regulating the market and enhancing its investment appeal. It also provided a platform to exchange perspectives on advancing real estate practices and fostering cooperation among regulators, developers and investors, while supporting substantive discussions on economic and urban transformations and the region's investment outlook. Alongside the main sessions, which examined the real estate sector's role in economic diversification and other key issues, Qatar University's (QU) architecture competition highlighted the next generation's role in shaping the sector's future through designs for mixed-use buildings. The competition featured outstanding student presentations evaluated by a judging panel. The innovation platform also explored the development of real estate portfolios beyond the State of Qatar and the future of housing, bringing together industry experts and representatives of the Qatar Society of Engineers. The program also featured a practical workshop on real estate valuation, alongside discussions on organizing asset data and strengthening oversight. The Platform wrapped up with a discussion featuring Director of the Real Estate Investment Department at Aqarat, Mohammed Makki, on interpreting market indicators, bringing together regulatory perspectives, investment expertise and practical tools in a comprehensive program. (Peninsula Qatar)

- **Qatar positions as bridge between Gulf capital and frontier economies -** Qatar has established itself as a strategic link between Gulf capital and fast-growing frontier economies, particularly in Asia and Africa, by strengthening financial cooperation, cross-border business ties and access to emerging opportunities, an official said. Speaking to The Peninsula on the sidelines of the World Investment Forum 2026 in Doha, Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) CEO Mansoor Rashid Al-Khater high-lighted the country's geographical advantage and growing network of international partnerships as key drivers in connecting regional capital with developing markets. Al-Khater said Qatar's position connecting Asia, Europe and Africa provided a foundation for stronger commercial relationships and investment flows. "Qatar can be a bridge between capital, expertise and opportunity, connecting fast-growing frontier economies with long-term Gulf capital," he said. The World Investment Forum, which concluded last week. "reinforces Qatar's ambition to become a leading global investment hub," the official said, adding that the country seeks to turn international investor engagement into new businesses, investment flows, and strategic partnerships. Al-Khater said the gathering of more than 5,000 decision-makers offered Qatar an opportunity to strengthen its position not only as a major international investor but also as a destination where global investment decisions are made. "Hosting an event of this scale reinforces Qatar as a strategic meeting point for global investors and a committed player in shaping the future of international Investment," he said. He noted that the forum's value extended beyond bringing global decision-makers together, providing a platform to connect international capital with investment opportunities, encourage partnerships between investors and businesses, and showcase Qatar as a place to establish and expand operations. He also highlighted Islamic finance as an area with considerable potential for cooperation, supported by Qatar's capabilities and growing demand in emerging markets. Al-Khater said Qatar's eco-nomic resilience, investment capacity and plans to develop new sectors made it an attractive destination for investors with a long-term outlook. "Qatar is where long-term capital meets real opportunity," he said. "For QFC, the focus remains on making it easier for businesses to establish, operate and grow in Qatar while enabling them to access opportunities across the region." He cited Qatar's AA credit rating with a stable outlook, reaffirmed by Fitch this year, as evidence of the country's economic resilience. The center offers a range of structures to meet different business requirements, including holding companies, trusts and foundations that can help internationally mobile families manage investments, succession arrangements and business Interests across jurisdictions. Al-Khater identified artificial Intelligence (AI), fintech and digital assets as important areas of opportunity as Qatar seeks to play a greater role in shaping the future of financial services. He further added that the country's ambition is not simply to adopt emerging technologies but to help develop them, attract innovators and create an environment where new solutions could progress from experimentation to application. Commercial applications. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Qatar advances healthy and smart city initiatives -** Qatar is advancing a range of sustainable urban development initiatives, from smart city solutions and Al-powered building permits to expanding green spaces and waste management projects, as it seeks to enhance quality of life and build healthier, more livable cities. Marking World Cities Day on October 31, the Ministry of Municipality highlighted the country's achievements in sustainable urban development, reaffirming its commitment to developing well-balanced that improve the efficiency of public facilities and services while supporting comprehensive development in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030. Cities Qatar has achieved international recognition for its efforts to promote healthier urban environments, becoming the first country in the world to have all its cities designated as 'Healthy Cities by the World Health Organization (WHO). Qatari cities are also active participants in the Unesco Global Network of Learning Cities, reflecting the country's efforts to promote knowledge, education and sustainable development at the urban level. The Ministry said the implementation of Qatar's comprehensive urban plan is fully aligned with the Qatar National Vision 2030, with a focus on developing sustainable cities and achieving balanced development across the country. Several pioneering initiatives are also being implemented to support these objectives. They include the initiative to plant 10mn trees to enhance biodiversity, the introduction of smart city solutions and a waste-sorting-at-source project aimed at contributing to the national Qatar Zero Waste goal. The ministry has also launched a project to introduce artificial intelligence-powered building permits, reflecting efforts to harness advanced technologies to improve municipal services and streamline procedures. Expanding green spaces and making urban environments more people-friendly remain central to Qatar's development plans. The country's green areas have increased tenfold since 2010, alongside continued efforts to establish more parks, recreational facilities and land-scaped spaces for residents. Among the country's notable public amenities is the world's longest air-conditioned walking and running track, located at Rawdat Al Hamama Park. The facility reflects efforts to encourage outdoor activities and promote healthier lifestyles, particularly during warmer months. The Ministry also highlighted its commitment to making parks and public facilities more accessible by addressing the needs of people with disabilities, ensuring that public spaces cater to different segments of society. Through these initiatives, Qatar is seeking to combine environmental sustainability. technological innovation and inclusive urban planning to create cities that offer a higher quality of life while supporting the country's long-term development ambitions. (Peninsula Qatar)
- **Iran sends delegation to Qatar; No US talks planned: Tasnim -** An Iranian delegation has traveled to Doha but negotiations with the US are not on the agenda, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency cites its correspondent as saying. Iranian delegation is in Qatar to "advance issues around the recent negotiations". (Bloomberg)
- **QatarEnergy eyes more LNG deals with US, others this year: Rtrs -** QatarEnergy expects to sign more 20–25-year LNG purchase agreements with the US and other producers this year, Reuters reports, citing an interview with CEO Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi. The company's target is "much higher" than 7mn tons per year — a combined volume of already signed deals, including the one announced Thursday — Kaabi said,

