بنك الإمارات دبي الوطني
Emirates NBD

CIO Office Morning Notes

30 March 2026

Markets ended the week with a real sense of whiplash, what started off looking like a potential stabilization quickly turned into a much more volatile and uneasy setup as developments in the Middle East kept shifting between negotiation headlines and renewed escalation. Early in the week there was a genuine bid across risk assets after Trump delayed strikes and talked up progress in talks with Iran, oil pulled back, equities bounced and yields eased as markets leaned into the idea that things might cool off. That optimism didn't hold, and as the week progressed it became clearer that there was very little alignment between both sides, deadlines kept getting extended without anything concrete, and by the end of the week the tone had flipped back toward escalation risk. That constant back and forth drove the "see-saw" price action, but more importantly left markets leaning defensive into the close.

Global equities ended lower overall, with the MSCI ACWI down 1.5%, as the early-week rebound faded and selling picked up into the latter part of the week. By Friday, the shift in positioning was clear across asset classes, gold jumped 2.7% to $4,494 an ounce, Brent crude rose 4.2% to $112.6 per barrel, US 10-year yields pushed up to 4.43% and the dollar edged higher, all pointing to a market that is no longer comfortable with the near-term outlook. The way energy is being priced is really what is tying all of this together, because oil holding above $100 is no longer being treated as a temporary spike that fades on headlines, it is being absorbed as a level that reflects ongoing disruption to supply and shipping. Constraints around the Strait of Hormuz have not meaningfully improved, LNG flows are being disrupted, Qatar supply is under pressure and alternative sources are being stretched at the same time, which means even when prices pull back slightly the underlying balance remains tight. That tightening is already feeding into real costs across freight, insurance and industrial inputs, and once it starts moving through supply chains it becomes much harder to reverse quickly. As that pressure builds, it naturally feeds into rates and policy expectations, with the move higher in yields being driven much more by inflation concerns than any improvement in growth. The US 10-year at 4.43% reflects that shift, and central banks are starting to acknowledge it more openly, with Federal Reserve officials pointing out that sustained energy prices could push inflation higher again and make it harder to justify easing. That leaves markets adjusting to a scenario where policy stays restrictive for longer, even as growth shows signs of softening, which is not something equities tend to handle smoothly.

You can see that adjustment happening quite clearly in equity markets themselves, where the weakness is no longer isolated. The Nasdaq 100 has now moved into correction territory, the S&P 500 has extended its losing streak and is edging closer to similar levels, and volatility has picked up meaningfully with the VIX moving above 30, its highest level in months. The move is also becoming more broad-based, with consumer discretionary and other growth-sensitive sectors under pressure as higher fuel costs begin to weigh on spending expectations. There are also early signs that this is starting to show up in the real economy, particularly in the US where consumer sentiment dropped to a three-month low and inflation expectations moved higher, largely driven by rising gasoline prices. Nearly half of consumers are now pointing to prices as a key pressure on their finances, which is the kind of shift that tends to feed through into weaker discretionary demand if it persists.

Technology added another layer to the story because one of the market's strongest themes became less straightforward during the week. A breakthrough from Google on AI efficiency triggered a sharp selloff in flash and storage-related memory names that had rallied aggressively, as the market started to recognize that efficiency gains can reduce demand in certain parts of the supply chain even while overall AI investment remains strong. Core areas like high-bandwidth memory are still supported, but the idea that all AI-linked stocks move in the same direction is starting to break down. At the same time, capital continues to flow into the space, with Anthropic now considering an IPO as soon as October after being valued around $380 billion, which highlights how strong the underlying investment cycle still is even as the market becomes more selective.

