

March 10, 2010

GCC Markets		Change			
Index	Close	Daily	WTD	MTD	YTD
BH	1500.51	-0.21%	-0.2%	-1.2%	2.9%
OM	6654.71	0.26%	0.1%	-0.5%	4.5%
KW	7436.80	-0.05%	0.0%	0.8%	6.2%
SE	6565.95	0.55%	1.3%	2.0%	7.3%
QA	6818.37	-0.53%	1.3%	-0.8%	-2.0%
DU	1659.89	-0.19%	4.7%	4.2%	-8.0%
AD	2827.37	1.16%	3.7%	4.6%	3.1%

International Markets		Change			
Index	Close	Daily	WTD	MTD	YTD
DJIA	10,564.38	0.1%	0.0%	2.3%	1.3%
NASDAQ	2,340.68	0.4%	0.6%	4.6%	3.2%
FTSE 100	5,608.07	0.1%	0.1%	4.7%	3.6%
S&P 500	1,140.45	0.2%	0.2%	3.3%	2.3%
NIKKEI 225	10,563.92	0.0%	1.9%	4.3%	0.2%
HANGSENG	21,208.29	0.0%	2.0%	2.9%	-3.0%
SENSEX	17,098.33	0.3%	0.6%	4.1%	-2.1%

Source: Bloomberg data updated at 3 pm local time

Commodities & Major Currencies		Change			
	Price	Daily	WTD	MTD	YTD
Gold Spot	USD/Oz 1,126.97	0.5%	-0.7%	0.8%	2.7%
Silver Spot	USD/Oz 17.46	1.2%	0.6%	6.0%	3.5%
Nymex Spot	USD/Barrel 80.38	0.6%	0.6%	3.6%	1.3%
Aluminium	USD/Tonne 2,227.75	1.2%	1.3%	6.0%	1.4%
Copper	USD/Tonne 7,475.25	0.5%	-0.5%	4.3%	1.8%
Nickel	USD/Tonne 22,175.00	-0.2%	-0.6%	5.1%	20.2%
Zinc	USD/Tonne 2,346.25	0.2%	1.0%	8.0%	-7.2%
EUR/ USD	1.36	-0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	5.2%
YEN/ EUR	0.81	0.6%	0.0%	1.5%	-7.6%
YEN/ USD	0.01	0.5%	0.1%	1.7%	-2.8%

Source: Bloomberg data updated at 3 pm local time

Regional Markets

Bahrain

Declines across most sectors kept the BASI in the red for the third straight session with a 0.2% loss. The Commercial Bank sector lost 10.08 pts, as Al Salam Bk and Nat Bk of Bah slipped 2% each, and Bah Islamic Bk pared 1%. Ithmaar Bk was down 3% and Gulf Fin House shed 2%. In contrast, the Service sector added 4.06 pts, with Bah Maritime & Mercantile gaining 3% and Nass Corp adding 1.5%. Ininvest was up 8%.

Oman

Buying across key sectors propelled Oman back on to the black with a 0.3% gain. The Banking & Investments sector gained 0.4%, as Untd Fin and Transgulf Hldg added 2% each, and Nat Bk of Oman and BankMuscat were up 1%. Nat Aluminium gained 0.5%. On the other hand, the Service & Insurance (-0.1%) sector closed in the red, as Galfar Engg and Al Jazeera Ser slipped 1% each. Oman Packaging plunged 10% and Kamil Power lost 5%.

Kuwait

The KSE index closed flat with a negative bias at 7,436.8. The Banking (-1%) sector shed the most, as Comml Bk of Kuw, Kuw Fin House, and Gulf Bk of Kuw lost 3%, 2%, and 1%, respectively. Advanced Technology plunged 9% to lead the decliners' chart. Agility was down 2%. Meanwhile, the Investment sector gained 0.1%, after Intl Invt Grp and Coast Invt & Devt added 3% and 2%, respectively. Gulf Petroleum and Mubarrad Transport jumped 9% each.

Saudi

Helped by gains across most sectors, the TASI added over half-a-percent to close at 6,565.95. The Petrochemical Industries and Energy & Utilities sectors gained around 1% each, as Saudi Indl Invt Grp rose 2% and Saudi Electricity was up 1%. Saudi Cem climbed 5%, and Saudi Steel Pipe was up 3%. However, the Insurance sector lost 1%, with Untd Assurance and Tawuniya shedding 6% and 4%, respectively.

