SETTLES LOWER | Page 4

QSE sees buying interests from Arab and Gulf retail investors

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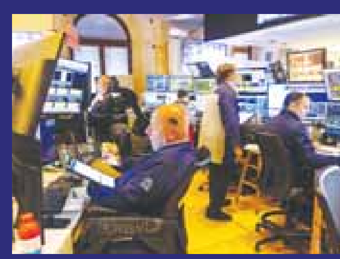


POSITIVE OUTLOOK: Page 3

Bond selloff threatens to knock AI stock frenzy off course

QFC joins GCMA as associate member

QFC CEO Mansoor Rashid al-Khater shaking hands with GCMA president Michael Grifferty.

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) has joined the Gulf Capital Market Association (GCMA) as an associate member, marking an important step towards building a more structured and competitive financial ecosystem in Qatar.

This builds on the memorandum of understanding signed between the QFC and GCMA in February 2025 to enhance collaboration and explore the potential of establishing a Qatar-branch of the GCMA Asset Management Chapter. It also supports the development of a local investment management association, which is expected to provide a platform to represent industry perspectives, promote best practices, strengthen sector awareness, and engage with regulators on matters of shared interest.

"The membership of QFC in GCMA reflects our focus on strengthening Qatar's investment landscape by collaborating closely with key local industry stakeholders and global organisations. As this sector evolves, initiatives such as this play an important role in supporting a competitive business environment and ensuring firms can operate within a more connected and forward-looking ecosystem," said QFC CEO Mansoor Rashid al-Khater.

The membership was announced on the sidelines of the Asset Management Roundtable hosted by the QFC, which brought together senior leaders from the asset management community to discuss key industry trends, evolving market dynamics, regional and global outlooks, and the regulatory landscape.

The QFC's membership with the GCMA reinforces its commitment to advancing the investment management sector by facilitating collaboration among global and regional firms, key market actors, and regulators.

The move aligns with broader national priorities to further develop and diversify the financial services sector. "The GCMA is pleased to welcome the QFC as its newest member, reinforcing QFC's position as a regional hub for market innovation in line with its goal of further developing Qatar's financial industry ecosystem.

We look forward to working closely with the QFC and industry stakeholders to advance the asset management industry in Qatar," said Michael Grifferty, its president.

QCB governor meets China's ambassador

HE the Governor of the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) Sheikh Bandar bin Mohammed bin Saoud al-Thani met yesterday with the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Qatar Cao Xiaolin, reports QNA. The meeting discussed the most prominent bilateral co-operation relations and ways to enhance them in the financial and banking fields.

QFZ CEO discusses bilateral ties in free zones and investment with Indonesian envoy

Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Faisal al-Thani, the chief executive officer of the Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ), recently held a meeting with Syahda Guruh Langkah Samudera, the ambassador of Indonesia to Qatar. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral co-operation in the fields of free zones and investment between the two countries. The meeting also highlighted the investment opportunities and outstanding benefits offered by QFZ and supported by the country's advanced infrastructure. The meeting was attended by senior officials from QFZ and was followed by an introductory tour in the Business Innovation Park at Ras Bufontas Free Zone.

QICCA highlights Qatar's commitment to developing ADR

QICCA vice-chairman Sheikh Dr Thani bin Ali al-Thani during the closing ceremony of the 'Accelerated Track Qualifying for Membership' programme, organised by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Qatar Branch.

A delegation from the Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA), led by its vice chairman, Sheikh Dr Thani bin Ali al-Thani, has attended the closing ceremony of the 'Accelerated Track Qualifying for Membership' programme, organised by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Qatar Branch.

The event was part of efforts to enhance cooperation and develop expertise in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). QICCA's participation reflects its ongoing cooperation CIArb, following the signing of a cooperation agreement on the sidelines of the QICCA annual conference in November 2024, aimed at promoting arbitration and ADR in Qatar and enhancing legal and professional awareness in this vital field.

