

Key Global Indices

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	Last Close	1D% Chg	5D% Chg	1M% Chg	1Y% Chg		Last Close	1D% Chg	5D% Chg	1M% Chg	1Y% Chg		
FTSE 100	7,482.5	↑	0.6%	0.0%	-1.2%	4.3%	S&P 500	3,334.7	↑	1.1%	1.9%	2.7%	21.8%
FTSE 250	21,520.0	↑	0.4%	0.2%	-1.1%	13.3%	DJIA	29,290.9	↑	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	15.3%
DJSTOXX 50	3,473.3	↑	1.3%	1.1%	1.6%	17.5%	Nasdaq	9,508.7	↑	0.4%	2.5%	4.8%	28.5%
FTSEurofirst 300	1,653.8	↑	1.2%	0.9%	1.5%	15.1%	Nikkei 225*	23,883.5	↑	2.4%	-0.3%	0.5%	11.9%
German DAX 30	13,478.3	↑	1.5%	1.0%	2.7%	18.6%	Shanghai Composite*	2,845.9	↑	1.0%	-3.8%	-8.6%	7.6%
France CAC 40	5,985.4	↑	0.8%	0.5%	-0.5%	17.7%	DJIA at London close	29,083.5			*Time - GMT	4:30	

FTSE 100



DJIA



DJ Euro STOXX50



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UK Market Snapshot

UK markets finished in the green yesterday, led by gains in mining and banking sector stocks. Smurfit Kappa Group advanced 6.0%, after the packaging company swung to a pretax profit for 2019, amid strong performance by its European and American businesses. Antofagasta gained 2.8%, after a top broker raised its target price on the stock to 850.0p from 840.0p and upgraded its rating to 'Hold' from 'Sell'. Barratt Developments added 2.2%, after the housebuilder reported a jump in its interim revenue and profit and announced a special dividend. On the contrary, Imperial Brands declined 6.7%, after the tobacco giant issued a profit warning for the full year, citing global crackdown on e-cigarettes. GlaxoSmithKline dropped 4.2%, following downbeat fourth quarter results. The FTSE 100 advanced 0.6%, to close at 7,482.5, while the FTSE 250 rose 0.4%, to end at 21,520.0.

US Market Snapshot

US markets closed on a stronger footing yesterday, boosted by gains financial and healthcare sector stocks. Biogen surged 17.5%, after the biotech company won a ruling to the validity of a patent on its multiple sclerosis drug, Tecfidera. Coty soared 14.5%, after its second quarter revenue and earnings topped market expectations. Humana advanced 6.4%, following higher than anticipated revenue and earnings in the fourth quarter. On the flipside, Tesla tanked 17.2%, after a leading broker downgraded its rating on the stock to 'Hold' from 'Buy'. Snap plummeted 14.7%, after the company's fourth quarter revenue and earnings fell short of market expectations. Ford Motor plunged 9.5%, after its fourth quarter earnings came in below market consensus and forecasted a disappointing earnings outlook for 2020. The S&P 500 gained 1.1%, to settle at 3,334.7. The DJIA rose 1.7%, to settle at 29,290.9, while the NASDAQ added 0.4%, to close at 9,508.7.

Europe Market Snapshot

European markets finished higher yesterday, lifted by gains in automobile and banking sector stocks. Valmet soared 14.6%, after the Finnish technology giant raised its financial targets for 2020, following better than expected profit in the fourth quarter. Infineon Technologies surged 9.9%, after the German chipmaker's first quarter net profit came in line with market estimates. BNP Paribas rose 0.7%, after the French lender reported better than anticipated net income in the fourth quarter. Danske Bank added 0.5%, after its fourth quarter net profit topped analysts' estimates, despite money-laundering scandal and negative interest rates. Siemens added 1.1%. The German industrial conglomerate posted a decline in its first quarter net profit, amid weakness in the automobile and energy sectors. The FTSEurofirst 300 index gained 1.2%, to settle at 1,653.8. The German DAX Xetra rose 1.5%, to settle at 13,478.3, while the French CAC-40 added 0.8%, to close at 5,985.4.