Across regions, the picture is becoming more uneven. In Europe, MSCI Europe finished the week up 0.6%, though that headline number masks what is happening underneath, with the Stoxx 600 tracking its worst month since the pandemic as growth expectations are revised lower and energy-sensitive sectors start to feel the squeeze. Japan held up better in equity terms with TOPIX up 1.1%, though rising yields and currency moves are beginning to complicate the policy backdrop. China moved in the opposite direction with MSCI China down 1.2%, showing some resilience through stronger industrial profits but also facing renewed pressure as trade tensions re-emerge, with Beijing launching new probes into US practices ahead of a potential summit. In Dubai, the week followed a similar pattern to global markets, with a technical rebound early on as sentiment improved briefly, before performance faded alongside the broader shift in tone, leaving the DFM down 0.7% by the end of the week.

Markets this morning

Today morning, markets are picking up right where last week left off, with the tone still clearly defensive as the situation in the Middle East continues to broaden rather than stabilize. Asian equities moved lower across the board, with regional indices falling to their lowest levels this year, dragged down by technology weakness and concerns that higher oil prices will start to weigh more heavily on growth. Brent crude pushed further higher, trading above $115 per barrel and bringing year-to-date gains close to 90%, while metals such as aluminum also jumped after attacks on production facilities added another layer of supply risk. The entry of additional forces into the conflict and the expansion of US military presence are adding to fears that this could evolve into a longer and more complex confrontation, which is starting to shift market behavior away from short-term positioning toward something closer to capital preservation.

Upcoming key events/data

Looking ahead, the focus shifts back to data, though it will all be interpreted through this more fragile backdrop. Monday brings eurozone economic and consumer confidence alongside Germany CPI, with Powell and Williams speaking and the Bank of Japan releasing its summary of opinions. Tuesday picks up with eurozone inflation, China PMIs and Japan Tokyo CPI, alongside US consumer confidence, Chicago PMI and JOLTS job openings. Wednesday brings US ISM manufacturing, ADP employment and retail sales, together with China and eurozone manufacturing data and Japan's Tankan survey. Thursday moves to US jobless claims and trade data, Japan monetary base and South Korea inflation, while the ECB publishes its economic bulletin. Friday rounds things off with the US jobs report, where payroll growth around 55,000 is expected, alongside unemployment and services activity, as well as China services PMIs and French industrial production, which should give a clearer read on how growth is holding up as energy pressures build.

Chief Investment Office
Wealth Management, Emirates NBD

Disclaimer

This document is prepared by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C) **("the Bank" or "Emirates NBD"),** a public joint stock company incorporated in Dubai, UAE and licensed, regulated supervised and controlled by the Central Bank of the UAE **("Central Bank")** and the Securities and Commodities Authority of the UAE **("SCA"),** having its head office at Baniyas Road, Deira, PO Box 777, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. This document may be distributed and/or made available by the Bank and its affiliates and subsidiaries, including Emirates NBD Capital KSA CJSC **("ENBD Capital")** (through its website, its branches or through any other modes, whether electronically or otherwise).

Emirates NBD and its affiliates, subsidiaries and group entities, including its shareholders, directors, officers, employees and agents are collectively referred to Emirates NBD Group.

This publication is prepared without regard to the individual financial circumstances and objectives of persons who receive it. Data/information provided in this publication are intended solely for illustrative purposes for the general information or its recipients, irrespective of their customer classification as an Ordinary Investor or Professional Investor under the SCA Regulations.

Any person (hereinafter referred to as **"you", "your")** who has received this document or have access to this document shall acknowledge and agree to the following terms.

Reliance
This publication may include data/information taken from stock exchanges or other third-party sources from around the world, which Emirates NBD reasonably believes to be reliable, fair and not misleading, but which have not been independently verified. The provision of certain data/information in this publication may be subject to the terms and conditions of other agreements to which Emirates NBD is a party. Opinions, estimates and expressions of judgment are those of the writer and are subject to change without notice. Emirates NBD or any member of Emirates NBD Group makes no representation or warranty and accepts no responsibility or liability for the sequence, accuracy, completeness or timeliness of the information or opinions contained in this publication. Nothing contained in this publication shall be construed as an assurance by Emirates NBD that you may rely upon or act on any information or data provided herein, without further independent verification of the same by you.

