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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. urges China and Russia to send strong message to North Korea after missile

March 25 (Reuters) - China's state-run Sinopec Group has suspended talks for a major petrochemical investment and a gas marketing venture in Russia, sources told Reuters, heeding a government call for caution as sanctions mount over the invasion of Ukraine.

The move by Asia's biggest oil refiner to hit the brakes on a potentially half-billion-dollar investment in a gas chemical plant and a venture to market Russian gas in China highlights the risks, even to Russia's most important diplomatic partner, of unexpectedly heavy Western-led sanctions.

But behind the scenes, the government is wary of Chinese companies running afoul of sanctions - it is pressing companies to tread carefully with investments in Russia, its second-largest oil supplier and third-largest gas provider. Since Russia invaded a month ago, China's three state energy giants - Sinopec, China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) and China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) (0883.HK) - have been assessing the impact of the sanctions on their multi-billion dollar investments in Russia, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

"Companies will rigidly follow Beijing's foreign policy in this crisis," said an executive at a state oil company. "There's no room whatsoever for companies to take any initiatives in terms of new investment."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs this month summoned officials from the three energy companies to review their business ties with Russian partners and local operations, two sources with knowledge of the meeting said. One said the ministry urged them not to make any rash moves buying Russian assets.

The companies have set up task forces on Russia-related matters and are working on contingency plans for business disruptions and in case of secondary sanctions, sources said.

The sources asked not to be named, given the sensitivity of the matter. Sinopec and the other companies declined to comment.

The ministry said there is no need for China to report to other parties about "whether there are internal meetings or not".

"China is a big, independent country. We have the right to carry out normal economic and trade cooperation in various fields with other countries across the world," it said in a faxed statement.

U.S. President Joe Biden said on Thursday that China knows its economic future is tied to the West, after warning Chinese leader Xi Jinping that Beijing could regret siding with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. read more

Global oil majors Shell (SHEL.L) and BP (BPL), and Norway's Equinor pledged to exit their Russian operations shortly after Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. Moscow says its "special operation" aims not to occupy territory but to destroy Ukraine's military capabilities and capture what it calls dangerous nationalists. read more

TALKS ON HOLD

Sinopec, formally China Petroleum and Chemical Corp, has suspended the discussions to invest up to \$500 million in the new gas chemical plant in Russia, one of the sources said.



The plan has been to team up with Sibur, Russia's largest petrochemical producer, for a project similar to the \$10 billion Amur Gas Chemical Complex in East Siberia, 40% owned by Sinopec and 60% by Sibur, set to come online in 2024.

"The companies wanted to replicate the Amur venture by building another one and were in the middle of site selection," said the source.

Sinopec hit pause after realising that Sibur minority shareholder and board member Gennady Timchenko had been sanctioned by the West, the source said. The European Union and Britain last month imposed sanctions on Timchenko, a long-time ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and other billionaires with ties to Putin. read more

Timchenko's spokesman declined to comment on sanctions.

The Amur project itself faces funding snags, said two of the sources, as

sanctions threaten to choke financing from key lenders, including Russia's state-controlled Sberbank (SBER.MM) and European credit agencies. read more

"It's an existing investment. Sinopec is trying to overcome the difficulties in financing," said a Beijing-based industry executive with direct knowledge of the matter.

Sibur said it continues to cooperate with Sinopec including working jointly on implementing the Amur plant. It denied that there was a plan to team up with Sinopec for a project similar to the Amur Gas Chemical Complex in east Siberia.

"Sinopec is actively participating in the issues of the project's construction management, including equipment supplies, work with suppliers and contractors. We are also jointly working on the issues of project financing," Sibur told Reuters by email.



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/26/2022

Ten Asian Countries Open Up For Tourism



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Following the slowdown of the global Covid-19 epidemic, ten Asian countries have announced that they will open up for tourism to stimulate the recovery of their economies.

Countries opening up include Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia, Maldives, The Philippines, Ceylon, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

We are so excited to see that these countries are once again opening up to tourists after almost two years of lockdown. Tourism is a chimney-free industry for every country. It is not only an important foreign exchange income for the country, but it also creates jobs for millions of people.

For more than two and

one-half years the epidemic has almost stagnated the airlines and hotel industries, especially in those countries that depend on tourism.

Unfortunately, we have seen that the war in Ukraine is still going on. The major powers now even worry about the threat of nuclear war

which really bothers us as ordinary people.

We now see millions of refugees from the war in Ukraine. They have lost everything in their lives. They are only just asking for basic food and clothing. This is a minimum requirement and their human right. It is really a human tragedy.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Stella Moris, the partner of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, is photographed in her Vivienne Westwood designed wedding dress before driving to Belmarsh Prison to marry Julian Assange, at a hotel in London, March 23. REUTERS/Dylan Martinez/Pool



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson wipes away tears as she listens to U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) speak on the third day of her U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings on her nomination to the Supreme Court, on Capitol Hill in Washington, March 23. REUTERS/Elizabeth Frantz



Firefighters work at the site of a bombing at a shopping center in Kyiv, Ukraine, March 21. REUTERS/Marko Djurica



Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men gather to watch the funeral procession of prominent rabbi Chaim Kanievsky who died at 94, in Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv, Israel, March 20. REUTERS/Nir Elias



Bodyguards surround former South Korean President Park Geun-hye as an unidentified man throws a glass bottle (not pictured) at her, in front of her home in Daegu, South Korea, March 24. Yonhap via REUTERS



Ukrainian women from Kharkiv are reunited with their friend from Chernihiv after fleeing to Romania, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, at the border crossing in Siret, Romania, March 22. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

PERSPECTIVE

In This Tragic And War-Torn Ukraine Crisis, Western Countries Are Now Forced To Shake Off Decades Of Economic Policy Inaction Could Putin's War Save the Global Economic Order?

