QP, top LNG players sign deal to develop new LNG carrier designs

Qatargas, along with several leading international LNG players, signed a multi-party agreement on Monday to develop a joint venture for the construction of new LNG carriers. The agreement was signed at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha. The agreement covers the development of new LNG carriers, including those for the LNT A-95K LNG tanker design. The agreement also includes the procurement of equipment and services for the construction of the new LNG carriers. The agreement is a significant step towards the development of a new LNG carrier design that will be used in the global LNG market.

Female labour participation rate in Qatar 'highest in Arab world, above global average'

The rate of women participating in Qatar's labour force is the highest in the Arab world (16%), and stands at a global average of 30%, according to a recent study by the Qatar Business Council. Women's participation in Qatar's workforce is on the rise, and the percentage of women in the workforce has increased by 5% over the past decade. Women are increasingly entering the workforce, and are now holding positions in various sectors, including education, health, and finance. The government has implemented various initiatives to promote women's participation in the workforce, including providing educational and training opportunities, and offering incentives for employers to hire women.

Opec+ surprise sends oil prices past Gulf budget balancing levels

The decision by Opec+ members to increase oil production has sent oil prices soaring past the Gulf countries' budget balancing levels. This is because the Gulf countries rely heavily on oil exports for their revenue, and a significant increase in oil prices can lead to a surplus in government revenues. The decision by Opec+ to increase oil production has been driven by concerns over the oversupply of oil in the market, as well as the need to boost government revenues. The decision has been met with mixed reactions, with some countries in the Gulf region welcoming the move, and others expressing concerns over the potential impact on global oil markets.
Ooredoo Group’s MD recognised as regional leader by Forbes Middle East

Ooredoo Group has announced that its Managing Director, Mr. Moamer Khouzami, has been recognised as one of the top 50 CEOs in the Middle East region by the respected business magazine Forbes Middle East. This recognition is a testament to the company’s continued growth and leadership under Mr. Khouzami’s guidance.

Mr. Khouzami has been with Ooredoo since 2007 and has played a crucial role in driving the company’s expansion and success in the Middle East and beyond. His leadership has been instrumental in positioning Ooredoo as a leader in the telecommunications sector.

The recognition by Forbes Middle East highlights Mr. Khouzami’s contributions to the company and industry, and underscores Ooredoo’s commitment to innovation and excellence.

Registration open for HSBC-supported ‘Living Business’ programme on ESG

Businesses in Qatar that want to improve their approach to environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are invited to register for the second edition of the HSBC-supported ‘Living Business’ programme. This programme, organized by HSBC Qatar, aims to develop and support sustainable business leaders and helps them gain access to the necessary tools and resources to successfully implement sustainable practices.

The programme is open to all businesses in Qatar, with a focus on those in the energy, real estate, and construction sectors. The programme includes workshops, seminars, and networking opportunities, as well as access to a panel of experts and mentors.

Interested businesses are encouraged to register before the deadline of May 31, 2023, to secure their place in the programme and take the first step towards becoming a more sustainable and responsible business.

Notice to Shareholders of The Commercial Bank (P.S.C.)

The Commercial Bank (P.S.C.) is pleased to announce its 2020 dividend, which will be distributed to shareholders. The bank has announced a dividend of 20% of the reported profit for the year 2020. The dividend will be paid to shareholders on or before the date set by the bank.

The bank has prepared a list of shareholders entitled to receive the dividend, which will be posted on the bank’s website. Shareholders are requested to contact the bank’s share registry for any queries or clarifications.

Documentation requirements for shareholders include a valid identity document and a signed consent form. Shareholders are advised to check their bank statements for the payment date and amount.

Let your dividends earn you more. Talk to us.

1. Grow your funds through our competitive deposit rates.
2. Get free trades when you open an International Share Trading Account.
3. Get 50% discount on local trading fees when you trade via QSBS.

#MaximizeYourWealth

The information provided is subject to change. Please check with your financial advisor or visit our website for the latest updates.

At Ooredoo, we are committed to offering our customers the best possible experience, and we pride ourselves on providing high-quality services. Our mission is to create a sustainable and inclusive future for all.

Azziz Althumani Fakhroo - Forbes Middle East’s Top 50 CEOs

Fakhroo has been managing director of Ooredoo Group since November 2006, and a board member since 2003. He currently also serves as CEO of Qatar’s Ministry of Works.

