

U Capital Morning Brief

26 March 2020

Market Indices	Current Close	Change	D/D	YTD	Price to Earnings	Price to Book	Div Yield
	Index	Point	%	%	(x)	(x)	%
U Capital Oman 20 Index	744.56	-13.28	-1.75%	-11.74%	6.83	0.70	8.5%
U Capital GCC 50 Index	1,032.88	21.57	2.13%	-25.48%	17.30	1.71	5.3%
U Capital MENA 200 Index	826.84	24.37	3.04%	-24.19%	11.89	1.41	6.3%
MSCI GCC Countries Index	429.94	9.15	2.17%	-24.53%	12.73	1.39	5.0%
Muscat Securities Market	3,556.07	2.16	0.06%	-10.68%	7.17	0.66	7.9%
Saudi Stock Exchange	6,208.65	14.99	0.24%	-25.99%	17.17	1.44	4.3%
Kuwait Stock Exchange	5,791.37	141.09	2.50%	-20.17%	12.79	1.14	4.4%
Qatar Exchange	8,534.32	257.96	3.12%	-18.14%	12.58	1.22	4.7%
Bahrain Stock Exchange	1,385.07	24.78	1.82%	-13.98%	9.92	0.84	5.3%
Dubai Financial Market	1,823.01	109.99	6.42%	-34.07%	6.68	0.64	6.8%
Abu Dhabi Exchange	3,921.39	269.98	7.39%	-22.74%	11.45	1.07	6.3%
Beirut Stock Exchange	596.91	0.07	0.01%	-24.01%	3.14	0.35	15.5%
Palestine Stock Exchange	498.90	0.37	0.07%	-5.14%	11.71	1.13	4.7%
Tunis Se Index	6,355.83	37.09	0.59%	-10.76%	17.88	2.26	2.3%
EGX 30 Index	9,865.67	95.19	0.97%	-29.34%	8.12	1.28	3.1%
Amman General Index	1,668.18	-7.29	-0.44%	-8.10%	10.52	0.79	8.1%

World Markets	Country	Value	D/D	YTD
Europe			%	%
FTSE 100	UK	5,688.2	4.45%	-24.58%
DAX	Germany	9,874.3	1.79%	-25.47%
CAC 40	France	4,432.3	4.47%	-25.86%
United States				
DJIA	USA	21,200.6	2.39%	-25.71%
S&P 500	USA	2,475.6	1.15%	-23.38%
NASDAQ	USA	7,384.3	-0.45%	-17.70%
Asia Pacific				
NIKKEI 225	Japan	18,918.4	-3.26%	-20.03%
HANG SENG	Hongkong	23,527.8	0.00%	-16.54%
KSE 100 Index	Pakistan	27,228.8	0.00%	-33.16%
NSE Nifty 50	India	8,490.8	2.08%	-30.22%
SHANGHAI COMPOSITE	China	2,776.6	-0.18%	-8.97%
SHANGHAI SHENZHEN CSI 300	China	3,716.7	-0.16%	-9.27%

Currency Cross Rates	USD/1 Unit	Units/1 USD
Currency		
Australian Dollar (AUD)	0.593	1.688
British Pound (GBP)	1.185	0.844
Canadian Dollar (CAD)	0.702	1.424
Chinese Renminbi (CNH)	0.140	7.128
Egyptian Pound (EGP)	0.064	15.741
Euro (EUR)	1.091	0.917
Indian Rupee (INR)	0.013	75.449
Japanese Yen (JPY)	0.009	110.800
New Zealand Dollar (NZD)	0.584	1.712
Omani Rial (OMR)	2.597	0.385
Pakistani Rupee (PKR)	0.619	158.813
Russian Ruble (RUB)	0.013	78.207
Singapore Dollar (SGD)	0.690	1.448
Turkish Lira (TRY)	0.155	6.450

Commodity Prices	Price	D/D	YTD
	USD	%	%
Oil			
Brent Crude (per bbl)	27.3	-0.55%	-57.87%
WTI Crude (per bbl)	24.2	-1.55%	-60.45%
Oman Crude Oil (Last Closing)	29.0	6.15%	-57.02%
OPEC (per bbl)	26.5	7.32%	-60.96%
Precious Metals			
Gold100 OZ (per oz)	1,606.7	-0.63%	5.89%
Silver (per oz)	14.4	-0.65%	-19.44%
Platinum (per oz)	730.5	-1.57%	-24.42%
Other Metals			
Copper, MT	4,855	0.85%	-21.36%
Aluminium, MT	1,538	-0.65%	-15.06%
Lead, MT	1,645	3.72%	-14.66%
Zinc, MT	1,836	1.13%	-19.19%