In his remarks, Sheikh Dr Thani emphasised Qatar's strong focus on developing ADR mechanisms, noting that this commitment is reflected in modern legislation, including the Arbitration Law and the Mediation Law, which enhance the country's legal and investment environment. He also urged trainees to continue their professional development and keep pace with the global advancements in arbitration, stressing the importance of preparing qualified national talent aligned with international best practices.

Big risks and rewards in upcoming IPOs at SpaceX, OpenAI and Anthropic

AFP
New York

Wall Street is witnessing massive IPOs set to arrive in the coming months, beginning with Elon Musk's SpaceX in June. That is expected to be followed by artificial intelligence rivals OpenAI and Anthropic. The trio of mega listings, each eyeing valuations around $1tn or more, constitutes a heady period of elevated risk and reward.

SpaceX is targeting an initial public offering that would raise up to $80bn, roughly double the funds generated from all 2025 IPOs.

OpenAI and Anthropic are eyeing IPOs raising $60bn, also huge numbers compared with the norm.

"We're really in unprecedented times," said Emily Zheng, an analyst for PitchBook, a research platform specialising in private capital. "And this concentration is more extreme than ever." The trio is poised to enter public markets as the Middle East war adds to inflationary pressures and fogs the geopolitical landscape.

But that factor is not expected to impede the arrival of SpaceX, OpenAI and Anthropic. "These three companies are kind of unique," said Jay Ritter, a specialist in IPOs at the University of Florida.

Mark Roberts, managing partner at the Blueshirt Group, also expects the offerings to be well subscribed.

"There's enough capital to enthusiastically embrace these three companies if they are priced correctly," Roberts said. Nasdaq, where SpaceX will trade, announced earlier this spring that it would speed up the timeframe for including such mega listings in its main benchmark index.

The shift is expected to prod additional stock purchases of SpaceX from investment funds built around the index.

Among portfolio managers for larger funds, SpaceX "is probably viewed as a must-have stock," said Roberts.

In anticipation of the listings, there has been a throng of activity on secondary markets where investors are buying unlisted securities, pushing Anthropic's theoretic value to more than $1tn. Both OpenAI and Anthropic have warned investors against securities not authorised by the companies.

Once they begin trading on public markets, their performance will serve as a gauge of the market's appetite for additional offerings, particularly in the AI market. "If these companies do really well -- especially the AI ones, like OpenAI and Anthropic -- it would be a confirmation of these really massive private-market valuations," Zheng said.

"But the opposite could also be true," she added. "If the companies don't perform well, investors might conclude they're overvalued."

Some investors who have backed the three heavyweights in private markets are poised to cash out, potentially positioning them for the next round of tech companies.

Private equity firms currently hold more than 30,000 companies that they hope to exit, a backlog that has slowed availability of capital for new prospects. A recent Wall Street Journal article highlighted the slowdown, citing one firm that called the dynamic a "winter of exits."

A poor performance by the new entrants could hit the valuations of these private companies, Zheng said.

By going public, the companies will also subject themselves to greater scrutiny from investors.

The market will "be laser-focused on the performance of those stocks from an operational perspective," Roberts said. "So they can't miss their earnings."

Ritter predicted all three companies could see volatility.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Investors are fervently chasing the hot rally in tech and AI stocks while widely acknowledging that rising yields threaten to knock equities off course.

Bond selloff threatens to knock AI stock frenzy off course

Bloomberg
New York

Investors are fervently chasing the hot rally in tech and AI stocks while widely acknowledging that rising yields threaten to knock equities off course.

The assessments from Bloomberg News interviews with 32 investment managers across the US, Asia and Europe, including at Wells Fargo Investment Institute, Amundi SA and BMO Global Asset Management, were overwhelmingly bullish.

Investors are particularly upbeat about equities, with 80% expecting them to outperform other asset classes such as commodities or bonds over the next three to six months.