Qatar

The DSM Index closed 0.5% lower on profit booking across indices. The Insurance sector shed 4.5% and the Banking & Financial sector pared around 1%. Qat Islamic Ins shed 4.5% to lead the losers' list. Gulf Hldg and Ezdan RE slipped 2% each, while Nakilat, Qat Ins, and Qtel lost 1% each. Around 6.31 million shares changed hands today in 4,115 trades on a value of QAR 229.34 million. Al Meera Hldg gained 2%, Barwa RE added 1%, and First Finance rose 0.5%.

Dubai

Weighed down by sharp declines in the Utilities (-6%) and Real Estate (-1%) sectors, the DFM closed 0.2% lower. Leading the volume table, Tabreed declined 6%. Hits Telecom lost 8%, Dar Takaful shed 4%, and Emaar fell 1%. Nonetheless, the Material sector added 5%, as Nat Cem gained 5%. Comml Bk of Dubai rose 5% and DFM Co. added 3%. Of the 30 traded stocks, 8 closed higher and 17 closed in the red, while 5 remained unchanged.

Abu Dhabi

Extending its gains into the fourth consecutive session, the ADX added 1% to close at 2,827.37. The Banking and Real Estate sectors gained 2%, with Nat Bk of Rak advancing 8.5%, Aldar Prop adding 4% and Sorouh RE moving up 0.4%. First Gulf Bk was up 4.5%. On the contrary, the Consumer sector lost 4%, with Emirates Driving and AD Nat Hotels declining 10% and 6%, respectively. AD Ship Bldg lost 10% and Dana Gas closed 2% lower.

Corporate News

AUB buys 40% stake in Libyan lender ...

Bahrain's Ahli United Bank (AUB) acquired a 40% stake in Libya-based lender United Bank for Commerce and Investment (UBCI) for USD 53.8 million. UBCI increased its capital from LYD 33.3 million to LYD 80 million. The remaining 60% stake is held by Libyan shareholders.

Oman opens desalination plant ...

Oman opened a desalination plant and water network built at a cost of OMR 108 million in the eastern Sharqiya region.

AREF makes USD60mn profit on US divestment ...

Aref Energy Holding Co. (AREF) sold 95% of its stake in a US-based natural gas joint venture DeWitt Tract Co for USD 117.5 million, making a profit of USD 60 million.

Saudi Aramco to invest USD 90 billion over 5 years ...

Saudi Aramco plans to invest USD 90 billion over the next five years, most of which will be directed towards natural gas exploration, production, and processing, said the CEO. Over the last five years, Aramco spent USD 62 billion in order to increase its oil production capacity to 12 million barrels per day.

QIIC posts QAR51mn net profit ...

Qatar Islamic Insurance Company (QIIC) reported a net profit of QAR 51 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. The company reported gross premiums of QAR 159 million compared to QAR 168 million in the previous year. Total assets stood at QAR 586.75 million.

S&P's downgrades Tabreed to 'CC' ...

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services downgraded the long-term corporate credit rating of UAE-based district cooling company National Central Cooling Co. (Tabreed) to 'CC' from 'CCC', with a negative outlook.

ADIB arranges AED300mn for Al Dhafra ...

Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB) will provide an AED 300 million Islamic financing facility to Al Dhafra Co-operative Society to fund its working capital and capital expenditure requirements.

Other News

BH: Bahrain's financial sector witnesses 1.5 % increase in employment ...

Employment in Bahrain's financial services industry increased 1.5% during 2009, with a total of 14,137 people employed at the end of the year compared to 13,922 last year. The main driver of this job growth was the non-bank financial sector (comprising insurance firms, money brokers, money changers, investment advisory, capital market broking companies, and the Bahrain Stock Exchange), which added 851 new jobs, an increase of 19.6%, taking the number to 5,191 employees. The number of jobs in the insurance sector increased 10.6% to 1,524 from 1,378 in 2008.

BH: ASB to exit investments worth BHD50mn ...

Al Salam Bank (ASB), a Bahrain-based shariah-compliant lender, plans to exit investments worth BHD 50 million during 2010, owing to unfavourable economic conditions, said a bank official. The bank was planning to invest in the real estate sector in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

BH: Kanoo, BDP JV to serve Middle East's chemical sector ...

Bahrain-based Kanoo Freight and BDP International (BDP) formed a joint venture to serve the logistics and transportation needs of the Middle East's burgeoning chemical and petrochemical industry. The new entity, named BDP Kanoo Chemical Logistics, will be based in Saudi Arabia. The financial terms of the agreement between the two privately-held companies were not disclosed.