The contents of this document are prepared as of a particular date and time and will not reflect subsequent changes in the market or changes in any other factors, including those relevant to the determination of whether a particular investment activity is advisable. Emirates NBD does not undertake any obligation to issue any further publications or update the contents of this document. Emirates NBD may also, at its sole discretion, update or change the contents herein without notice. Emirates NBD or any member of Emirates NBD Group does not accept any responsibility whatsoever for any loss or damage caused by any act or omission by you as a result of the information contained in this publication (including by negligence).

References to any financial instrument or investment product in this document are not intended to imply that an actual trading market exists for such instrument or product. Certain investment products mentioned in this document may not be eligible for sale in some jurisdictions, and they may not be suitable for all types of investors. The information and opinions contained in this publication is provided for informational purposes only and have not been prepared with any regard to the objectives, financial situation and particular needs of any specific person, wherever situated. If you wish to rely on or use the information contained in this publication, you should carefully consider whether any investment views and investment products mentioned herein are appropriate in view of your investment experience, objectives, financial resources and relevant circumstances. You should also independently verify and check the accuracy, completeness, reliability and suitability of the information and should obtain independent and specific advice from appropriate professional advisers or experts.

Confidentiality
This publication may be provided to you upon request (and not for distribution to the general public), on a confidential basis for informational purposes only, and is not intended for trading purposes or to be passed on or disclosed to any other person and/or to any jurisdiction that would render the distribution illegal.

Solicitation
None of the content in this publication constitutes a solicitation, offer, recommendation or opinion by Emirates NBD to buy, sell or trade in any security or to avail of any service in any jurisdiction. This document is not intended to serve as authoritative legal, tax, accounting, or investment advice regarding any security or investment, including the profitability or suitability thereof and further does not provide any fiduciary or financial advice. This document should also not be used in substitution for the exercise of the prospective investor's judgment.

Third Party
This publication is not intended for use by, or distribution to, any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such use or distribution would be contrary to law or regulation. It is the responsibility of any person in possession of this publication to investigate and observe all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant jurisdiction. This publication may not be conveyed to or used by a third party without the express consent of Emirates NBD or its affiliates, subsidiaries or group entities distributing this document. You should not use the data in this publication in any way to improve the quality of any data sold or contributed by you to any third party.

Liability
Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, Emirates NBD, its suppliers, agents, directors, officers, employees, representatives, successors, assigns, affiliates or subsidiaries shall not, directly or indirectly, be liable, in any way, to you or any other person for any: (a) inaccuracies or errors in or omissions from this publication including, but not limited to, quotes and financial data; or (b) loss or damage arising from the use of this publication, including, but not limited to any investment decision occasioned thereby. Under no circumstances, including but not limited to negligence, shall Emirates NBD, its suppliers, agents, directors, officers, employees, representatives, successors, assigns, affiliates or subsidiaries be liable to you for direct, indirect, incidental, consequential, special, punitive, or exemplary damages even if Emirates NBD has been advised specifically of the possibility of such damages, arising from the use of this publication, including but not limited to, loss of revenue, opportunity, or anticipated profits or lost business.

This publication does not provide individually tailored investment advice and is prepared without regard to the individual financial circumstances and objectives of person who receive it. The appropriateness of an investment activity or strategy will depend on the person's individual circumstances and objectives and these activities may not be suitable for all persons. In addition, before entering into any transaction, prospective investors should: (i) ensure that they fully understand the potential risks and rewards of that transaction; (ii) determine independently whether that transaction is appropriate given an investor's investment objectives, experience, financial and operational resources, and other relevant circumstances; (iii) understand that any rates of tax and zakat or any relief in relation thereto, as may be referred to in this publication may be subject to change over time; (iv) consult their advisers on the legal, regulatory, tax, business, investment, financial and accounting implications of the investment; (v) understand the nature of the investment and the related contract (and contractual relationship) including, without limitation, the nature and extent of their exposure to risk; and (vi) understand any regulatory requirements and restrictions applicable to the prospective investor.

