

Brexit may be delayed: Hunt

Foreign Secretary says government needs more time to pass exit legislation

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Britain may need to delay Brexit to pass legislation to implement the split with the EU, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said on Thursday.

As the March 29 withdrawal date looms, the government is still trying to convince MPs to support a version of the divorce deal it has agreed with the bloc.

Even if it is passed, legislation putting the treaty into effect would then have to go through both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. "If we ended up approving a deal in the days before March 29 then we might need some extra time to pass critical legislation," Mr. Hunt told BBC radio.

"But if we are able to make progress sooner than that might not be necessary. We can't know at this stage exactly which of those scenarios would happen." There are eight laws needed to prepare for Brexit, not just on the deal but also covering issues such as trade, agriculture and immigration.

Andrea Leadsom, the leader of the House of Commons, had previously suggested Britain could probably secure "a couple of extra weeks" if needed. Any delay must be agreed by the other 27 EU countries.

Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl said it would be tough to extend the time frame. "It's very difficult to imagine that there can be a tremendous breakthrough —



Seeking common ground: British Prime Minister Theresa May and Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn speaking in the House of Commons on Wednesday. • AFP

a magic solution — in the next few days in order to have this ratified in due time," she told BBC radio.

Return to Brussels

Prime Minister Theresa May has promised to return to Brussels to try to secure changes to the deal that would enable MPs to support it, but the EU has warned it does not want to reopen the agreement. Without the deal, Britain runs the risk of severing ties with its closest trading partner on March 29 with no new arrangements in place.

Meanwhile, the government announced that it was scrapping MPs' February holiday in the rush to get ready for Brexit. In a rare move, MPs were warned to ditch their holiday plans in order to cram through vital legislation over the next two months.

British lawmakers have not had their holidays pulled since they were recalled

from their 2013 summer break to debate the escalating conflict in Syria.

"We are determined to have everything in place in order for us to leave on March 29 this year," Ms. May's spokesman told reporters. "The fact that recess won't be taking place and MPs will be sitting shows that we are taking all available steps to make sure that March 29 is our exit date." Parliament's lower House of Commons was expected to be off from February 15 to 24, inclusive of the two days.

Having thrown out the withdrawal agreement Ms. May negotiated with the EU, divided British lawmakers voted on Tuesday to send her back to Brussels to get an Irish border "backstop" clause removed. The backstop could see Britain tied to the bloc's trade rules to keep open the border with EU member Ireland. Emboldened by a mandate to seek to rewrite the rejected agree-

ment, Ms. May said it was a chance to prevent Britain crashing out of the EU on March 29 with no deal in place.

Under pressure

Ms. Leadsom, the leader of the House of Commons — the Minister responsible for arranging British government business — told the chamber on Thursday to prepare for working through February.

"Our constituents will expect that the house is able to continue to make progress at this important time," she said. Ms. Leadsom also suggested that all the necessary legislation could be brought through before exit day. "We are under pressure but it's all very much under control and we do expect to achieve what we need to do by March 29," she said.

Besides cancelling the parliamentary recess, the government is heading towards extending parliamentary sitting hours to allow more time to debate Brexit legislation.

Main Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn on Thursday reiterated his call for the government to resign and trigger a general election.

Opposition Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable said the scrapped holiday showed the government was in a "desperate position as a result of their own chaotic planning". He said Ms. May must "accept reality" and seek to delay Brexit.

The new Arctic normal

Frozen Arctic winds brought record-low temperatures across much of the U.S. Midwest and parts of the country's Northeast on Wednesday, killing at least 12 people. Here is an explainer on the extreme-weather events hitting North America

EFFECT IN NUMBERS

At least **90 MILLION** Americans experienced temperatures on or below 0°F (-18°C) on Wednesday and Thursday