Asia Market Snapshot

Markets in Asia are trading higher this morning, amid unconfirmed reports that researchers had made breakthroughs toward developing a vaccine for the coronavirus. In Japan, Teijin, Z Holdings and Kawasaki Heavy Industries have advanced 5.5%, 7.9% and 9.2%, respectively. Meanwhile, NEC, DeNA and Fujikura have declined 1.3%, 9.2% and 9.3%, respectively. In Hong Kong, CK Asset Holdings, AIA Group and PetroChina have risen 0.7%, 1.1% and 3.5%, respectively. Moreover, China Unicom Hong Kong, CNOOC and CITIC have gained 3.8%, 4.3% and 5.2%, respectively. In South Korea, Samsung SDI, LG Uplus and SK Hynix have added 0.3%, 1.9% and 2.2%, respectively. Additionally, Hyundai Motor, Korea Zinc and Lotte Chemical have climbed 5.7%, 6.5% and 6.6%, respectively. The Nikkei 225 index is trading 2.4% higher at 23,883.5. The Hang Seng index is trading 2.0% up at 27,312.5, while the Kospi index is trading 2.3% higher at 2,214.8.

Key Corporate Releases Today

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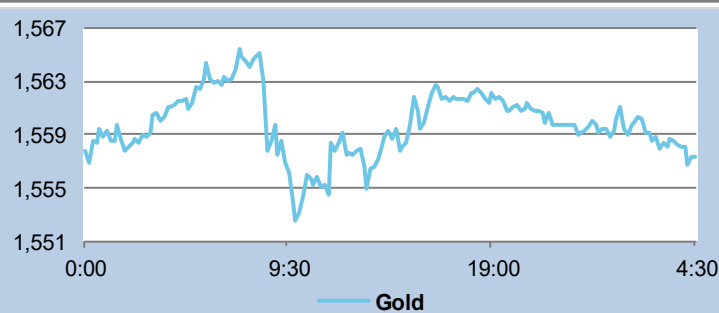
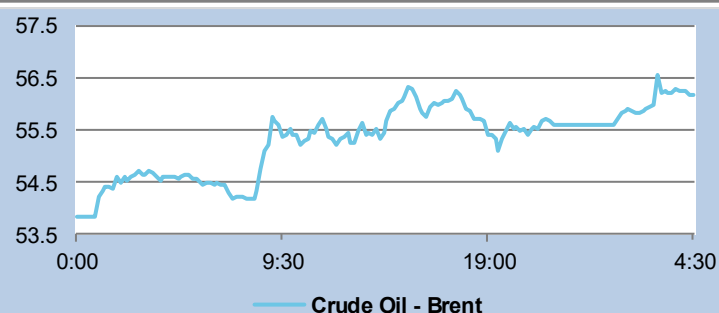
UK

Company Name	Results	Currency	Full Year Consensus	
			Estimated EPS	Estimated Revenue (Mn)
Willis Towers Watson Plc	Final	USD	10.92	8,994.29
Beazley Plc	Final	GBP	0.32	2,521.67
Staffline Group Plc	Final	GBP	0.06	1,178.00
Ashmore Group Plc	Interim	GBP	0.28	360.17
Supermarket Income Reit Plc	Interim	GBP	-	26.10
Filtronic Plc	Interim	GBP	0.30	19.00
Feedback Plc	Interim	GBP	-	-

