

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

European Markets Close Higher After Volatile Session

European stocks tumbled after a firm start on Monday, but recovered gradually to close higher with investors making some purchases amid optimism about monetary easing measures from global central banks.

The spread of the novel coronavirus, which originated from China, to over 50 countries, rendered the mood bearish and took a toll of global stocks last week.

Last Friday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the central bank will "act as appropriate to support the economy" amid the evolving risks posed by the coronavirus outbreak.

The Bank of England said it would take all necessary steps to maintain market stability.

In Asia, the Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda pledged to take steps to stabilize markets. The central bank will monitor the developments carefully and offer sufficient liquidity via market operations and asset purchases, Kuroda said in an emergency statement.

The pan European Stock 600 edged up 0.09%. The U.K.'s FTSE 100 climbed up 1.13%, France's CAC 40 gained 0.44% and Switzerland's SMI ended up 1.22%, while Germany's DAX declined 0.27%.

Among other markets in Europe, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Netherland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Turkey closed on a firm note.

Austria, Iceland, Ireland, Italy and Russia ended weak. In France, Carrefour gained more than 4% and L'Oreal spurted about 2.7%. Sanofi, Pernod Ricard, Schneider Electric, Thales, Total, Veolia Environment and Air Liquide gained 1.7 to 2%. Vivendi, Louis Vuitton, Accor and Saint Gobain also closed with strong gains.

On the other hand, Peugeot, Capgemont, Renault, Credit Agricole, Publicis Groupe, Unibail Rodamco and Societe Generale lost 2 to 4.3%.

In the German market, RWE, Beiersdorf, Meck, Fresenius, Vonovia, Muench.Rueckvers, Wirecard and E.ON gained 1 to 4%. Lufthansa declined more than 6%. MTU Aero, Deutsche bank, Continental, Siemens, Deutsche Post, Adidas, HeidelbergCement, Daimler and BMW also ended notably lower.

In the U.K. market, Hikma Pharma surged up 6.25% and Rentokil International gained about 6%. Ocadao, Morrison Supermarkets and Experian gained 4.5 to 5.3%. International Consolidated Air declined more than 8%. Carnival ended lower by about 4.2%, while Barclays, Whitbread and EasyJet lost 3.4 to 3.7%.

In economic news, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) downgraded its global growth outlook on Monday, saying the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on economic prospects is set to be severe.