The innovative use of technology allows customers to make a wide range of transactions on the Ooredoo app, which can be easily completed using the app's intuitive interface. Ooredoo's app is designed to be user-friendly and responsive, making it accessible to customers of all ages and backgrounds.

Ooredoo also offers a range of additional services such as bill payments, mobile top-ups, and online account management. The app is available for download on both Android and iOS devices, and it can be used to manage multiple accounts simultaneously.

Commercial Bank will deposit the dividends into accounts of shareholders who have provided their bank account details to Qatar Central Securities Depository (Q.C.S.D.).
Turkish factory input price up 8.5% in January as rebound continues: Poll

Saudi wealth fund PIF signs $15bn loan

Europcar Qatar awarded ISO certification on multiple quality platforms

Aamal Travel Lachute City Centre, a family owned subsidiary of Lachute Technology Group, has recently received a 'Top Performer' certificate from Lachute City Centre International, and has been awarded in Aamal Travel Lachute City Centre for its high level of quality of its process and commitment within the global network of Lachute City Centre International.

European companies continue to pour into Qatar, which is now the world's sixth-largest energy exporter, and the country is welcoming a growing number of visitors, investors, and businesses.

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Turkish factory input price up 8.5% in January as rebound continues: Poll

Turkey’s industrial and automotive sector has been hit by another wave of inflation, with the consumer price index rising by 3.6% in January, a rate that is slightly lower than the previous month of December. The country is not alone in facing inflationary pressures, as many other economies around the world are also experiencing rising prices.

The rise in input prices is likely to continue, according to a recent study by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK). The study, which was based on data from January, showed that the inflation rate for input prices was 8.5% year-on-year.

Al Meera Consumer Goods Company (P.S.C.)

Invitation to attend Ordinary General Assembly Meeting on Sunday, 28th March 2021

The Board of Directors has the pleasure to invite you to the Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of Al Meera Consumer Goods Company (P.S.C.) to be held on Sunday, 28th March 2021 through “Zoom App” or its equivalents, at 8:00 p.m. (Qatar time).

Saudi wealth fund PIF signs $15bn loan

Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund (PIF) has signed a $15bn loan agreement with a consortium of banks, including the Japan Development Bank (JDB), to fund the construction of the Masdar City project in Abu Dhabi.

The deal, which was announced by PIF on Monday, marks the fund’s largest ever loan and will provide the necessary funds to complete the construction of the city, which is scheduled to be completed by 2029.

Europcar Qatar awarded ISO certification on multiple quality platforms

Europcar Qatar, a subsidiary of Europcar Mobile Group, has been successfully certified to ISO 9001:2015 standards on multiple quality platforms.

The company has fulfilled all the requirements for ISO 9001:2015 quality Management System (QMS) by Artificial Intelligence, Traffic Management, Home, and 2018/2019 Occupational Health & Safety Management System. These management standards provide measures to improve business processes that deliver a higher quality of service, stronger focus on customer satisfaction and increased efficiency in responsibilities and effectiveness of processes.

General Manager of Europcar Qatar said: “We are pleased to have passed the rigorous and comprehensive audits leading to the award of certification which underscores our commitment to provide quality products and services. We will continue to strive for excellence in all our operations and management processes, and look forward to maintaining these standards that will benefit our customers and society at large.”
GE sells jet lessor to AerCap in $30bn deal to cut risk

Business

GE sells jet lessor to AerCap in $30bn deal to cut risk

GE General Electric is set to sell its jet leasing business to the Irish aircraft leasing company AerCap in a $30 billion deal to cut risk and take advantage of surging demand for commercial aircraft.

The sale of GE Capital Aviation Services (GCA) will allow the US company to focus on its core power and industrial businesses, where it has strong market positions.

AerCap is set to pay $25 billion in cash and $5 billion in new stock for the business, which leases planes to airlines around the world.

The deal is expected to close in the second quarter of this year, subject to regulatory approvals.

CORPORATE RESULTS

Cathay Pacific posts record loss, warns of long recovery

Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific, which has seen its profit fall to a record low in recent years, is expecting a long recovery due to the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing trade war.

The airline's first-quarter results showed a loss of $7.4 billion, compared to a profit of $3 billion in the same period last year.

The company said it was working to reduce costs and improve efficiency, but recovery was expected to be slow and uncertain.

The airline, which has been struggling with a decline in demand for travel due to the pandemic, said it was also facing challenges with the ongoing trade war.

The company's chairman said it was committed to maintaining its service levels and ensuring the safety of its passengers.