The top investment choice for about half of these buy-side professionals is the megacap tech and artificial intelligence stocks at the heart of a seven-week, record-setting surge in the S&P 500 Index.

"We continue to see opportunities in some of the hyperscalers, which have led the AI build-out and are now beginning to generate tangible returns on their investments," said Raphael Thuin, head of capital market strategies at Tikehau in Paris.

The bullishness is evident as tech-heavy indexes like the Nasdaq 100 and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index, or SOX, hit repeated records in a sharp rebound from their Iran-war lows. The return of AI as a key investment thesis and powerful earnings growth have fueled the frenzy, with investors setting aside worries about companies overspending.

For all the exuberance, causes for concern aren't hard to find. A look beneath the index-level moves shows the rally is extremely concentrated and displays signs of overheating.

Just four stocks are responsible for more than half of the S&P 500's gains this year. Meanwhile, the SOX currently trades at more than 25 times forward earnings, well above its average of 19 over the past decade. Positioning has turned far more crowded and technical signals are flashing overbought levels. That makes the setup a lot more fragile.

What would it take to break this rally? Most investors interviewed pointed to the yield on 30-year Treasuries holding sustainably above 5% — the level where it's already trading. Alexandre Drabowicz, chief investment officer at Indosuez Wealth Management, called that the "danger zone" for stocks.

Apprehension about yields is creeping higher as the impasse in the Strait of Hormuz persists, increasing the risk of elevated oil prices feeding into inflation and harming the economy. On Friday, a global rout in government bonds sent longer-dated Treasury yields to nearly their 2023 peak.

Long-term interest rates "sit at the crossroads of the cost of capital for AI capex and private credit," said Kevin Thozet, from the investment committee at Carmignac. They affect the financing of government deficits and he noted their potentially "adverse impact" on consumer wealth.

Stagflation and hawkish central banks were cited by many of the 32 investors as key risks the market is failing to price properly. Those responses underscore how the bond market looms large in stock investors' peripheral vision as the main threat to equities.

"While equities are seeing life through rose tinted glasses, rates continue to rise," said Benoît Peloille, chief investment officer at Natixis Wealth Management. He warned that a "reality check" could follow if yields keep climbing.

Worries over stagflation and rate hikes were topped only by the fear that over-optimism about corporate earnings will come back to bite investors, identified as the Number One underpriced risk.

AI set to tilt job market leverage towards senior workers, shows survey

Bloomberg
New York

When it comes to job cuts, older workers are often disproportionately affected. But a new survey of chief executive officers suggests this won't be a given as companies adopt artificial intelligence.

More than 40% of CEOs plan to cut junior roles over the next one to two years and shift the composition of their workforce towards mid-level or senior positions, while only 17% plan to make junior roles a bigger part of the mix, according to a global survey by Oliver Wyman. The numbers are essentially flipped from just a year ago.

"I think the junior level is definitely finding it harder now to enter the workforce," said John Romeo, who leads the consulting firm's research arm, the Oliver Wyman Forum. "It's those mid- and senior-level employees that CEOs are now looking at to drive productivity." That's because of the types of tasks that AI agents are able to perform, from writing code at the level of a junior developer to evaluating sales leads.

What the agents can't do in many fields is make judgment calls using the insight that comes from on-the-job experience, according to labor experts.

Companies are saying, "I need someone who's actually done this before because her experience, her wisdom, her critical thinking and the fact that she solved these problems makes her much more valuable," said consultant and lecturer Ravin Jesuthasan, who has written multiple books on the future of work.

The Oliver Wyman survey results build on findings from a Harvard University study showing that firms adopting generative AI have significantly reduced junior-level positions, while keeping senior employment largely stable.

Foregoing younger talent now in favor of AI agents comes with significant risks, though, as it may leave companies with a shortage of experienced workers in the future, according to Helen Leis, global head of leadership and change at Oliver Wyman.

