

# Saudi market snaps losing streak

● NCB, Riyad Bank gain after JP Morgan raised TP

● Elsewedy gains on acquisition of energy assets

● Financial stocks weigh on Abu Dhabi

● 16 of 20 stocks on Qatar's index slide

● Dubai's Salama rises after electing chairman

Reuters

The Saudi market rose moderately yesterday, recovering some losses from previous sessions with most of its stocks gaining. Other indexes in the Gulf were mixed with Abu Dhabi and Qatar extending losses following last week's oil tanker attacks.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Saturday urged the international community to take a "decisive stand" but said Riyadh does not want



Kuwaiti traders follow the stock market at the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in Kuwait City on October 14

## Closing Bell

SAUDI	▲ 1pc to 8,976 pts
ABU DHABI	▼ 1.1pc to 4,901 pts
DUBAI	▲ at 2,614 pts
QATAR	▼ 0.9pc to 10,390 pts
EGYPT	▲ 0.2pc to 14,241 pts
BAHRAIN	▲ at 1,450 pts
OMAN	▲ 0.1pc at 3,919 pts
KUWAIT	▲ 0.1pc to 6,356 pts

a war.

The Saudi index rose 1 per cent with Saudi Arabian Mining Co gaining 3.9pc and Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development Company jumping 6.2pc.

National Commercial Bank (NCB) and Riyad Bank added 1pc and 1.3pc respectively after JP Morgan raised their target prices.

In Egypt, the index increased

0.2 per cent with Commercial International Bank closing 1.1pc higher and Elsewedy Electric was up 2.4pc.

The latter on Sunday acquired a portfolio of renewable energy assets in Greece for a total consideration of 55 million euros.

The Abu Dhabi index extended its losses for the third straight session mainly pressured by its

financial stocks. A 0.8pc slide in First Abu Dhabi Bank, and a 2.7pc drop in Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank pushed the index down by 1.1pc.

Emirates Telecommunications (Etisalat) was down 1.2pc.

A prospectus published on Saturday by the bourse regulator AMMC showed that the Moroccan government is selling 8pc stake in Maroc Telecom, in which Etisalat owns 53pc, to local investors.

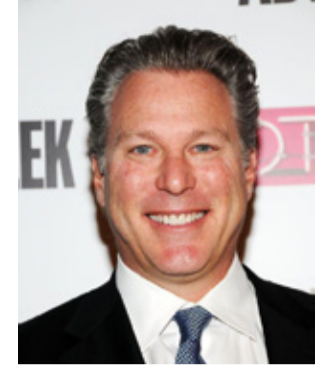
Analysts see the stake sale to local institutional investors as a way to prevent Etisalat further increasing its stake.

Qatar's index declined 0.9 per cent with market heavyweight Industries Qatar dropping 2.1pc and Commercial Bank losing 3.1pc.

In Dubai, the index traded flat with telecom operator Emirates Integrated Telecommunications gaining 1pc. The company said on Sunday the United Arab Emirates' sovereign wealth fund, Emirates Investment Authority, had increased its stake by buying 463.3 million shares from Mamoura Diversified Global Holding and General Investments.

Islamic Arab Insurance (Salama) surged 3.9pc. On Monday, the board elected Jassim Alseddiqi as chairman.

Sports Illustrated to be headed by former Yahoo CEO



Ross Levinsohn

New York, United States

Sports Illustrated's media operations were sold for the second time in less than a month in a deal announced yesterday that puts former Yahoo top executive Ross Levinsohn at the helm of the iconic sports magazine.

The Maven, a small publicly traded firm focused on digital publishing, said it acquired rights to operate Sports Illustrated from Authentic Brands, which last month paid \$110 million to buy the magazine from Meredith Corp.

In the announcement, Maven said Levinsohn, who served as interim CEO at Yahoo in 2012 and later headed the interactive arm of Tribune Publishing, would become the CEO of the licensed business.

# Stock markets cautiously rise at start of hectic week

● The indices in London and Paris closed modestly ahead after Hong Kong

● US will unveil its monetary policy announcement on Wednesday

● Many observers are tipping a US rate reduction next month

● In Hong Kong, investors returned to buying after three days of losses

London, United Kingdom

The world's stock markets mostly ticked upwards yesterday as investors moved cautiously at the start of a busy week packed with key interest rate decisions, in particular from the US Federal Reserve.