Note: All Estimates are for Full Year

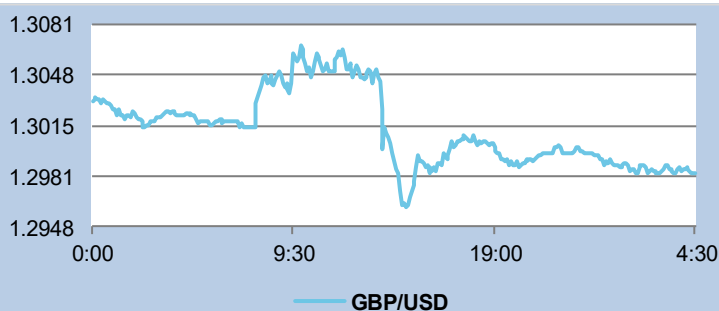
Commodity, Currency and Bitcoin

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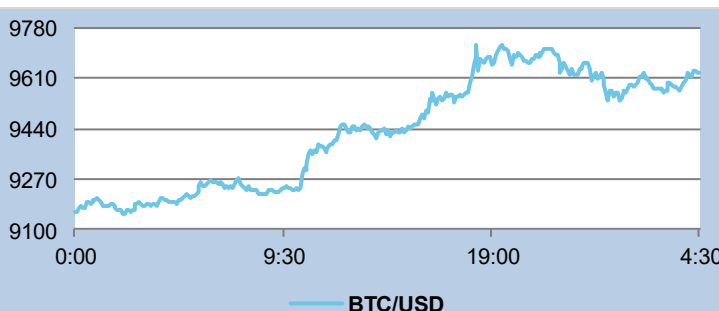
Commodity

- At 0430GMT today, Brent crude oil one-month futures contract is trading 1.61% or \$0.89 higher at \$56.17 per barrel. Yesterday, the contract climbed 2.45% or \$1.32, to settle at \$55.28 per barrel, as concerns over the slowdown in global energy demand eased amid reports of a possible breakthrough in the development of drug against the coronavirus. Meanwhile, the Energy Information Administration reported that the US crude oil inventories advanced by 3.4 million barrels in the week ended 31 January 2020.
- At 0430GMT today, Gold futures contract is trading marginally lower at \$1557.30 per ounce. Yesterday, the contract climbed 0.48% or \$7.40, to settle at \$1557.80 per ounce.



Currency

- At 0430GMT today, the EUR is trading marginally lower against the USD at \$1.0995, ahead of the German factory orders data for December, along with the speech by the European Central Bank (ECB) President, Christine Lagarde, due in a few hours. Yesterday, the EUR weakened 0.41% versus the USD, to close at \$1.0999, after the Euro-zone retail sales surprisingly fell in December. Meanwhile, the Euro-zone services PMI dropped less than expected in January. In other economic news, the US services sector activity advanced more than anticipated in January, whereas the nation's trade deficit widened in December.
- At 0430GMT today, the GBP is trading 0.14% lower against the USD at \$1.2984. Yesterday, the GBP weakened 0.22% versus the USD, to close at \$1.3002. On the data front, the UK services PMI advanced to its highest level since September 2018 in January.



Bitcoin

- At 0430GMT today, BTC is trading 0.61% lower against the USD at \$9628.10. Yesterday, BTC advanced 5.99% against the USD to close at \$9687.28. In major news, blockchain technology company, Ripple has entered into a partnership deal with the US remittance firm, International Money Express, to enable its users with cross-border payments between the US and Mexico. In another development, the developer of the high-speed transaction protocol Lightning Network, Lightning Labs has obtained \$10.0 million in Series A funding round led by Craft Ventures.

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FTSE All Share Index- Performance

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UK Top Sector Performers

Sector	Current Price	1D Change	1D (%) Change	1M (%) Change	1Y (%) Change
Forestry & Paper	18659.30	906.23	5.1%	-4.0%	-12.5%
General Industrials	6394.84	254.70	4.1%	0.3%	11.9%
Industrial Metals	3667.90	117.16	3.3%	0.7%	-25.9%
Industrial Engineering	13157.70	257.79	2.0%	-2.0%	14.1%
Oil Equipment & Services	7793.97	146.36	1.9%	-8.6%	-33.2%