declining to give a figure. The company was in talks with "everybody", including Venture Global. The deals are part of a trading strategy designed to generate revenue if exports through the Strait of Hormuz are disrupted in the future. The firm cannot offer US volumes to long-term customers as a backup to Hormuz disruptions. Kaabi said the strategy was his idea and took shape about three months ago after QatarEnergy studied and ruled out pipeline options. The company can leverage its fleet of about 200 LNG tankers, as well as QatarEnergy Trading, which Kaabi said will soon become the world's largest gas trading platform. (Bloomberg)

International

- **Robust consumer spending, AI-related investment power US economy in third quarter -** The US economy grew at its fastest pace in a year in the third quarter, shrugging off higher oil prices stemming from the conflict in the Middle East as consumers maintained robust spending and businesses doubled down on investment in AI. The better-than-expected increase in gross domestic product last quarter reported by the Commerce Department on Thursday was in stark contrast to households' downbeat assessment of the economy, reflected in President Donald Trump's record-low approval ratings and deterioration in consumer sentiment. The advance GDP report was published less than a week before Tuesday's midterm elections, which will determine control of Congress. Economists said the strong growth, together with other data on Thursday showing inflation accelerating and broadening out in September, bolstered the argument for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates in December. The US central bank on Wednesday left its benchmark overnight interest rate in the 3.75%-4.00% range while acknowledging that inflation "remains elevated." "The consequences of an economy at full employment in addition to a historic capital expenditures expansion are on vivid display," said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist at RSM. "If the Fed is looking for more information on why they should act to restore price stability they can find it inside a slate of robust spending ... stratospheric private non-residential investment and sizzling inflation data." Gross domestic product increased at a 3.4% annualized rate last quarter, the quickest since the third quarter of 2025, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said in its first estimate of third-quarter GDP. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast GDP advancing at a 3.2% pace. The economy is expanding at a pace that is well above what some Fed officials regard as the non-inflationary growth rate of around 2%. Stocks on Wall Street were trading lower. The dollar slipped against a basket of currencies. US Treasury yields fell. Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy, increased at a 3.8% rate in the July-September period, matching the second quarter's pace. It was largely driven by services, including healthcare, visits to restaurants and bars as well as hotel and motel stays. There was a pullback in spending on goods like motor vehicles and household furniture. Higher-income households, whose wealth has been boosted by AI-related strength in the stock market, are driving much of the spending. Historically low layoffs and moderate hiring are also helping other households to sustain spending, though wage gains have at times lagged inflation. Households are also saving less and dipping into their nest eggs. The saving rate fell to 4.1% from 4.4% in the second quarter. It fell to 3.8% in September. "Growth isn't enough to give American families economic security," said Kyle Moore, chief economist at the Century Foundation. "Most of that growth has been lopsided, focused on the AI buildout. Wages for the typical worker still aren't keeping up with increasing prices." Business spending on equipment surged at a 20.9% rate, the fastest since the third quarter of 2020. That added 1.16 percentage points to GDP growth, the most in six years. Information processing equipment, mainly computers and peripheral equipment, made up the bulk of the contribution. Business spending on intellectual property products grew at an 8.4% rate, adding just under half a percentage point to GDP growth, mostly coming from software and research and development. Robust consumer and business spending were both sated with imports, which are a drag in the calculation of GDP. Imports increased at a 19.7% rate, the quickest since the first quarter of 2025, when businesses were front-loading orders to avoid higher costs from Trump's sweeping tariffs. Imports last quarter sliced off 2.64 percentage points from GDP growth, which was more than offset by the strength in consumer and business spending as well as a 1.61 percentage point contribution from the rebuilding