QA: QIIC posts QAR51mn net profit ...

Qatar Islamic Insurance Company (QIIC) reported a net profit of QAR 51 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. The company reported gross premiums of QAR 159 million compared to QAR 168 million in the previous year. Total assets stood at QAR 586.75 million.

QA: CBQ's IDR rating affirmed at 'A': Fitch ...

Fitch Ratings affirmed Commercial Bank of Qatar's (CBQ) long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'A' with a stable outlook. The rating agency also affirmed CBQ's short-term IDR at 'F1'.

DU: SIB's shareholders opt for 5% bonus share and 5% cash dividend ...

Sharjah Islamic Bank's (SIB) shareholders voted in favour of distributing 5% as cash dividends and 5% as bonus shares for 2009 instead of the 10% cash dividend previously proposed by the bank's board.

DU: Union Properties in talks to sell hotel ...

Dubai-based real estate developer Union Properties initiated talks with two foreign investors for the sale of its luxury property, the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Last month, the developer had indicated plans to sell the hotel for a price of around USD 400 million.

AD: Abu Dhabi foreign trade grows 9% ...

Abu Dhabi's foreign trade grew 9% YoY during 2009 to AED 112.07 billion, as per the latest annual statistics of foreign trade operations released by Abu Dhabi Customs. The country's non-oil exports were up to AED 9.50 billion, an increase of 52% over AED 6.25 billion in 2008. Imports grew 4% to AED 93.87 billion from AED 90.28 billion in 2008.

Corporate Results

Exch.	Company	Curr.	Net Profits (Mn)		
			2009	2008	%chg
BH	Liquidity Management Centre	USD	3.20	1.04	207.7%
KW	Kuwait Business Town Real Estate Company	KWD	(10.72)	(1.66)	545.8%
KW	KGL Logistics	KWD	4.88	2.38	105.0%

Public Issue Tracker

	Type	Country	Industry	Eligibility	Shares offered	Price/Unit	Open Date	Close Date
Amana for Cooperative Insurance Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Financial Services	-	40%	SAR 10	22 Mar, 2010	28 Mar, 2010
Solidarity Saudi Takaful Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Financial Services	-	40%	SAR 10	22 Mar, 2010	28 Mar, 2010
Wataniya Cooperative Insurance Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Financial Services	-	30%	-	22 Mar, 2010	28 Mar, 2010
H G Ibrahim Shaker Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Consumer Goods	-	30%	-	26 Apr, 2010	02 May, 2010
Knowledge Economic City Developers Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Real Estate	Saudi nationals	30.06%	-	24 May, 2010	30 May, 2010
Aswaaq	IPO	UAE	Real Estate	-	55%	-	1Q10	-
Al Aqeeq Real Estate Development Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Real Estate	-	50%	-	1H10	-
Cable Factories Union Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Industrial Manufacturing	-	30%	-	1H10	-
Istikhlaf Bank	IPO	Bahrain	Financial Services	-	35%	-	-	-
Coast Cement Company	IPO	Saudi Arabia	Construction	-	50%	-	1H10	-

TAIB FUNDS MONITOR

	Latest NAV* (US\$)	Reported Date	YTD Returns
TAIB Islamic Fund (GCC)	65.09	02 Mar 2010	1.95%
TAIB GCC Blue Chip Fund (GCC)	105.48	02 Mar 2010	2.38%

*Based on internal estimates

For information on TAIB Funds please call +973 17549414 or e-mail: assetmanagement@taib.com



TAIB Securities is a leading Bahrain based international brokerage firm and a subsidiary of TAIB Bank. TAIB Securities was established in 1994 and provides access to nearly 40 capital markets across the world. It provides one stop access to its clients in the capital markets of the GCC countries and other MENA markets, emerging markets like India and Russia, Asia Pacific, UK & other European markets, and the American markets.

TAIB Securities WLL
TAIB Tower, Diplomatic Area
Post Box 20485, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Tel: +973 17549499
Fax: +973 17916035
research@taib.com; www.taibdirect.com

DISCLAIMER:

All reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the information contained herein is not misleading or untrue at the time of publication, but we make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness. All information is for the private use of the person to whom it is provided without any liability whatsoever on the part of TAIB Securities WLL, any associated company or the employees thereof. Nothing contained herein should be construed as an offer to buy or sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell. The value of any investment may fall as well as rise. Past performance is no guide to the future. The rate of exchange between currencies may cause the value of the investment to increase or diminish. Consequently, investors may not get back the full value of their original investment