UK Worst Sector Performers

Sector	Current Price	1D Change	1D (%) Change	1M (%) Change	1Y (%) Change
Mobile Telecommunications	3336.61	-94.38	-2.8%	-0.2%	6.5%
Fixed Line Telecommunications	1915.53	-50.97	-2.6%	-16.4%	-29.3%
Automobiles & Parts	4931.15	-68.30	-1.4%	-9.4%	-29.5%
Tobacco	36176.40	-446.35	-1.2%	1.5%	9.3%
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	17699.30	-177.64	-1.0%	-0.6%	23.4%

Key Economic News

UK services PMI advanced in January

In the UK, the final services PMI rose to a level of 53.90 in January, compared to market expectations of a fall to a level of 49.10. The services PMI had recorded a reading of 50.00 in the prior month.

Euro-zone services PMI dropped in January

In the Euro-zone, the final services PMI eased to a level of 52.50 in January, compared to market expectations of a fall to a level of 52.40. Services PMI had recorded a reading of 52.80 in the previous month.

Euro-zone retail sales surprisingly dropped in December

In the Euro-zone, the seasonally adjusted retail sales unexpectedly fell 1.60% on a MoM basis in December, compared to a revised rise of 0.80% in the previous month. Market anticipation was for retail sales to climb 0.60%.

US services PMI rose in January

In the US, the final services PMI registered a rise to a level of 53.40 in January, compared to market expectations of a rise to a level of 53.20. In the previous month, services PMI had registered to a reading of 52.80.

US trade deficit widened in December

In the US, trade deficit expanded to \$48.90 billion in December, more than market expectations of a trade deficit of \$44.60 billion. The nation had registered a revised trade deficit of \$43.70 billion in the prior month.

Share Tips, Bids and Rumours

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- [The Times \(Tempus share tips\)](#): “Hold” S4 Capital; “Buy” Gateley.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#): The online mattress seller Casper has slashed its prospective valuation by 30% in just nine days.
- [The Times](#): The proposed £12 billion merger between the gambling companies behind Paddy Power and Poker Stars faces an investigation by the competition watchdog.

Newspaper Summary

The Times

Break-up of Glaxosmithkline will cost £2.4 billion: The break-up of Glaxosmithkline is set to become one of the most expensive corporate demergers to date after the drugs group estimated that it would cost £2.4 billion.

‘Grenfell firms must assist inquiry without preconditions’: Britain’s biggest business lobby group has called for “maximum transparency and accountability” in the Grenfell Tower fire inquiry after companies involved in the hearings launched a bid to protect themselves from prosecution. The CBI called for co-operation from all parties involved in the inquiry “without exception or preconditions”.

Mike Lynch arrested over Autonomy-Hewlett Packard fraud claims: Mike Lynch, the software tycoon, has vowed to fight an American extradition request after handing over a £10 million security to obtain bail.

Bernard Looney sings a different tune on his first day as BP Chief: The new Chief Executive of BP has joined Instagram because he wants to “engage directly with society, especially younger people and those who disagree with BP”, the company said.

Tesla share surge is ‘inexplicable’: Steve Eisman, the investor made famous by betting against sub-prime mortgages before the 2008 financial crash, has called the recent run-up in Tesla’s shares inexplicable.

Transformational change for M&S: Katie Bickerstaffe has been made Chief Strategy and Transformation Director by Marks & Spencer as the troubled retailer seeks to revive its fortunes.

Babcock Chief Archie Bethel heads for the door amid boardroom shake-up: The head of Babcock International is stepping down after a tumultuous three and a half years in charge of the defence contractor,

during which its share price has fallen by more than 40%.

New spinner Rudd knows where to turn for advice: Amber Rudd is following her brother into PR. The former home secretary has been hired as a senior adviser by Teneo — a “global consulting, strategy and communications firm” — to offer “strategic advice”.

Spotify puts podcasts before profit even as subscriber numbers grow: Heavy investment in its podcast division meant that Spotify swung to a loss in its final quarter, despite continuing to attract subscribers to its platform.

