Nakilat has posted a net profit of QR1.3bn for the first quarter of 2021, a figure that brought the net profit jumps 14.5% to QR320.1mn over the same period of 2020. The company also reported positive growth in its revenues and profit margins, despite the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The company’s health, safety and environment (HSE) department, led by its Board of Directors, recently certificated for ISO 22301:2019 and renewed for ISO 9001:2015. These awards demonstrate Nakilat’s commitment to excellence in managing its operations.

Ooredoo Group and its operating companies were recognised with more than 30 prestigious international and local business awards over the past six months, including 14 in 2021. These awards recognise excellence in the areas of corporate social responsibility, customer experience, technology innovation, as well as commitment to corporate social responsibility and a great workplace.

Qatar’s real estate market continues to face ‘period of contraction’, says KPMG

Qatar’s real estate market continues to face ‘period of contraction’, says KPMG. According to KPMG’s report, real estate values and market activity exhibited signs of improvement in the third quarter of 2021.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) announced the start of issuing a unified economic license for businesses operating in Qatar. The license renewal is valid for a period of five years, unless the declaration of the real beneficiaries is updated.

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The MoCI underlined the need for companies to submit their annual financial statements to the Commercial Registry and its executive regulations to ensure compliance with the law.

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Wall Street investors eye yields, earnings

**Reuters**

New York

US technology and growth stocks have taken the market’s reins in recent weeks, pausing a rotation into value shares as investors assess the trajectory of bond yields and upcoming earnings reports.

Technology has been the top-performing S&P 500 sector in April, rising 8% versus a 5% rise for the benchmark index. Big tech-related growth stocks in other S&P 500 sectors such as Amazon, Tesla and Google-parent Alphabet have also charged higher.

The gains have followed a months-long rotation in which tech stocks were outpaced by shares of banks, energy companies and other economically-sensitive names that have surged since breakthroughs in Covid-19 vaccines late last year.

The increases in many of these so-called value stocks have slowed lately, while US Treasury prices have come galloping back in April after a sharp first-quarter sell-off.

One of the key drivers of the move has been the Treasury market, with the benchmark 10-year note yield falling about 10 basis points in April to about 1.5% from 1.6%.

Higher bond yields are particularly challenging for the performance of tech and other shares with high valuations and high expected future profits, as rising yields reduce the stocks’ values in many standard models.

People are probably taking a little bit of a deep breath and saying, ‘OK, maybe rates aren’t going to go straight to 2.50%’ said Lindsey Bell, chief investment strategist at Ally Invest. “Investors are in this wait-and-see mode...at least until earnings get underway.”

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The front facade of the New York Stock Exchange. US technology and growth stocks have taken the market’s reins in recent weeks, pausing a rotation into value shares as investors assess the trajectory of bond yields and upcoming earnings reports.

"Tech and growth has started to pick up a little bit because people are getting a little more cautious,” said Lindsey Bell, chief investment strategist at Ally Invest. "Investors are in this wait-and-see mode...at least until earnings get underway.”

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China’s Internet stocks face more pain, say top global investors

China’s biggest internet giants join Alibaba in a broad tech sell-off

The shockwaves from Beijing are reverberating across Wall Street as some of Asia’s biggest companies face renewed scrutiny and regulatory pressure.

China’s Internet stocks have been under pressure since March, when regulators launched a string of investigations into alleged monopolistic practices. The crackdown has prompted a wave of sell-offs as investors worry about the long-term prospects for the sector.

At least five Chinese technology companies have been targeted by regulators, including Alibaba, Tencent, JD.com, Meituan and ByteDance. The investigations have raised concerns about the future of China’s tech industry and its ability to compete globally.

“Infrastructure for China Internet companies, especially the big ones, will continue to tighten in the coming months,” said Brian Coburn, a portfolio manager at Crabb Capital Management.

China News, a state-run media outlet, has warned that the tech sector is facing a “new normal.”

For investors, the situation is complex. While the regulatory uncertainty has created a selling opportunity, some analysts see value in companies that can weather the storm.

“China’s technology sector is still a growth story, but the road ahead will be bumpy,” said Mike Dunn, a fund manager at Fulbright Capital.

The latest moves by the SEC “do not mean that the reopening of large market listings is imminent,” said Adrian Cheng, co-founder of personal holding company, Hony Consumer.

The US regulator had also warned listing candidates that they should consider the “no doubt mean that the SEC will impose a heightened level of scrutiny on all of these deals, including any that are already signed and ready to be announced.”

The surge in the number of Asian SPACs has been driven by a desire to list in the US market, where valuations are higher. But the SEC’s probe into Archegos Capital Management, which owned a large position in some of the companies, has raised concerns about the viability of these deals.

“The US regulator had also warned listing candidates that they should consider the SEC’s moves as a ‘ticking time bomb’,” said Mike Dunn, a fund manager at Fulbright Capital.

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QATAR

EMI bulls brace for Treasury relapse after rally

The US Treasury Department building in Washington, DC. Emerging-market bulls who've benefited from moderating US Treasury yields are bracing for a relapse as US yields continue to rise, potentially unveiling new measures to maintain external stability.

The peso has advanced 3.5% over the past 12 months amid higher fuel prices. The central bank may extend its embargo of its emerging-market peers, which have decided for two straight weeks to keep their rates up.

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Malaysia posts March inflation data on Tuesday amid higher fuel prices. The central bank may extend its embargo of its emerging-market peers, which have decided for two straight weeks to keep their rates up.

Central banks:

Indonesian policy makers

desire to maintain external stability means

Mexico is set to release consumer price index figures on Tuesday which are expected to show a month-on-month rise of around 0.2% and a year-on-year rise of around 3.4%.

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Historic oil glut amassed during the pandemic has almost gone

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**Sustainable-bond issuance records reach high in first quarter**

**Bloomberg**

Energy’s late but accelerating vaccination push is bolstering demand for green bonds and related products, as investors and issuers seek to pay a “greenium” premium over traditional debt.

Financial markets were buoyant last week, as the first Covid-19 vaccines were administered in the US, toward vaccinating 30% of the target population by mid-April. But the demand for green bonds is on the rise, as governments and companies seek to recover from the pandemic and to address the climate crisis.

The European Central Bank has started issuing green bonds, putting it in line with other central banks, such as the Bank of Japan, which started issuing its first green bond in January. The European Central Bank’s green bond issuance is expected to total €10 billion by the end of the year.

The Bank of Japan has also announced plans to issue its first green bond, with the proceeds intended to fund projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as the construction of renewable energy facilities and the promotion of energy-efficient buildings.

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**ECB debates how to get back to the economic future after pandemic**

**Bloomberg**

The eurozone economy is recovering, but the recovery is uneven and the ECB is likely to continue its bond purchases for some time to come.

The ECB’s March meeting, scheduled for April 22, will likely see the central bank maintain its bond purchase program, but the focus will be on the outlook for the eurozone economy.

The ECB’s Economic Policy Strategy Committee will release its report at the same time, and the committee is expected to discuss the future of the ECB’s monetary policy strategy.

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**Qatar’s real estate market**

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**Ooredoo continues Group winning streak with host of new awards in 2021**

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**BUSINESS**