To "have the mid-level people that can manage an agentic workforce, they need to learn the company and the job," Leis said.

With that idea in mind, International Business Machines Corp said in February that it plans to triple entry-level hiring in the US this year and will rewrite job descriptions for the AI era. IBM appears to be an outlier, though. A study from Stanford University in November found that young workers were 16% more likely to lose their jobs in the most AI-exposed fields.

But even if AI is tipping the scales in the job market toward older workers, it's no guarantee of job security for them. "Firms' commitment to workers is weaker and weaker," said Teresa Ghilarducci, a labour economist at the New School.

Emerging carry trade rebounds with real, rand among favourites

Bloomberg
London

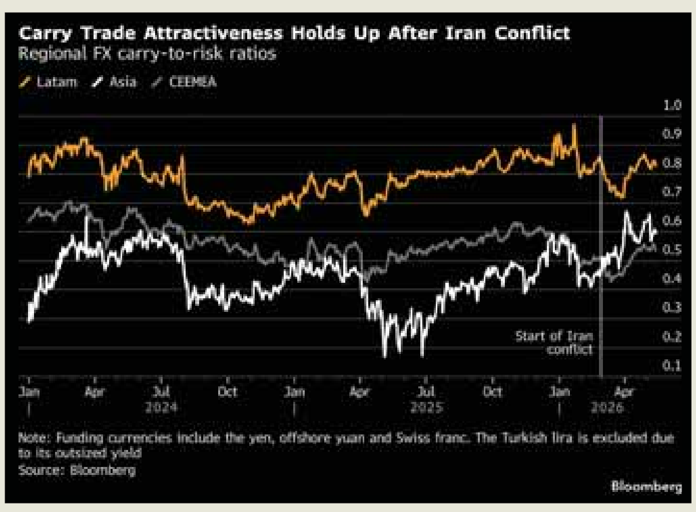
The emerging-market (EM) carry trade has bounced back from its Iran war losses as surging crude oil prices reinforce expectations that interest rates will stay elevated and bolster the currencies of commodity exporters.

An index tracking this trading strategy has jumped more than 3% from its March low, and gained about 1.7% since the conflict began in late February.

The gauge approximates the carry trade by measuring returns from borrowing in three low-yielding currencies — namely the yen, Swiss franc and Chinese yuan — and investing in eight higher-yielding emerging market ones, including the Brazilian real and South African rand.

The rally in oil due to the Middle East conflict is proving a double-edged sword for emerging markets. While it initially caused a flight to safety away from the sector, the last month has seen investors return to growth-oriented assets. The rise in crude prices has also boosted bets that central banks will tighten monetary policy aggressively to rein in consumer prices, ensuring real rates — nominal rates adjusted for inflation — remain attractive.

"The EM carry trade will be buoyed by higher-for-longer real rates to combat incipient inflationary expectations," said Jason Devito, a senior portfolio manager for emerging market debt at Federated Hermes Inc. in Pittsburgh. "While there are winners and losers within EM from higher oil prices, the losers are better prepared than ever, while the winners, such as Brazil for example, are supported by central bank credibility amid a backdrop of high real rates."



Traders have been increasing their bets that elevated oil prices will keep inflation and policy rates high across developing nations. The average of 12-month interest-rate swaps from 14 emerging-market economies has risen to 5.7% from 5% before the Iran conflict began, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The rebound in the carry trade has also been helped by relatively subdued currency volatility. A gauge of one-month EM foreign-exchange volatility is currently 6.88%, down from as high as 9.23% in the middle of March, according to a JPMorgan Chase & Co index. Lower volatility supports the carry trade by minimising the risk that exchange-rate fluctuations will erase profits from interest-rate differentials.

Some individual trades have delivered stellar returns. A strategy of borrowing in the Swiss franc and investing in the Brazilian real since the end of February returned 6.6%, while funding in the yen and buying the Turkish lira delivered a gain of 6.9%, based on data compiled by Bloomberg.