Barratt plans payout bonanza in bold display of confidence: Britain’s biggest housebuilder plans to pay shareholders a £350 million special return over the next two years in a demonstration of its confidence in the housing market.

Shareholder revolt leads to new Chief at Redrow: Redrow has appointed a new Chief Executive from within its ranks after the housebuilder faced a shareholder revolt over its leadership.

Steward’s inquiry begins over £12 billion betting merger: The proposed £12 billion merger between the gambling companies behind Paddy Power and Poker Stars faces an investigation by the competition watchdog.

Domino’s Pizza steps up sale plan in Norway ‘as a priority’: Domino’s Pizza Group is to take a hit of up to £60 million against the value of its “corporate” stores and international operations but has reported a “solid performance” from its core British business.

Television and cable recipe is just right for Fox Corporation: Fox Corporation last night reported a 5% rise in second-quarter revenue to \$3.8 billion after growth in both its television and cable network divisions.

Cost-cutting is just the job for Tullow Oil’s investors: Tullow Oil made its way

towards the top of the FTSE 250 as investors lapped up heads’ plans to slash costs by \$20 million after the stock’s recent collapse.

The Independent

Vaping crackdown wipes £1.9 billion off cigarette maker Imperial Brands: Tobacco company Imperial Brands saw its shares plunge after warning that a crackdown on vaping in the U.S. would hurt profits.

Financial Times

Coal producer axes dividend as industry’s woes mount: Peabody Energy, the world’s largest private sector coal producer, has suspended its dividend as low fuel prices upset plans to become a cash machine for shareholders.

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Zambia ramps up war of words with mining company Vedanta: The government of Zambia has launched a blistering attack on mining company Vedanta, accusing it of breaking the law and reneging on investment promises.

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Vestas ends 2019 with record number of orders: Vestas ended 2019 with a record intake of orders as the world’s biggest wind turbine maker benefited from global interest in renewable energy projects, even as profit margins in the sector remain under pressure.

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Barclays under pressure over backing fossil fuel producers: Barclays is under intense pressure over its role in financing fossil fuel producers after a second influential group of big shareholders demanded the British lender adopts a stricter climate change policy.

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Mattress firm Casper receives sleepy IPO reception: Mattress-in-a-box company Casper saw its valuation slashed to \$476 million from the \$1.1 billion it secured just last year after the group finalised an initial public offering that suffered from lukewarm investor demand.

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Ackman sold Starbucks stake as coronavirus hit: Billionaire investor Bill Ackman sold his position in Starbucks almost two years after he first announced a \$900 million stake in the coffee-house chain, banking a 73% return as the company's business in China was hit by the coronavirus.

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HSBC to defer appointing Chief until after strategy shake-up: HSBC has decided not to name a permanent Chief Executive when it unveils a strategic overhaul this month, in a move that risks undermining investor confidence in the plan to reshape the lender dramatically.

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Crispin Odey hit as bet against Tesla backfires: Hedge fund manager Crispin Odey has emerged as one of the highest-profile casualties of the rally in Tesla shares after his bet against the electric car maker misfired.

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Private equity became too focused on money, says Guy Hands: Private equity has a surprising new critic: Guy Hands, a pioneer of the buyout industry in the U.K.

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Vanguard moves into private equity with HarbourVest partnership: Vanguard is moving into private equity, reflecting strong demand for the asset class and raising the possibility of rising fee pressure in the most profitable sector of the global investment industry.

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Bupa launches 'get paid early' option for 11,000 staff: Bupa has introduced a "get paid early" option for nearly 11,000 staff working in its care homes, enabling employees instantly to access money earned for completed shifts without waiting for a monthly payday.

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Danske Bank warns profits could almost halve this year: Danske Bank has warned that its profits could almost halve this year as Denmark's biggest lender remains under pressure from a €200 billion money-laundering scandal and negative interest rates.

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BNP Paribas cuts key target for 2020 even as profit surges: BNP Paribas reported a surge in fourth quarter profit, but became the latest European lender to blame negative interest rates after cutting its targets.

