



POST-BREXIT TIES

EU, UK agree on draft declaration

AFP, Brussels

The EU and Britain yesterday agreed a draft declaration outlining plans for "ambitious, broad, deep and flexible" relations after Brexit, setting the stage for the divorce to be finalised at a weekend summit.

The EU Council President Donald Tusk said the 26-page declaration, outlining how Britain will work with the bloc on trade, security, the environment and other issues, had been agreed "in principle" and would now be sent to the remaining 27 member states for approval.

Britain's embattled Prime Minister Theresa May hopes the declaration will convince sceptical lawmakers to approve her vision for the UK's departure from the bloc.

She is to make a statement to parliament later in the day, presumably to sell MPs the deal, which she hailed on the steps of 10 Downing Street.

"This is the right deal for the UK," she said after updating

Brexit transition period can be extended until end of 2022

Spain threatens to veto on Gibraltar issue

UK PM hails 'right deal' for country

her cabinet on the text.

A special summit of all 28 EU leaders to sign the final Brexit deal is planned for Sunday, with May set to travel to Brussels the night before to finalise preparations.

First, the texts must be cleared by a meeting of top EU diplomats -- the summit's so-called "sherpas" -- today.

While the declaration has no legal weight, May will hope that ardent Brexiters will be appeased by references to Britain developing "an independent trade policy" and spelling out an end to free movement of citizens between the EU and UK -- two of the key demands of the Leave campaign.

She has been under intense pressure from all sides over the withdrawal deal, with a slew of ministers resigning in protest and some of her own party MPs launching a bid -- stalled for now -- to unseat her.

In an update of the withdrawal agreement, both sides have agreed that the post-Brexit transition period may be extended from its current end date of December 31, 2020 "for up to one or two years." The transition period is designed to allow governments and businesses to adjust to a new relationship after more than four decades of close ties.

But the declaration does not deal with the vexed issues of fishing and Gibraltar, the British territory that sits on an outcrop of southern Spain.

Madrid wants a veto over applying any agreement on post-transition relations to Gibraltar, while some EU countries including France have voiced concerns about access to British fishing waters after Brexit.

Crown prince a 'red line'

Warns Saudi FM after Trump heaps praise on the Kingdom

AGENCIES

Saudi Arabia has warned criticism of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a "red line", after Donald Trump heaped praise on the kingdom in defiance of warnings he was giving Riyadh a pass on a journalist's grisly murder.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Wednesday that calls for the crown prince to be held accountable for the grisly killing of Jamal Khashoggi would not be tolerated.

His comments came as the US president praised Saudi Arabia for keeping oil prices low -- one strand of his argument against punishing Riyadh even though the CIA reportedly found strong evidence that the crown prince, the de facto Saudi leader, was involved in the murder.

"In Saudi Arabia our leadership is a red line. The custodian of the two holy mosques (King Salman) and the crown prince are a red line," Jubeir told the BBC.

"They represent every Saudi citizen and every Saudi citizen represents them. And we will not tolerate any discussion of anything that is disparaging towards our monarch or our crown prince."

Khashoggi, a US resident who wrote for The Washington Post and had been critical of Prince Mohammed, was lured to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, killed and reportedly dismembered.

After lengthy denials, Saudi authorities admitted responsibility and said 21 people had been taken into custody. However, a CIA analysis leaked to the US media went

KHASHOGGI PROBE



Denmark suspends arms sales to Saudi Arabia

CIA had recording of Crown prince demanding Khashoggi be 'silenced': report

further, reportedly pointing the finger at the crown prince.

"Maybe he did and maybe he didn't!" Trump said on Tuesday, implying Prince Mohammed's culpability in Khashoggi's killing.

Jubeir also insisted that Prince Mohammed had not been involved in the killing. He called on Turkey to come forward with all its evidence about the slaying and stop leaking out information.

The foreign minister said the murder was a "rogue operation" by intelligence officers.