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Russia's invasion of Ukraine could be seen as a catastrophe for the world economy. Surging oil and gas prices are feeding inflation that in many countries was already at the highest levels in four decades. Financial markets have plummeted, erasing trillions of dollars in wealth. Western sanctions have crossed what used to be redlines, including blocking Russia from accessing more than \$300 billion of its own central bank reserves. If the world loses access to Russia's vast deliveries of energy, fertilizer, grain, and industrial metals, the hit on the global economy could become much worse yet. But while the short-term economic costs will be steep, the conflict might end up being the savior of the global economic order. For the past two decades, the economic rules and norms built under U.S. leadership after World War II have slowly eroded. Many countries—not just China—chafed at U.S. dominance, skirting trade and other rules or actively undermining them. Washington, fed up at what it saw as others taking advantage of a relatively open U.S. market, launched trade wars with friends and foes alike and paralyzed the World Trade Organization's ability to settle disputes. U.S. President Joe Biden has championed "Buy American" policies, and his administration has worked on luring manufacturing jobs back to the United States at the expense of trading partners. Washington has avoided any new trade liberalization initiatives, fearful of a domestic political backlash. Then, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian tanks to roll across Ukraine's borders. Since then, the West and its partners have come together in the most dramatic set of coordinated economic actions in modern history. The European Union, United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, South Korea, and even Switzerland have worked in mostly seamless fashion to isolate and punish Russia. Most Russian banks have been cut off from their Western counterparts, making it difficult for Russians to conduct the most routine sales and purchases of goods and services from abroad.

Sanctions targeting Russia's central bank reserves have crashed the ruble, driving its value down to less than \$0.01. Russia pushed up its overnight interest rate to a punishing 20 percent to prevent an even steeper fall. Coordinated export controls have cut Russia off from imports of semiconductors, telecommunications equipment, oil extraction and refining gear, aircraft parts, and the other

tools of modern technology. Airspace bans have blocked Russians from flying to most Western destinations. Canada, the United States, and others are cutting off imports of Russian oil, and Europe—far more dependent on Russian energy imports—is also reducing purchases rapidly. Canada has stripped Russia of its WTO benefits, raising tariffs on most imports to 35 percent; other countries are likely to follow. Western companies, which have profited enormously from an expanding global market with predictable rules, have piled on. BP announced it would divest its nearly 20 percent stake in Russian oil giant Rosneft, at a cost to the company's shareholders of as much as \$25 billion. Boeing and Airbus halted all parts, maintenance, and technical support for Russian airlines. Cammakers such as General Motors, Ford, and Volkswagen ceased production in Russia and stopped exporting parts and vehicles; Russian cammaker Lada has been forced to halt production as parts imports dried up. Iconic consumer brands, including Coca-Cola, Pepsi, McDonalds, and Starbucks, have quit operating in Russia. Shell, which had bought Russian oil on the spot market well into the war, issued a public apology and promised to halt all future purchases of Russian energy. While the measures have not been enough to persuade Putin to cease his offensive in Ukraine, Western countries have shown in the crisis an extraordinary capacity to shake off decades of economic policy lethargy. This may show the way toward a future economic order: not a U.S.-led system with others often reluctantly following, but a far more active joint management of the global economy.



The United States on its own no longer has the capacity or willingness to lead the global economic system without robust support. Preserving the benefits of a well-ordered global economy will demand a cooperative and coordinated effort. Although the search for historical parallels is always fruitless, today's economic challenge is not unlike what the West faced in the early 1970s. In both periods, soaring commodity prices, especially for oil, worsened underlying inflationary pressures. In both, a weakened United States reeling from failed wars and social divisions at home raised doubts among allies and adversaries alike. President Richard Nixon's 1971 decision to break the dollar's link to gold and slap temporary import tariffs were

BUSINESS

his version of President Donald Trump's trade wars—a message to the world that the United States was no longer willing to pay the price of leading the global economy. But the comparison will not reassure investors who still recall the bear markets of that decade, the 1970s was also a period in which Western countries recreated an economic order that served the world well for many decades after. Following Nixon's dollar shock, the United States, Europe, and Japan came together to rebuild the global monetary system around flexible exchange rates. France and Germany launched the first G-6 economic summit in 1975, which later became the G-7, as a forum for coordinating Western responses to challenges such as inflation, unemployment, energy shocks, trade disputes, and currency fluctuations. The Western nations also came together to launch a big new round of global trade negotiations, which eventually led to the creation of the WTO and an explosion in world trade.

The current challenges are going to require the same sort of deep cooperation. Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia, the United States, and many others should recognize that the aggregate gains from close economic cooperation far outweigh the conflicts over relative distribution among and within countries that have drawn so much attention in recent years. In a haunting parallel to the Cold War, when the threat from the Soviet Union strengthened Western economic cooperation, a revanchist Russia has provided strong motivation for the West to put its fraternal differences aside.