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Biogen shares soar after patent victory: Shares in Biogen jumped as much as 32% after the U.S. biotech company won a patent battle against the generic drugmaker Mylan over its bestselling medicine for multiple sclerosis.

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Merck to spin off assets in effort to streamline its business: Merck plans to spin off a new company with about \$6.5 billion in annual revenue from businesses including women's health, legacy brands and biosimilars, as the U.S. drugmaker slims down to focus on high-growth areas such as cancer treatments.

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Babcock Chair unveils sweeping changes at top: Ruth Cairnie, the new Chair of Babcock International, has stamped her mark on the U.K. defence contractor with sweeping board changes and the announcement that Chief Executive Archie Bethel will stand down after three-and-a-half years in the job.

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Siemens Chief lashes out at 'grotesque' environmental protests: Siemens' embattled Chief Executive has lashed out at "almost grotesque" environmental protests, as he faced the ire of investors over his company's handling of a controversial Australian coal contract.

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GM forecasts flat earnings for 2020: General Motors took a \$3.6 billion hit to earnings from a strike last year and forecast flat profits for 2020.

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RAF Chief warns of Russian 'adventurism': The head of Britain's air force has warned that the threat of Russian "adventurism" in the North Atlantic is increasing, as the first of a new fleet of submarine-hunting aircraft touched down at a military base in Scotland.

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BBC put on notice with target for abolition of TV licences: The U.K. government has warned that the TV licence fee used to fund the BBC might be abolished after 2027, putting down a marker for a long fight about how the public service broadcaster is financed.

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Spotify looks beyond music in search of a profit: Spotify is in talks to renegotiate onerous music royalty deals that limit the profit potential of its half-billion-dollar push into podcasts.

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Accounting scandals prompt shake-up at U.K. watchdog: The U.K.'s accounting regulator is to expand its enforcement powers and speed up its investigation of auditors in its latest response to a spate of corporate accounting scandals.

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Japan's biggest law firm chases post-Brexit deal boom in EU: Nishimura & Asahi has become the first of Japan's "big four" law firms to set up offices in Europe, choosing Frankfurt over London as Japanese companies reorganise to cope with Brexit and prepare for an expected boom in dealmaking in the EU.

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JAB picks former AB InBev executive to be JDE Peet's CFO: JAB Holdings has poached an Anheuser-Busch InBev executive to be Chief Financial Officer at its coffee division as it shakes up the leadership at JDE Peet's ahead of a €3 billion European stock market listing.

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Pizza chain Domino's hit by £20 million impairment charge: Domino's, the U.K.-listed arm of the global pizza chain, blamed the poor condition of new shops and a competitive market in London for a £20 million impairment charge against its store estate.

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Thai retailer set for country's biggest IPO: Central Group, Thailand's biggest department store operator, is set to raise \$2.5 billion through the spin-off of its retail arm in what will be the south-east Asian country's biggest stock market listing.

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U.K. watchdog to probe £10 billion Flutter-Stars gambling deal: Competition authorities plan to review the £10 billion merger between the two gambling groups Flutter, owner of Paddy Power, and Stars Group, which owns Sky Betting and Gaming.

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NYSE parent held takeover talks with eBay: Intercontinental Exchange held preliminary takeover talks with eBay, but the discussions between the owner of the New York Stock Exchange and the online marketplace provider fell apart before the two companies could clinch an agreement.

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Best Buy board concludes misconduct probe against CEO: Best Buy said that it has closed an investigation into misconduct claims against Corie Barry, its Chief Executive Officer, and supports her leadership.

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Facebook urged to halt encryption plans over child abuse risks: Nearly 130 charities and academics around the world have urged Mark Zuckerberg to halt plans to introduce encrypted messaging across Facebook's trio of apps until he can address concerns that the move will facilitate "more serious and sustained" exploitation of children.

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Airbnb restricts bookings from under-25s after violence: Airbnb has begun restricting some bookings from under-25s in an effort to prevent so called "party houses" spiralling into violence.