Where this publication provides any information about Shariah compliant products, the Bank will not have engaged a Shariah board (or similar body) to determine independently whether or not such products are compliant with Shariah principles. The Bank accepts no liability with respect to the fairness, correctness, accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of any such determination or guidance by any Shariah board that has certified or otherwise approved such products as Shariah compliant. Nothing contained in this publication shall be construed as a recommendation by the Bank to invest in such product. In deciding whether to invest in Shariah compliant products, you should satisfy yourself that investing in such products will not contravene Shariah principles. You should consult your own Shariah advisors as to whether investing in such products is compliant or not with Shariah principles.

Forward Looking
Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance and should not be seen as an indication of future performance of any investment activity. The information contained in this publication does not purport to contain all matters relevant to any particular investment or financial instrument and all statements as to future matters are not guaranteed to be accurate. Certain matters in this publication about the future performance of Emirates NBD or members of its group (the Group), including without limitation, future revenues, earnings, strategies, prospects and all other statements that are not purely historical, constitute "forward-looking

statements". Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations or beliefs, as well as assumptions about future events, made from information currently available. Forward-looking statements often use words such as "anticipate", "target", "expect", "estimate", "intend", "plan", "goal", "seek", "believe", "will", "may", "should", "would", "could" or other words of similar meaning. Reliance should not be placed on any such statements in making an investment decision, as forward-looking statements, by their nature, are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, as well as the Group's plans and objectives, to differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Estimates of future performance are based on assumptions that may not be realized.

Risk
Data included in this publication may rely on models that do not reflect or take into account all potentially significant factors such as market risk, liquidity risk, and credit risk. Emirates NBD may use different models, make valuation adjustments, or use different methodologies when determining prices at which Emirates NBD is willing to trade financial instruments and/or when valuing its own inventory positions for its books and records. The use of this publication is at the sole risk of the investor and this publication, and anything contained herein, is provided "as is" and "as available." Emirates NBD makes no warranty of any kind, express or implied, as to this publication, including, but not limited to, merchantability, non-infringement, title, or fitness for a particular purpose or use.

Investment in financial instruments involves risks and returns may vary. The value of investment products mentioned in this document may neither be capital protected nor guaranteed and the value of the investment product and the income derived therefrom can fall as well as rise and an investor may lose the principal amount invested. Investment products are subject to several risks factors, including without limitation, market risk, high volatility, credit and default risk, illiquidity, currency risk and interest rate risk. It should be noted that the value, price or income of securities denominated in a foreign currency may be adversely affected by changes in the currency rates. It may be difficult for the investor to sell or realize the security and to obtain reliable information about its value or the extent of the risks to which it is exposed. Furthermore, the investor will not have the right to cancel a subscription for securities once such subscription has been made. Prospective investors are hereby informed that the applicable regulations in certain jurisdictions may place certain restrictions on secondary market activities with respect to securities.

Before making an investment, investors should consult their advisers on the legal, regulatory, tax, business, investment, financial and accounting implications of the investment. In receiving this publication, the investor acknowledges it is fully aware that there are risks associated with investment activities. Moreover, the responsibility to obtain and carefully read and understand the content of documents relating to any investment activity described in this publication and to seek separate, independent financial advice if required to assess whether a particular investment activity described herein is suitable, lies exclusively with the investor.

Intellectual property
This publication has been developed, compiled, prepared, revised, selected, and arranged by Emirates NBD and others (including certain other information sources) through the application of methods and standards of judgment developed and applied through the expenditure of substantial time, effort, and money and constitutes valuable intellectual property of Emirates NBD and such others. All present and future rights in and to trade secrets, patents, copyrights, trademarks, service marks, know-how, and other proprietary rights of any type under the laws of any governmental authority, domestic or foreign, shall, as between the investor and Emirates NBD, at all times be and remain the sole and exclusive property of Emirates NBD and/or other lawful parties.