GCC 3m Interbank Rates	Current Rate %	YTD %
UAE	1.32	-40.1%
Saudi Arabia	1.11	-50.2%
Kuwait	1.94	-29.5%
Oman	2.67	-5.3%
Qatar	1.27	-43.4%
Bahrain	1.87	-30.0%

GCC Latest 10-Yr Government Bond Yields	Maturity date	YTM, %
Kuwait	20/03/2027	2.9
Abu Dhabi	11/10/2027	3.2
Qatar	02/06/2026	3.3
Saudi Arabia	04/03/2028	3.6
Oman	17/01/2028	10.4
Bahrain	12/10/2028	8.7

Midswaps	Price	YTM %
3 year	100.41	0.4
5 year	100.03	0.5
10 year	106.73	0.8
30 year	115.50	1.4

USD Libor	Rate (%)	YTD
1m	0.92	-47.5%
3m	1.23	-35.4%
6m	0.98	-48.6%
1 year	0.96	-52.1%

Source: Bloomberg

Note: All values are updated at 9:00 AM Muscat Time. Markets are closed on Saturday and Sunday

OMAN ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

Oman banks must be geared for COVID-19 disruptions: CBO

The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has instructed licensed banks in the Sultanate to ensure they are well-equipped and suitably geared to provide “critical” banking services to their corporate and retail customers notwithstanding any disruptions likely to be unleashed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In a circular issued earlier this week, the apex bank reiterated calls for all banks to put in place “robust business continuity plans” suited to various pandemic-related scenarios.

Source: [Oman Observer](#)

\$275m finance secured for Oman’s first solar PV project

ACWA Power, along with project partners Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) and the Alternative Energy Projects Co (AEPC), announced it had secured \$275 million from six lenders to complete the finance for the \$400 million 500MW Ibri II solar project, which will be funded on a 70:30, debt-to-equity basis. Executives from the consortium behind Oman’s largest solar project to date have spoken of the effort required to achieve financial closure for the project, given the financial battering markets are enduring during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: [Oman Observer](#)

Oman's share index ends marginally higher

The MSM30 index closed at 3,556.07 points, up 0.06 per cent from Tuesday’s close. The Sharia Index closed up 0.01 per cent at 508.85 points. Al Jazeera Services, up 7.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Ooredoo Oman, down 3.85 per cent was the top loser. National Bank of Oman was the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 360 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.38 million with more than 7.19 million shares changing hands

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

Tadawul temporarily reduces trading hours for all listed securities

The Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul) announced on Wednesday a temporary reduction of trading hours for all listed securities from 10am to 1pm, effective from tomorrow March 26. Tadawul further explained that the trading sessions will be as follows:

- First Session: Opening Auction starts at 9:30am to 10am
- Second Session: Market Open – Trading starts at 10am to 1pm

Source: [Argaam](#)

Saudi CMA will continue updating precautionary measures to maintain market stability

The Capital Market Authority (CMA) said in a statement on Wednesday that the health of investment community and those working in the financial sector is one of its top priorities. The daily trading hours were reduced, as part of the Kingdom’s precautionary measures to control the coronavirus outbreak. It is important to maintain the stock market operations to evaluate local economy amid the current exceptional conditions and enable market participants to continue exercising their daily transactions, the market regulator added.

Source: [Argaam](#)

UAE to shut public transport, restrict movement from March 26-29

The United Arab Emirates will shut down public transport and restrict movement during the course of the national campaign of sterilization of public facilities from 8 p.m. Thursday March 26 to 6 a.m. Sunday March 29, the Ministry of Health announced on Wednesday. “The Ministry of Health and Prevention and the Ministry of Interior decided, in coordination with all relevant federal and local institutions, to launch a ‘national sterilization program’ to completely sterilize all public facilities, public transportation and metro service during the weekend period, starting 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 until 6 a.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2020,” the ministry’s of health said in its statement.

Source: [Al Arabiya](#)

Gulf countries pledge over \$120bn stimulus to combat corona fallout

Six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have pledged over \$120 billion to help their economies fight the impact of the coronavirus, officially known as COVID-19, and stop businesses going bankrupt. Central banks and governments across the world have scrambled to put stimulus measures into place to prop up their economies and contain the fallout. Overnight, the US Senate leaders and the Trump administration reached agreement on a \$2 trillion stimulus package, setting the stage for swift passage of the massive legislation through both chambers of Congress.