The indices in London and Paris closed modestly ahead after Hong Kong stocks rallied, with investors there cheering a decision by the city to suspend plans to push through a controversial extradition law.

Wall Street also slightly rose as traders took a breather ahead of the G20 summit next week, where US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are due to hold hotly-awaited talks on their long-running trade war.

"There isn't a tonne of conviction in the early going, partly because the market appears to be caught up in a swirl of headlines carrying loose ends," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare. One of those swirling head-



Pakistani stockbrokers monitor share prices on a computer monitor during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi

lines is the ongoing tension between the US and Iran -- on Monday Tehran announced its uranium stockpile will soon pass the limit set under a nuclear deal that Washington abandoned last year.

The news exacerbated an already strained relationship after the US blamed Iran for two tanker attacks in the Gulf of Oman last week, claims that Tehran calls "baseless".

"Tensions in relation to trade and the Iranian situation still persist, and they are hanging over stock markets," said analyst David Madden at trading firm CMC Markets UK.

## Fed U-turn?

Naeem Aslam at London-based trading firm ThinkMarkets said this week "the focus is going to remain on central banks and their monetary policies".

## Key figures around 1540 GMT

London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.2pc at 7,357.31 points (close)
Frankfurt - DAX 30:	▼ 0.1pc at 12,085.82 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▲ 0.4pc at 5,390.95 (close)
EURO STOXX 50:	▲ 0.1pc at 3,382.21
New York - Dow:	▲ 0.2pc at 26,150.10
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 0.03pc at 21,124.00 (close)
Hong Kong - Hang Seng:	▲ 0.45pc at 27,240.35 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▲ 0.20pc at 2,887.62 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1231 from \$1.1208 at 2100 GMT
Pound/dollar:	▼ at \$1.2563 from \$1.2589
Dollar/yen:	▲ at 108.61 yen from 108.56 yen
Oil - Brent North Sea:	▼ 26 cents at \$61.75 per barrel
Oil - West Texas Inter:	▼ 21 cents at \$52.30

"Traders are betting that the Federal Reserve will take a U-turn this year for its monetary policy and it is only a matter of time before we see a rate cut by the Fed," she added.

The US central bank will

unveil its monetary policy announcement on Wednesday, followed by both the Bank of Japan and the Bank of England on Thursday.

Many observers are tipping a US rate reduction next month

as the world's biggest economy shows signs of stuttering.

"Anything less than a clear signal that the Fed is open to cutting rates soon in response to building downside risks to the US economic outlook could leave financial markets disappointed," noted MUFG currency analyst Lee Hardman.

"The US rate market is well priced for at least a (quarter-point) rate cut to be delivered by July."

## 'Cooler heads' in Hong Kong

In Hong Kong, investors returned to buying after three days of losses that saw the Hang Seng drop more than two pc after protests against the law -- which would have allowed extradition to China -- turned violent on Wednesday.

Another, peaceful, demonstration Sunday saw around two million people take to the streets, according to organisers.

The plan had also spooked business leaders who feared it would damage the city's reputation as an international business hub.

Traders "will breathe a loud sigh of relief today, as on Wednesday when tear gas and rubber bullets were filling the air, the markets were getting extremely jittery that this ticking time bomb was about to explode", said Stephen Innes, managing partner at Vanguard Markets.

"Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed."

In individual stocks, shares in Sotheby's auction house soared by more than 57pc after the company announced it would be acquired by French telecoms and media mogul Patrick Drahi.

Facebook shares rose 3.3pc as the world's biggest social network prepares to outline details on Tuesday of a virtual currency launching next year.

'Just a collision': Duterte downplays sinking



Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte

Manila, Philippines

The sinking of a Filipino fishing boat by a Chinese vessel in the disputed South China Sea was "just a collision", the Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte said as he moved to soothe anger over the crash.

The typically brash Duterte urged calm in his first public comments about the June 9 incident, which has fed into outrage over China's expansive claims to the resource-rich waterway.

Critics have voiced anger over the Chinese trawler's failure to rescue the 22 Filipino fishermen after what some Philippine officials have called a "hit-and-run" incident.

"Do not believe those stupid politicians. They want to send the Navy," Duterte said.

"That is just a collision of boats. Do not make it worse," Duterte added as he addressed the Philippine Navy, reiterating the country was not ready to go to war against China.

Duterte has largely set aside the Philippines' row with Beijing over the key waterway to court trade and investments, but he has occasionally criticised China's actions there.