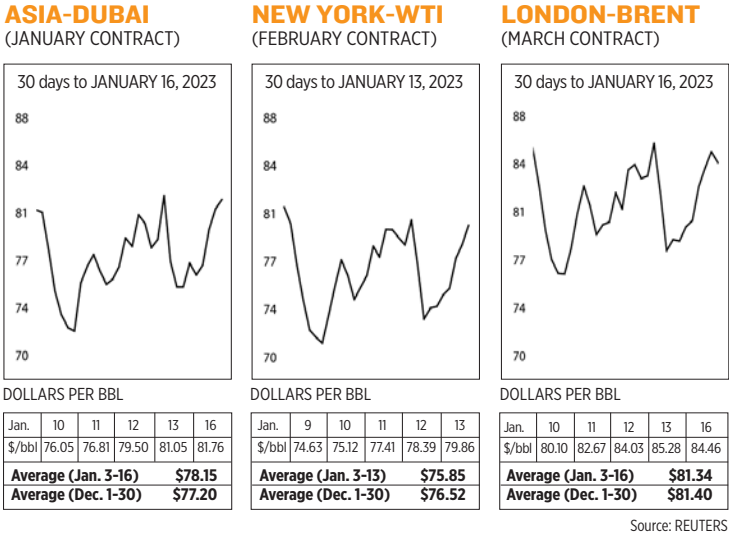


Oil prices slide amid Chinese fuel recovery hopes



OIL PRICES slipped on Monday but were holding near their highest levels this month as easing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) restrictions in China raised hopes of a demand recovery in the world's top crude importer. Brent crude fell \$1.08 or 1.3% to \$84.20 a barrel by 2041 GMT.

China's crude imports rose 4% year-on-year in December, and an expected resurgence in travel for the Lunar New Year holiday at the end of the week raised the outlook for demand for transportation fuels. "The narrative that Chinese growth is going to add to demand is playing a very large part here."

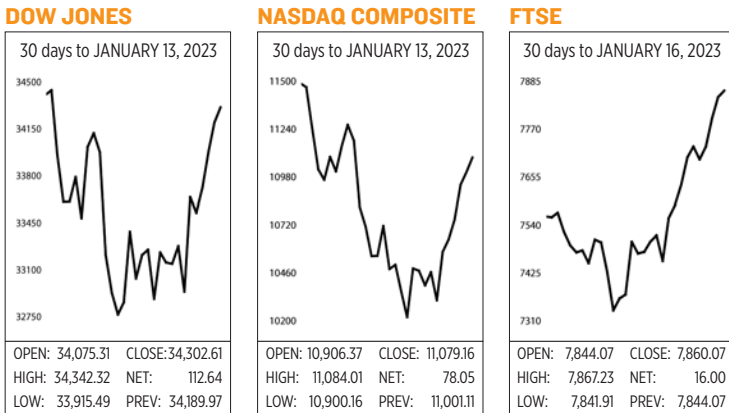
Traffic levels in China are rebounding from record lows after the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, resulting in stronger demand for crude and oil products, ANZ analysts said in a note. But reports over the week-end highlighting an increase in COVID-19 deaths tempered sentiment.

Investors will also keep an eye on the World Economic Forum in Davos, which opened on Monday, and a Bank of Japan meeting this week to determine if it will defend its super-sized stimulus policy. — Reuters

Gold edges lower as dollar rises

GOLD PRICES edged lower from a more than eight-month high on Monday, but held above the key \$1,900 per ounce level on expectations that the US Federal Reserve will be less aggressive on raising interest rates. Spot gold fell 0.3% to \$1,914.16 per ounce by 1:47 p.m. ET (1847 GMT).

After sharp rate hikes in 2022, markets are now pricing in a 91% chance of a smaller 25-basis-point increase when the Fed announces its policy decision in February, after data last week showed US consumer prices unexpectedly fell in December. Gold, which pays no interest, tends to benefit when interest rates are low as it reduces the opportunity cost of holding bullion.



S&P 500 ends at month peak; indexes gain for week on firms' results

NEW YORK — The S&P 500 and Nasdaq finished at their highest levels in a month on Friday, with shares of JPMorgan Chase and other banks rising following their quarterly results, which kicked off the earnings season. All three major indexes also registered strong gains for the week, leaving the S&P 500 up 4.2% so far in 2023.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 112.64 points or 0.33% to 34,302.61; the S&P 500 gained 15.92 points or 0.4% to 3,999.09; and the Nasdaq Composite added 78.05 points or 0.71% to 11,079.16. The S&P 500 closed at its highest level since Dec. 13, while the Nasdaq closed at its highest level since Dec. 14.

Official document from the Commission on Elections, Republic of the Philippines, titled 'RESOLUTION NO. 10880'. It details the process for a plebiscite in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, regarding the division of the city into four separate and independent barangays. The resolution includes sections on the date and calendar of activities, prohibited acts, and the list of candidates for the plebiscite. It is signed by Chairperson George Erwin M. Garcia and other commissioners.