At least **2,700** flights were cancelled on Wednesday

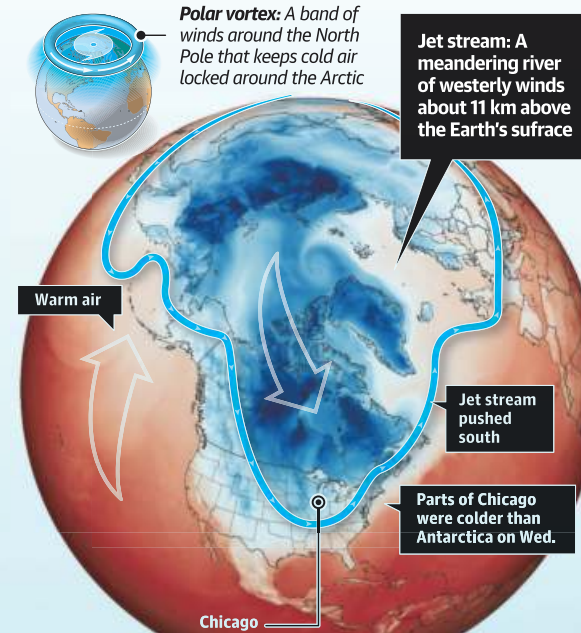
Another **1,800** flights scheduled for Thursday were called off

Cities/States affected
With temperatures **20-40°F** below average, Wednesday/Thursday were the coldest days in the following places in 20 years:

- Minneapolis, Minnesota, saw a temperature of -28°F (-33.3°C)
- In Des Moines, Iowa, -20°F (-28.8°C) was recorded
- Chicago, Illinois, witnessed its coldest day since 1985 at -23°F (-30.5°C)
- In South Bend, Indiana, residents experienced a temperature of -13°F (-25°C)
- Kalamazoo, Michigan, saw -7°F (-21.6°C)

At the moment the vortex looks like two swirling blobs of cold air, one settled over North America, the other over Eurasia... It splits up when there is sudden stratospheric warming.

JENNIFER FRANCIS, senior scientist at the Woods Hole Research Center



Polar vortex: A band of winds around the North Pole that keeps cold air locked around the Arctic

Jet stream: A meandering river of westerly winds about 11 km above the Earth's surface

Warm air

Jet stream pushed south

Parts of Chicago were colder than Antarctica on Wed.

What causes polar vortex?
It exists because of the large temperature difference between the Arctic and the warmer inhabited areas further south, including those in the Midwestern United States and Canada

HOW IS IT LINKED TO GLOBAL WARMING

1 The global temperature has risen by 0.8°C since 1880

2 The Arctic has warmed over twice the average



3 The temperature difference between North Pole and regions like North America has reduced

4 The energy generated by the jet stream travels upward and disrupts the solar vortex, causing it to split

5 One of these two 'child' vortices has visited North America this week, causing the record temperatures

Source: Conversation.com, Graphic News, U.S. National Weather Service, NASA | GRAPHIC: KARTHICK S.T.

FB to bar 'foreign' ads for Thai poll

Election in March will be the first since the 2014 coup

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BANGKOK

Facebook will bar foreign-based election advertisements in Thailand in the lead-up to March elections, the company said on Thursday, after being pilloried for not controlling election interference on the platform.

Thailand's poll, set for March 24, is the first since a 2014 coup. Facebook has come under fire in a wave of scandals, including the fuelling of hate speech in Myanmar and over the sharing of its users' data.

Facebook said in a newsroom post it would help "protect" the Thai vote by temporarily not allowing ads from "foreign entities which



Towards democracy: Graffiti in Bangkok ahead of the Thai general election in March. • REUTERS

are of an electoral nature".

The new rules, which cover paid-for content, will take effect from mid-February and will apply to external ads with references to "politicians, parties... and/or elec-

tion suppression," the post said. As in other countries in Southeast Asia, Facebook is wildly popular in Thailand where it has 52 million monthly users, according to the company.

U.S.-China trade talks going well, says Trump

President indicates he'll meet Xi soon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Wednesday touted the chances of success as U.S.-China negotiations entered a second day, saying Beijing was eager to make a deal.

In a morning series of tweets, he also said a final deal would leave "NOTHING" unresolved but such a bargain could only be struck after he met with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping "in the near future".

