








U Capital Morning Brief

20 March 2018

GCC Market Indices	Current Close	Previous Close	Change	D/D	MTD	YTD
	Index	Index	Point	%	%	%
U Capital Oman 20 Index	878.78	908.78	-30.00	-3.30%	-8.14%	-9.80%
U Capital GCC 50 Index	1,231.26	1,232.38	-1.12	-0.09%	4.07%	7.56%
U Capital MENA 200 Index	1,046.87	1,046.58	0.29	0.03%	2.83%	5.20%
MSCI GCC Countries Index	507.21	507.37	-0.16	-0.03%	3.37%	5.72%
 Muscat Securities Market	4,832.54	4,892.98	(60.44)	-1.24%	-3.41%	-5.23%
 Saudi Stock Exchange	7,710.57	7,728.06	(17.49)	-0.23%	3.93%	6.70%
 Kuwait Stock Exchange	6,724.63	6,757.50	(32.87)	-0.49%	-0.71%	4.94%
 Qatar Exchange	8,889.92	8,802.80	87.12	0.99%	2.73%	4.30%
 Bahrain Stock Exchange	1,348.21	1,352.49	(4.28)	-0.32%	-1.58%	1.24%
 Dubai Financial Market	3,183.41	3,192.78	(9.37)	-0.29%	-1.87%	-5.54%
 Abu Dhabi Sec. Exchange	4,542.53	4,533.11	9.42	0.21%	-1.20%	3.28%

Source: Bloomberg

World Markets*	Country	Value	Change	D/D	Commodity Prices*	Price	Change	D/D
				%		USD	USD	%
Europe								
FTSE 100	United Kingdom	7,042.9	(121.21)	(1.69)	Brent Crude (per bbl) Updated	66.26	0.21	0.32
DAX	Germany	12,217.0	(172.56)	(1.39)	WTI Crude (per bbl) Updated	62.26	0.20	0.32
CAC 40	France	5,222.8	(59.91)	(1.13)	Oman Crude Oil (Last Closing)	63.35	(0.20)	(0.31)
United States								
DJIA	USA	24,610.9	(335.60)	(1.35)	Gold 100 OZ (per oz)	1,315.15	(2.60)	(0.20)
S&P 500	USA	2,712.9	(39.09)	(1.42)	Silver (per oz)	16.31	(0.02)	(0.14)
NASDAQ	USA	7,344.2	(137.75)	(1.84)	Platinum (per oz)	952.51	(1.41)	(0.15)
Asia Pacific								
NIKKEI 225	Japan	21,357.5	(132.82)	(0.62)	Copper, MT	6,854.00	(34.00)	(0.49)
HANG SENG	Hongkong	31,344.2	(169.56)	(0.54)	Aluminium, MT	2,088.00	3.00	0.14
Selected Middle East								
Tunis Se Index	Tunis	6,980.7	48.63	0.70	Lead, MT	2,367.00	(16.00)	(0.67)
EGX 30 Index	Egypt	17,172.1	(98.90)	(0.57)	Zinc, MT	3,261.00	1.00	0.03
Blom Stock Index	Lebanon	1,173.4	1.74	0.15	Nickel, MT	13,480.00	(145.00)	(1.06)

Source: Bloomberg, U Capital- at 8:30AM Muscat time

Source: Bloomberg, U Capital- at 8:30AM Muscat time

Cross Rate for Major Currencies*

Currency	Code	USD/1 Unit	Units/1 USD
Euro	EUR	1.234	0.811
British Pound	GBP	1.402	0.713
Japanese Yen	JPY	0.009	106.310
Chinese Renminbi	CNH	0.158	6.323
Indian Rupee	INR	0.015	65.235
Russian Ruble	RUB	0.017	57.839
Canadian Dollar	CAD	0.764	1.308
Australian Dollar	AUD	0.770	1.299

Source : Bloomberg Note: all prices/indices are updated till 8:30 AM Muscat time. * markets are closed on Saturday and Sunday

OMAN ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

PDO ANNOUNCES NEW GAS FIND

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has confirmed a 'significant' gas find with estimated recoverable reserves of more than 4tn cubic feet and 112mn barrels of condensate in the northern part of its concession area in the sultanate. The announcement by PDO came at the annual media briefing organised by the Ministry of Oil and Gas on Monday at the Oman Institute of Oil and Gas. PDO also reported on a string of achievements, including its best-ever safety performance, record investment in local companies and the creation of 14,146 job opportunities for Omanis in 2017

Source: [Muscat Daily](#)