The domestic politics of Western countries may also be tilting against the economic nationalism of recent years—and prove more permissive for economic cooperation. As Russians have seen the shelves suddenly empty at Ikea and H&M, ordinary consumers around the world are waking up to the forgotten benefits of low-friction global trade and finance. The new crisis comes on top of the global supply chain disruptions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have made consumers vastly more aware of the fragile production and trade systems that bring food to their grocery stores, appliances to their homes, and spare parts to their auto shops. After years in which the critics of globalization had all the ammunition, the disruptions to open and efficient trade have made its benefits apparent for all to see.

The biggest difference today is China, which is far stronger than it was in the 1970s and dwarfs Russia in economic importance. But the potency of the Western sanctions against Putin's Russia will certainly send a strong message to Beijing: If the liberal democracies can overcome their differences and come together in such a fashion, China would be wise to pursue its own ambitions cautiously. The risks of banishment from the global economic system are a hefty penalty.

Much is unknowable, of course. If the war in Ukraine grinds on, Western resolve will be tested more intensively. Americans could react to inflation and soaring oil prices by punishing Biden in the midterm elections and beyond. Europeans, who will pay a much bigger price as Russian energy imports are cut, could similarly lose heart and press for accommodation with Putin. But the collective outrage at Russia's actions suggests the resolve may run deeper than that. If so, the crisis could be the catalyst that brings the West together again to start repairing the fraying global economic order. (Courtesy Foreignpolicy.com)

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Related
Higher Inflation, Trade Uncertainty And Slow Growth Globally Is Predicted, Though U.S. May Still Attract Investments
Global Economy Still Suffering From Collateral Damage From Ukraine Invasion



The line outside a branch of the Russian state-owned bank Sberbank in Prague as people moved to withdraw their savings and close their accounts. (Photograph/Michal Cizek / AFP via Getty Images)

The economic threat from the war in Ukraine is rising quickly as the terrible conflict continues. Part of this is due to the economic sanctions, but the larger part relates to the indirect impact on energy prices and the cost of other exports from the region—such as wheat, fertilizer, aluminum and some other key industrial inputs.

Some of this is a cost that the West has decided to take as part of the sanctions process which, while principally hurting Russia, also has an impact on its trading partners and the wider world economy. Meanwhile, the rise in energy prices is largely the inevitable consequence of a major oil and gas producer being involved in a conflict and the disruption and uncertainty this causes. Energy prices have hit new highs and by historic standards gas prices are particularly affected.

There are, of course, much more important things at stake than the economic impact—and predicting how events will play out is impossible. But already a significant economic shock to the oil-importing West, in particular the EU, looks inevitable. Governments, including Ireland's, are accepting that something will need to be done to limit the impact on consumers and businesses. Cuts in excise duties on fuel have been floated as a possibility. More direct help to poorer households will also be needed. The planned reduction of budget deficits after Covid-19 will probably have to be put on hold. Despite higher inflation, central bank interest rate increases may also come more slowly.

The ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine have impacted the global diplomacy, markets, politics and every other sphere of life across the world. The Russia-Ukraine saga took another turn on Monday when the Russian President Vladimir Putin recognised the two breakaway regions of eastern Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk, as independent.

Following this, Putin ordered the deployment of the troops in these breakaway areas. The breakaway regions—Donetsk and Luhansk—are collectively known as the Donbass region that broke away from the Ukrainian government control in 2014 and proclaimed themselves to be independent "people's republics". These regions were unrecognised until Putin's comments on Monday regarding the same. Russia has also signed two identical friendship treaties that granted it the right to build bases in the separatist regions and they, on paper, can do the same in Russia. So, how has the West responded so far? United States President Joe Biden signed an executive order today to impose trade sanctions on the two breakaway regions—Donetsk (DNR) and Luhansk (LNR) in eastern Ukraine

that were recognised by Russia on Monday. This executive order prohibits any new investment in these regions by Americans from wherever they are based. Besides this, it also forbids any importation and/or exportation, re-exportation, sale or supply of goods, services or technology from the DNR and LNR regions of Ukraine directly or indirectly into the United States. Last but not the least, this order also prohibits any approval, financial, facilitation or guarantee by an American person wherever located of a transaction by a foreign person where the transaction by that foreign person would be covered by prohibitions if performed by an American person or within the US.

Besides the US, other countries like Japan and the EU are also mulling punitive action either in the form of sanctions or orders. Also read: Ukraine tensions intensify selling on D-Street; 10 firms lose market value

Is Moscow bluffing or is it on a tightrope? Well, the answer to that is not easy. Russia used a similar tactic with the former USSR republic, Georgia, recognising breakaway regions in order to justify an open-ended military engagement. This was also done to thwart Georgia's NATO aspirations. These same considerations, experts say, can apply to Ukraine as well. Meanwhile, the Kremlin is faced with international sanctions and condemnation for abandoning the Minsk process after maintaining that it was committed to it. It also has the responsibility for two territories ravaged by 8 years of war and in need of massive economic support. American experts, in contrast, such as Michael McFaul, former US ambassador to Russia, openly called Putin's action as constituting the first stages of a planned invasion and that the situation is going to get ugly in the coming hours, if not days. Russia, on the other hand, till days before, had maintained that it has no plans to 'invade' Ukraine.

Will Biden and Putin still meet after Russia's recognition of the Donbass region? As per media reports, the US and Russian presidents have tentatively agreed to meet in an attempt to avoid another invasion of Ukraine after Russia's annexure of Crimea in 2014.