Making a deal

The meetings are "going well," Mr. Trump said on Twitter. "China does not

want an increase in Tariffs and feels they will do much better if they make a deal. They are correct."

The two sides have just a month remaining in a 90-day truce declared in December. Should the talks fail, U.S. import duties on \$200 billion in Chinese imports are due to more than double on March 2.

But Washington's aggressive prosecution of the Chinese telecom firm Huawei — which federal prosecutors accused this week of industrial espionage, sanctions violations and fraud — threatened to upend the talks, angering Beijing.

Hindu temple vandalised in Kentucky

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

A Hindu temple has been vandalised in the U.S. State of Kentucky by miscreants who sprayed black paint on the deity and left a knife stabbed into a chair in the main hall.

The incident happened between Sunday night and Tuesday morning at the Swaminarayan Temple in the Louisville city.

According to local media report, vandalism resulted in broken windows, walls spray-painted with inappropriate messages and graffiti. Authorities are investigating the incident as a hate crime.

No money for wall in bipartisan deal: Pelosi

But more border security is on the table

REUTERS WASHINGTON

U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Thursday said that there would not be any money for President Donald Trump's proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border in the deal being worked out by a bipartisan negotiating team.

"There's not going to be any wall money in the legislation," the top House Democrat told reporters, adding that more ports of entry or additional border technology was on the table for negotiation. Asked by reporters about Ms. Pelosi's comment on wall funding,

Mr. Trump said: "Without a wall, it doesn't work."

February 15 deadline

The committee of Republican and Democratic representatives and Senators met for the first time on Wednesday to begin negotiating a compromise on federal spending. The committee will likely have to wrap up its work around February 10 to meet a February 15 deadline.

Ms. Pelosi also rejected as a "nonstarter" Mr. Trump's offer of a temporary three-year protection for "Dreamer" immigrants in exchange for a permanent wall.

ELSEWHERE



God wants Trump to be President: Sarah Sanders

WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump has plenty of detractors, but for Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, he has support from above. "I think God calls all of us to fill different roles at different times and I think that he wanted Donald Trump to become President," she said in an interview. • AFP

U.S.-educated workers to gain from new H-1B rule

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

The U.S. has announced a new H-1B visa filing rule from April under which priority would be given to foreign workers with advanced degrees from American universities.

The rule reverses the order by which the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) selects H-1B petitions under the regular cap and the advanced degree exemption.

Among other things, the rule introduces an electron-

ic registration requirement for petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions.

President Donald Trump has said that he wants to bring in changes in the H-1B visa systems so that holders of these visas can stay in the country.

Employers seeking to employ foreign workers with a U.S. Master's or higher degree will have a greater chance of selection in the H-1B lottery in years of excess demand for new H-1B visas, said USCIS Director Francis Cissna.

Vote seeks EU recognition for Guaidó

European Parliament joins U.S., Canada in backing Opposition

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BRUSSELS

The European Parliament voted on Thursday to recognise Venezuela's Juan Guaidó as acting President and urged the European Union (EU) and its member states to follow suit. The vote joins the growing international pressure on President Nicolás Maduro and his remaining backers to step aside and allow free elections.

It does not change EU policy, but adds to calls for the EU executive and its member states to join the United States, Canada and Brazil in backing Mr. Guaidó. Four major European member



A painting of Hugo Chávez in Caracas. • AFP

ties against 104 "no" votes and 88 abstentions.

The vote also came as EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini demanded that Venezuelan authorities loyal to Mr. Maduro release detained foreign journalists.

Meanwhile, in an interview to Spain's *El País* newspaper published on Thursday, Mr. Guaidó repeated an appeal to Venezuela's armed forces to take his side.

"The risk of a civil war in Venezuela does not exist, despite what certain people want to believe or want to let us believe. Why? Because 90% of the population wants a change," he said.