Al Sawari signs \$9 million contract with CCED

Al Sawari International Investments has signed its first contract with CC Energy Development (CCED). The US\$9 million agreement was signed by Salem bin Sulayem Al Junaibi, Chairman of Al Sawari, and Walter Simpson, general manager of CCED.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

Sezad signs Duqm water network expansion agreement

The Special Economic Zone Authority at Duqm (Sezad) signed an agreement on Monday to expand the water network in the Special Economic Zone as part of Sezad's plans to complete infrastructure projects and prepare it to attract investments.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

CBO board meeting reviews several issues

The Central Bank of Oman's Board of Governors held its first meeting of this year on Monday with Sultan Bin Salim Bin Saeed Al Habsi, deputy chairman of CBO's Board of Governors, chairing the meeting.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

Muscat Sohar product pipeline to officially open on Wednesday

Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Company (Orpic) will officially inaugurate one of its strategic growth projects, the Muscat Sohar Product Pipeline (MSPP) and the main fuel terminal in Al Jefnain on March 21, 2018.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

OOC in talks with SGRF for power, renewables investments

Oman Oil Company SAOC (OOC), the energy investment arm of the Omani government, is exploring potential partnerships with local and international investors in the development of power and renewable energy schemes in the Sultanate.

Source: [Oman Observer](#)

Oman will continue new oil and gas projects, even if crude prices drop, says H E Aufi

Oman will continue exploring and developing new oil and gas projects even if crude oil prices fall below the current level, H E Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Oil and Gas said on Monday.

Source: [Muscat Daily](#)

New Muscat International Airport terminal to boost Oman's non-oil future

Oman's new airport terminal will help speed up the country's efforts towards diversifying its economy away from oil, according to experts in the Sultanate.

Source: [Times of Oman](#)

Note: Kindly see the proposed dividend announcements of MSM on the last page

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

BRIEF: Bahrain's Batelco to Be Divided into Wholesale and Retail Units

BAHRAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY BSC :

* SAYS CO TO BE DIVIDED INTO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL UNITS AS FUNCTIONAL SEPARATION

* SAYS AT THIS STAGE THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN STRUCTURE OR OWNERSHIP

Source: [Reuters](#)

Kuwait Finance House to decide on Aref stake by end of Q2

Kuwait Finance House to decide on Aref stake by end of Q2 Reuters Speaking at Monday's press conference, Nahedh said that KFH's Turkish business was in talks to participate in financing a 150 million euro (\$184.8 million) loan for the construction of a large project in Turkey but gave no further details.

Source: [PM Gulf](#)

UAE to introduce new interbank rates system on April 15- sources

The United Arab Emirates central bank will introduce a new way of setting Emirates Interbank Offered Rates (EIBOR), helping to make the system more accurate and transparent, on April 15, banking sources told Reuters on Monday. The new system will shrink the panel of banks whose quotes are used to calculate the rates to eight banks from 10, the sources said.

Source: [Zawya](#)

KUWAIT CENTRAL BANK ANNOUNCES ISSUANCE OF BOND WORTH KD160M

The Central Bank of Kuwait will issue a three-month bond, state-run KUNA reports. * Return rate 2% * Bank issued same-maturity bond

Source: **Bloomberg News Alert**

Qatar asks US to probe financial manipulation by UAE

Qatar's central bank has asked US regulators to investigate an Emirati bank that Doha accuses of waging "financial warfare" against it. Qatar claims NBAD Americas, the US subsidiary of First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), is engaging in "bogus" foreign exchange deals intended to undermine the Qatari riyal and harm its economy.

Source: [Al Jazeera](#)

QIA Seeks \$665 Million Exiting Asia Department Store Investments

Qatar Investment Authority, the sovereign fund pursuing asset disposals globally, is seeking to raise \$665 million selling its holdings in Hong Kong retailer Lifestyle International Holdings Ltd. and its China affiliate. QIA is offering 371.1 million Lifestyle International shares, or a 23 percent stake in the company, at a fixed price of HK\$12 apiece, according to terms for the deal obtained by Bloomberg.

Source: **Bloomberg News Alert**

Chemanol gets SIDF nod on SAR 385 mln loan rescheduling

Methanol Chemicals Co. (Chemanol) has obtained the approval of the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF) to reschedule its remaining SAR 385 million loan to support the company's financial position.

