GIS reports QR54mn net profit in 2021

Qatar's 2022 hotel supply pipeline estimated at 13,300 keys: ValuStrat

Al-Kaabi meets Pakistan minister for finance

Lack of investment in gas to add to uncertainties surrounding energy transition, says Hamel
Islamic equities in demand despite lull on Qatar bourse

By Sushmita V. Fernando

The QSE remained relatively calm yesterday as the market posted a 0.04% gain to 2,839.73 points, after touching an intraday high of more than 12,740 points. The increased net buying by foreign institutions notwithstanding, the 20-stock QSE Index settled 77 points or 0.27% lower at 7,271.35 points yesterday, although it touched an intraday high of more than 7,277.88 points.

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Dubai takes on property market glitz in ‘big way’ but has yet to deliver

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Dubai, according to a conservative estimate by real estate consultancy Core, not much of a third since 2014 before a slowdown in demand translated into roundabout rates. Real estate was also toughened by a string of high-profile deals, such as the $1.7 billion sale of Hotelier by an agency in a single-family home, as people worked remotely during the pandemic and sought out bigger houses, according to Azizi. The real estate sector’s trade volume tanked 32% to 1.8 billion equities, value by 49% to QR15.24mn and 60% in deals to 942.

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What a conflict in Ukraine would mean for oil, gas, food

Bloomberg

February 18, 2022

Tensions over Ukraine are escalating, putting a critical test, pressuring prices of raw materials for the global economy, and further threatening the commodity market, which is already struggling with inflationary issues. The US warned that Russia could attack its neighbour as early as this week, even though Moscow has repeatedly denied it plans to invade. Markets have been on edge for weeks, and an actual conflict — or sanctions on Russia — could drive energy and food prices even higher, according to analysts.

Crude oil is approaching $100 a barrel and gas in Europe surged on Monday. Aluminum is heading toward a record high and steel, even as analysts stress that sanctions would be a major own-goal for the West. US sanctions against United Co Rusal sparked turmoil in the aluminium market in 2018, and policymakers may not want to risk a repeat. But should Russia get cut off from the Swift international payment system on part of any sanctions, it would force the move of funds and assets, and any disruptions to gas flows could send Europe's economy reeling. Russia would also lose huge amounts of revenue.

A road sign directs traffic towards the Nord Stream 2 gas line landfall facility entrance in Lubmin, north eastern Germany

A major casualty could be higher food prices. Ukraine and Russia together are the world’s largest wheat exporters and the West’s second biggest importer of wheat. Sanctions on Russia could eat away at its grain stockpiles, could see further shortages, and push Europe into a major supply crisis.

Very little of the region’s grain is actually traded, but nations like Egypt and Turkey reliant on the Black Sea exports are heavyweights in global wheat, corn and sunflower oil trade, leaving buyers vulnerable to more expensive bread and vulnerable to more expensive bread and vulnerable to more expensive bread.

If supplies are disrupted. That would also hurt costs and food supplies already the highest in a decade. When Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, what prices jumped even though supplies weren’t substantially affected. Russia is also the world’s largest producer of fertilisers. Any cuts in supply could affect crop yields and cause further food inflation. The country is less dominant in base metals but remains one of the world’s leading palladium and nickel producers, but still, many think it’s unlikely gas supplies would stop, or even be cut significantly.

Farmers and fertilisers at risk

A major casualty could be even higher food prices. Ukraine and Russia together account for about 4%-6% of global wheat, corn and sunflower seeds imports. Russia, which also has the highest in a decade.

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China inflation slows, leaving room for PBoC policy easing

China's consumer price index (CPI) ended up 0.4% last month from a year earlier. Economists in Shanghai for Xinhua News Agency had expected a 0.5% rise, with prices seen rising 0.6% on the year.

"Lower inflation reflects the weak domestic demand," said Chen Zhiming, Chief Economist at Derwent Asset Management. "Prices have turned down recently as manufacturing and governmental efforts to rein in soaring materials costs have taken effect."

The producer price index (PPI) increased 0.7% month-on-month in January, after a 0.5% rise in December, when prices were driven by rising raw material costs. The first-order production price index, which excludes中间 products, increased 0.8%.

While producer prices in the world's second-largest economy declined for the third month in a row, China's consumer prices remain well above global levels, with inflation seen at 1.5% this year. "Lower inflation reflects the weak domestic demand," said Chen Zhiming, Chief Economist at Derwent Asset Management. "Prices have turned down recently as manufacturing and governmental efforts to rein in soaring materials costs have taken effect."

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