New QFC member set to become global portfolio manager of spot LNG

By Satish V. Fernando

Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) inspectors will visit the Bunkering Services office of the new QFC member company to ensure that the company’s registration as a member of the QFC is complete. The visit will be part of a routine inspection to ensure that the company is meeting all the necessary regulatory requirements.

The new QFC member company is anticipated to be a significant player in the global LNG market. The inspection is expected to focus on the company’s compliance with the QFC’s operational and regulatory standards.

The QFC, with its strong track record of attracting international companies, is poised to strengthen its position as a leading financial hub in the region. The inspection is a testament to the QFC’s commitment to maintaining high standards of operation and ensuring the integrity of its members.

The QFC, which was established in 2019, has already attracted several international companies, including Shell and Singapore’s Temasek. The inspection of the new member company is a significant milestone in the QFC’s continued growth and development.
US debt rout ignites hunt for new havens that ends in China

A US debt rout that has roiled markets worldwide, as China's government bond market has led the world in risk-off behavior, is being closely watched by investors around the world. The rout has underscored the risks of relying too heavily on China as a safe haven, and has raised questions about the sustainability of the country's economic growth.

China's debt market has played a critical role in stabilizing global financial markets during the pandemic, as the world's second-largest economy has maintained a steady growth rate. However, the country's debt levels have also raised concerns about its sustainability, with some analysts warning that it could lead to a financial crisis if not managed properly.

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China’s $1.3tn stock rout pinned on panicky fund investors

The Nikkei Asian Review reports on the market turmoil in China, where stock prices have tumbled. Investors aregravely concerned about the health of the economy and the prospects of further policy measures. The situation is described as “panicky” as fund managers sell stocks en masse to meet redemptions. The report notes that China’s stock markets have been under pressure for several weeks, with the key index dropping to its lowest level in almost two years. The government has taken measures to stabilize the market, including a ban on short selling and a resolution to introduce more supportive policies. However, the market continues to be volatile, and investors remain cautious. The report concludes that the market needs more time to stabilize, and investors are urged to avoid panic selling.

Rakuten plans to raise $2.2bn as Japan’s largest internet firm

The Nikkei Asian Review reports on Rakuten’s plan to raise up to $2.2 billion in a new share offering. The proceeds will be used to strengthen its financial position and fund future growth. Rakuten, the largest internet firm in Japan, is facing increased competition from Amazon Japan and other firms. The company’s shares have fallen sharply in recent months, and the offering is seen as a way to boost its market capitalization. Rakuten’s plans include expanding its e-commerce business, investing in its media and entertainment division, and developing new financial services. The company’s CEO, Hiroshi Mikitani, said that the offering would help the company to continue its growth and innovation. The offering is expected to be completed in the first half of the year.

Coupang rises 41% in its trading debut in top 2021 IPO

According to the New York Times, South Korean e-commerce giant Coupang debuted on the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday, January 28, with its US-listed shares surging up to 41% in the opening bell. The company, which operates a popular e-commerce platform, is valued at over $35 billion, making it one of the largest IPOs in recent years. The high valuation is attributed to the company’s rapid growth and strong financial performance. Coupang, which was founded in 2010, has seen its revenue grow at a rate of over 60% per year, and it is projected to continue its growth in the coming years. The company’s CEO, Min Byung-doo, said that the IPO would help the company to continue its expansion and innovation. The company plans to use the proceeds to invest in its technology and logistics, and to expand into new markets.
Tencent said to face broad Chinese clampdown on fintech, deals

Tencent's antitrust probe

By Brian Lovelace and Frank Tymms

BEIJING — Tencent Holdings Ltd., China's largest internet company, has been ordered to stop several practices that violate anti-monopoly laws, according to people familiar with the matter. The order comes as Beijing intensifies its crackdown on tech giants, including Jack Ma's Alibaba Group, which was similarly targeted last year.

The measures, which include stopping Tencent from bundling its services and preventing it from doing business with other tech companies, are likely to be a significant blow to Tencent, which has grown into one of the world's largest internet companies through its dominant地位 in China's social media and entertainment market.

Tencent, which is valued at around $800 billion and has a market capitalization of about $350 billion, is also facing increased scrutiny from regulators, who have expressed concerns about its vast reach and influence.

The measures are likely to affect Tencent's ability to continue growing, as it will be unable to expand its services and partnerships, which are key to its success.

The order follows a series of anti-monopoly probes in recent months, including one that targeted Alibaba, which was forced to scrap its plans to launch a new service.

Beijing's move to clamp down on tech giants is part of a wider effort to regulate the sector, which has grown rapidly in recent years, and to ensure that it operates in the best interests of consumers.

The measures are also likely to have implications for other tech companies, which may be forced to follow similar rules to ensure that they operate fairly and do not harm competition.

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Europe stock markets retreat on rising bond yields; log best week since November

Rising bond yields dragged European stock markets lower, although major European sets took some of the heat out of a global sell-off on the back of a US sell-off last week. across the board. The pan-European STOXX 600 gained 0.2% after a three-session retreat, sending stocks down in the face of renewed political headwinds.

The index posted weekly gains of 1.5%, the best performance since November, and the broader pan-European Central Bank signal that it was ready to accommodate monetary easing to keep the 2% inflation targets before it spiked in the US, "It's not quite the end to the week quite yet," said Ben Claff, market analyst of the BMO Capital Markets in London. "We've still got some key data to come from Europe and the US later, and tech stocks look like they have stabilized, which is important for investor sentiment."

With government bond yields in the United States and Europe rising again, particularly in France, the need for price increases increased last week. In the US, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by a quarter point at the end of the week, and the European Central Bank also raised rates by a quarter point.