of inventories, which had been drawn down for five straight quarters. Government spending increased at a 5.3% rate amid a sharp rebound in federal government outlays, both defense and nondefense. Rising mortgage rates because of the Middle East conflict pushed residential investment back into contraction last quarter. Higher borrowing costs have overshadowed a moderation in house prices, weighing on demand for housing. A measure of domestic demand, which excludes inventories, trade and government, accelerated at a 4.9% rate, the strongest since the second quarter of 2021. Final sales to private domestic purchasers grew at a 4.6% rate in the second quarter. Economists viewed the current pace of demand as unsustainable. While inflation subsided last quarter as the cost of energy eased, price pressures picked up at the end of the third quarter. The Personal Consumption Expenditures price index increased 0.5% in September after rising 0.3% in August, the BEA said in a separate report. In the 12 months through September, PCE inflation advanced 3.6% after rising 3.4% in August. It is one of the measures tracked by the Fed for its 2% inflation target. Rising inflation, with average gasoline prices still above $4 a gallon as the US-Israeli war with Iran drags on, left economists anticipating a slowdown in economic growth by year end. Income at the disposal of households after accounting for inflation and taxes dropped 0.3% last month after being flat in August. Inflation-adjusted consumer spending was unchanged in September after rising 0.5% in August, putting consumption on a weaker growth path heading into the fourth quarter. Economists also expected some moderation on AI-related spending as investors are focusing on the rising costs of long-term projects in which the payoff is uncertain. Tech firms have borrowed huge sums over the past year for AI spending, a potential downside risk to equipment spending. "An economy increasingly supported by stock-market wealth and large technology projects also faces risks if share prices retreat or investment plans disappoint," said Sung Won Sohn, a finance and economics professor at Loyola Marymount University. (Reuters)
- **German inflation cools on fuel tax cut, economy grows more than expected in Q3 -** German inflation slowed more than expected in October, the first month of a government fuel tax cut, adding to evidence that Europe's largest economy could prove more resilient than anticipated despite disruptions linked to the war in Iran. Gross domestic product increased slightly more than expected in the third quarter, though economists warned the expansion remained heavily reliant on government spending. Inflation eased to 2.8% year-on-year in October from 3.3% the month before, preliminary data from the statistics office showed on Friday, below forecasts for 3.1%. EASING ENERGY PRICES Easing energy price rises drove the slowdown, increasing by 12.2% in October versus 14.9% the month before, and indicated that the fuel tax cut that runs to year-end is having an effect. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, fell to 2.1% from 2.4% the month before. The German data comes ahead of a euro zone inflation update due on Wednesday. Inflation in the bloc is expected to come in at 3.9% in October, slightly above September's 3.8%, according to economists polled by Reuters. German GDP increased by 0.2% in the third quarter compared with the previous three-month period, according to preliminary data from the statistics office, slightly above a rise of 0.1% forecast by analysts polled by Reuters. The data pointed to a fourth straight quarter of recovery in Europe's largest economy, helped by increased public spending, even as private sector momentum remained subdued. Under Chancellor Friedrich Merz, government funding has surged since Berlin last year approved a €500bn ($560bn) infrastructure fund and exempted much defense spending from its debt brake rules. The economy grew by 0.3% in the second quarter and 0.4% in the first quarter, according to the office. The fuel tax cut, which aims to cushion households from the surge in oil prices caused by the Iran war, will likely help the economy hold up in the fourth quarter as well, said Deutsche Bank analyst Marc Schattenberg. However, with no sign of a lasting de-escalation in the Middle East, energy prices are unlikely to drop noticeably and will continue to stoke inflation in coming months, say analysts. "It is clear that the inflation rate will hover around 3.0% for some time to come," said Alexander Krueger, chief economist at Bethmann HAL bank. "Given this backdrop, an interest rate hike by the ECB cannot be ruled out." The European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged on Thursday but clearly hinted at another hike in December. GOVERNMENT SPENDING

