

Business

Wall Street flat, European stocks diverge

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were flat early yesterday ahead of key economic and earnings reports...

Friday that it is delaying the planned launch of its electric transport truck. The news comes as the electric car maker also contends with production challenges...

Meanwhile, European stock markets were mixed yesterday as investors awaited a key Brexit speech by embattled British Prime Minister Theresa May.

The euro meanwhile held firm in the face of mounting pressure against Catalonia's push to break away from Spain. In Europe, Germany's DAX was unchanged at 12,960 while France's CAC-4 was steady at 5,360.

In Britain, May was expected to tell the European Union that "the ball is in their court", as her divided government resumed Brexit negotiations in Brussels.

Ahead of the speech, May was scheduled to meet the heads of leading British companies to discuss Brexit. The pound was in recovery mode yesterday, making good some of the heavy losses it had sustained last week on

rumors of a plot to oust May as Conservative party leader amid bitter divisions over how the UK should plan its EU departure.

In Asia meanwhile, most stock markets started the week on a positive note, with Shanghai returning from a week-long break with healthy gains as traders looked past a surprise drop in US jobs.

Geopolitical tensions

Nevertheless, geopolitical tensions returned with another feared North Korea long-range missile test reportedly in the planning and US President Donald Trump suggesting that talking to Kim Jong-Un's regime was a waste of time and "only one thing will work", although he did not say what "thing" was.

With the Columbus Day holiday in the United States, trading on Wall Street was expected remain quiet, van Dulken said. The Dow gained a few points at the open.

"US stocks are ticking higher in early action, on the heels of last week's continued record high run on upbeat global economic data, showing some resiliency in the face of last week's noisy labor report, as well as uncertainties regarding the political and monetary policy fronts," said analysts at Charles Schwab brokerage.

Analysts noted that the drop was not as steep as expected and pointed to improving wage growth and a further dip in the overall unemployment rate, suggesting that the data were likely distorted by factors related to the recent hurricanes that hit Florida and Texas.

Meanwhile yesterday, Shanghai ended higher as investors returned from the week-long Golden Week celebrations and reacted for the first time to the Chinese central bank's decision to cut the amount of cash banks must hold in reserve as part of a push to help small businesses.

Hong Kong retreated on profit-taking after ending Friday at a 10-year high. Tokyo, Seoul and Taipei were closed for public holidays. —AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Monday 09 October 2017. Includes tables for Index, Trades, and various stock categories like Oil & Gas, Consumer Goods, and Banks.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes tables for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, and Global Bond Yields.