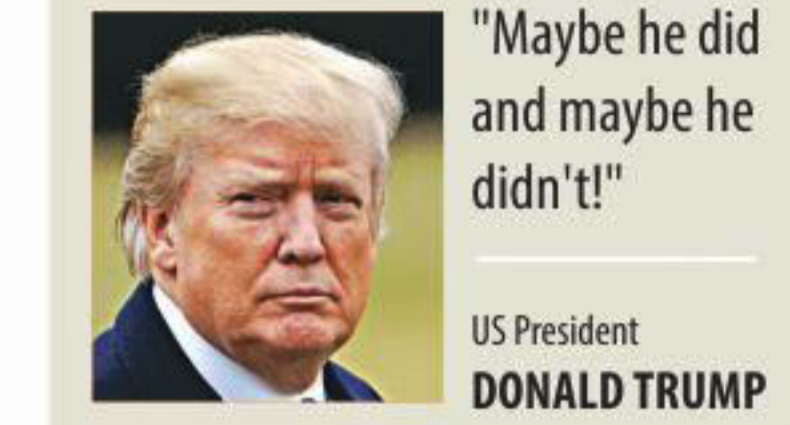
Jubeir also said any possible US sanctions on Saudi Arabia would be

Jamal Khashoggi, the second country to do so after Germany.

In another development, a Turkish newspaper yesterday reported CIA director Gina Haspel signalled to Turkish officials last month that the agency had a recording of a call in which Saudi Arabia's crown prince gave instructions to "silence" Khashoggi.

The purported call took place between Prince Mohammed and his brother, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington, Hurriyet newspaper journalist Abdulkadir Selvi wrote in a column.

"It is being said the crown prince



"Maybe he did and maybe he didn't!"
US President DONALD TRUMP



"In Saudi Arabia our leadership is a red line."
Saudi Foreign Minister ADEL AL-JUBEIR

short-sighted.

Meanwhile, Denmark yesterday suspended arms sales to Saudi Arabia over the murder of journalist

gave orders to 'silence' Jamal Khashoggi as soon as possible," in a call which was monitored by the US agency, he said.



Two migrants (C), part of a caravan from El Salvador travelling to the US, embrace during an operation of the Mexican police to detain them for entering the country illegally, in Metapa, Mexico, on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Car rams into children in China; 5 killed

AFP, Beijing

A car rammed into a group of children crossing a street in front of an elementary school in northeast China yesterday, killing five people and injuring another 18, state media said.

Police took the driver into custody and are investigating the cause of the incident in Huludao, Liaoning province, the official CCTV broadcaster said on its Weibo social media account.

Unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show a car veering onto the wrong side of the road and ploughing through the line of pupils, with the impact from the crash throwing bodies across the road.

Other gut-wrenching footage showed at least two small children lying unconscious and bleeding on the street. The screams and cries of children could be heard in the background, as onlookers milled around the scene of the collision.

Victims of the crash are undergoing medical treatment, according to CCTV. The incident happened around noon.

The ages of the victims were not released.

Grisly car accidents are common in China, where transportation authorities have struggled to enforce safety regulations, which are often flouted or go unenforced.

According to authorities, 58,000 people were killed in traffic accidents across the country in 2015 alone.

BITS OF HISTORY (NOVEMBER 22)

1943: British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, US President Franklin Roosevelt and Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek met in Cairo to discuss the war against Japan.

1963: US President John F Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, aged 46.

1975: Juan Carlos was sworn in as the first Spanish king since 1931. General Francisco Franco, ruler of Spain since 1939, had died two days earlier.

1991: The UN Security Council picked Egyptian deputy prime minister Boutros Boutros-Ghali to succeed Javier Perez de Cuellar as UN secretary-general.

2005: Angela Merkel was elected Germany's first woman chancellor by parliament.

40m diabetics will be left without insulin by 2030

CNN ONLINE

As the number of people living with diabetes continues to rise, the access to insulin needed to meet growing demand will fall short, a new study predicts.