DRIVES RECOVERY While analysts broadly agree Germany is emerging from a prolonged slowdown, many stop short of calling the recovery self-sustaining because private investment remains weak. A lack of sweeping reforms means Germany's attractiveness as a place to do business will remain impaired, preventing a significant recovery in private investment, Commerzbank chief economist Joerg Kraemer said. Analysts pointed to the increased government spending on infrastructure and defense as the main driver of the recovery. "Without this artificially initiated impulse, economic output would probably have stagnated," said Krueger. Jens-Oliver Niklasch, economist at LBBW bank, said that next year would reveal whether the economic revival is sustainable or just a flash in the pan. "For sustained, higher growth, investment would need to pick up more substantially, which, to date, has not been the case," he said. The German government expects the economy to grow by 1.3% in 2026 and 1.1% in 2027, with the economy ministry saying earlier this month that the Iran war, and resulting high energy prices, is not hurting the economy as much as feared. In a further positive sign, the Ifo economic institute's closely watched business climate index rose for a sixth straight month in October. (Reuters)

- **China's factory activity shrinks in October, third contraction in four months -** China's factory activity dropped in October, its third contraction in four months, a government survey showed on Saturday, hurt by soft demand goods at home as well as signs of weakness in exports. Economists called on the government to do more to support growth after the figures, which highlighted how exports, which have powered higher for much of this year, may not have sufficient strength to offset long-stagnant consumer spending. "Insufficient demand is increasing downward pressure on the economy," said Zhang Liqun, an analyst with the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing. The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell to 49.3 from 50.1 in September, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics. That missed a forecast for 50.0 from a Reuters poll, though the first month of a quarter is typically the weakest. China's trade surplus with the world is on track to top last year's $1.2tn due to strength in exports. But in October, factory activity weakened as overseas Christmas-related orders, which were front-loaded in September, cooled. It was also hurt when consumer spending, which climbed during China's long National Day holiday in the first week of October, fizzled out afterwards. Sub-indexes for new orders overall and for new export orders both stayed in contraction territory in October. Production and purchasing activity also slipped into contraction from expansion. MORE SUBSIDIES COULD HELP Zhang Zhiwei, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said that if external demand weakens in 2027, "China will need more significant policy support to boost domestic demand." Lu Zhe, chief economist at Soochow Securities, called for expanding subsidies for mortgage interest payments "to shore up household confidence and anchor sentiment." He added that extending subsidies for loan interest payments to investment projects would help alleviate the current shortage of viable fixed-asset investments. The non-manufacturing PMI, which covers services and construction, also dropped, to 49.7 from 50.2 in September. (Reuters)

- **Fitch revises France's outlook to 'negative' on worsening debt dynamics -** Credit ratings agency Fitch on Friday revised France's outlook to "negative" from "stable", warning that deteriorating fiscal conditions and political fragmentation are undermining debt stabilization prospects. The agency pointed to weaker growth, higher borrowing costs and a wider deficit since its August review, compounded by a fractured political landscape that is making sustained fiscal consolidation harder to deliver. The French economy unexpectedly shrank in the third quarter, while October inflation accelerated to the highest level since late 2023, due to what Economy Minister Roland Lescure described as an unprecedented mix of external and internal shocks. The outlook revision adds to pressure on the government ahead of more planned protests this weekend, underscoring the political challenges of implementing spending cuts and deficit-reduction measures. French 10-year yields hit their highest since 2002 last week at more than 5.14%, rising more sharply than those of most peers, reflecting greater sensitivity to shifts in market confidence amid concerns over France's fiscal trajectory, struggle to pass a budget and social unrest. The move heightens the risk of a future downgrade for the euro zone's second-largest economy, which has already seen its borrowing costs climb sharply, weighing on its debt outlook. "The emerging policy debate ahead of the presidential election has not materially strengthened Fitch's confidence in the prospects for durable deficit reduction that could lead to debt stabilization," the agency said. Fitch now sees France's debt-to-GDP ratio climbing to around 124% by 2028 from 115.7% in 2025, while flagging that the country's large, diversified economy, strong institutions and euro area membership continue to anchor the rating. The action comes just days after Moody's spared France a downgrade, keeping its rating at "Aa3" with a "negative" outlook, citing expectations that a deficit-reduction budget for 2027 will be adopted and that financing pressures and social tensions will ease in the coming months. (Reuters)