Source: [Argaam](#)

COMMERCIAL BANK OF DUBAI SEEKS APPROVAL TO SELL EMTN BONDS

Board seeks shareholder approval at AGM Tuesday to renew \$3b EMTN program, the Dubai-based lender says in statement to stock exchange. * Subject to approval of authorities

Source: **Bloomberg News Alert**

Saudi Aramco said to eye majority stake in Indian refinery

Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producer, is in talks with Indian oil firms to gain a majority stake in a proposed \$40 billion refinery-cum-petrochemical complex on the Indian west coast, Economic Times reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Source: [Argaam](#)

QNB Board of Directors' Seek Shareholder Approval to Increase Single Ownership Limit

QNB Board of Directors' have approved amendment of Articles number 7, which states that except the Qatar Investment Authority (owner of 50 percent of the capital of the Company) and General Retirement and Social Insurance Authority, no person, natural or juridical, shall own, at any time, more than (5 percent) of the shares of the Company other than by way of inheritance or testament.

Source: [QANA](#)

Qatari banks' assets rise to QAR 1.36tn in February

Assets owned by banks operating in Qatar increased 0.9% month-on-month to QAR 1.37 trillion (\$378.90 billion) in February compared to QAR 1.36 trillion (\$375.44 billion), data released by the Qatar Central Bank (QCB).

Source: [Mubasher](#)

MEAHCO awards SAR 196 mln contract for Riyadh hospital

Middle East Healthcare Co. has awarded a construction contract for the outpatient tower and inpatient beds expansion in Saudi German Hospital Riyadh to International Hospital Construction Company for SAR 193.66 million, it said in a statement to Tadawul on Monday.

Source: [Argaam](#)

Saudi central bank tweaks loan-deposit policy to allow more lending- Maaal

Saudi Arabia's central bank has instructed banks to change the way they calculate their loan-to-deposit ratios, giving greater weight to long-term deposits in order to permit more lending, according to a report on the Maaal financial news website.

Source: [Zawya](#)

Egypt to offer shares in 4-6 state firms, raising up to \$850 mln this year

Egypt will float shares in four to six state companies this year, with the aim of raising EGP 12-15 billion (\$680-\$850 million), Minister of Finance Amr El-Garhy told Reuters on Monday. Shares in state oil company Engineering for Petroleum and Process Industries (ENPPI) will be offered on the Egyptian Exchange in September, El-Garhy said.

Source: [Ahrum Online](#)

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC & CORPORATE NEWS

Asian shares fall as Facebook data flap spooks tech stocks

Asian shares fell on Tuesday after investors took profits in high-flying U.S. technology shares on fears of stiffer regulation as Facebook came under fire following reports it allowed improper access to user data.

Source: [Reuters](#)

GBP rises on 2-yr Brexit transition deal with EU

The European Union (EU) and the UK have reached an agreement regarding the latter's exit from the former in a transitional near-two-year period. Brexit has undergone hard negotiations and resulted in an agreement between both parties on many points save the Ireland border issue, in which London accepted a compromise keeping Northern Ireland under the EU law to eschew a dispute with Dublin.

Source: [Mubasher](#)

The Fed is unlikely to mention the one thing that could really hurt the economy

The Fed is unlikely to even mention one of the bigger risks for the economy when it issues its statement Wednesday. Economists say the Fed, however, should discuss the Trump administration's tariffs and the potential for trade wars, but there is not enough information for it to assess the impact on the economy and it will stay away from the topic.

Source: [CNBC](#)

U.S. Plans Heavy China Tariff Hit as Soon as This Week

The Trump administration plans to impose tariffs worth as much as \$60 billion on Chinese products as early as this week to punish Beijing for what the U.S. perceives as intellectual property theft from American businesses, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Source: [Bloomberg](#)

COMMODITIES NEWS

Gold prices inch down on stronger dollar, Fed in focus

Gold prices edged down on Tuesday as the dollar firmed, with focus shifting to the U.S. Federal Reserve which is expected to hike interest rates and signal three more increases this year at a two-day meeting that kicks off later in the day.

Source: [Zawya](#)

Oil prices rise on Middle East tension, but soaring U.S. output caps gains

Oil prices edged up on Tuesday, lifted by tensions in the Middle East, although rising output in the United States and shaky stock markets put a lid on further gains. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$62.31 a barrel at 0128 GMT, up 25 cents, or 0.4 percent, from their previous close.