Source: [SG](#)

Abu Dhabi banks announce 17 financial initiatives for the community and businesses

The Abu Dhabi Government has unveiled a comprehensive package of financial incentives, in line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. A collective effort by Abu Dhabi banks - First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) –

Source: [Zawya](#)

Bahrain's KHCBC gets shareholder approval for delisting from Dubai's DFM

Khaleeji Commercial Bank's (KHCBC) shareholders agreed to delist the bank's shares from Dubai Financial Market (DFM), the Bahraini bank said in a statement. At their ordinary general meeting held on Wednesday 25 March, shareholders authorised the board to take all necessary procedures and requirements in this regard, subject to approval of the related regulatory authorities.

Source: [Zawya](#)

Work permits, residence visas to be issued automatically in UAE

The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship have announced exemption of medical tests for workers whose work permits have expired. Work permits and residence visas will be issued and renewed automatically for labourers employed by companies and support service staff such as domestic workers as part of precautionary measures taken by the UAE to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Source: [Khaleej Times](#)

Budget Saudi says car rental business hit by COVID-19 precautionary measures

United International Transportation Co. (Budget Saudi) said that short-term car rental business, which represents 30% of its fleet, was hit by the Kingdom's precautionary measures to curb COVID-19 outbreak. The remaining 70% of its fleet, comprising long-term leasing contracts, remained intact, the company said in a statement to Tadawul. The company said revenues have been directly impacted by the closure of airports in line with the government's preventive measures imposed to contain COVID-19 pandemic such as the temporary suspension of Umrah and imposing a 21-day curfew.

Source: [Argaam](#)

What you need to know when Tadawul opens today

- 1) The Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul) announced a temporary reduction of trading hours for all listed securities from 10am to 1pm, effective from today.
- 2) Emaar The Economic City (Emaar EC) widened net losses after Zakat and tax to SAR 509 million for the fiscal year 2019, from SAR 138 million a year earlier.
- 3) Basic Chemical Industries Co. (BCI) reported net profit after Zakat and tax of SAR 59.3 million for FY2019, down by 15.85% year-on-year (YoY).

Source: [Argaam](#)

Mideast Stocks: Middle East stocks advance on giant U.S. stimulus package

Stock markets in the Middle East closed higher on Wednesday, as a mammoth stimulus in the United States to mitigate the economic blow from the fast-spreading coronavirus pandemic lifted investor sentiment across the globe. U.S. senators and Trump administration officials have reached agreement on a massive economic stimulus bill to alleviate the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, the negotiators said on Wednesday.

Source: [Zawya](#)

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

Senate Approves \$2 Trillion Stimulus

The \$2 trillion economic stabilization package agreed to by Congress and the Trump administration early Wednesday morning is the largest of its kind in modern American history, intended to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and provide direct payments and jobless benefits for individuals, money for states and a huge bailout fund for businesses. The measure, which the Senate approved unanimously just before midnight on Wednesday, amounts to a government aid plan unprecedented in its sheer scope and size, touching on every facet of American life with the goal of salvaging and ultimately reviving a battered economy.

Source: [NY Times](#)

China, U.S. to set aside differences in G20 coronavirus summit: SCMP

China and the United States are expected to call a timeout on their coronavirus blame game and focus on the challenges of the pandemic when leaders of the G20 nations hold talks via video conference on Thursday, the South China Morning Post said. The virus has spread around the globe, infecting more than 470,000 people and killing more than 20,000, since it emerged in central China late last year.

Source: [NASDAQ](#)

Dollar dips as investors brace for surge in jobless claims

The dollar fell against the yen on Thursday before data expected to show a surge in U.S. claims for unemployment benefits as companies lay off workers due to the rapid spread of the coronavirus. The pound extended declines against the euro and the dollar due to lingering worries that Britain is not adequately prepared to deal with an increase in coronavirus cases after the flu-like illness ravaged health care systems in Italy and Spain.

Source: [Reuters](#)

COMMODITIES NEWS

Oil prices mixed as demand shrinks, but stimulus hopes support

Oil prices were mixed on Thursday following three days of gains, with the prospect of rapidly dwindling demand due to coronavirus travel bans and lockdowns offsetting hopes a U.S. \$2 trillion emergency stimulus will shore up economic activity. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude CLc1 futures slipped 4 cents, or 0.2%, to \$24.45 as of 0018 GMT, while Brent crude LCOc1 futures rose 12 cents, or 0.4%, to \$27.51.

Source: [Reuters](#)