Day's Highlights

- **Gold prices slip as dollar firms ahead of Fed decision**
- **Oil pulls back from 4-month highs amid economic growth concerns**
- **Most base metals ease ahead of Fed meeting result**

Gold prices snapped three consecutive sessions of gains on Wednesday as the dollar firmed, while investors awaited the results of the U.S. Federal Reserve's policy meeting later in the day. Spot gold was down about 0.2 percent at $1,304.27 per ounce at the time of writing. U.S. gold futures also dipped about 0.2 percent to $1,304.50 an ounce. The dollar was up 0.1 percent against key rivals, after slipping to its lowest since March 1 in the previous session. Traders currently expect there will be no U.S. rate hikes this year, and are even building in bets for a rate cut in 2020. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will speak at a news conference on Wednesday. Prime Minister Theresa May will ask the European Union to delay Brexit by at least three months after her plan to hold a third vote on her fraught divorce deal was thrown into disarray by a surprise intervention from the speaker of parliament. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin plan to travel to China next week for another round of trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, a Trump administration official said on Tuesday. New orders for U.S.-made goods rose less than expected in January and shipments fell for a fourth straight month, offering more evidence of a slowdown in manufacturing activity. SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, said its holdings fell about 0.2 percent on Tuesday.

Oil prices dipped on Wednesday, retreating from a four-month high as economic growth concerns dampened the outlook for fuel consumption. However, analysts said oil was still well supported by voluntary supply cuts led by producer club OPEC and U.S. sanctions against Iran and Venezuela. International Brent crude oil futures were at $67.50 a barrel at the time of writing, down 11 cents, or 0.2 percent, from their last close. Brent touched $68.20 a barrel on Tuesday; its highest since Nov. 16. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at $58.83 per barrel, down 20 cents, or 0.3 percent, from their last settlement. WTI hit a high of $59.57 a barrel on Tuesday, the highest since Nov. 12. Analysts said the dip was mostly down to concerns that an economic slowdown could soon dent fuel consumption. The dips come after crude prices rose by more than a quarter this year, pushed up by a pledge led by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to withhold around 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of supply as well as by U.S. sanctions against oil exporters Iran and Venezuela. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is due to publish its weekly crude production and storage level report around 1700 GMT on Wednesday.

Most industrial metals on the London Metal Exchange fell on Wednesday, shrugging off some gains in the previous sessions as investors turned cautious ahead of the result of the U.S. Federal Reserve rate meeting later in the day. Three-month copper on the London Metal Exchange fell 0.2 percent to $6,446.5 a tonne at the time of writing, while the most-traded copper contract on the Shanghai Futures Exchange eased 0.1 percent to 49,220 yuan ($7,334.66) a tonne. London aluminium retreated 0.5 percent from a three-month high reached in the previous session following a cyber-attack on aluminium maker Norsk Hydro, while zinc lost 0.3 percent and lead eased 0.2 percent. The U.S. Federal Reserve will announce the result of its policy meeting later on Wednesday. It is widely expected to hold its benchmark rate unchanged, but investors will look for any clues on future rate moves. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin plan to travel to China next week for trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, marking an acceleration of negotiations, a U.S. official said on Tuesday. Miner KGHM will extend negotiations with a union at its Chilean copper mine Sierra Gorda, averting a strike, a union representative said.

Metals & Energy Technicals

Symbols	Exchange	Expiry	Close	Expected Movement	S1	S2	R1	R2	Strategy
Gold	MCX	Apr'19	31960	Uptrend	31850 $1302	31780 $1298	32000 $1312	32100 $1317	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Silver	MCX	May'19	38255	Uptrend	38000 $15.25	37800 $15.15	38400 $15.50	38600 $15.60	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Copper	MCX	Apr'19	447.80	Uptrend	445.50	442.80	450.20	453.00	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Zinc	MCX	Mar'19	197.05	Uptrend	196.80	195.50	198.50	200.00	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Aluminum	MCX	Mar'19	148.10	Uptrend	147.00	145.90	149.00	149.90	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Nickel	MCX	Mar'19	904	Uptrend	897.00	885.00	915.00	925.00	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Lead	MCX	Mar'19	139.55	Uptrend	139.30	138.00	140.50	142.00	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Crude oil	MCX	Apr'19	4102	Uptrend	4070 $58.70	4020 $58.20	4150 $59.60	4200 $60.25	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2
Natural Gas	MCX	Mar'19	198.20	Uptrend	196.50	194.50	199.80	202.70	Buy around S1 with the S/L below S2 for the target of R1-R2

US Economic Data

Date	Time (IST)	Release	For	Consensus	Previous	Importance
20-Mar	20:00	Crude Oil Inventories	W/o 15th March	1.602 Mb	-3.862 Mb	High
20-Mar	Tentative	UK Parliament vote on Brexit deal	-	-	-	Very High
20-Mar	23:30	Fed Interest Rate Decision	-	2.50%	2.50%	Very High

Consensus represents the market consensus estimate for each indicator | **Previous** represents the last actual for each indicator.
Source: Reuters, Investing.com, briefing.com, fxstreet.com

U.S. Crude Oil Inventories:

he Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Crude Oil Inventories measures the weekly change in the number of barrels of commercial crude oil held by US firms. The level of inventories influences the price of petroleum products, which can have an impact on inflation.

If the increase in crude inventories is more than expected, it implies weaker demand and is bearish for crude prices. The same can be said if a decline in inventories is less than expected.

If the increase in crude is less than expected, it implies greater demand and is bullish for crude prices. The same can be said if a decline in inventories is more than expected.

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