Source: [Zawya](#)

MSM Proposed Dividends*

Company Name	Cash Div %	Cash DPS, OMR	Cash Div Payout, %	Cash Dividend Yield, %	Stock Dividend %	AGM Date	Total Payout	Ex-Dividend
BANKMUSCAT SAOG	30.0%	0.030	48.3%	8.2%	5%	18/03/2018	56.3%	Yes
BANK DHOFAR SAOG	12.0%	0.012	56.9%	5.4%	8%	27/03/2018	94.8%	
BANK SOHAR	5.0%	0.005	35.2%	3.2%	10%	29/03/2018	105.7%	
NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN SAOG	15.0%	0.015	52.8%	7.3%	5%	25/03/2018	70.4%	
HSBC BANK OMAN	5.7%	0.006	59.6%	5.3%		29/03/2018	59.6%	
AHLI BANK	10.0%	0.010	53.4%	6.0%	5%	27/03/2018	80.2%	
Banking Sector			50%	6.1%			69.1%	
OMAN UNITED INSURANCE CO	30.0%	0.030	89.7%	8.6%		29/03/2018	89.7%	
MUSCAT INSURANCE CO SAOG	5.0%	0.050	33.1%	5.9%	5%	21/03/2018	66.3%	
AL MADINA TAKAFUL CO SAOC	4.0%	0.004	176.3%	4.4%		26/03/2018	176.3%	
VISION INSURANCE SAOC	14.0%	0.014	76.8%	9.2%		26/03/2018	76.8%	
NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INSU	15.9%	0.016	50.0%	5.0%		28/03/2018	50.0%	
AL AHLIA INSURANCE CO SAOC	27.0%	0.027	73.1%	7.4%		22/03/2018	73.1%	
OMAN QATAR INSURANCE CO	8.0%	0.008	42.7%	5.7%		21/03/2018	42.7%	
Insurance Sector			67%	5.3%			70.0%	
MUSCAT FINANCE	8.0%	0.008	56.4%	7.3%	5%	22/03/2018	91.7%	
UNITED FINANCE CO	0.0%	0.000	0.0%	0.0%			-	
AL-OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICE	17.0%	0.017	67.4%	6.2%	3%	19/03/2018	79.3%	Yes
TAAGEER FINANCE	10.0%	0.010	53.9%	8.1%		22/03/2018	53.9%	
Leasing Sector			33%	3.2%			40.3%	
OMINVEST	15.0%	0.015	51.1%	3.8%	10%	27/03/2018	85.1%	
DHOFAR INTL DEVELOPMENT	15.0%	0.015	351.6%	4.9%		27/03/2018	351.6%	
AL SHARQIYA INVEST HOLDING	5.0%	0.005	84.8%	4.5%		20/03/2018	84.8%	
Investment & Brokerage Sector			80%	3.3%			118.6%	
Total Financial Sector			51.0%	5.5%			69.3%	
SWEETS OF OMAN	20.0%	0.020	64.5%	1.5%		14/03/2018	64.5%	Yes
OMAN REFRESHMENT CO	75.0%	0.075	34.7%	3.9%		27/02/2018	34.7%	Yes
SALALAH MILLS CO	50.0%	0.050	66.8%	3.8%		26/03/2018	66.8%	
A'SAFFA FOODS SAOG	20.0%	0.020	55.5%	3.4%		29/03/2018	55.5%	
Food & Beverage Sector			43%	3.0%			42.6%	
OMAN CEMENT CO	30.0%	0.030	103.5%	7.5%		18/03/2018	103.5%	Yes
RAYSUT CEMENT CO	29.0%	0.029	99.7%	3.6%		13/03/2018	99.7%	Yes
Cement Sector			102%	5.4%			102.1%	
MUSCAT THREAD MILLS CO	5.0%	0.005	42.1%	6.2%	5%	06/03/2018	84.2%	
Textiles Sector			42%	6.2%			84.2%	
OMAN CHROMITE	16.0%	0.160	87.6%	4.4%		5/3/2018	87.6%	Yes
Mining Sector			56%	0.9%			55.9%	
AL-ANWAR CERAMIC TILES CO	6.0%	0.006	98.3%	5.0%		21/03/2018	98.3%	
AL JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS CO	24.0%	0.024	63.5%	7.3%		25/03/2018	63.5%	
AL MAHA CERAMICS CO SAOC	27.0%	0.027	98.6%	9.5%		27/03/2018	98.6%	Yes
Construction Materials Support			86%	5.9%			85.9%	
OMAN PACKAGING	20.0%	0.020	63.9%	7.1%		01/03/2018	63.9%	Yes
COMPUTER STATIONERY INDS	7.0%	0.007	75.0%	2.7%		6/3/2018	75.0%	
Paper, Glass & Packaging			128%	2.8%			127.9%	
GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	14.5%	0.015	92.3%	6.9%		18/03/2018	92.3%	Yes
OMAN CHLORINE	15.0%	0.015	102.2%	3.4%		28/03/2018	102.2%	
NATIONAL DETERGENT CO SAOG	45.0%	0.045	91.9%	6.9%		12/3/2018	91.9%	Yes
Chemicals			97%	4.6%			96.7%	
NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL	5.0%	0.005	31.2%	4.7%		22/02/2018	31.2%	Yes
Pharmaceuticals			31%	4.7%			31.2%	
VOLTAMP ENERGY SAOG	15.0%	0.015	35.1%	3.1%	15%	26/03/2018	70.2%	
OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	45.0%	0.045	59.0%	4.0%		26/03/2018	59.0%	
Electical & Mechanical			52%	3.8%			62.4%	
Total Industrial Sector			151.0%	3.8%			155.3%	

