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Premier League

# Theresa May's Brexit deal to face parliament vote

On November 13<sup>th</sup> British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that she had agreed a deal for Britain's exit from the European Union. Her 585-page proposal comes 4 months before the Brexit negotiation deadline.

However, there is still much work to be done. Despite May getting her cabinet to agree to her vision, the deal still has to pass a parliamentary vote in which all 650 of the UK's MPs will have their say. The Labour Party, SNP, DUP, and several Conservatives have stated they will vote against the proposal.

There is also increased pressure for a 'people's vote' to allow the British public to accept or reject the final deal. With the country divided on what its post-Brexit relationship with Europe should be this too may be contentious. Current areas of major disagreement include the strength of the Irish border and the freedom to move goods to EU member states.



Voice of America

May, meanwhile, has additional headaches as several key figures have resigned rather than support the deal. These include Secretary of Work and Pensions Esther McVey, Northern Ireland secretary Shailesh Vara, and - perhaps ironically - Brexit Secretary and negotiator Dominic Raab.

Even before the parliamentary vote, May might find her own position under threat. If 15% of Conservative Party MPs (48 in the present parliament) put in letters of 'no confidence', she will face a vote to be replaced as Conservative leader. Defeat would mean she would no longer be Prime Minister.

## Remembrance Day marked across UK and Europe



Mike Sheridan/The Country Times

November 11<sup>th</sup> was Remembrance Day. The day, on which people remember those who died in World War I, was especially poignant this year: 2018 marks the centenary of the war ending.

In Britain, a national service was held at the Cenotaph in London, attended by

relatives of those lost; military units; and political and royal figures. Further events were held locally at memorials across the country. On several beaches, faces of fallen soldiers were drawn in the sand. A two minute silence was held at 11am, the hour at which fighting was halted.

## Sir Philip Green accused of harassment

One of Britain's most prominent businessmen, Sir Philip Green, is facing public condemnation and a possible removal of his knighthood after stories of inappropriate behaviour towards staff were released.

Green, who runs the Arcadia Group which

owns names such as Topshop and Miss Selfridge, is accused of threatening colleagues, sexual misconduct, and racial abuse. Green had attempted to have a court order stop The Daily Telegraph newspaper from running the story, but was named by a Member of Parliament.

## Johnston Press files for administration and is bought out

Johnston Press, the publisher behind over 200 UK titles, filed for administration on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It was immediately bought by another company, JPI Media, potentially saving jobs and its publications.

Amongst Johnston's products were i (the new version of the Independent), The Scotsman, and The News Letter, a Northern Ireland newspaper that is believed to be the oldest surviving English language paper in the world. The company had run into problems repaying a £220m loan. As part of the deal, JPI will put £135m towards loan repayments, and £35m into helping publication continue.

Johnston is not the only print media company that has faced recent issues. The Independent stopped print publishing in 2016, leaving its shorter sister paper i, and over 200 local newspapers have closed since 2005. One of the country's most read papers, The News of the World, was shut in 2011 after being caught illegally hacking into people's phones.

There may be positive news for The Guardian, however. The paper announced it expects to break even in 2019 thanks to readers' donations for online content. This month it declared losses of £19m for the financial year ending March 2018.

## Rogue trader deported to Ghana

Convicted rogue trader Kweku Adoboli lost his legal fight to avoid deportation from the UK on November 14<sup>th</sup>. He has been sent back to Ghana, the country of his birth.

Adoboli came to the UK at the age of 12 in 1991 and later became a trader for Swiss bank UBS in London. In 2012, he was convicted of fraud costing UBS £1.8bn. He was sentenced to 7 years, and released after 3 and a half.

UK law states that foreign criminals convicted in the UK can be sent back to their home country. Despite living in the UK for two decades, Adoboli never took British

citizenship. He was therefore technically an overseas national.

The decision whether to deport Adoboli was controversial. Many felt that the length of time he had stayed in the UK, and that he had not lived in Ghana since childhood, should enable him to stay. Several politicians and celebrities supported Adoboli's case.

Conversely, his criminal past and failure to apply for citizenship meant others felt little sympathy. The courts too saw no reason to make an exception, and Adoboli will now have to re-start his life abroad.

## Five London bridges closed by climate change protests

A mass climate change protest in central London on November 17<sup>th</sup> saw five of the bridges across the Thames closed. Protesters arrived at around 10am on all five sites and stayed until mid-afternoon. Organisers said around 6000 people took part. The Guardian newspaper stated 85 people had been arrested, mostly for obstructing roads.