The current market environment remains favorable to the emerging-market carry trade partly as the Federal Reserve will refrain from turning more hawkish under Kevin Warsh, said Homin Lee, a strategist at Lombard Odier in Singapore.

"We are bullish on the Brazilian real first and foremost," he said. "Brazil is strongly positioned to withstand the ongoing energy market disruption and also benefit from the post-conflict global capex boom."

While there are opportunities to profit from carry, investors must remain vigilant due to rising political risks, including the elections this year in Colombia and Brazil.

"EM carry remains attractive but increasingly selective," said Anthony Kettle, a senior portfolio manager at RBC Bluebay Asset Management in London. "We favour high yielders with credible policy frameworks, strong real yields, and solid external balances, such as the real, as well as frontier names which are benefiting from elevated energy prices, for example Nigeria." Some previously lucrative carry-trade bets are also coming under strain.

Oil is experiencing demand destruction

The hit to oil supplies is set to last months, even if the conflict in the Strait of Hormuz is resolved soon. Are higher prices causing demand destruction, and a permanent change in markets?

By Fahad Badar

Demand destruction is a long-established and well-studied phenomenon in economics.

It occurs when a prolonged curtailment of supply, or a disruptive technology, causes a sustained reduction in demand, a significant proportion of which is non-reversible. It represents a fundamental change in the market.

Are we seeing this in oil and gas, as a consequence of the US-Israel-Iran conflict and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz?

While the oil price rise has been moderate to date, it is possible that prices will rise further rather than fall. Advanced economies have released significant amounts of oil reserves to mitigate the impact of the supply disruptions, and by definition this cannot be sustained indefinitely. Commercial stocks have also been used, but likewise are finite in supply. Finally, there was already a considerable quantity of oil and gas in transit when the conflict began, but less with each week of the blockade.

An oil price of $100 per barrel or above, compared with around $65 in 2025, is set to be a feature of the global economy for some time to come. Such a scenario could cause long-term demand destruction for petroleum-related products, and there are indicators showing that this is already occurring. According to a survey by *The Economist* magazine, demand for oil in April was running at around 4mn barrels per day below forecasts.

In volume terms, this is the biggest energy supply shock of modern history. It is not, at least not yet, the biggest economic shock. This is partly because the oil intensity of the global economy has diminished since the two oil price crises of 1973 and 1979. In the late 20th century, economic growth indicators moved in approximately inverse correlation with the oil price, and the relationship now is weaker. In 1973 around 131 litres of oil were consumed for every $1,000 of GDP growth. By 2025 it was 52 litres.

Europe, for example, has become less reliant on oil and gas for electricity generation. Investment in nuclear energy, solar, wind and hydro power, and in the capacity of power grids, has resulted in much less disruption and inflation than in 2022 following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which curbed oil and gas supplies. In France, a one-year forward power contract is around €50 per Megawatt hour compared with a peak of over €1,000 in August 2022.

The development of renewable energy is a feature of demand destruction of oil and gas. It is a complex picture, however. Oil as a commodity has many more uses than refining to make petrol, diesel and aviation fuel. One refined product is naphtha, the supply of which has been affected by the conflict in the Gulf. Naphtha is the core ingredient for plastics. Electric vehicles have several components that are derived from petroleum, including plastic parts of the structure, hydraulic fluids, and parts for lithium-ion batteries. Similarly, plastics are used in solar panels and wind turbines.

Other commodities affected by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz include helium, used in the manufacture of chips for AI, and for electric vehicles. Supply of fertilisers for farms has also been badly affected by the blockade; also aluminium, which has numerous industrial applications.

Some commodities do not have an alternative, but changes in some sectors, in addition to oil and gas, may be 'sticky'. With tourism, there is an immediate crisis in the Gulf when the outbreak of conflict and the closure of air space resulted in a crash in the number of vacations taken. Moreover, shortages in aviation fuel have resulted in sharp increases in air prices. Recovery in tourism will likely take time.