The White House has said that this meeting will take place only if Russia does not invade Ukraine. French President Emmanuel Macron has, however, sought to broker the possible meeting between Biden and Putin. Macron had said in a statement that he pitched to both leaders a summit on "security and strategic stability in Europe."



Markets in the coming months. Markets, both domestically and internationally, have remained on the tenterhooks ever since the Russia-Ukraine crisis worsened and the Biden administration imposed sanctions on the newly recognised breakaway regions in Ukraine. Though the trend is bullish in Indian markets, Tradingo Founder Parth Niyati believes that there will be high volatility over the next month due to this crisis. In the international markets, however, investors are eyeing safe havens as global stocks tumbled and oil prices surged due to the Ukraine issue. Indian markets—According to Tradingo's Parth Niyati, the overall trend is bullish but there may be high volatility over the next month therefore short-term traders should remain light while long-term investors should look at this correction as a buying opportunity. He further says, "We are very bullish on capital goods, infrastructure, real estate, banking, consumer goods, and auto ancillaries space therefore we advise investors to look for buying opportunities in these areas."

(Article Continues Below)

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

(Article Continues From Above) Could Putin's War Save the Global Economic Order?

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Global markets—Senior Asia economist at UBP Carlos Casanova believes that "we are much closer to military intervention, which of course is going to drive a lot of the risk off sentiment in the markets." He further added that the short-term volatility in the global markets has been caused both by the geopolitical factors and the US Federal Reserve was 'relentless.' He also said that the consequences of this will be—higher oil prices, equity sell off and investors flocking to safe-haven assets like Japanese Yen. A recent note by Goldman Sachs states that there is a scope for risk premia to rise further across all sectors in case a war breaks out between Russia and Ukraine. It further said that their forecasts on how much the global markets will fall on the basis of how much the rouble depreciates. "On that basis, the rouble is still more than 10 percent away from its maximum undervaluation level of the past two decades," analysts Dominic Wilson, Ian Tomb and Kamakshya Trivedi said in a note. Will there be more cyberattacks in Ukraine? Ukraine authorities have said that they have seen online warnings about hackers preparing to launch major cyberattacks on government agencies, banks and defence sector.

Ukrainian government-run cybersecurity agency CERT-UA said that it has found warnings about potential cyberattacks on a hacking forum. One message had "referred to the lease of servers to prepare new attacks on the websites of the public sector, the banking sector and the defence sector." These apprehensions are not unfounded as Russia was likely behind an attack which impacted the defence ministry portal and disrupted banking and terminal services at large state-owned lenders. Will oil prices be increased and for how long can this rise in oil prices be sustained? According to Moody's, an escalation in tensions along the Russia-Ukraine border is likely to boost oil prices even higher than what they already are. The research firm also believes that this rise in oil prices cannot be sustained over a long period of time "because of economies' limited ability to absorb higher oil costs and continue growing." The research firm explains that continuously high oil prices can impact economic growth and fasten the substitution to alternative sources of energy, prompting oil prices to fall back to the reinvestment range eventually. It further states, "Geopolitical developments that aggravate supply uncertainty boost oil prices. At around \$90/bbl, the oil price already reflects lingering uncertainty about the outcome of US-Iran negotiations, rising risks in the Middle East and tensions on the Ukraine-Russia border." (With agency inputs) Business-today.in

Related
The Ukraine-Russian Conflict Will Have A Severe Im-

Impact On The Global Economy, Anticipates IMF
The war in Ukraine is resulting in tragic loss of life and human suffering, as well as causing massive damage to Ukraine's physical infrastructure.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board addressed the economic impact of the war in Ukraine, price shocks of energy and commodity prices, and on possible fast-tracked financial assistance for affected countries since a severe impact on the global economy can be expected.

The war in Ukraine is resulting in tragic loss of life and human suffering, as well as causing massive damage to Ukraine's physical infrastructure. It has sent a wave of more than 1 million refugees to neighboring countries. Unprecedented sanctions have been announced on Russia.

While the situation remains highly fluid and the outlook is subject to extraordinary uncertainty, the economic consequences are already very serious. Energy and commodity prices—including wheat and other grains—have surged, adding to inflationary pressures from supply chain disruptions and the rebound from the Covid 19 pandemic. Price shocks will have an impact worldwide, especially on poor households for whom food and fuel are a higher proportion of expenses. Should the conflict escalate, the economic damage would be all the more devastating. The sanctions on Russia will also have a substantial impact on the global economy and financial markets, with significant spillovers to other countries.

In many countries, the crisis is creating an adverse shock to both inflation and activity, amid already elevated price pressures. Monetary authorities will need to carefully monitor the pass-through of rising international prices to domestic inflation, to calibrate appropriate responses. Fiscal policy will need to support the most vulnerable households, to help offset rising living costs. This crisis will create complex policy tradeoffs, further complicating the policy landscape as the world economy recovers from the pandemic crisis. In Ukraine, in addition to the human toll, the economic damage is already substantial. Sea ports and airports are closed and have been damaged, and many roads and bridges have been damaged or destroyed. While it is very difficult to assess financing needs precisely at this stage, it is already clear that Ukraine will face significant recovery and reconstruction costs.

