World Market Prognosis

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MARKETS NOW | Wall Street extended a tech-led rebound on Tuesday. The Nasdaq rose 1.18% to 26,477.81 and the S&P 500 added 0.60% to 7,722.60, while the Dow closed almost flat at 52,377.57. Anthropic's IPO filing and fresh AI infrastructure spending pledges revived risk appetite, with chipmakers leading. Treasuries were steady, the ten-year near 4.99% and the two-year at 4.73%. Germany's DAX gained 0.71% to about 25,633 and the Nikkei snapped a three-day slide, up roughly 1.7%; Hong Kong's Hang Seng lagged, easing 0.73% to about 23,021 as softer crude set a calmer tone.

COMMODITIES | Crude fell for a second session as Saudi, Turkish, Pakistani and Iranian officials pressed talks to de-escalate the Gulf standoff. Brent slipped about 1.4% to roughly $114 a barrel and WTI eased near $100, with Washington authorizing up to 400,000 barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve after a Louisiana refinery disruption. Spot gold held near $4,017 an ounce, silver about $53.77 and copper near $6.56 a pound. Grains stayed heavy: Chicago wheat fell 1.4% to 616 cents a bushel and soybeans 1.2%, while arabica coffee dropped 2.2% to 294 cents.

THE PROGNOSIS | The base case into Wednesday is a Federal Reserve hold, with markets pricing only a small chance of a hike even as inflation runs warm; the statement's tone on December matters more than the decision itself. Earnings from Microsoft and Alphabet will test whether record AI spending is converting into revenue, with the Bank of Japan and ECB to follow. Risks run both ways: renewed Gulf escalation would push Brent back above $116, while a hawkish Fed and a ten-year near 5% would pressure valuations. Watch the Fed statement, Hormuz flows and chip guidance.

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