By 2030, 79 million adults with type 2 diabetes are expected to need insulin to manage their condition and if current levels of access remain, only half of them will be able to get an adequate supply, according to a modeling study published Wednesday in the journal *Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology*.

Access to the drug must be significantly improved, the researchers warn, particularly in the African, Asian and Oceania regions, which will be most affected.

"These estimates suggest that current levels of insulin access are highly inadequate compared to projected need, particularly in Africa and Asia, and more efforts should be devoted to overcoming this looming health challenge," said Dr Sanjay Basu, assistant professor of medicine at Stanford University in the US, who led the research.

"Despite the UN's commitment to treat



non-communicable diseases and ensure universal access to drugs for diabetes, across much of the world insulin is scarce and unnecessarily difficult for patients to access."

Insulin is needed to treat all people with type 1 diabetes and some people with type 2 diabetes. The latter form of the disease is strongly linked to lifestyle factors such as obesity, poor diet and physical inactivity.

Basu's team predicted that, worldwide, the number of adults with type 2 diabetes will rise from 406 million in 2018 to 511 million in 2030.

Insulin treatment is expensive and the market is currently dominated by three manufacturers, according to the study.

FACEBOOK PR FIRM CONTROVERSY

Departing comms chief takes blame

AFP, San Francisco

The outgoing head of Facebook's communications team on Wednesday took responsibility for the controversial hiring of a conservative consulting firm accused of using "black ops" style techniques, acknowledging critics including investor George Soros were targeted.

The announcement by Elliot Schrage, who said in June he was stepping down, came after Facebook's chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg pledged a "thorough" review of its use of Definers to deflect criticism from the social networking giant.

She and Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg maintain they were surprised by a New York Times story last week that said the social network was using Definers to link social network critics to liberal financier Soros.

The Hungarian-born US financier and philanthropist is a favorite target of nationalists and anti-Semitic conspiracy theorists.

Schrage taking the hit for the controversy was seen by some as convenient, since he has previously said he was leaving the social network after working there for more than a decade to start a new chapter in his life.

Definers began looking into Soros after the philanthropist labelled Facebook a "menace to society" in a speech at Davos early this year, according to Schrage.

Zuckerberg said Facebook stopped using Definers the day the New York Times story was published. The post came a day after Zuckerberg said he has no plans to resign, sounding defiant after a rough year for the social platform.

#METOO IN INDIA

Rape probe launched against actor

CNN ONLINE

Police have opened a criminal investigation into an allegation that Bollywood star Alok Nath raped a former co-worker in the 1990s, in the one of the first formal criminal cases arising from India's #MeToo movement.

Dhruvi Kapadia, the lawyer representing writer and producer Vinta Nanda, said the first information report (FIR) filed by police is based on a complaint that her client registered with law enforcement in Mumbai almost a month ago.

A huge name in the Indian film industry, Nath was first accused on October 8 of raping Nanda. In a chilling Facebook post, she said she remembers "being violated endlessly" by him after they finished working together on a daytime soap opera.

"I have waited for this moment to come for 19 years. I shout out to each one of you who have suffered at the hands of predators to come out and say it aloud," Nanda wrote in her post.

Nath has denied the allegations. He filed a defamation suit last month and requested a gag order on Nanda. The judge dismissed the request for a gag order, but the defamation suit is in court.

The current police case follows a stream of allegations made by women across India's film, media and corporate worlds over the past three months. In the most high-profile resignation, senior cabinet minister MJ Akbar resigned last month after more than a dozen women accused him of sexual misconduct and harassment during his career as a journalist. He has denied the allegations.

Akbar has also filed a defamation suit against one of his accusers in a Delhi court.

Trump, US CJ in war of words

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump entered an extraordinary row Wednesday with the chief justice of the Supreme Court, claiming "shocking" bias against his policies in parts of the judiciary.

He singled out the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, whose jurisdiction includes left-leaning California, tweeting that its rulings "are making our country unsafe! Very dangerous and unwise!"

Earlier, Chief Justice John Roberts, who rarely makes political statements, rebuked criticism of the courts by Trump, insisting that the judiciary is "independent."