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LinkedIn Chief Executive Jeff Weiner to step aside: Jeff Weiner, the former Yahoo executive who built LinkedIn into the dominant professional networking site, is stepping aside as Chief Executive Officer of the after more than a decade.

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Cabify claims it is first profitable car-booking app: Cabify, the car-booking service that became Spain's first billion-dollar start-up in 2018, says it is now profitable — a development it claims is a first for a standalone company in its industry.

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Nvidia joins battle for gamers with streaming service: Nvidia, whose chips are used in many of the world's most powerful gaming PCs, has formally launched a streaming service for gamers, joining a race among some of the most powerful technology, internet and gaming companies to dominate the emerging market for cloud-based play.

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Vodafone to strip Huawei from 'core' network at cost of €200 million: Vodafone is to strip Huawei systems out of the core of its European network at a cost of €200 million as the European telecoms sector moves to adapt to new limits on use of the Chinese company's equipment.

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Qatar Airways in talks for 49% of Rwanda's national carrier: Qatar Airways is in talks to buy a 49% stake in Rwanda's national carrier as the Gulf airline looks to grow its presence in one of the world's fast-growing aviation markets.

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Lex:

Merck: spin doctor: On paper, the spin-off looks promising, but there is some pause for thought.

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Thiam/L&G: splitsville: Money manager wants an end to the combination of the two top jobs.

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Imperial Brands: empire in decline: Putting dividend growth back on track should reduce smoke signals from angry investors.

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Lombard:

Competition regulator becomes predictably interventionist: The U.K. competition watchdog's review of a

gambling megamerger between Flutter and Stars is predictable. It comes from a regulator that dealmakers complain is increasingly unpredictable.

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The Daily Telegraph

The tech giants are soaring, but this isn't quite dotcom bubble 2.0: It was the beginning of a new decade and valuations of some of America's hottest technology companies were sizzling.

Flutter's giant gamble on a deal has led to a loss of face: The merger between the betting giant and its rival Stars was a dead cert for regulatory intervention, so what made it take a punt?

Financial services are crucial to making Brexit a success - but the City must not become Brussels' rule-taker: As negotiators convene to hammer out a trading relationship between Britain and the EU, the next 10 or 11 months will prove crucial in securing a deal. Financial services will need to feature heavily in these discussions.

The Questor Column:

Questor: our most successful stock comes under attack. What should we do in response?: Someone is not impressed by Questor's most successful stock tip of recent years. Future, the magazine publisher whose shares have gained 273% since we recommended them two years ago, has attracted the attention of a "short-seller". ShadowFall, a London-based investment firm, has declared itself to be "short" of Future's stock, which means it will profit to the extent that the company's share price falls. It has published a lengthy document that sets out why it thinks Future does not deserve a stock market value of £1.5 billion, the figure it had reached before ShadowFall went public with its dossier. The document is couched in somewhat technical language, so Questor asked its author, Matt Earl, ShadowFall's managing partner, to explain his misgivings about Future. "The company has grown by making a lot of acquisitions and it has tended to pay 1.2-1.9 times the sales of the businesses it has acquired," he said. "But shares in Future have been trading at about seven times sales." The only way the latter valuation can be justified, he said, is if the disparate parts can be melded together into a growing, cash-generative business. "We