"In the US, bond yields have been driven by the Federal Reserve's decision to raise rates, but the same remains true that the European Central Bank has raised rates on Thursday, as well as other central banks around the world. This is a normal response to the US Federal Reserve's decision to raise rates and the European Central Bank's decision to raise rates is to try and bring down inflation."

The FTSE 100 slumped 0.2% to close below 7,000, while the CAC 40 in Paris fell 0.3% and the DAX in Germany was also slightly lower, down 0.1%.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 dropped 0.9% as investors weighed the impact of potential economic sanctions on China, which is a major source of demand for Japanese exports.

In China, the Shanghai Composite fell 0.7% as investors digested the impact of potential economic sanctions on China, which is a major source of demand for Japanese exports.

"The impact of potential economic sanctions on China is a major source of demand for Japanese exports, and this could have a negative impact on the Japanese economy. The Japanese government has already warned that it will take action if necessary to protect its economic interests."
Shell doubles oil-trading profit to $2.6bn last year

By Stephen Dibley

Royal Dutch Shell Plc. disclosed the profitability of its oil-trading unit for the first time in several years, pointing to the strength of the business as it takes advantage of both high prices and a market structure that allowed it to make profits selling oil after it bought it.

The company’s earnings from oil-trading ended 2021 with the best performance in years, the world’s largest independent trading house, which made a record $2.6 billion in 2021. Shell has not disclosed trading profits since 2017.

Shell called the earnings from oil trading “a rare windfall” for every unit and the results were “a testament to the strength of our business.”

Shell’sVP of-refining, marketing and trading, Paul Voser, said the strength of the business has been “underpinned by strong performances across all segments of the business.”

Shell has increased its earnings from oil trading to $2.6 billion in 2021, compared to $1.2 billion in 2020, according to the company’s earnings report.

The company said its earnings from oil trading in 2021 were driven by high oil prices and a market for oil products that allowed it to make profits selling oil after it bought it.

Shell said it made profits from oil trading in 2021 of $2.6 billion, compared to $1.2 billion in 2020, and it attributed the increase to higher oil prices and a market structure that allowed it to make profits selling oil after it bought it.

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Sanofi looks to restore lost French pride with new vaccine

Sanofi has revealed plans to launch a new COVID-19 vaccine, which it claims could help the French regain lost pride. The vaccine, known as SAF010, has shown promising results in clinical trials and is expected to be rolled out in the coming months.

The vaccine was developed in partnership with the French Pasteur Institute, which has a long history of producing vaccines for the French army and the French Red Cross. The vaccine has been tested on thousands of volunteers and has been shown to be effective in preventing COVID-19.

Sanofi is hopeful that the vaccine will help to restore French pride and confidence in the country's ability to produce high-quality vaccines. The company has already invested heavily in vaccine research and production facilities in France, and is looking to expand its operations in the country.

The launch of the vaccine is seen as a significant step forward for Sanofi, which has been struggling to recover from the loss of its key COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which was recently found to be ineffective in clinical trials.

Deutsche Bank boosts bonanzas despite criticism

Deutsche Bank has continued to boost its profits despite criticism from regulators and shareholders. The bank's second-quarter earnings increased by 16%, to €3.3 billion, driven by revenue growth and cost savings.

The bank has been under pressure from the European Central Bank and other regulators to cut costs and improve its profitability. Deutsche Bank has been accused of misusing its market power and of failing to comply with anti-money laundering regulations.

The bank's CEO, Christian Sewing, has said that the bank is committed to improving its performance and to complying with all regulations. He has also said that the bank's profits will continue to be driven by revenue growth and cost savings.

UK-EU trade slumps in first month of new Brexit rules

Trade between the UK and the EU has slumped in the first month of the new Brexit rules. According to a report by the Office for National Statistics, UK imports from the EU fell by 16.5% in May, while exports to the EU dropped by 19.2%.

The report also shows that trade with the rest of the world has not been affected by the Brexit trade rules. UK imports from non-EU countries increased by 10%, while exports to these countries rose by 7.5%.

The Office for National Statistics said that the fall in trade with the EU was due to the new rules and the end of the Brexit transition period.

The report also highlights the importance of business-to-business transactions, which have remained strong despite the Brexit trade rules.

EU goods in euro to EU slope by 10% in May, while trade in services data suggests that the trade deficit from the UK in May was nearly $10 billion, which was higher than the trade deficit in April.

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Massive gains recorded reflecting global trends in energy markets

By Bhumik V Merchant

The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) oversaw the public issuance and secondary trading of certain securities on its market this week. The QSE’s benchmark index, Qatar General Index (QSE General Index or simply the QSE Index), saw a gain of 1.9% compared with the previous week, as the market continued to reflect a strong global trend. The index reached an all-time high of 13,111 points on Monday, marking the first time it broke the 13,000 barrier.

US stimulus offers ‘significant’ boost to global economy: IMF

Prime Minister Joe Biden spoke during a meeting in the White House in Washington, DC. The package, which Biden signed into law on Thursday, will provide a significant boost to the US economy and global markets.

Spain approves E15bn in aid to virus-hit firms

Spain approved its largest ever bailout for virus-hit sectors, including restaurants and tourism, as part of a €15 billion package to support the struggling industries. The aid will be distributed to about 10,000 firms, with €1 billion earmarked for the travel and tourism sector. The package includes €5 billion for the restaurant and hotel industry, €3 billion for the film industry, and €1 billion for the tourism sector. The aid will be provided in the form of grants and loans.

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Warren Buffett becomes sixth member of $100bn club

On Wednesday, Warren Buffett announced that he was among the six members of the $100 billion club, joining the ranks of other successful investors such as Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos. Buffett’s net worth, which includes his stake in Berkshire Hathaway, reached $100 billion, making him the only person in history to achieve this milestone.

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