- **Euro zone growth beats projections but headwinds mount -** The euro zone economy grew faster than predicted last quarter, displaying exceptional resilience to headwinds from expensive energy, even as surging borrowing costs and rapid inflation cloud the outlook. The euro zone economy has beaten most estimates this year, expanding steadily on the back of robust investment and consumption, confounding expectations for a downturn as energy price rises sap incomes. The economies of the 21 nations sharing the euro grew by 0.4% in the third quarter, a slowdown from an exceptionally strong 0.6% three months earlier, but far above expectations for 0.2% in a Reuters poll of economists. Compared with a year earlier, the bloc's economy grew by 1.3%, beating expectations for 1.1%, as heavy spending on AI, defense and infrastructure boosted investment, robust foreign demand helped industry, and households kept on spending, reducing their already high savings rate. Among the euro zone's biggest economies, Germany expanded by 0.2% on the quarter, Spain and the Netherlands by 0.6%, while Italy was unchanged and the French economy contracted by 0.1%. While the bloc's growth rate is less than half of the expansion produced by the United States, the figure far exceeds the gloomy projections made after the start of the Iran war. Europe is a net energy importer and oil price surges immediately reduce growth, compress corporate margins and worsen the bloc's terms of trade. (Reuters)

Regional

- **OPEC+ agrees in principle to keep oil output targets steady in December, sources say -** OPEC+ oil-producing countries have agreed in principle to keep their December oil output targets steady at a meeting on Sunday, three people with knowledge of the matter told Reuters, in line with expectations that further output policy adjustments won't occur until next year. Sunday's online meeting of seven core OPEC+ members — Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Oman — comes as Gulf members have been boosting exports that have been disrupted for months by the Iran war. Most, however, are still pumping well below their output targets. All three people declined to be identified. OPEC+ comprises the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia. In September, OPEC+ completed the phased rollback of a 1.65mn-barrel-per-day supply cut first agreed in 2023. Disruption caused by the Iran war has meant Gulf producers are falling below their quotas. Reuters reported in July that OPEC+ was likely to make no changes to its targets during the fourth quarter as it turns its focus to 2027 quota negotiations. The group still has one more layer of production cuts of about 2mn bpd covering most members through the end of 2026. OPEC+ needs to finalize a review of members' production capacity during the fourth quarter before setting the 2027 baselines that will determine future quotas and shape plans to unwind those cuts, sources have said. (Reuters)

- **UAE expects Canada trade deal to add $8.7bn to GDP by 2033 -** Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade, said the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the UAE and Canada is expected to contribute approximately $8.7bn to the UAE's gross domestic product (GDP) and increase UAE exports to Canada by around $11.8bn by 2033, highlighting its anticipated positive impact on both countries' economies, trade and investment. In statements to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on the occasion of the agreement's signing, Al Zeyoudi said it was the first CEPA the UAE had signed with a G7 member country. He noted that work with other G7 countries had been completed, but the agreement with Canada was the first to be signed

within the group. He explained that the agreement provides for extensive trade liberalization, covering approximately 99% of the total value of existing bilateral trade and 97% of all tariff lines. Al Zeyoudi said the agreement builds on strong bilateral trade performance, with non-oil trade reaching approximately $4.2bn last year, representing growth of more than 22%. Trade also grew by 18% in the first half of this year compared with the corresponding period last year. He noted that a wide range of goods would benefit from the agreement, particularly existing UAE exports to Canada, including iron, aluminum, metals, gold, certain electronic products, pharmaceuticals and food products. Canadian exports to the UAE, including machinery, electronic equipment, spare parts and food products, would also benefit, with opportunities for further manufacturing and re-export to global markets. Al Zeyoudi emphasized that the agreement places significant importance on services and investment, pointing to the scale of UAE investments in Canada. He recalled the announcement of $50bn in planned UAE investments in Canada during the Canadian Prime Minister's visit to the UAE last year. He also said UAE and Canadian companies are currently engaged in trade and investment negotiations valued at $15bn. Existing investments are concentrated in the energy sector, a key pillar of bilateral relations, as well as logistics, supported by DP World's investments and strong presence in Canada, alongside real estate and various infrastructure projects. Al Zeyoudi said current investment priorities include data centers, which are expected to play a major role in the next phase of investment. He added that numerous agreements and memoranda of understanding would be announced under the partnership, sustaining momentum in bilateral relations. He also highlighted Canadian investments in the UAE across real estate, logistics and energy, alongside investment funds supporting Canada's expansion into the wider region through the UAE. Al Zeyoudi underscored the opportunities the agreement offers small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, as well as its focus on service sectors that facilitate business operations for companies and entrepreneurs based in the UAE, while safeguarding the interests of both countries. He explained that Canada views the UAE as a gateway to the Middle East and Africa in particular, while the UAE sees Canada as a gateway for expanding its investments in Canada and accessing the US market. (Zawya)