Commuting is another example. Many nations have rationed energy, or imposed work-from-home orders in the public sector to reduce petrol consumption, while prices at the pumps have risen. Given that the supply constraints of oil and related products are becoming prolonged, such measures are set to persist.

In the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-22, millions of workers worked from home; and while commuting did return at scale after the pandemic, this was not to the same level. A survey of 10 cities by the *Financial Times* in 2024 found that commuting levels were typically between 10% and 30% lower than before Covid. Advances in video meeting technology help support working from home.

Demand destruction is therefore a major economic phenomenon this year – globally, but with a particularly heavy impact in the Middle East. Businesses need to adjust; this includes firms in transport, tourism, food supply and the restaurant sector as well as the more obvious areas such as commodities. Demand is set to be lower, and some operating costs unavoidably higher. Businesses need to trim overheads, improve efficiency and adjust to new market conditions.

The conflict appears to have reached a stalemate with negligible freight passing through the Strait of Hormuz. Given that oil reserves have been run down, the full impact of the supply constraint is yet to come. A return to normal will not arrive swiftly, and may not arrive at all.

■ *The author is a Qatari banker, with many years of experience in the banking sector in senior positions.*

QSE sees buy interests from Arab and Gulf retail investors

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

The market had initially seen bullish momentum to take the 20-stock Qatar Index to an intraday high of 10,516 points but profit booking pressure in the second half led it overall settle 0.09% lower at 10,484.17 points yesterday

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) yesterday witnessed buying interests from the Arab and Gulf retail investors, even as it settled nine points lower.

The market had initially seen bullish momentum to take the 20-stock Qatar Index to an intraday high of 10,516 points but profit booking pressure in the second half led it overall settle 0.09% lower at 10,484.17 points.

The insurance, industrials, consumer goods and real estate counters witnessed higher than average selling pressure in the market, whose year-to-date losses widened marginally to 2.59%.

About 74% of the traded constituents were in the red in the main bourse, whose capitalisation melted QR0.56bn or 0.09% to QR626.09bn, mainly owing to microcap segments. The local retail investors turned net sellers in the main market, whose trade turnover and volumes were on the decline.

The foreign individuals were seen net profit takers in the main bourse, which saw as many as 0.03mn exchange traded funds (sponsored by AlRayan Bank and Doha Bank) valued at QR0.08mn trade across 16 deals.

Both domestic and foreign institutions continued to be net sellers but with lesser intensity in the main market, which saw no trading of sovereign bonds.

The Islamic index was seen declining faster than the other indices of the main bourse, which saw no trading of sovereign sukuks. The Total Return Index was down 0.09%, the All Share Index by 0.09% and the Al Rayan Islamic Index by 0.34% in the main bourse, which saw no trading of treasury bills.

The insurance sector index tanked 1.75%, industrials (0.4%), consumer goods and services (0.23%), realty (0.2%) and telecom (0.09%); while transport gained 0.34% and banks and financial services 0.09%.

As many as 39 declined, while 12 decreased and two were unchanged in the main market.

Major shakers in the main market included Qatar General Insurance and Reinsurance, Widam Food, Dlala, Inma Holding, Beema, Baladna, Al Faleh Educational Holding, Al Mahhar Holding, Mesaieed Petrochemical Holding, Industries Qatar, Qamco, Ezdan and Mazaya Qatar. Techno Q saw its shares depreciate in value in the juniour bourse.

Nevertheless, Commercial Bank, Meeza, Estithmar Holding, Alijarah Holding, QNB, Barwa and Nakilat were among the movers in the main market.

The local individual investors turned net sellers to the tune of QR0.79mn against net buyers of QR40.15mn last Thursday.

The foreign retail investors were net sellers to the extent of QR0.65mn compared with net buyers of QR0.42mn on May 14.