Ukraine has already requested emergency financing of US\$1.4 billion under the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument. Staff anticipates bringing this request to the Executive Board for consideration as early as next week. The sanctions announced against the Central Bank of the Russian Federation will severely restrict its access to international reserves to support its currency and financial system. International sanctions on Russia's banking system and the exclusion of a number of banks from SWIFT have significantly disrupted Russia's ability to

receive payments for exports, pay for imports and engage in cross-border financial transactions. While it is too early to foresee the full impact of these sanctions, we have already seen a sharp mark-down in asset prices as well as the ruble exchange rate.



Countries that have very close economic links with Ukraine and Russia are at particular risk of scarcity and supply disruptions and are most affected by the increasing inflows of refugees. Moldova has requested an augmentation and re-phasing of its existing IMF-supported program to help meet the costs of the current crisis, and IMF staff are actively discussing options with the Moldovan authorities. IMF staff will continue to monitor the spillover effects on other countries in the region, in particular those with existing IMF-supported programs and those with elevated vulnerabilities or exposures to the crisis. The ongoing war and associated sanctions will also have a severe impact on the global economy. The Fund will advise our member countries on how to calibrate their macro-economic policies to manage the range of spillovers, including via trade disruptions, food and other commodity prices, and financial markets. (Courtesy apnews.com)

Related
The Global Economy Is Facing A Potential Stagflation* Risk From The Russia-Ukraine War

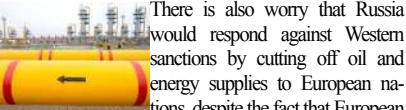


Russian tanks roll toward Kiev. (Photo/Mstyslav Chernov/AP)

Stagflation* (economic stagnation—stalling or falling output—and high inflation) occurs when the economy has sluggish growth, which is accompanied by extremely high inflation and high unemployment rates. Currently, the world economy is facing two huge risks: the tremendous disruption produced by the COVID 19 epidemic and the economic impact of the confrontation between Russia and Ukraine. Even as the global economy was slowly recovering from the pandemic, the globe was struck by the Omicron variant, which resulted in more limitations throughout the world. Earlier this year, the IMF predicted global growth to be about 4.4 %. However, the outbreak of a full-fledged conflict in Eastern Europe is likely to have a major impact on these global growth figures, and it is also causing inflation throughout the globe, in addition to affecting growth and economic recovery. This is largely due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has interrupted global supply lines once again, as the pandemic did a few years ago.

Over the last few days, the conflict has seriously impacted maritime trade and global supply chains, and an exponential rise in key commodity prices has been noted, including agricultural commodities such as wheat, corn, sunflower oil, and so on, as well as industrial metals such as nickel, palladium, and as well as aluminum and other key metals, but more importantly, the exponential rise in global crude oil and natural gas prices is posing a grave risk. In addition, severe Western economic sanctions aimed at Russia are hurting the global financial and banking systems, as well as global trade and payments. The United States has decided to halt Russian oil imports and

according to reports, Europe is now considering phasing out Russian oil and energy supplies, which has thrown the oil markets into a loop. This has caused analysts to believe that Brent crude oil prices might reach \$180-\$200 per barrel, which would be unprecedented and would undoubtedly have terrible economic impacts.



There is also worry that Russia would respond against Western sanctions by cutting off oil and energy supplies to European nations, despite the fact that European countries rely heavily on Russian supplies. That is why European nations are not shutting Russian imports; rather, they are phasing them out. Russia, for example, contributes approximately 40% of Europe's natural gas consumption. Russia meets roughly 25% of Europe's oil demand and almost 50% of Europe's coal requirements. So, without a big cost, it will be difficult for European nations to phase out Russian supplies, and if Russia chooses to use this as leverage, it would almost certainly lead to additional chaos in global markets, particularly in the oil markets and key commodity prices. As a result, such a fast and exponential spike in the prices of major commodities may easily create runaway inflation throughout the globe, since these high costs will ultimately be passed down to consumers, as well as companies and factories worldwide. As a result, the prospect of high runaway inflation combined with stagnating growth, as well as high unemployment rates, is driving the global economy towards stagflation, and no nation will be immune.

What about India?
India cannot expect to stay immune to the current economic crisis, and the big spike in commodity prices will very certainly result in severe inflation in India as well. According to an RBI research report published a few years ago if global oil prices increased by \$10 when Brent crude oil was at \$65 per barrel, it was expected that headline inflation in India would rise by 49 basis points (i.e. by 0.49 %). Given the current and predicted crude oil prices, as well as the already high levels of inflation in India, which is hovering around 5-6 %, we could very well witness a runaway in inflation. However, if the government chooses to protect consumers from the effect and try to absorb rising oil costs via subsidies and fuel tax cuts, it risks raising the government budget deficit by a substantial margin, which would then have a macro-economic impact.

As a result, the government is forced to choose between two risky choices. Either it must reduce fuel taxes, which are already very high in India, risking revenue loss and thus increasing the fiscal deficit, or it must allow consumers to bear the cost, risking high inflation, which could easily push India into stagflation as growth in India has stagnated along with high unemployment. So India's only option is to immediately adopt a position on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and play a key role in global geopolitics to put this war to a conclusion. As long as the dispute carries on and the economic war between the West and Russia persists, global supply chains will be affected by very high commodity prices. As a result, India will need to work fast with the global community to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis, since all of the other alternatives available to the government are riskier. (Courtesy times of india.com)

Conclusion
A sense that the world is coming unglued—and that great-power geopolitics will ultimately shape economic destiny—hangs over global markets and the economy.