- **UAE's CEPA with Democratic Republic of Congo enters into force -** The UAE's Comprehensive Economic Agreement with the Democratic Republic of Congo entered into force today, removing tariffs on the vast majority of product lines, harmonizing customs procedures, and reducing unnecessary barriers to trade. The deal has been designed to enhance trade flows, facilitate bilateral investment flows into important sectors such as logistics, energy and manufacturing, and support the economic growth ambitions of both countries. The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the ten largest economies in Africa, with a GDP of $122.28bn and a growth rate of 5.2%. DRC also benefits from its location; bordering nine countries, it offers a strategic entry point for expanding trade across Central and Eastern Africa. Resource-rich DRC is the world's leading producer of cobalt, accounting for more than 70% of global supply, and Africa's leading producer of copper. It is also an important source of gold, tin, tantalum, and tungsten – all of which are essential to electrical components and energy transition technologies. This CEPA will build on growing bilateral relations between the two nations, which resulted in non-oil bilateral trade worth $3.5bn in 2025, a growth of 38.5% compared to 2024. It is an important destination for UAE exports such as vehicles, machinery, electronics and construction materials, while the UAE serves as an important conduit for DRC's exports from metals to food, cotton and other agricultural products. Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Foreign Trade, said the implementation of the CEPA provides the UAE's private sector with an important access point to Africa: "The UAE's foreign-trade ambitions are centered on connecting our market to the highest potential economies around the world. The entry into force of our CEPA with the Democratic Republic of Congo signals another significant stride forward in our growth agenda, cementing access to a country with advanced developmental programs – and to a wider region that represents a broad range of opportunities for our exporters, our investors and our industries. We are excited by the possibilities of enhanced trade, deeper private-sector collaboration and strategic partnerships, and welcome the platform we have to support each other's economic growth objectives." The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement program is a vital component of the UAE's economic vision, which seeks to establish stronger, more integrated trading relationships with the most dynamic markets around the world. The UAE has now concluded CEPAs with 40 nations around the world, 20 of which are now in force. (Zawya)

- **CBUAE imposes financial penalty of $54.5mln on a branch of a foreign bank licensed in the UAE -** The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) imposed a financial penalty of AED200,000,000 (Two hundred million UAE Dirhams) on a branch of a foreign bank licensed in the UAE, pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Decree Law Regarding the Central Bank and Organization of Financial Institutions and Activities. The financial penalty is based on the results of the findings of examinations conducted by the CBUAE, which revealed that the branch of the foreign bank had significant, repeated failures in its Anti-money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Illegal Organizations, Governance and Compliance Management and Sanctions Framework. The CBUAE further imposed an individual penalty of 500,000 on the Chief Executive Officer, and an individual penalty of AED300,000 on the Head of Compliance and Money Laundering Reporting Officer, pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Decree Law Regarding the Central Bank and Organization of Financial Institutions and Activities, and its amendments, due to their failure to fulfil their responsibilities and positions' functions. The CBUAE also required the foreign Bank to implement a Mandatory Remediation Program under independent validation and a Fit and Proper re-assessment of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Compliance Officer. The CBUAE, through its supervisory and regulatory mandates, endeavors to ensure that all banks, their authorized decision makers and their employees adhere to UAE laws, as well as the regulations and standards established by the CBUAE to safeguard the transparency and integrity of the banking sector and the UAE financial system. (Zawya)

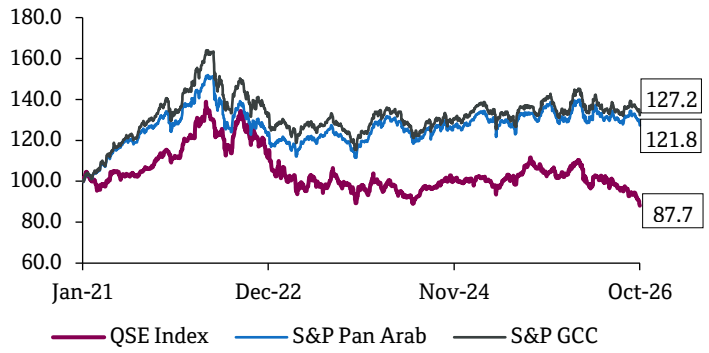
- **Bahrain's CBB keeps rate unchanged at 4.5% after Fed move -** The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) has announced its decision to maintain the overnight deposit interest rate unchanged at 4.5%. This decision was taken following the US Federal Reserve's announcement today to keep the Interest Rate on Reserve Balances (IORB) unchanged. Stocks edged up on Wednesday after the Federal Reserve move. Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh said there are signs that financial conditions have tightened over the weeks since the central bank conducted a hike in September. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.19%, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite did so 0.27%. The S&P 500 climbed 0.28%. Announcing the move, CBB said it comes as part of the review conducted by its experts to maintain monetary and financial stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain in light of global financial market developments. UAE too has decided to maintain the Base Rate applicable to the Overnight Deposit Facility (ODF) at 3.9%. The CBUAE has also decided to maintain the interest rate applicable to borrowing short-term liquidity from the CBUAE at 50 basis points above the Base Rate for all standing credit facilities. The Base Rate, which is anchored to the US Federal Reserve's IORB, signals the general stance of monetary policy and provides an effective floor for overnight money market interest rates in the UAE. The Qatar Central Bank too followed suit keeping its existing deposit, lending, and repurchase (repo) rates unchanged, following an assessment of the country's current monetary policy. In a post on its official account on the platform "X," the bank confirmed that the deposit rate (QCBDR) remains at 4.10%, while the lending rate (QCBLR) stays at 4.60%. Additionally, the Qatar Central Bank maintained its repurchase rate (QCB Repo Rate) at 4.35%.