Company Name	Cash Div %	Cash DPS, OMR	Cash Div payout, %	Cash Dividend Yield, %	Stock Dividend %	AGM Date	Total Payout	Ex-Dividend
OMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO	70.0%	0.070	65.9%	7.7%		22/3/2018	65.9%	
OOREDOO	42.0%	0.042	87.9%	9.0%		5/3/2018	87.9%	Yes
Telecom Sector			72%	8.1%			72.1%	
GULF HOTELS (OMAN) CO LTD	30.0%	0.300	63.6%	2.9%		22/03/2018	63.6%	
UBAR HOTELS & RESORTS	4.0%	0.004	47.0%	3.1%		20/03/2018	47.0%	
HOTELS MANAGEMENT CO INT.	100.0%	1.000	116.1%	80.0%		12/3/2018	116.1%	Yes
SAHARA HOSPITALITY	15.0%	0.150	37.1%	6.3%	5%	27/02/2018	49.5%	Yes
Tourism & Hospitality Sector			93%	5.9%			98.1%	
SALALAH PORT SERVICES	15.0%	0.015	51.8%	2.5%		22/3/2018	51.8%	
Logistics Sector			52%	2.5%			51.8%	
SHELL OMAN MARKETING	85.0%	0.085	64.6%	4.9%		22/03/2018	64.6%	
OMAN OIL MARKETING COMPANY	60.0%	0.060	41.8%	4.1%		18/03/2018	41.8%	Yes
AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS M	65.0%	0.065	89.5%	6.7%		15/03/2018	89.5%	Yes
NATIONAL GAS CO	5.0%	0.005	17.9%	1.7%	16.7%	21/03/2018	17.9%	
MUSCAT GASES COMPANY SAOG	72.0%	0.072	155.7%	12.9%		13/03/2018	155.7%	Yes
Oil & Gas Marketing Sector			64%	5.2%			63.6%	
AL KAMIL POWER CO	25.0%	0.025	129.2%	6.9%		19/3/2018	129.2%	
UNITED POWER	150.0%	1.500	419.2%	36.6%		8/3/2018	419.2%	Yes
PHOENIX POWER CO SAOG	6.2%	0.006	90.8%	4.5%		19/03/2018	90.8%	
OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING AN	10.0%	0.010	48.0%	5.3%	10%	21/03/2018	96.1%	Yes
SMN POWER HOLDING SAOG	19.0%	0.019	56.3%	2.9%		22/3/2018	56.3%	
SEMBCORP SALALAH POWER & WAT	13.1%	0.013	114.0%	6.0%		8/3/2018	114.0%	
AL SUWADI POWER	9.0%	0.009	113.8%	6.7%		20/3/2018	113.8%	
AL BATINAH POWER	9.0%	0.009	133.3%	6.7%		20/3/2018	133.3%	
MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	9.3%	0.009	n/m	5.9%		27/03/2018	n/m	Yes
Energy Sector			92%	4.4%			94.4%	
AL JAZEERA SERVICES	15.0%	0.015	56.3%	9.3%		21/03/2018	56.3%	
OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	10.0%	0.010	88.4%	7.8%		11/3/2018	88.4%	Yes
Diversified Commercial Services			75%	1.6%			75.0%	
Total Service Sector			75.3%	5.6%			75.9%	
Total Market			62.9%	5.3%			75.0%	

Source: MSM

For Ex-Dividend: Red Represents Ex-Dividend Today and grey represents Ex-dividend previously

*Includes Approved Dividends post-AGM

Ubar Capital SAOC (U Capital)

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