Lagos

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US consumer prices rise solidly; underlying inflation tame

The collapse of Britain’s biggest high street retailer, Marks & Spencer, caused panic among British shoppers. The closure of the flagship department store in London’s Oxford Street will leave thousands of workers without jobs. The government has announced plans to invest £5 billion in a new high-speed rail link to improve rail services in the country. The decision follows months of lobbying by rail operators and local authorities for the project. The government says the rail link will reduce travel times and boost the economy. The project will require significant investment in infrastructure and is expected to take several years to complete. The closure of Marks & Spencer is a blow to the retail sector and will have a ripple effect on the economy. The company has operated in the UK for over 150 years and is a major employer. The loss of jobs will be felt across the country and the closure will be a significant blow to the retail industry. The government has pledged to support affected workers with job training and other support measures. However, many workers say they will struggle to find new jobs in the current economic climate. The closure of Marks & Spencer is a reminder of the fragility of the retail sector and the challenges facing the economy. The government needs to take action to support the retail sector and safeguard jobs to help the UK recover from the recent economic downturn.
Asian investors struggle to extend global stocks rally

Emerging equities move away from correction territory


dated: Hong Kong

Asian investors struggled to extend global stocks rally to the Asia-Pacific region on Thursday as Japan's disappointing growth figures and the US dollar's strength weighed on sentiment. However, the region's equity markets managed to edge higher after a strong recovery in the US on Wednesday.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index closed up 1.7% to 20,072.58 points. The benchmark índice was supported by gains in technology and materials stocks. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng Index rose 0.6% to 25,339.73 points, leading gains in Asia.

European stocks also rose, with France's CAC 40 index adding 0.2% to 5,801.30 points, Germany's DAX gaining 0.3% to 13,021.26 points, and Britain's FTSE 100 adding 0.5% to 7,192.69 points.

Investors were encouraged by upbeat data from the US, which showed a strong rebound in consumer spending and a modest increase in retail sales. This bolstered hopes for a recovery in the world's largest economy.

However, US unemployment claims rose for the first time in five weeks, dampening expectations for a strong economic recovery. The ISM manufacturing index also showed a slowdown in growth, indicating that the recovery is not as robust as previously thought.

In Japan, the economy contracted at an annual rate of 0.5% in the first quarter,逊于 market expectations of a 0.1% growth.

"The recovery in Asia has been catch-up rather than driven by domestic demand," said David Ling, head of Asia-Pacific equity research at BNP Paribas. "The focus is on economic stimulus measures, such as the US relief package and China's economic recovery plan, which are expected to support growth in the region.

"However, with the US dollar remaining strong, there could be some headwinds for Asian equities," he added.

In China, the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index closed up 1.0% to 3,572.74 points, with gains across all sectors, led by technology and financials.

"The market is looking for signs of economic recovery in China, which is still the engine of global growth," said Andy Xie, an independent economist.

"But the upside potential is limited as the country is already experiencing a strong recovery.

In emerging markets, investors were focused on the latest developments in the US, particularly the government's stimulus package.

"The US stimulus package is crucial for global growth, as it will boost consumer spending and investment in the US, leading to a recovery in the global economy.

"We expect emerging markets to benefit from this, with some countries already seeing a pickup in activity," said Manuel Jimenez, head of emerging markets at HSBC.

But the risks are also there, with rising prices and a potential for inflation to heat up.

"We need to be careful not to over-extend the recovery, as this could lead to a new bubble," said Jimenez.

"The key is to continue with caution, focusing on the fundamentals of the economy and the companies themselves.

"This is a good time for investors to select strong stocks and avoid over-valued sectors," he added.

Overall, the sentiment is optimistic, with investors looking for more signs of recovery in the global economy.
Markets shine as US inflation stays muted, massive stimulus nears

Bank

Europe and US equities mostly pushed higher, clinging around 2% higher for both sides of the Atlantic, as US inflation remained muted and the mood for stimulus programs aimed at lifting growth from their lows seemed to be stabilizing. This year's global equities rally on stimulus and the vaccine-driven resumption of the global economy has been fueled by expectations of growth and the prospect of rising inflation and interest rates.

As approval of US President Joe Biden's $1.9 trillion stimulus package by Congress moved closer, investors are now more focused on the impact of the expected post-pandemic spending by the government and central banks. The package is expected to boost the US economy by $1.9 trillion and contribute to US consumer and inflation data over coming months, which is the most data by far the month as including retail and manufacturing prices. Annual "core" inflation, which otherwise could still tinker with inflation expectations, is surging.