The protests were organised by a group called Extinction Rebellion, who aim to use peaceful disobedience to force the government to act more quickly on climate matters. Extinction Rebellion grew out of Rising Up, a 2016 group promoting civil action, and believes government systems are deliberately slow

in dealing with climate matters. Non-violent civil disobedience, it says, may be the only way to make the government act.

Unusually, the London protest had supporters in influential positions. The former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, dozens of university professors, and members of the Green Party have all backed the move. US Senator Bernie Sanders has also posted a link to the movement. A spokesman for the London Mayor said he agreed with the message, and respects the right to protest within the law.

More protests are scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>.



Peter Nicholls/Reuters

## Premier League announces Susanna Dinnage as new Chief Executive

The English Premier League, football's most cash rich league, unveiled its new Chief Executive on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Susanna Dinnage will move from the media group Discovery - operators of several television channels - to replace Richard Scudamore at the end of 2018.

Dinnage has around 20 years of television executive experience, having worked at Channel 5 from 1997 to 2009 before joining Discovery. She was thought to be a possible candidate to take over at Channel 4 last year, but now sees herself moving into the world of sport. However, with the EPL earning £2.4bn a year from television contracts, her history made her a popular choice. Her appointment was agreed by all 20 teams in the league.

The fourth Chief Executive of the EPL since it was formed in 1992, Dinnage is the first woman appointed to the position. It will make her the most senior female in professional sports operations, and means England joins France in having a woman governing its top league. It is not known how much Dinnage will earn, but it is likely to be at least the same as Scudamore, whose yearly pay was £900 000 in salary, rising to over £2m after bonuses.

## Christmas anti-palm oil ad blocked for being 'political'

Supermarket chain Iceland have had their proposed Christmas television advert rejected on the grounds of it being political. Clearcast, the organisation responsible for vetting adverts before they reach the air, believe the commercial's connection with environmental group Greenpeace breached guidelines.



Greenpeace

The cartoon advert shows an orangutan coming to stay with a girl because palm oil plantations destroyed its forest. It was originally devised by Greenpeace and shown in cinemas before Iceland asked to be allowed to use it for their Christmas campaign. The decision to reject the advert may end helping Iceland and Greenpeace: after hitting the headlines, 'Rang-tan' has been seen over 5m times on Youtube.

## Tickets for Michelle Obama talk hit £70k on re-sale market

High demand to hear Michelle Obama speak in London has resulted in tickets appearing online for thousands of pounds. Many tickets on the Viagogo website were valued at £5k-£7k, although two box seats were priced at £72 181.

Obama will be at London's Southbank Centre on December 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of a book promotion tour. Her memoir, *Becoming*, describes her journey from a childhood in Chicago to the White House. It also addresses some

of her concerns about the new Trump administration.

Despite the high price, resold tickets may not guarantee access. Efforts to stop people flipping tickets means ID will be needed for entry.

The high demand to hear the former First Lady is maybe not surprising: the Southbank Centre holds 2700 people, while Mrs Obama has 11.5m Twitter followers. It is believed the online queue for the event surpassed 40 000.



UK Box Office

26/10 - 1/11

1. Bohemian Rhapsody
2. A Star is Born
3. Smallfoot

2/11 - 8/11

1. Bohemian Rhapsody
2. A Star is Born
3. The Nutcracker and The Four Realms

9/11 - 15/11

1. Dr Seuss' The Grinch
2. Bohemian Rhapsody
3. Widows



UK Charts

26/10 - 1/11

1. Shallow (Bradley Cooper & Lady Gaga)
2. Promises (Calvin Harris & Sam Smith)
3. Funky Friday (Dave ft. Fredo)

2/11 - 8/11

1. Shallow (Bradley Cooper & Lady Gaga)
2. Woman Like Me (Little Mix ft. Nicki Minaj)
3. Promises (Calvin Harris & Sam Smith)

9/11 - 15/11

1. Thank U Next (Ariana Grande)
2. Shallow (Bradley Cooper & Lady Gaga)
3. Woman Like Me (Little Mix ft. Nicki Minaj)



UK TV Ratings

15/10 - 21/10

1. Strictly Come Dancing
2. The Great British Bake Off
3. Doctor Who

22/10 - 28/10

1. Strictly Come Dancing
2. The Great British Bake Off
3. Doctor Who

29/10 - 4/11

1. Strictly Come Dancing
2. The Great British Bake Off
3. Coronation Street

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