Weekend News Summary

2 March 2020

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Coronavirus panic wipes \$6 trillion off global stocks: World stock markets have suffered their worst week since the financial crisis in 2008 as coronavirus panic wiped \$6 trillion from shares.

Bank of England investigating leak of market-sensitive broadcasts: The Bank of England is conducting an internal review into a security breach that allowed hedge funds and traders to hear press conferences up to eight seconds before the official broadcast went out.

Clinical specialist reaches deals in race to release test: A British-listed biotechnology company, Novacyt has signed a distribution agreement in Asia for its coronavirus test and a manufacturing agreement with an American healthcare group.

London Stock Exchange Chief David Schwimmer not ready to start horse trading on takeover: The London Stock Exchange Group's attempt to buy Refinitiv, the financial data group, for \$27 billion is "nothing like" its aborted merger with Deutsche Börse in 2018, David Schwimmer, its Chief Executive, said amid concerns about the deal.

Rolls-Royce soars above market as results offset harm from virus: Rolls-Royce spent much of in self-isolation after encouraging results helped to correct a recent sell-off in its shares despite turmoil in the rest of the market because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Agents take shine off Rightmove's rising profit: Rightmove has reported a jump in annual revenue and profit, but there are signs that some estate agents are rejecting the online property portal's fees.

Wembley landlord Lone Star targets Asda: The owner of a huge housing development next to Wembley stadium is among private equity firms vying to take a majority stake in Asda.

New John Lewis head Dame Sharon White plots shake-up: The new Chairwoman of John Lewis is preparing to launch a strategic review of the ailing mutual as it releases a dire set of results, which are expected to include big write-downs to the value of its properties.

Debenhams demands extra rent cuts from landlords: Fresh doubts have been raised over Debenhams' prospect of survival, after it told landlords its lenders may not sign off a critical debt restructuring unless they consent to further dramatic rent cuts.

INDICES THIS MORNING

| | Current Value | (%) Change* | 1W% Change |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------|
| FTSE 100 | 6,663.6 | 1.3% | -11.1% |
| DAX 30 | 11,873.1 | -0.1% | -12.4% |
| CAC 40 | 5,327.2 | 0.3% | -11.9% |
| DJIA** | 25,409.4 | - | -12.4% |
| S&P 500** | 2,954.2 | - | -11.5% |
| NASDAQ Comp.** | 8,567.4 | - | -10.5% |
| Nikkei 225 | 21,344.1 | 1.0% | -9.6% |
| Hang Seng 40 | 26,291.7 | 0.6% | -4.3% |
| Shanghai Comp | 2,970.9 | 3.1% | -5.2% |
| Kospi | 2,002.5 | 0.8% | -8.1% |
| BSE Sensex | 38,144.0 | -0.4% | -7.0% |
| S&P/ASX 200 | 6,391.5 | -0.8% | -9.8% |

Current Values as at 11:15 BST, *%Chg from Friday Close, ** As on Friday Close

ABOUT GOODMAN MASSON

With bases in London, Düsseldorf and New York, we are a Finance and Technology recruitment company who hold annual revenues exceeding £42 million. It's not all about profits however and boasting one of the highest staff retention rates in the city, we've been voted Best Workplace Environment, Best Employee Benefits Programme and Best UK Workplace.

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120 Aldersgate Street London EC1A 4JQ 020 7336 7711 recruit@goodmanmasson.com www.goodmanmasson.com Morrisons and Kingfisher set for FTSE 100 exit: Supermarket chain Morrisons and DIY conglomerate Kingfisher are at risk of being ejected from the FTSE 100, potentially leaving only four retailers in the U.K.'s benchmark index.

Lloyd's of London's Atrium syndicate set to insure against bitcoin raids: Lloyd's of London is gearing up to become a big player in cryptocurrency insurance — the latest attempt by the U.K.'s oldest marketplace to modernise itself.

Cost fears over Keith Williams' rail shake-up: Plans to tear up rail franchising have triggered alarm bells at the Treasury amid fears that they will heap more costs on to taxpayers. A long-delayed report into the future of Britain's railways is set to recommend that the current system of franchising is scrapped and replaced by lower-risk management contracts or concessions when it is published next month.

Treasury to pocket £5 billion from Northern Rock: Thousands of former Northern Rock shareholders are planning to restart their fight for compensation after the nationalised bank was left with £5 billion in surplus equity having repaid its government loans in full.

Anger as banking app locks accounts: A fintech company, backed by Sir Alex Ferguson and veteran investor Jon Moulton, that provides financial services to vulnerable customers has been hit by a spate of customer complaints and questions over why its accounts are five months late.

Insolvency heads 'owe taxman £3 million': The directors of an insolvency firm that says it can help struggling businesses to "write off company debt and start again" are being pursued for £3 million said to be owed to the taxman.

Lancashire tycoons add fuel to Asda bid rumours: Two brothers who built a petrol station empire from an industrial estate in Blackburn are among potential bidders vying with global buyout firms for a majority stake in Asda.