In addition to the stimulus check for most Americans, the package also orients families, unemployed, income losses and provides money to local, state, and federal governments, many of which have seen their finances dented by the pandemic.

"It is good news for the Federal Reserve to begin unwinding back ultra-loose monetary policies - including reducing the bond-buying pace - that have been a key driver of the year-long stock market rally," said strategist John Maloney.

Information contained herein is believed to be reliable and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. The accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. This publication is for general information only and is not intended as an offer or solicitation for a purchase or sale of any of the financial instruments mentioned. Gulf Times and Delta Bank are not responsible for any of their consequences that may result from use of this data."
China's producer prices rose at the fastest pace in terms that two years. China in January, as the government tries to control costs and contain inflation. The Chinese producer prices rose 1.1% in January, while the consumer prices rose 0.4%.

China's producer prices rose 1.1% in January, from 0.6% a year earlier, official data showed Wednesday, strong growth that comes as Beijing ramps up efforts to control costs and contain inflation. The producer prices rose 0.4% in January, while the consumer prices rose 0.5%.

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RBA’s Lowe pushes back against market, ending yields lower

**Stimulus support brings hope for bull market**

Banking

RBA Governor Philip Lowe delivers his speech at the Australian Financial Review Business Summit in Sydney last month. Lowe pushed back against bond yields soaring in an earlier warning of monetary policy saying lowering the cash rate was unlikely to happen again.

Lowe expressed concern about the impact of higher yields on the housing market and the broader economy. He said the RBA would consider reducing the cash rate by 25 basis points if it saw evidence of a significant slowing in the economy.

Lowe said he was concerned about the risk of inflation expectations getting too high, which could lead to higher inflation and reduced economic growth.

Lowe’s comments came amid growing speculation that the RBA might need to cut interest rates in the future to support the economy. The cash rate is currently at 0.10%, the lowest level in history.

Lowe said the RBA would consider the need for rate cuts if inflation were to fall below its target range of 2-3% on a sustainable basis.

He added that the RBA would consider reducing the cash rate by 25 basis points if it saw evidence of a significant slowing in the economy.

Lowe’s comments come after the RBA cut the cash rate by 25 basis points in February and March to stimulate the economy.

Lowe said the RBA would continue to monitor economic developments and is prepared to act if necessary.

**Templeton sees positive US real yield as sign to buy EM dip**

Templeton sees positive US real yield as sign to buy EM dip

Franklin Templeton’s Mark Hulme-Davies in putting the marks of bond managers working for Templeton’s emerging markets team left heightened by the Treasury.

US 10-year yields are higher prices and the biggest bond issuers are high-quality bond issuers. The market is looking for yield and sustainability. The market is looking for yield and sustainability.

Templeton is not paying people with some of the world’s highest institutional investors and unfunded US pension plans are looking to buy EM.

There’s a lot of buying EM and a lot of investors are looking to buy EM.

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GSM is well-positioned to ‘strategically’ grow and benefit from NFE project

McNair Chambers strengthens its international team

QSE index regressed from April 1
Growing confidence in air travel cheers up aviation industry

By Pete John

Air travel is recovering after a year of unprecedented disruption, with confidence in flying returning as more people get vaccinated. In the UK and elsewhere, travel restrictions are being relaxed, and airlines are hopeful that the worst is over.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has recently released its latest traffic figures, showing a significant increase in air travel. While the global industry is still far from its pre-Covid levels, there are signs of recovery as more countries ease restrictions and individuals get vaccinated.

"The latest figures show a clear trend of recovery," said IATA Director General Alexandre de Juniac. "While there is still a long way to go, we are encouraged by the recent improvements. The key to sustained recovery will be the safe and effective roll-out of vaccines and the easing of travel restrictions."}

Beyond the Tarmac

UK unveils plans to cut air passenger duty on domestic flights

By Kevin Miles and Alan McGlashan

The UK government has announced plans to cut air passenger duty (APD) on domestic flights, aiming to reduce the cost of travel within the UK. This comes as the country continues to recover from the pandemic and the government seeks to stimulate the tourism industry.

The new plans will reduce APD on domestic flights by 50%, bringing the rate down to £10.80 for economy class passengers and £17.40 for business class passengers. The government hopes this will make flying more affordable and encourage more people to travel domestically.

"This is a significant step towards making domestic flights more accessible," said Chris Musgrave, Director of Public Affairs at the UK Aviation Trade Association. "Reducing APD will undoubtedly encourage more people to fly within the UK, supporting our aviation and tourism industries."