

Business

# Stocks eye second best start to a year

LONDON: World stocks pulled out of a two-day dive and were eyeing their second best start to a year ever yesterday, while the dollar came under renewed pressure ahead of the Federal Reserve's first meeting of the year. A controversy-free State of the Union address from US President Donald Trump had helped Asian bourses steady as bond markets also calmed after another round of selling had left US Treasury yields at 4-year highs.

Europe's pan-regional STOXX 600 and Wall Street futures then followed with modest 0.1 and 0.3 percent gains to bolster the 5.6 percent jump MSCI's 47-country ACWI index has made this month. That puts it neck-and-neck with 2012's fast start, after which only 1994's 6.5 percent leap would be better. "We can interpret the

remarkable January performance as a spill over from 2017 - growth gathering pace, low inflation and low volatility, and that has accelerated the momentum," said ABN Amro's Chief Investment Officer Didier Duret. "For me this is a prelude to the year where the equity market trend is not broken... there will be phases of people coming into the market and then correction phases as volatility spikes."

A market gauge of that volatility - the VIX - perked up to its highest levels since August 2017 and has nearly doubled this month. One of the big boosts for stocks though, especially in emerging markets which have seen the biggest gains, has been the weakness of the dollar. It fell by a quarter of a percent again yesterday against a basket of other top currencies on

course for its biggest monthly drop at 3.5 percent in nearly two years.

The day's most eye-catching move was a 2-1/2 year low against China's yuan of 6.3287. It has been the greenback's heaviest monthly drop against the Chinese currency since 1994 having lost more than 3 percent. Other Asian action saw the yen briefly slip when the Bank of Japan upped its medium-term Japanese government bond buys (JGBs) in a move seen as a warning shot against further rises in its bond yields and currency.

The dollar later pared its gains however and was last trading at 108.82 yen as it also backed off to \$1.2445 to the euro and \$1.4165 to the pound respectively. In the opening weeks of 2018, Europe recorded the highest equity

inflows across all major regions, adding to a strong 2017 which saw the region cornering over one-third of all global equity fund flows.

Fed ahead

All eyes will be on the outcome of the Federal Reserve's first meeting of the year later which will also be Janet Yellen's last in charge. With US growth humming and unemployment at a 17-year low rates markets are currently pricing in a little over 80 percent chance of another Fed hike in March and between two and three for the year as a whole. The Fed is due to release its policy statement at 2 p.m. EST (1900 GMT) but there won't be a news conference or new forecasts this month. "In light of the steady stream of favorable data, it is possible that the FOMC's

(Fed's) statement upgrades language on activity somewhat, which could be viewed as a marginally hawkish shift," analysts at BNP Paribas said in a note. There was the earnings treadmill too. US Health insurer Anthem reported a higher-than-expected quarterly profits ahead of the Wall Street opening bell though there had been some shockers in Europe.

British outsourcing group Capita lost 40 percent of its value after its new boss slashed profit forecasts and set out plans to raise cash to avoid the same fate as recently-collapsed builder Carillion. Poor results also sent telecoms equipment maker Ericsson tumbling over eight percent at one point and there were more woes for fashion retailer H&M as it said it would open far fewer stores in 2018 following a profits hit.—Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report			
Wednesday, January 31, 2018			
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing
Price Index	▲ 23.78	6,687.81	6,664.03
Weighted Index	▼ -2.82	411.98	414.80
KSX 15	▼ -8.10	940.81	949.91

  