The big picture: Aspects of how the world works that people have taken for granted for a generation have become deeply uncertain amid war in Europe, new pandemic lockdowns in China and high inflation in the U.S. that global developments stand to make worse.

The threats are to globalization itself, and specifically the assumption that even countries that have big disagreements can do business with each other on an ever-widening scale.

At the same time, the faster and more efficient supply chains that companies have built over the course of decades are crumbling in new ways.

Driving the news: Over the weekend China announced a one-week lockdown of Shenzhen, an industrial powerhouse region that produces goods crucial to many global supply chains, due to a spike in COVID cases.



The shutdown is just the latest hit, at a time when war and sanctions are already straining supplies of commodities.

State of play: In effect, a collision is underway between

powerful geopolitical and economic forces of a sort that are creating rapid whipsawing effects in markets as traders and policymakers try to make sense of this rapidly changing world.

- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused spiking prices for oil, wheat, and many metals on commodity markets (though those prices pulled back some on Monday), as the productive capacity of two large countries is essentially cut off from the rest of the global economy
- There were reports that Russia has asked China for military assistance, which, if honored, would raise the possibility of the economic schism between Russia and the West expanding to include the world's second-largest economy most populous nation.



Put it all together, and the economic outlook is messy. Last Monday's market shifts reflected this unsettling time, with some surprising moves.

- Treasury bond yields soared to their highest levels since 2019—contrary to the usual pattern in which times of crisis cause people to pour money into ultra-safe bonds, driving their yields downward. It's a sign that global investors are not counting on global uncertainty to bring about cheaper money like in the past.
- Oil actually fell sharply, with West Texas Intermediate crude down 6.7% to a bit over \$102 a barrel. This is welcome news for energy consumers, but the reason is less reassuring—it appears to be driven in part by expectations that Chinese lockdowns will depress demand.
- Chinese stocks fell precipitously, with the Hang Seng index off nearly 5%. It reflected fears of both further lockdowns and possible further Chinese entanglement with Russia.

The bottom line: The thing about living through momentous, fleeting and continuously changing times in history is that no one knows how things are going to end. Markets, and all of us, are just trying to make sense of it in real-time. (Courtesy axiotimes.com)

出了車禍不要緊，李醫生免費幫你治！



(本報記者黃梅子)在美國，每個人都要開車，如果出了車禍怎麼辦？一般來講，傷員要被送到急診室進行一系列檢查，比如腦部CT、胸腔CT、腹腔CT等。如果需要手術，你就不需要猶豫了，馬上進行。如果內部器官完好，也沒有傷筋動骨，只是肌肉或軟組織受傷，可以尋求中醫或西醫復健治療。這時候，找李醫生，他可以幫你免費治療！不用你自己掏一分錢，全部由保險公司買單！不管是你的過錯還是對方的過錯導致的車禍，只要汽車買了保險，你把保險號告訴給李醫生，由他負責

繼續開車。遺憾的是，5年、10年，甚至20年之後，大多數人（尤其是老年時期）就開始出現了病癥。一般是頭部、視力、手腕、肩部、腰部以及骨骼其它部位等，總是感覺哪兒不對勁兒，找不到原因。其實，這就是車禍後遺癥。腦震盪是比較容易查出來的，但軟組織受傷是很難查出來的，CT、超聲波都不行，最多是核磁共振（NMR）可能會發現一些問題（醫學檢查稱為磁共振成像，Magnetic Resonance Imaging, MRI）。但如果自己記得當年的車禍，發生的部位，便可很容易聯想起來。這就提醒車禍傷者，需要及時進行腦部、背部、骨關節和軟組織恢復治療與保養，千萬不要等到10年20年之後才想起來，那就晚了。建議您去找李醫生，他是這方面的專家，他會幫您設計治療方案，保險公司支付您全部的費用，經過精心治療之後，您不會有任何後遺癥。

車禍後遺癥有一個顯著的表現就是長期腰痛背痛頭痛，腰椎間盤發生退行性變異導致纖維環破裂，造成髓核脫出壓迫神經根或硬膜囊而引起坐骨神經痛等一系列腰腿痛癥狀，患者常常感覺下肢放射性疼痛（坐骨神經痛）下肢麻木、感覺異常、前行困難。嚴重時出現神經肌肉癱瘓和萎縮。腰部長期反覆疼痛，休息時減輕，勞累就加重，常常有彎腰困難，久坐後疼痛，彎腰過久後疼痛加重等癥狀。部分患者出現眩暈、頭痛等癥狀，甚至引發鼻炎、耳炎，也伴有手麻、手酸。

Texas Spinal Care的李醫生治車禍後遺癥和療椎間盤突出有20多年的經驗，李醫生畢業於加州大學聖荷西分校，行醫多年，信譽卓著。他採用非手術治療，運用推拿、注射、器材和營養相搭配的方法，治療車禍後遺癥和腰椎、頸椎間盤突出非常有效，病人無痛苦、不用專門請假，可以邊工作邊治療，而且整個療程的費用比手術治療時的copy還低。

網址：<http://txspinalcare.com>
診所地址：9610 westheimer road, Houston, Texas 77063
診療時間：每周一至五全天，周六上午。