Except as specifically permitted in writing, you should not copy or make any use of the content of this publication or any portion thereof or publish, circulate, reproduce, distribute or offer this publication for sale in whole or in part to any other person over any medium including but not limited to over-the-air television or radio broadcast, a computer network or hyperlink framing on the internet or construct a database of any kind. Except as specifically permitted in writing, you shall not use the intellectual property rights connected with this publication, or the names of any individual participant in, or contributor to, the content of this publication, or any variations or derivatives thereof, for any purpose. This publication is intended solely for non-commercial use and benefit, and not for resale or other transfer or disposition to, or use by or for the benefit of, any other person or entity. By accepting this publication, you agree not to use, transfer, distribute, copy, reproduce, publish, display, modify, create, or dispose of any information contained in this publication in any manner that could compete with the business interests of Emirates NBD. Furthermore, you should not use any of the trademarks, trade names, service marks, copyrights, or logos of Emirates NBD or its subsidiaries in any manner which creates the impression that such items belong to or are associated with you, except as otherwise provided with Emirates NBD's prior written consent. You shall have no ownership rights in and to any of such items.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT UNITED KINGDOM
This publication was prepared by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C) in the United Arab Emirates. It has been issued and approved for distribution to clients by the London branch of Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C) which is authorized by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority in the UK. Some investments and services are not available to clients of the London Branch. Any services provided by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C) outside the UK will not be regulated by the FCA and you will not receive all the protections afforded to retail customers under the FCA regime, such as the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Changes in foreign exchange rates may affect any of the returns or income set out within this publication.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SINGAPORE
This publication was prepared by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C) in the United Arab Emirates. It has been issued and approved for distribution to clients by the Singapore branch of Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C) which is licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and subject to applicable laws (including the Financial Advisers Act (FAA) and the Securities and Futures Act (SFA). Any services provided by Emirates NBD Bank (P.J.S.C) outside Singapore will not be regulated by the MAS or subject to the provisions of the FAA and/or SFA, and you will not receive all the protections afforded to retail customers under the FAA and/or SFA. Changes in foreign exchange rates may affect any of the returns or income set out within this publication. Please contact your Relationship Manager for further details or for clarification of the contents, where appropriate. For contact information, please visit www.emiratesnbd.com.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EMIRATES NBD CAPITAL KSA CJSC
Emirates NBD Capital KSA CJSC ("ENBD Capital"), whose registered office is at P.O. Box 341777, Riyadh 11333, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is a Saudi closed joint stock company licensed by the Saudi Arabian Capital Market Authority ("CMA") under License number 37-07086 dated 29/08/2007G (corresponding to 16/08/1428H) to deliver a full range of quality investment products and related support services to individuals and institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. ENBD Capital is subject to Capital Market Law, and Implementing Regulations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
ENBD Capital's contact details are T +966 (11) 299 3900 and F +966 (11) 299 3955.
This document may not be distributed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia except to such persons as are permitted under the Investment Funds Regulations issued by the Capital Market Authority.
The Capital Market Authority does not make any representation as to the accuracy or completeness of this document, and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss arising from, or incurred in reliance upon, any part of this document. Prospective subscribers of the securities offered hereby should conduct their own due diligence on the accuracy of the information relating to the securities offered. If you do not understand the contents of this document, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

If you wish to stop receiving marketing communications

- via electronic channels (Email & SMS), send us an SMS with **NOOFFERS** to **4456**.
- via calls, send us an SMS with **NOCALLS** to **4456**.

Please ensure to send the SMS from your registered mobile number.
If you choose to opt out now and later decide to opt in to receive marketing communications, please visit **Communication Preferences | Contact Form | Emirates NBD**.