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OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No. B-II-SC&ST-01/2019 5031 / Bhubaneswar the 29th Jan. 2019

Invitation For Bids

1195-B: Bid Identification No. CE (B) - 45 / 2018-19

- The Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites **percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE** only, for Construction of Building works as detailed below :
- Nature of work : Building work (Composite work)
- No. of work : 01 no.
- Bid Cost : ₹ 10,000/-
- Class of Contractor : 'A' Class & Special Class
- Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt.05.02.2019 to 17:00 hours of dt.23.02.2019.
- Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 25.02.2019 at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

34117/11/0193/1819 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
AYAPAKKAM, CHENNAI-600077

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIE invites E-Tender towards Annual Rate Contract for procurement of Lab Consumables under E-Procurement Platform.

Sl. No.	E-Tender ID No.	Description	EMD Amount	Bid Submission Due Date
1.	2019_ICMR_437706_1	ARC for LAB Consumables	Rs. 20,000.00	21-02-2019

For further details please visit (URL: <http://eprocure.gov.in>, www.nie.gov.in),
Email ID: stores@nie.gov.in
Phone: 044-26136456, 044-26136262, 044-26820610

DIRECTOR

COUNCIL OF HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION, ODISHA
C/2, PRAJNAPITHA, SAMANTAPUR, BHUBANESWAR - 751013.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

No.EC-I/151/2018 - 534/CHSE(O). Dated : 30.01.19

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO SCANNING/IMAGING AND ONSCREEN EVALUATION OF ANSWER BOOKS, RE-ADDITION/RE-CHECKING OF ANSWER BOOKS, AND FEEDING, UPLOADING & TRANSMISSION OF OFF-LINE MARKS FOR THE ANNUAL H.S.EXAMINATION-2019

The Council of Higher Secondary Education, Odisha is intending to undertake e-valuation of Answer Books of the Annual H.S.Examination, 2019. This would include design, development, and scanning, imaging and onscreen evaluation of Answer Books in a systematic process with Re-addition/Re-checking of Answer Books, and Feeding, Uploading & Transmission of off-line marks for the Annual H.S.Examinations. Therefore request for proposal is invited from experienced and registered firms as per following schedule.

Sl.No.	Items	Date & Time
Availability of RFP Document in the website(s) www.chseodisha.nic.in 29/01/2019		
(a)	Last date and time for submission of tender as per RFP (Only by registered post / speed post / couriers)	20/02/2019 by 05.00 P.M.
(b)	Pre- Bid Conference/ Submission of interest	04/02/2019 by 11.00 A.M.
(c)	Corrigendum, if any, to be published in website : www.chseodisha.nic.in	06/02/2019
(d)	Opening of bids : Technical (Each bidder would be given maximum 30 minutes time for presentation) Financial	21/02/2019 from 11.00 A.M. 22/02/2019 from 03.00 P.M.
(e)	Issue of letter of intent by CHSE (O)	25/02/2019
(f)	Acceptance letter to be received from the successful bidder	27/02/2019 by 05.00 P.M.
Availability of RFP Document in the website www.chseodisha.nic.in		
By Order of Chairman Finance Officer C.H.S.E., Odisha, Bhubaneswar.		

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11003/11/0024/1819

GOVT. OF ODISHA Tel.No. 06766-258301(O); eMail: se_nerw@rediffmail.com

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
NORTH EASTERN RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KEONJHAR

"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Works

Identification No.- Bridge Online NCB No. 254

No. 451 / Date : 30.01.2019

- Name of the Work : Construction of Bridge Works under OMBADC in the District of Keonjhar.
- Total No. of Work : 02 (Two) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : As per Annexure (Approximately)
- Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
- Period of Completion : 15 (Fifteen) Calendar months.
- Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E., N.E.R.W.Circle,Keonjhar.	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, North Eastern Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar.	Bridge Online NCB No.- 254	Dt.02.02.19 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.18.02.19 up to 3.00 P.M.	Dt.17.02.19 up to 3.00 P.M.	Dt.19.02.19 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.23.02.19 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

25048/11/0047/1819 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, N.E.R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.