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think the market is pricing in tremendous optimism about this," Mr Earl added. He said his research indicated that what he called one of Future's "pricier" acquisitions, Mobile Nations, had suffered a 50% fall in website traffic over the course of a year, while the value of another, Purch, had been written down by about £40 million after its acquisition. "It sounds like Future has overpaid for Purch. This calls into question its acquisition-based strategy," Mr Earl said. He also questioned Future's reported 11% in organic growth for 2019 and described sales by executives of their own stock after they had asked shareholders to fund an acquisition as "a slap in the face" for investors. "Future's management have largely cashed in," he said. "The firm just keeps buying more and more businesses and in my experience, this approach never stands the test of time – you rely on the next acquisition to sustain growth and meanwhile you need to make a success of the previous ones." Future declined to comment on the allegations. However, Richard Power of Octopus Investments, whose holding in Future prompted our original tip, said he was sticking with the shares. "We have taken some profits over the past six months as we need to manage the size of the holding," he told this column. "However, it remains a top holding. We were delighted with the brief trading update on Monday. The management have a strong track record of upgrades following acquisitions." But we are going to take a safety-first approach and bank the very handsome profit we have made on this stock. We have the highest regard for Mr Power's skills as a fund manager and we are not saying he is wrong about Future; ultimately it is a matter of opinion and interpretation. But he is a human being and therefore bound to see the positive side to something he has committed to and be disinclined to accept the analysis of a short seller that has a financial interest of its own. Overall our feeling is that ShadowFall's attack, whether justified or not, will linger in investors' memories and that the share price will therefore struggle to make meaningful progress from here. And banking so large a profit can hardly be imprudent. We advise readers to watch this one from the sidelines and sell. Questor says, "Sell."

Daily Mail

EE pay monthly customers will see bills rise 2.2% with some customers paying up to £27 more a year: EE pay monthly customers will see their bills rise 2.2% a month – with some customers paying up to £27 more a year.

John Lewis putting itself at a 'disadvantage' with lack of retail experience on new board and needs to close some stores NOW, retail expert claims: A lack of retail experience at the top of the newly-emerging board at the John Lewis Partnership risks putting the group at a further 'disadvantage' in the cut-throat world of department stores, a leading retail analyst has claimed.

Mobile giants fight over £1 billion plan to eradicate phone signal black spots in rural areas by sharing masts: Plans to eradicate mobile phone signal black spots are in doubt after a row over costs between operators.

RBS's digital bank Bo tells customers to shred their cards in effort to comply with new EU rules: Royal Bank of Scotland's new digital bank Bo has told thousands of customers to shred their cards.

Eco warriors target BP head Bernard Looney on his first day on the job and shut down oil firm's London HQ: Nine people were arrested after Greenpeace members temporarily shut BP's London HQ.

The Scottish Herald

BP highlights potential of West of Shetland as head bows out: BP has hailed the potential of the West of Shetland area after starting production from a significant field with encouraging results.

North Sea firm hails excellent performance of flagship oil field: North Sea focused EnQuest has seen its shares rise 5% after it recorded strong growth in production helped by an "excellent" performance by a flagship field off Shetland on which it has faced challenges.

Hotel and restaurant plan for Princes Street store: Plans have been submitted to turn the New Look shop in Princes Street in Edinburgh into a restaurant and a 59-room Premier Inn hotel extension.

Scottish company is first to use new dark fibre product to boost connectivity:

A Scottish telecoms network provider has set an industry milestone by becoming the first operator to bring a new dark fibre product into operation.

Scottish data centre aims to boost industry climate efforts: DataVita, Scotland's only purpose-built data centre, is pioneering technologies that will minimise their impact on climate breakdown and could help revolutionise the carbon-heavy industry.

The Scotsman

All convenience store owners are victims of shoplifting and abuse, says report: 100% of Scottish convenience store retailers have suffered shoplifting in the past year, according to a damning report, which warned that shoplifting is now "essentially a pandemic".

Edinburgh-based vaping firm VPZ investing £12 million in stores: Edinburgh-based vaping firm VPZ has announced plans to invest £12 million in its high-street presence in the next two years as it reiterated its aim to grow its stores to 300 in that period.

Law firm Gilson Gray pursues growth with new Dundee site: Law firm Gilson Gray has launched an office in Dundee as it pursues its expansion.

Edinburgh's Cortex Worldwide looks to be 'next big thing to come out of Scottish tech scene': An Edinburgh-based digital technology company whose client base includes Microsoft Education has marked its fifth year in business by recording double-digit revenue growth and upping its headcount.

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