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OUR WEEKLY CAPITAL MARKETS UPDATE

## International Market News Update

Stocks fell on Thursday after the U.S. dropped "the mother of all bombs" in Afghanistan while bank stocks dropped despite strong earnings from JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup. The U.S. used GBU-43 bomb on a cave complex believed to have ISIS fighters, according to the Associated Press. Stocks extended losses shortly after news of the bombing broke. The Dow Jones industrial average closed about 135 points lower, at session lows, with Chevron contributing the most losses. The S&P 500 fell 0.68 percent, with energy and financials leading decliners. The Nasdaq composite dropped 0.5 percent.

European markets closed lower Thursday as investors digested U.S. President Donald Trump's comments that he would prefer the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates low and suggested the dollar is too strong. The FTSE 100 ended the day down 0.29 percent at 7,327; the French CAC 40 ended down 0.59 percent at 5,101, and the German DAX closed 0.38 percent lower at 12,154. The pan-European Stoxx 600 was down 0.35 percent, with the majority of sectors and all major bourses in negative territory. The move comes on the last day of the trading week as equity markets close for the Good Friday holiday. Major bourses will remain closed on Monday in observance of Easter. For the week, the FTSE 100 and the Stoxx 600 were flat while the CAC 40 and the DAX moved lower by around a percent. Banks led the losses as several lenders moved towards the bottom of the benchmark as they focused on financial results from U.S. heavyweights. Komerčni Banka shares dropped 2.44 percent after the Czech bank announced it would be going ex-dividend. Meanwhile, Romania's Raiff Bank was down 5.49 percent.

Markets in Japan, South Korea and China closed lower on Friday, as geopolitical tensions in the region heightened, while other major bourses in Asia remained closed for a public holiday. In Japan, the benchmark Nikkei 225 closed down 91.21 points at 18,335.63, while the Topix slid 9.24 points to 1,459.07. Chinese mainland markets were also down — the Shanghai composite finished down 31.47 points, or 0.96 percent, at 3,244.48 and the Shenzhen composite fell 28.01 points, or 1.39 percent, to 1,986.64. Major export stocks in Japan closed mixed, after struggling for gains in early trade. Toyota shares reversed losses of near 0.9 percent to finish up 1.17 percent, Honda was down 0.57 percent, after retracing some of its near 1.4 percent losses, Mitsubishi Electric down 1.54 percent and Sony was off by 0.7 percent.

## Commodity in Focus

Oil prices were little changed on modest volume on Thursday, in a week where crude benchmarks recouped more of March's losses on increased hopes world supply and demand were nearing balance.

Benchmark Brent crude futures were up 1 cent at \$55.87 a barrel, after touching a one-month high on Wednesday. WTI Crude futures settled \$53.18 a barrel.

US Indices				
	Closing	Net Change		YTD
		Change	% Change	
DJIA	20,453.25	-209.70	-1.01%	3.49%
S&P 500	2,328.95	-28.54	-1.21%	4.03%
NASDAQ Composite	5,805.15	-73.80	-1.26%	7.84%

Europe Indices				
	Closing	Net Change		YTD
		Change	% Change	
UK - FTSE 100	7,327.59	+24.39	0.33%	2.59%
Eurozone - STOXX 50	3,146.65	-12.31	-0.39%	4.52%
France - CAC 40	5,071.10	-50.34	-0.98%	4.29%
Germany - DAX	12,109.00	-121.89	-1.00%	5.47%
Netherlands - AEX	515.77	-53	-0.10%	6.75%
Switzerland - SMI	8,629.02	-9.35	-0.11%	4.98%

BRICS Indices				
	Closing	Net Change		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Brazil - Ibovespa	62,826.28	-1,396.44	-2.17%	4.32%
Russia - MICEX	1,916.29	-103.94	-5.14%	-14.17%
India - SENSEX	29,461.45	-465.89	-1.56%	10.65%
China - Shanghai	3,246.07	-40.55	-1.23%	4.59%
South Africa - JSE Africa	53,510.22	+591.80	1.12%	5.64%

Asia-Pacific Indices				
	Closing	Net Change		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Japan - Nikkei 225	18,335.63	-329.00	-1.76%	-4.07%
Hong Kong - Hang Senx	24,261.66	-12.06	-0.05%	10.28%
South Korea - KOSPI	2,134.88	-16.85	-0.78%	5.35%
Australia - ASX 200	5,889.95	+33.66	0.57%	3.96%

Commodities				
	Closing	Net Change		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Gold Spot	1,285.69	+31.16	2.48%	12.04%
Silver Spot	18.54	0.51	2.85%	16.43%
Platinum Spot	973.15	18.55	1.94%	7.76%
Palladium Spot	796.58	-6.72	-0.84%	16.98%
Crude Oil (WTI)	53.18	+94	1.80%	-1.01%
Crude Oil (Brent)	55.89	+65	1.18%	-1.64%
Baltic Dry Ind	1,296.00	+81.00	6.67%	34.86%