- **Oman signs 28 investment pacts worth over $790mn -** Oman signed 28 investment agreements worth more than RO 304mn on Wednesday for new industrial, manufacturing, food processing, logistics and commercial projects across its special economic zones, free zones and industrial cities, covering a combined area exceeding two square kilometers. The largest share, valued at RO 147.6mn, was secured by industrial cities operated by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), notably a RO 112mn iron and steel products plant in Sohar Industrial City. Other investments comprise RO 58.5mn in Sohar Freezone, RO 55.08mn in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, RO 32.95mn in Salalah Free Zone and

over RO 10.4mn in Khazaen Economic City. The ceremony also marked the launch of Khazaen's free zone through its first two investment agreements. Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Chairman of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), said the investments would expand industrial activity, create employment, support food security and strengthen Oman's integration into global supply chains, in line with Oman Vision 2040. He reaffirmed OPAZ's commitment to regulatory clarity, efficient investor services and leveraging the Sultanate's infrastructure and international market connectivity. Seven agreements covering 756,802 square meters were signed for Madayn's industrial cities. In Sohar, Atlas Steel will develop a RO 112mn iron and steel products plant, while Fujian Mansheng Industries and Investment will establish a RO 20mn ceramics facility. Raysut Industrial City attracted a RO 7mn fertilizer plant by Gulf Organic and Biological Fertilizers and a RO 750,000 structural metal products project by Sahm Samhan Trading and Contracting. National Paper Investment will establish a RO 500,000 paper products facility in Ibri, while Nizwa secured two oilfield equipment manufacturing and maintenance projects worth RO 7mn collectively. Madayn CEO Daoud bin Salim al Hadabi said the investments would strengthen domestic supply chains, support SMEs and generate employment opportunities. Five agreements worth RO 58.5mn were signed in Sohar Freezone, led by a RO 38mn Oman Automobile Assembly Complex spanning 317,000 square meters. Voltamp High Voltage Transformers will establish a RO 15mn transformer manufacturing plant, while Lalan Middle East will expand its medical equipment factory. Two logistics projects complete the package. Six agreements worth RO 55.08mn were signed in Duqm, including a RO 40mn shrimp-feed factory by Al Jazer Feed. Other projects encompass livestock quarantine, fish canning, tuna and squid processing, used-oil recycling and mixed-use property development. Three agreements worth RO 32.95mn include a RO 19.25mn steel structures plant by Al Nawras Industries, a RO 7.7mn gypsum products facility by Integrated Gypsum and a RO 6mn dairy processing project by Dhofar Pastures. Seven agreements exceeding RO 10.4mn include a RO 3.4mn electric vehicle charger manufacturing plant, a RO 2.5mn precast concrete facility and investments in construction materials, warehousing and industrial units. OPAZ officials said the projects would enhance industrial diversification, local value addition and integration between manufacturing, logistics and supporting services. (Zawya)