However, the Gulf funds' net buying increased markedly to QR3.11mn against QR1.07mn the previous trading day.

The Arab individuals turned net buyers to the tune of QR2.97mn compared with net sellers of QR1.87mn last Thursday. The Gulf retail investors were net buyers to the extent of QR1.43mn against net profit takers of QR1.32mn on May 14.

The domestic funds' net selling weakened significantly to QR3.49mn compared to QR14.24mn the previous trading day.

The foreign institutions' net profit booking shrank considerably to QR2.58mn against QR24.22mn last Thursday.

The Arab institutions had no major net exposure for the sixth straight session.

The main market saw 17% contraction in trade volumes to 100.88mn shares, 34% in value to QR231.83mn and 40% in deals to 14,919.

In the venture market, a total of 0.07mn equities valued at QR0.15mn changed hands across 16 transactions.

Widam Food plans to cut capital base by 72%; proposes QR30mn bonds issue to Hassad Food

By Santhosh V Perumal
Business Reporter

Widam Food is proposing to slash the capital base by more than 72% to offset the accumulated financial losses.

It is also planning to issue bonds (convertible into shares) valued at QR30mn against a loan in favour of Hassad Food Company, Widam said in a communique to the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE).

In this regard, Widam Food is convening an extraordinary general assembly of shareholders on June 8 to seek the shareholders' nod.

The meeting's agenda include seeking shareholders' approval of the continuation of the company, and the reduction of its capital from QR180mn to QR50mn, divided into 50mn shares with a nominal value of QR1 per piece, in order to cover part of the accumulated losses.

Widam reported widening of net loss to QR125.18mn in 2025 compared to QR56.2mn the same period of the previous year.

The loss per share amounted to QR0.70 at the end of December 31, 2025 against loss per share QR0.31 the same period in 2024.

According to its presentation, the main drivers behind weak net earnings were decline in revenue and gross material margins across the core domestic and international businesses, resulting in a gross loss of QR17.4m in 2025 compared with a gross profit of QR9.3mn in 2024.

Moreover, higher general and administrative expenses (including one-off provisions) compared with 2024 also had its role in the earnings performance.

The equity investment classified as (FVOCI) was disposed of during the period in order to generate the necessary liquidity to address an operational cash shortfall, the presentation said, adding shareholders (had) approved (at the meeting held in 2025) the utilisation of the legal reserve of QR89mn to offset accumulated losses.

"Capital reduction helps in cleaning up the balance sheet and improving financial ratios," an analyst said. Stressing that it (capital reduction) would create a strong foundation for financial recovery, potentially supporting the future restructuring measures, mergers, or business expansion plans; he said it would create opportunities for long-term sustainability and growth.

In 2025, another QSE-listed entity Qatar Oman Investment Company had resolved to capital reduction by about 42.86% to extinguish accumulated losses amounting to nearly 50% of the capital.

In 2023, Mazaya Qatar shareholders had resolved to reduce its paid-up share capital from QR1.16bn to QR1bn through the cancellation of 13.61% of the total capital to partly cover the accumulated losses.

Widam Food general assembly meeting seeks to amend Articles (5) and (6) of the company's Articles of Association accordingly, after hearing the report of the company's external auditor and obtaining all necessary approvals from the competent authorities.

The meeting aims to get shareholders' nod to approve amendments to certain provisions of the company's Articles of Association, particularly Articles (Preamble – 5 – 6 – 9 – 33 – 37 – 58 – 65) in accordance with the amendments published on the company's website, and granting Hassad Food Company certain privileges.

The general assembly seeks approval of the issuance of bonds against a loan in favour of Hassad Food Company in the amount of QR30mn, for six months, convertible into shares, in accordance with the loan agreement concluded between the parties.

The meeting seeks to authorise the chairman or his delegate to implement the resolutions of the extraordinary general assembly, complete all necessary approvals from the competent authorities, particularly the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Qatar Financial Markets Authority.