JD Sports to step up attack on regulator: The competition watchdog is expected to come under fire again as JD Sports kicks back against its findings over its £90 million deal for Footasylu.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES

Sirius shareholders in last-ditch effort to block Anglo takeover: Small shareholders in cash-strapped Sirius Minerals are trying to raise £460 million through a bond issue in a desperate attempt to thwart a takeover bid by mining company Anglo American.

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Companies warned over lack of progress on board diversity: Nearly one in five FTSE 350 companies have been cautioned over a lack of women on their board and executive committees, as big investors increasingly demand that businesses pay more heed to diversity.

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Change of status for terror insurer Pool Re triggers anger: The future of Pool Re, the U.K.'s specialist terrorism insurer, has been thrown into doubt after the government's Office for National Statistics changed its official status.

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Harley-Davidson Chief steps down after market struggle: The Chief Executive of Harley-Davidson has stepped down as part of a leadership shake-up at the American motorcycle manufacturer, which has struggled to reverse a decline in sales.

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Wyoming looks to buy Occidental's acreage: Wyoming is in talks to buy millions of acres of land from Occidental Petroleum in what lawmakers say would be the biggest land purchase since the U.S. bought Alaska from Russian tsar Alexander II.

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Billionaire Chris Hohn threatens to sue coal-backing banks: Barclays, HSBC and Standard Chartered could all face a legal challenge from the charity co-founded by billionaire hedge fund manager Christopher Hohn, who has promised to take action if the three banks do not stop lending money to coal-mining companies.

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Speculators raise their bets against U.S. oil and gas: Bruised by plunging commodity prices and oversupply across the industry, U.S. oil and gas companies have come into the sights of market speculators, who have placed huge bets against equity valuations in the sector.

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KPMG spins off pensions unit to avoid audit conflict: KPMG has completed the disposal of its pensions practice in the first significant sale of an advisory unit by a Big Four accountant to combat enhanced scrutiny on auditing conflicts.

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NMC Health hires Moelis for debt restructuring: NMC Health has hired Moelis to advise on debt restructuring as the struggling healthcare group faces signs of a cash crunch with staff members complaining about late salary payments.

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Criticism mounts for 'farcical' RBS-funded U.K. banking scheme: Senior bankers are pushing the government, MPs and the EU to intervene in a "farcical" government-designed scheme to boost business banking after a series of setbacks, including news that the biggest winner was handing back almost half of its £120 million prize.

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Janus Henderson Chief earns \$8.4 million despite outflows and share price fall: Janus Henderson's Chief Executive earned \$8.4 million in total pay despite presiding over \$27.4 billion of investor outflows and an 11% tumble in the fund group's share price last year.

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U.K.'s Galileo rival delayed in wrangles and cost rises: Britain's plan for a new sovereign satellite navigation system — pushed by the government as a symbol of post-Brexit independence — has been delayed for at least six months amid disagreements about the scope and costs of the multibillion pound space project.

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Elliott pushes for change at Twitter after taking \$1 billion stake: Activist hedge fund Elliott Management has laid out concerns over Twitter's corporate governance to the social network's board and is pushing for the removal of its Chief Executive Jack Dorsey after taking a stake worth more than \$1 billion in the social media company.

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THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

FTSE could hit 5,000, warns hedge fund head Crispin Odey as coronavirus spooks City: Hedge fund head Crispin Odey has warned the spread of coronavirus could trigger more economic shocks as City firms go into lockdown this week. Banks are understood to be banning large meetings and non-essential foreign travel, while some have already sent home staff who have links to affected parts of the world.

Santander head tells MoS: We have NEVER thought of U.K. sale: Santander's Spanish head Ana Botin has given the bank's U.K. arm a huge vote of confidence after a string of high-profile managers quit.

Owner of Canary Wharf in £1.6 billion talks to sell one of Britain's oldest port companies: The Canadian owner of Canary Wharf is weighing a sale of one of Britain's oldest port companies for up to £1.6 billion. City sources said Brookfield has been talking to financial advisers with a view to appointing one to run a 'strategic review' of PD Ports.

Charlie Mullins' son takes over as Pimlico Plumbers head stands down: Charlie Mullins has stepped down from running Pimlico Plumbers and put his son in charge after building it into a £100 million company.

Rent-to-own retailer BrightHouse on brink after surge of mis-selling claims: High-interest loans firm BrightHouse faces going bust after being hit by a surge of mis-selling claims. Accountancy firm Grant Thornton is on standby to handle a potential insolvency, which looks increasingly likely, Sky News reported.

Make BP quit Russia, Lib Dem peer Lord Teverson urges Bank head Carney: A Lib Dem peer has called on Bank of England head Mark Carney to put pressure on BP to sell its Russian energy stake. Lord Teverson wrote to Carney to express his great concern about BP's \$12.6 billion (£9.8 billion) stake in oil and gas giant Rosneft.

THE INDEPENDENT

Coronavirus: Thirteen new cases confirmed in U.K. as ministers outline 'battleplan': The number of coronavirus cases in the U.K. dramatically increased with 13 new confirmed infections as ministers outlined their "battleplan" for a possible pandemic outbreak.