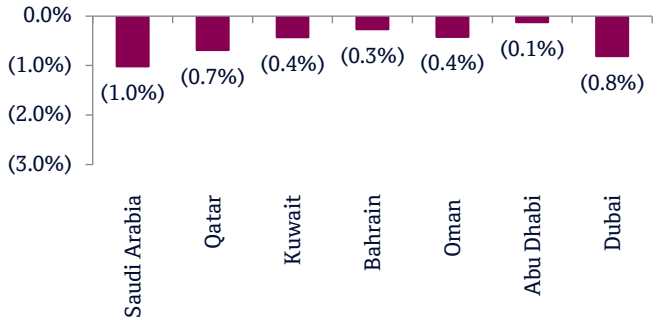
- **Oman: Non-oil exports rise 10.7% as trade surplus reaches $14.2bn -** Oman’s trade and manufacturing sectors recorded strong growth in the first half of 2026, with total trade reaching RO26.3bn and non-oil exports rising 10.7%, as the sultanate continues to strengthen its economic diversification drive. The figures were announced at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion’s annual media meeting on Wednesday, where H E Anwar bin Hilal Al Jabri, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, reviewed sector performance and outlined priorities for the coming period. Data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that Oman’s gross domestic product at current prices reached approximately RO23.3bn by the end of June 2026, compared to RO20.7bn in the corresponding period of 2025, registering growth of 12.7%. Total trade increased 12.5% to RO26.3bn, up from RO23.4bn a year earlier. The trade surplus also expanded significantly, reaching RO5.5bn, an increase of 53.1% compared to RO3.6bn in the first half of 2025. Non-oil exports rose to RO4.3bn from RO3.9bn during the same period last year, reflecting growth of 10.7%. The ministry is working to expand the export base, diversify international markets and strengthen the global presence of Omani products. Its strategy focuses on 15 target markets for future expansion, while supporting exporters and promoting re-export activities. The industrial sector continued to increase its contribution to the national economy, with activities including mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and electricity and water supply contributing approximately RO4.1bn by the end of the first half of 2026. This represented an increase of 9.6% compared to RO3.7bn during the corresponding period of 2025. Manufacturing recorded particularly strong growth of 16.1%, with its contribution to GDP at current prices reaching approximately RO2.2bn, compared to RO1.9bn a year earlier. The meeting reviewed the Industrial Strategy 2040, which seeks to establish a modern manufacturing base driven by advanced technologies, innovation and productivity. The strategy aims to increase the added value of national products and expand industries based on local resources. Oman’s cumulative foreign direct investment stock reached approximately RO32.2bn at the end of the first half of 2026, compared to RO30.9bn at the end of 2025. The Invest Oman Lounge had handled 115 projects till the end of June, including 46 domestic investment projects with a combined value of approximately RO4bn. Efforts to streamline business procedures are progressing through the Oman Business Platform, where automatic licenses accounted for 89% of licenses covering 1,833 economic activities. (Zawya)

Rebased Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Daily Index Performance



Source: Bloomberg

Asset/Currency Performance	Close ($)	1D%	WTD%	YTD%
Gold/Ounce	3,874.62	(3.7)	(3.0)	(10.3)
Silver/Ounce	49.10	(5.9)	(8.9)	(31.5)
Crude Oil (Brent)/Barrel (FM Future)	117.64	2.4	0.8	93.3
Crude Oil (WTI)/Barrel (FM Future)	104.12	2.1	0.8	81.3
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)/MMBtu	2.38	(11.2)	(12.1)	(34.4)
LPG Propane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	129.20	2.9	10.0	102.8
LPG Butane (Arab Gulf)/Ton	212.60	4.2	18.1	175.7
Euro	1.12	(0.2)	(0.4)	(5.0)
Yen	157.56	(0.1)	0.4	0.5
GBP	1.34	0.1	0.1	(0.6)
CHF	1.21	(0.1)	0.0	(3.9)
AUD	0.70	0.0	(0.1)	5.4
USD Index	101.88	(0.2)	0.1	3.6
RUB	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BRL	0.18	(1.1)	(8.4)	1.1

Source: Bloomberg

Global Indices Performance	Close	1D%*	WTD%*	YTD%*
MSCI World Index	4,862.38	(1.5)	(0.3)	9.8
DJ Industrial	51,770.31	(1.1)	(0.9)	7.7
S&P 500	7,580.07	(1.8)	(0.6)	10.7
NASDAQ 100	25,437.00	(2.9)	(2.0)	9.4
STOXX 600	646.75	(0.5)	1.4	3.8
DAX	25,818.21	(1.0)	2.2	0.0
FTSE 100	10,729.78	0.2	0.5	7.5
CAC 40	7,969.42	(0.2)	2.0	(7.1)
Nikkei	63,290.11	(1.8)	0.6	24.8
MSCI EM	1,566.63	(1.6)	(0.7)	11.6
SHANGHAI SE Composite	3,599.02	(1.3)	(2.2)	(4.8)
HANG SENG	23,294.42	1.5	0.9	(9.8)
BSE SENSEX	74,459.53	0.6	1.7	(17.3)
Bovespa	167,921.80	(1.2)	(24.3)	5.0
RTS	4,913.98	(0.2)	(0.5)	10.9

Source: Bloomberg ($ adjusted returns if any)*

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