It seeks approval to sign the amendments to the Articles of Association, complete the procedures for amending the commercial register, and sign all documents or applications required to implement the resolutions of the extraordinary general assembly.

Qatar real estate trading volume hits QR2.062bn in April

QNA
Doha

The volume of real estate trading in sale contracts registered with the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice in April 2026 amounted to QR2.062bn.

Data from the real estate analytical bulletin issued by the Ministry of Justice revealed that 516 real estate transactions were recorded during the month, with the traded area index rising by 185%.

The municipalities of Doha, Al Rayyan, and Al Dhaayen topped the list for the most active transactions in terms of financial value, according to the real estate market index, followed by Umm Salal, Al Wakrah, Al Khor and Al Dhakira, Al Shamal, and Al Sheehaniya.

The real estate market index for April 2026 showed that the financial value of transactions in Doha municipality amounted to QR735,181,113.

In Al Rayyan, the financial values of transactions was QR512,832,178, while in Al Dhaayen it was QR498,240,645.

Transactions in Umm Salal amounted to QR137,169,190, Al Wakrah recorded QR129,913,748, Al Khor and Al Dhakira recorded QR37,103,106, Al Shamal recorded QR8,560,383, while Al Sheehaniya recorded QR3,250,000. In terms of the traded space index, indicators revealed that Al Rayyan, Doha, and Al Dhaayen municipalities were the most active in terms of traded real estate spaces during April 2026: Al Rayyan 41%, followed by Doha 22%, and Al Dhaayen 18%.

Al Wakrah recorded 12%, Umm Salal recorded 10%, Al Khor and Al Dhakira recorded 4% and Al Shamal 1%, of the total traded spaces.

Concerning the index of the number of real estate transactions (sold properties), trading indices revealed that the most active municipalities during April were Doha with 28%, followed by Al Rayyan with 27%, and Al Dhaayen with%. Al Wakrah recorded traded transactions of 12%, Umm Salal with 10%, while Al Khor and Al Dhakira recorded 4% and Al Shamal 1 percent of the total real estate transactions.

An average per square foot prices for April ranged between (516-790) in Doha, (236-495) in Al Wakrah, (371-429) in Al Rayyan, (293-503) in Umm Salal, (406-807) in Al Dhaayen, (293 -367) in Al Khor and Al Dhakira, (148-229) in Al Shamal and 211 in Al Sheehaniya.

The trading volume revealed the highest value of 10 properties sold in April were in Al Dhaayen (five) properties, Doha (four) properties and Al Rayyan (one) property.

As for the volume of mortgage transactions in April, the number of transactions amounted to 312, with a total value of QR7,624,101,538.

Doha recorded the highest number of mortgage transactions with 179 transactions, equivalent to 57.4% of the total number of mortgaged properties, followed by Al Rayyan with 69 transactions, equivalent to 22.1% of the total number of mortgaged properties, and Al Dhaayen with 31 transactions equivalent to 9.9% of the total number of mortgaged properties, then Umm Salal with 14 transactions, equivalent to 4.5%, followed by Al Wakrah with 13 transactions, equivalent to 4.2%, Al Shamal with 3 transactions equivalent to 1%, Al Khor and Al Dhakira with 2 transactions equivalent 0.6% and Al Sheehaniya with one transaction equivalent to 2.3%.

As to the value of mortgages, the municipality of Doha came in the lead with a value of QR7,262,926,802, with Al Sheehaniya recording the lowest value of QR1,200,000.

As for residential units, their trading movement during April recorded 154 deals with a total value of QR283,858,876.

This data confirms the continued strong growth of the Qatari real estate sector in various investment and commercial fields, thanks to the new decisions related to real estate brokerage, real estate registration and documentation, ownership and usufruct, in addition to the laws that attract local and foreign capital, which enhances its position as one of the most important components of the national economy.