North Korea launches first two projectiles since ending suspension of long-range missile tests: North Korea has fired two unidentified projectiles into the sea off its eastern coast, the first such launches since the expiration of a self-imposed ban on nuclear and long-range missile tests.

'Dark clouds' for Amigo Loans amid rising compensation costs and loan defaults: Problems are mounting for subprime lender Amigo, as more borrowers struggle with repayments, complaints pile up and the share price languishes 80% below its peak.

Three Barclays bankers cleared of fraud over £4 billion financial crisis deal with Qatar: Three former Barclays head's have been cleared of fraud over a £4 billion investment deal with Qatar at the height of the banking crisis.

THE GUARDIAN

Markets expected to fall further as coronavirus hits China's economy: World stock markets are expected to fall further next week after the first surveys of China's economic health since the coronavirus outbreak showed factory output has plunged and the country's service sectors have contracted.

John Lewis launches hand-me-down clothing drive: John Lewis is tackling fashion waste by launching a hand-me-down drive with extended name labels attached to children's coats that can be easily amended by parents.



M&S to expand successful trial of fill-your-own container scheme: Marks & Spencer is to extend its trial of a refill scheme that enables shoppers to replenish their own food containers, after its research revealed that more than three-quarters of consumers said they were trying to reduce the amount of packaging they use.

Rishi Sunak plans to raise £3 billion by scrapping 'entrepreneurs' relief': The Chancellor is planning to scrap a £3 billion tax relief that mainly benefits the wealthy in a bid to raise cash for an expected increase in public spending in the budget on 11 March.

Waitrose staff to get lowest bonus in 67 years as profits fall: John Lewis and Waitrose staff are to receive their lowest bonus in 67 years – if they get one at all – as the company is expected to reveal its third consecutive drop in annual profits.



THE WEEK AHEAD

| THE WEEK AHEAD | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| | Key Economy Releases | Key Corporate Releases |
| Monday, 2 March 2020 | UK: Markit Manufacturing PMI, Mortgage Approvals, Net Consumer Credit | Final Results: Greencoat Renewables, Hiscox Limited (DI), Johnson Service Group, PJSC Lukoil |
| | US: Markit Manufacturing PMI, ISM Employment, Construction Spending (MoM), ISM Manufacturing PMI, ISM New Orders, ISM Prices Paid | ADR, Senior Interim Results: PCI-PAL |
| | EU: Markit Manufacturing PMI | |
| Tuesday, 3 March 2020 | UK: Markit Construction PMI US: Total Vehicle Sales, Fed's Evan Speech | Final Results: 4Imprint Group, Apax Global Alpha Limited, Cairn Homes, Direct Line Insurance Group, Getbusy, Greggs, Huntsworth, Hutchison China Meditech Ltd, Ibstock, Intertek Group, Legal & General Group, Rotork, Signature Aviation |
| | EU: Unemployment Rate, Consumer Price Index (MoM), Producer Price Index (MoM) | |
| | | Interim Results: Craneware, DX (Group) |
| | | Quarterly Results: Ashtead Group |
| Wednesday, 4 March 2020 | UK: Markit Services PMI, Official Reserves (Changes) US: MBA Mortgage Applications, ADP Employment Change, Markit Services PMI, ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI, Fed's Beige Book EU: Markit Services PMI, Retail Sales (MoM), Retail Sales (YoY), ECB Balance sheet | Final Results: Attraqt Group, BATM Advanced Communications Ltd, Devro, Elementis, Hill & Smith Holdings, Hostelworld Group, Legal & General Group, Mpac Group, Polymetal International, Vivo Energy Interim Results: Allergy Therapeutics, Gfinity |
| Thursday, | UK: New Car Registrations (YoY) | Final Results: Admiral Group, Aviva, Capital & |
| 5 March 2020 | US: Initial Jobless Claims, Non-Farm Productivity, Unit Labour Costs | Regional, CLS Holdings, Dairy Farm International Holdings Ltd. (Singapore), Domino's Pizza Group, Franchise Brands, Gresham House, GVC Holdings, Headlam Group, Hong Kong Land Holdings, Hongkong Land Holding Ltd. (Sing.Reg), IndigoVision Group, Intu Properties, ITV, Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd (Singapore Reg), Mandarin Oriental International (Singapore), Melrose Industries, PageGroup, Premier Oil, Schroders, Spire Healthcare Group, Spirent Communications, Tyman Interim Results: Kier Group, Origin Enterprises Quarterly Results: Schroders |
| | | Quarterly Results. Scribble 15 |



THE WEEK AHEAD

| | Key Economy Releases | Key Corporate Releases |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Friday, 6 March 2020 | US: Average Hourly Earnings All Employees (MoM), Average Hourly Earnings All Employees (YoY), Average Weekly Hours All Employees, Change in Manufacturing Payrolls, Change in Non-farm Payrolls, Change in Private Payrolls, Unemployment Rate, Trade Balance, Wholesale Inventories (MoM), Baker Hughes US Rig Count, Consumer Credit Change | Final Results: Global Ports Investments GDR (REG S), SIG |



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