Responding to complaints by Trump that judges appointed by Democratic presidents act against the current White House, Roberts told the Associated Press: "We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges."

"What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them," Roberts said.

"That independent judiciary is something we should all be thankful for," the chief justice added in a brief statement.

Trump, who is on holiday in Florida, fired back on Twitter.

"Sorry Chief Justice John Roberts, but you do indeed have 'Obama judges,' and they have a much different point of view than the people who are charged with the safety of our country," he wrote.

He said that "a vast number" of cases concerning his controver-

US president accuses courts of shocking bias against his policies

Top judge slams him for 'Obama judge' comments



John Roberts

sial priorities, like a harsh crackdown on illegal immigration, had been overturned. "Please study the numbers, they are shocking," Trump wrote.

The row came one day after Trump criticized a federal judge who temporarily blocked the administration from its decision to deny the right to political asylum applications for people who enter the country illegally.

US District Judge Jon Tigar in San Francisco issued a temporary restraining order against the Trump move, which comes as a large group of Central American migrants, frequently described by Trump as dangerous, is heading on foot for the US southern border.

On Tuesday, Trump lashed out at the ruling by "an Obama judge." Trump has repeatedly attacked the judiciary when cases have gone against him in the past but this was the first time that Roberts, a conservative jurist who was appointed to the nation's highest court by Republican president George W Bush, has responded publicly.

The US federal government consists of three branches -- the executive headed by the president, the legislative comprising the House of Representatives and Senate and the judicial made up of the courts. The judiciary, especially the Supreme Court, is meant to be above the political fray.

Critics of the Trump immigration crackdown say that by restricting asylum seekers to border crossing points the government is effectively shutting the door on people who may truly be fleeing for their lives.

Starvation leaves him too weak even to cry

World talks peace as 14 million Yemenis, half of them children face famine

AFP, Taiz

Skin and bones, 10-year-old Ghazi Saleh lies on a hospital bed in Yemen's government-held third city Taiz barely breathing. He weighs just eight kilograms (less than 18 pounds).

Starving and too weak to move or even cry, Ghazi can only look down at his emaciated body as he struggles to keep his eyes open.

Some 14 million Yemenis are at risk of famine, more than four years into the country's war.

At Al-Mudhafar Hospital where Ghazi is being treated, medics go from one bed to another to check on malnourished children -- including infants.

Eman Ali, a nurse at the hospital, said that Ghazi suffers from acute malnutrition.

"He has not eaten properly for a while now, and he ultimately reached this situation," she told AFP.

While some doctors and nurses weighed children, others tried to feed



10-year-old Ghazi Saleh weighs just eight kilogrammes

the young patients through syringes as they have become too weak to swallow.

Cases of malnourished children have become a reflection of the health system in Yemen, where children bear the brunt of the war between the Saudi-backed government and the Iran-aligned Huthi rebels.

Aid organisation Save the Children

said on Wednesday that as many as 85,000 infants under the age of five may have died from starvation or disease since the Saudi-led military coalition intervened in March 2015.

"Children who die in this way suffer immensely as their vital organ functions slow down and eventually stop," said Save the Children's Yemen director Tamer Kirolos.

While the United Nations is hoping for peace talks to take place in Sweden by the end of this year, the situation on the ground remains dire with millions of children starving.

"We receive such cases every day, and some of them are very terrible," said Sona Othman, head of nutrition at Al-Mudhafar Hospital.

"Ghazi's case was extremely bad and it mirrors the deteriorating health situation of the country."

According to the UN children's agency (UNICEF), more than half of the 14 million people on the edge of famine are children. More than 22 million people -- three quarters of the Yemen's population -- now depend on humanitarian assistance to survive.

Yemen's war has put the country's children at particular risk. More than 40 percent of Yemeni girls are married before the age of 15 and three-quarters wed by 18, according to UNICEF, while boys are at risk of being drawn directly into the conflict to fight as child soldiers.