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	430	410	150	63	2	430	▲ 30.8
NAFESCO	800	790	10,912	8,678	4	800	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	30.0	28.1	83,800	1,555	5	28.1	▼ -2.9
GPI	34.6	33.2	2,131,550	71,434	77	33.6	▼ -0.9
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			2,196,212	81,729	89	996.73	▲ 9.90
KFPOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	225	▲ 0.0
BPCC	712	703	20,057	14,155	11	712	▲ 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	345	338	205,301	69,511	32	339	▼ -2.0
Basic Materials			225,358	83,667	43	1302.98	▼ -2.78
KCEM	470	450	2,408	1,101	3	470	▲ 0.0
CABLE	430	430	18,000	7,740	2	430	▼ -2.0
SHP	201	198	37,996	7,595	4	201	▲ 1.0
PCEM	1,010	1,010	363	367	1	1,010	▼ -0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
MPC	65	65	38,350	2,298	11	65	▼ -0.0
AGICO	246	246	3,800	935	2	246	▲ 6.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
NICBM	190	170	1,330	248	2	190	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	30.9	37.4	337,277	12,755	25	38.9	▼ -1.1
NCI	90	90	250	23	2	90	▼ -10.0
GYPSEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	53	52	25,300	1,328	3	53	▲ 0.0
AGLTY	866	831	1,072,354	906,504	227	863	▼ -4.0
EDU	319	310	476,832	149,354	18	319	▲ 10.8
CLEANING	59	58	367,700	21,524	15	59	▲ 0.0
KGL	116	105	7,123,216	775,867	332	109	▼ -3.0
KPCP	150	150	15,491	2,324	2	150	▼ -1.0
HUMANSOFT	3,710	3,708	83,804	311,316	34	3,709	▼ -4.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	880	▲ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	▲ 0.0
SHOOTING	25.9	25.6	7,250	187	6	25.6	▼ -0.2
COC	463	448	850	391	3	461	▼ -2.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0
ALAFQD	384	378	84,150	31,681	9	376	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	71	70	100,000	7,004	6	71	▼ -1.0
LOGISTICS	53	52	3,079,398	159,778	110	52	▼ -0.2
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0
GCEM	86	85	62,950	5,355	7	86	▼ -1.5
QIC	76	70	80,110	5,920	5	76	▲ 5.8
FCEM	72	72	480	33	1	72	▼ -0.5
RKWC	88	83	54,210	4,503	9	86	▼ -3.5
SPEC	70	70	500	35	1	70	▼ -0.1
Industrials			13,871,289	2,416,162	840	1868.33	▼ -1.00
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	226	▲ 0.0
DANAH	73	73	122,000	8,921	5	73	▲ 0.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,055	▲ 0.0
Consumer Goods			122,900	8,921	5	820.75	▲ 0.00
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▲ 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▲ 0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	1,550.87	▲ 0.00
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,130	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	246	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	▲ 0.0
CABLETV	19.0	19.0	315	6	2	19.0	▼ -0.5
IFAHF	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
OULAFUEL	115	115	9,455	1,087	10	115	▲ 0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	71	71	10	1	1	71	▼ 0.0
JAZEERA	649	640	737	476	3	649	▲ 0.0
SOOR	115	115	11,014	1,267	12	115	▲ 0.0
FUTUREXID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
Jyad	79	68	5,073,443	368,151	192	77	▲ 2
Mozan	778	778	26,000	20,220	1	778	▲ 0
Consumer Services			6,120,874	291,216	221	881.97	▲ 2.00
ZAIN	475	468	1,032,564	488,077	188	472	▼ -5
ORCIDOO	1,145	1,040	1,087	1,113	3	1,145	▲ 0.0
AAN	30.5	29.6	1,496,308	43,028	39	30.2	▼ 0
VIVA	790	762	59,720	48,584	44	790	▲ 8
Telecommunications			2,589,669	580,802	255	675.96	▲ 0.90
NBK	753	740	3,568,938	2,063,584	199	740	▼ -12
GBK	248	245	534,871	132,069	24	248	▲ 0
CBK	400	400	2,522	1,009	1	400	▲ 0
ABK	303	303	3,250	985	3	303	▲ 0
ALMUTAHED	350	347	55,250	19,275	12	349	▲ 1
KIB	230	225	861,032	149,802	64	225	▼ -2
BURG	317	313	219,782	68,909	11	317	▲ 2
KFIN	596	585	5,758,440	3,383,735	353	585	▼ -11
BOURBYAN	482	459	66,182	30,423	20	460	▼ -1
ALB	212	210	899,079	147,348	32	211	▼ -1
ITHMR	64	57	18,817,432	1,124,255	435	57	▼ -7
WARBABANK	225	224	242,338	54,372	72	224	▼ -1
Banks			30,829,227	7,775,623	1,216	955.10	▼ -17.10
KINS	280	270	10,000	2,797	2	280	▲ 10
GINS	700	615	2,384	1,577	7	700	▲ 0.0
AINS	430	430	1,252	538	1	430	▼ -0.0
WINS	64	60	22,500	1,356	4	63	▼ -4.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	39.0	39.0	9,400	367	2	39.6	▲ 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			45,536	6,635	16	1022.71	▼ -0.80

  

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKDOK	50	50	64500	3,238	4	50	▲ 0.0
KRE	59	58	1,544,379	90,873	40	59	▲ 0.2
URC	74	70	7,794	560	2	74	▼ -1.8
NRE	123	121	224,279	27,288	13	122	▲ 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	399	▲ 0.0
AREEC	174	167	5,001	835	2	174	▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	36.0	35.5	923,848	32,975	29	35.7	▼ -1.0
ERESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.6	▲ 0.0
MABANEE	735	731	35,008	25,812	13	735	▲ 2.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	17.6	17.2	4,494,185	77,473	61	17.3	▼ -0.2
IRC	30.7	30.5	100,000	3,053	13	30.5	▼ -0.8
ALTUJARIA	94	92	1,248,372	115,925	28	92	▼ -2.9
SANAM	30.0	30.0	3,968	119	3	30.0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0
ADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	34.8	▲ 0.0
MZAYA	114	113	5,954,595	675,596	71	113	▼ -2.6
TUARA	55	55	15,025	751	2	55	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	34.6	32.5	348,303	11,544	27	33.7	▼ -0.3
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	▲ 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	▲ 0.0
ABYANR	23.0	22.4	1,198,500	26,373	30	22.5	▼ -0.2
MUNSHAAT	86	84	1,112,760	94,515	26	86	▲ 0.0
FIRSTDUBAI	52	50	946,390	48,035	37	51	▼ -0.6
KBT	51	49.0	6,607,473	329,186	224	51	▲ 2.4
REAM	837	837	7	6	1	837	▲ 123.0
MENA	17.9	16.0	325,800	5,693	32	17.8	▼ -0.1
ALMADON	40.0	38.8	100,010	4,000	4	38.8	▼ -2.2
MARAKEZ	33.9	30.0	17,321	578	10	33.5	▲ 3.3
REMAL	46.8	46.0	574,850	26,818	22	46.7	▲ 0.8
Mashar							