Money Markets				
	Closing	Net Change (5-D)		Net Change (YTD)
		Change (5-D)	Change (6-M)	Change (YTD)
3M Libor	1.158	0.003	0.278	0.161
12M Libor	1.772	(0.026)	0.184	0.086
3M Euribor	(0.331)	(0.001)	(0.020)	(0.012)
12M Euribor	(0.120)	(0.005)	(0.049)	(0.038)
10Y US	2.237	(0.145)	0.440	(0.207)
10Y UK	1.043	(0.032)	(0.054)	(0.196)
10Y Germany	0.187	(0.076)	0.149	(0.021)
10Y Japan	0.010	(0.051)	0.064	(0.036)
10Y India	6.822	0.001	0.090	0.307

Currencies			
	Closing		Closing
GBP/USD	1.252	EUR/USD	1.062
USD/JPY	108.640	AUD/USD	0.758
USD/CHF	1.006	EUR/AED	3.899
USD/INR	64.411	EUR/INR	68.537
USD/CNY	6.885	EUR/CHF	1.067
USD/RUB	56.343	AED/INR	17.558

Source: Bloomberg

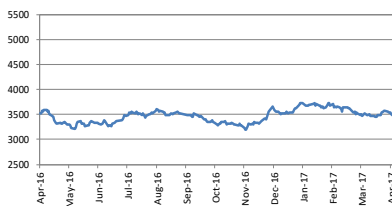
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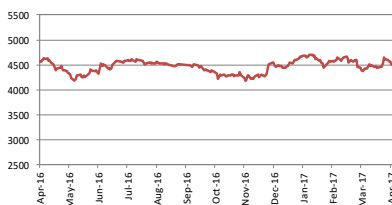
## Key Indices

	Closing	Net Change	% Change	YTD
Dubai - DFM	3,453.22	-101.74	-2.86%	-2.20%
Abu Dhabi - ADX	4,489.20	-102.21	-2.23%	-1.26%
Saudi Arabia - TASI	6,997.86	-60.72	-0.86%	-2.95%
Qatar - QE	10,431.34	-78.54	-0.75%	-0.05%
Bahrain - BHSE	1,344.69	-30.05	-2.19%	10.18%
Oman - MSM 30	5,550.69	-47.57	-0.85%	-4.01%
Kuwait	6,969.18	-46.12	-0.66%	21.24%

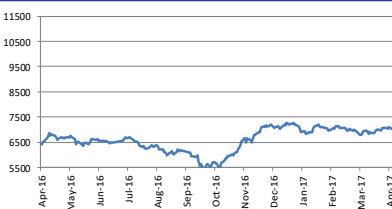
## Dubai - DFM 52-Week Performance



## Abu Dhabi - ADX 52-Week Performance



## Saudi - TASI 52-Week Performance



Source: Bloomberg

## Middle East Market News Update

Profit taking dragged most stock markets in the Middle East lower on Thursday, erasing most of the previous session's gains as some of the optimism generated by generally positive first quarter results faded. Saudi Arabia's index retreated 0.3 percent, after rising 0.9 percent on Wednesday when Saudi British Bank reported an earnings beat and banking shares rose. The optimism failed to keep markets afloat even though another lender, Banque Saudi Fransi, reported first-quarter results that exceeded estimates after Wednesday's market close. Fransi's shares fell 2.6 percent and most of its peers also declined. National Commercial Bank, which is expected to report earnings early next week, fell 2.1 percent and SABB lost 0.7 percent. Telecommunications operator Zain Saudi, which had soared its 10 percent daily limit on Wednesday after reporting its first-ever net profit and surpassing analysts' forecasts, fell 0.5 percent with selling momentum building in the final hour of trade. Elsewhere, in Dubai the index dropped 0.9 percent with 30 shares declining and only one advancing. Shares of second- and third-tier companies, often traded by local day traders, were some of the top losers. Troubled builder Arabtec lost 2.4 percent and peer Drake & Scull fell 2.6 percent.

## En Bref..... Biggest Market News

Apple Inc is considering teaming up with its supplier Foxconn to bid for Toshiba Corp's semiconductor business. The U.S. technology giant is considering investing at least several billion dollars to take a stake of more than 20 percent as part of a plan that would have Toshiba keep a partial holding so the business remains under U.S. and Japanese control. An investment by Apple would be its first direct stake in a major global memory chipmaker, as it seeks to secure a stable supply of key components. Samsung Electronics is the biggest maker of flash memory chips, followed by Toshiba, SK Hynix and U.S.-based Micron Technology Inc. The auction of Toshiba's prized chips asset is essential to the company's plans to cover multi-billion dollar writedowns at its U.S. nuclear unit Westinghouse. Those costs have plunged the Japanese conglomerate into crisis, prompting it even to warn that it may not be able to continue as a going concern.

## Events in the week ahead

17 April – China Gross Domestic Product (Year on Year).

21 April – Canadian Consumer Price Index (Year on Year).

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters, CNBC, Wall Street Journal and Zawya.

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