髕骨外側壓縮綜合癥？李醫生引進最新設備治療下肢疼痛！



(本報記者黃梅子)步入中年，不少人會發現膝關節靈活不比從前，患有膝關節炎（Osteoarthritis of the knee）的風險也隨著年紀大了而提高。膝關節炎由軟骨及其周圍細胞損壞而引發，屬於相當常見的人體老化疾病之一。膝關節炎病發是由關節細胞耗損程度和修復程度失去平衡而導致，癥狀包括關節疼痛、僵硬和功能減弱。情況嚴重時，還需要手術治療。

還有一部分患者下肢疼痛是Lateral Patellar Compression Syndrome 髕骨外側壓縮綜合癥。另有些患者是因為頸椎腰椎或坐骨神經引起的下肢疼痛。還有些患者是車禍後遺癥，有些人在車禍過去幾年以後才感覺到身體各種疼痛。總之，不管您是哪種原因引起的下肢疼，都要引起重視，積極做康復治療，不管是膝關節炎還是車禍後遺癥，康復治療總是比動手術更保險。康復治療一定要在醫生的指導下進行，否則有可能使得病情惡化。Texas Spinal Care的李醫生引進最新的多功能下肢牽引治療儀，幫您減輕疼痛，快速恢復健康！

其組成包括固定裝置，放松裝置，牽張裝置，能刺激雙腿內側肌群及穴位，可通經活絡，緩解肌肉攣縮，激活運動神經元，恢復下肢運動功能。李醫生還有儀器測試足底，電腦掃描足部定做康復鞋墊，能很大程度地緩解下肢疼痛以及行走困難。

我們首先來看一看膝關節炎的病因，常居潮濕、寒冷環境的人多有癥狀，與溫度低，引起血運障礙有關。第二是體重因素，肥胖和粗壯體型的人中發病率較高。第三是年齡因素，從中年到老年，隨年齡增長，常發生關節軟骨退行性變，關節多年積累性勞損是重要因素。第四，營養不良也有可能致病，關節軟骨內沒有血管，其營養依靠從關節液中吸取。軟骨的修復是靠外層的軟骨細胞分裂繁殖和軟骨細胞分泌基質來完成的，由於營養和氧供應不足，影響到軟骨細胞的增殖時，就會導致軟骨基質減少，軟骨新生不足而變軟弱，極易在負重部位發生磨損。

髕股疼痛綜合征風險最大的人群是跑步者，騎自行車者，籃球運動員以及相關跑跳較多的愛好者到運動員，當然主要還是動作模式問題與過度不正確使用所引起，病癥發作可能是由於慢性損傷或者單次急性損傷直接引起，癥狀包括膝關節彌漫性疼痛和局部髕下疼痛。髕骨周圍和下方、膝蓋前部、膝蓋骨的內側邊緣經常有壓痛，髕骨周圍後方發生持續的鈍疼疼痛，運動後有時會出現腫脹。在上下山坡、上下樓梯、久坐起身時，髕股關節位置疼痛往往更嚴重。膝蓋彎曲時可能伴隨發出嗶嗶聲「關節噪音」，髕股關節綜合癥往往伴隨著大腿肌肉「股四頭肌」的肌張力異常，髕骨周圍的圓圈性疼痛範圍，久坐後癥狀加劇，無力疼痛伴有膝關節屈曲減少。

髕骨與股骨組成髕股關節，髕骨關節和我們的股股關節共組成了我們身體上著名的——膝關節，而我們的髕股關節形成在髕骨和股骨遠端之間，可謂是在夾縫中成長。治療中最重要的第一步是避免使問題惡化的活動，並且及時休息，光嚷嚷“疼”而不去治療的人是打算坐輪椅過下半生？

我們的髕骨本身沒有血液和淋巴液供應，所以一旦損傷恢復會非常的緩慢，停止進一步的損害是十分必要的。

李醫生治療下肢疼痛，先用電腦掃描儀器描足部，幫您定製復健矯正鞋墊，能極大地緩解走路時的疼痛，然後再用下肢牽引治療儀來復健治療，配合使用醫用去痛風濕乳液和營養素，是目前治療下肢疼痛的最佳治療組合。

李醫生還專精車禍後的復健，車禍後PI與PIP都收。請打電話給李醫生免費諮詢。中文請與queen 陳 聯繫。

Texas Spinal care
電話：713-278-2225
網址：<http://txspinalcare.com>
診所地址：2600 S Gessner RD, Suite 120, Houston, TX 77063
診療時間：每周一至五全天，周六上午。

金城銀行召開2022年股東會，營運表現亮眼！金城銀行與您共創利益，共享金色未來！

金城銀行2022年度股東年會已於三月十七日下午在休士頓總行召開，會中除推選下一屆董事會成員外，並發佈2021年之財務和營運報告。董事長吳光宜先生首先感謝所有股東對於金城銀行的一貫支持，並對全體董事、管理團隊以及同仁們的努力致謝。吳董事長表示，2021年金城銀行面對疫情延燒，但整體業務表現再創新高。金城銀行2021年總資產額12億9仟2佰萬美元，較2020年成長12.2%；稅後淨利超過2仟5佰萬美元，較2020年增加63.1%；放款總額10億3仟2佰萬美元，較2020年成長13.9%；存款總額10億6仟5佰萬美元，較2020年成長12.2%；資產報酬率(ROA)為1.98%，較2020年的1.38%增加0.60%；股東權益報酬率(ROE)為15.25%，較2020年的10.69%增加4.56%。金城銀行2021年業務表現穩健成長，各項比率均高居所有總行位於休士頓市的華資銀行之冠。

做為一家永續經營的銀行，金城銀行制訂永續風險管理架構，強化公司治理；以金融為出發點，致力為客戶帶來正面積極的影響。以穩健經營的步伐逐漸成長，樹立誠信經營的企業文化；秉持嚴謹的策略和作業流程，同時致力發展網路銀行和商業現金管理服務，更推出個人及商業電子存款、商業支付處理等服務，為客戶提供更多金融服務選擇。出席股東隨即在會中推選現任的八位董事會成員(吳光宜、楊明耕、曾柏樺、Al Duran、譚秋晴、吳俊賢、林懿明和吳國駒)繼續擔任金城銀行下一屆董事，更推舉吳光宜先生為董事長，並聘任楊明耕先生、曾柏樺先生和Mr. Al Duran三位副董事長。

林懿明執行長表示，金城銀行延續企業長期努力，致力打造完整的金融服務平台，在既有的信用風險管理架構下，審慎評估各項風險和作業流程，同時努力提升競爭力，並採取穩定可持續的策略。金城銀行在南加州塔斯汀(Tustin)、阿罕布拉市(Alhambra)和羅蘭崗(Rowland Heights)均設有分行，在爾灣(Irvine)也設有貸款辦公室。北加州密爾布瑞分行(Millbrae)和伯靈格姆(Burlingame)貸款辦公室，位處高科技事業雲集的矽谷(Silicon Valley)區域，靠近舊金山國際機場。這些現有據點及未來更多的分行，希望能服務及開發更多加州的客戶，銜接並串聯德州和加州兩地業務，將金城銀行的服務網絡拓展至更多亞裔社區。

金城銀行堅定提供多樣化的金融服務平台，配合客戶營運發展，幫助客戶實現財務上的成功。林懿明執行長說：「展望未來，金城銀行將持續建構更完整的金融平台及服務網絡，精進營運效能，以企業經營的長期價值為核心，將企業的社會責任結合金融本業，為企業、客戶和社會的永續發展而努力。我們期

許金城銀行和社區一同邁向永續未來，並成為德州暨南、北加州市場的首選金融策略夥伴。」

金城銀行是社區的銀行，具備彈性和便利，更瞭解客戶的需求，能提供更專業和貼心的服務。金城銀行有37年社區銀行的經驗，管理團隊更秉持兢兢業業的態度，努力為客戶提供量身訂做

的存款和貸款服務，希望能幫助客戶的業務蒸蒸日上。金城銀行與您共創利益，共享金色未來！有關本行最新資訊請參閱網站 www.goldenbank-na.com。金城銀行休士頓百利總行的地址是9315 Bellaire Blvd. Houston, Texas 77036，電話:888-320-3838。歡迎光臨惠顧。



宋明麗公眾外交有功 童振源休士頓頒福爾摩沙獎章

僑務委員會委員長童振源3月23日在休士頓華僑文教服務中心頒贈福爾摩沙僑務專業獎章給僑務諮詢委員宋明麗，感謝她長期服務僑社，熱心慈善公益，協助推展公眾外交。僑務委員張世勳、劉秀美、陳建賓、陳美芬、僑務諮詢委員楊朝諭及黎淑瑛等僑領，以及海華文教基金會董事長吳明穎、駐休士頓辦事處副處長王韋龍、文教中心主任陳奕芳及副主任黃依莉等70位鄉親好友一起觀禮，見證臺美僑社歷史性的一刻。

童振源致詞肯定宋明麗是鄉親們的大姊姊，奉獻僑界數十年，無論國民外交或急難救助，她都全力支持臺灣度過難關，為善不欲人知且不求回報。宋明麗熱稔大休士頓僑社，人脈資源豐沛，於109年雙十國慶大會擔任海外僑胞致詞代表，為近20年來美南地區僅見，稱得上是大家的榮耀，獲此殊榮實至名歸。

隨後在陳建賓的引言下，楊朝諭、周政賢、吳真惠、吳振成、張世勳、陳逸玲、周建佑等僑領及宋明麗的二姊宋明繡先後分享她長年來的僑社服務事蹟，如疫情期間透過僑委會購買70餘萬片醫療口罩分送全美鄉親認購、組織文化導覽團隊推廣臺灣文化等。

今年8月是宋明麗到美國的第40年，宋明麗感謝僑界先進在推動僑社工作的道路上不吝給予指導及支持，尤其是已故臺灣商會會長吳文馨、行政院顧問李席舟、同鄉會前會長葉國勢及高齡92歲的夫人葉李麗雲的提攜，期盼僑務工作能代代相傳，進而匯聚臺美僑社能量。宋明麗赴美30餘年，熱心公眾事務，長年幫助臺灣推動公眾外交及僑務工作，持續推動僑社幹部年青化，鼓勵並提攜僑青擔任僑團要職。她也發起「臺

灣夜市 (Taiwan Yes!) 園遊會及「臺灣文化導覽(Splendor of Taiwan)」專案，

向臺美社區僑青及多元族裔人士系統性展示臺灣美食、民俗及節慶文化。



近70位鄉親好友到場見證宋明麗光榮的一刻。



童振源頒發福爾摩沙僑務專業獎章及證書給宋明麗。