

On her way out

British Prime Minister Theresa May has announced her resignation after it was clear that her Brexit agreement would not get Parliament's approval

How the crisis unfolded
MAY 7, 2015: British voters elect a majority Conservative government. Then-Prime Minister David Cameron confirms there will be a referendum on Britain's EU membership
JUNE 23, 2016: Britain votes 52% to 48% to leave the EU
JUNE 24: Cameron says he will resign in light of the results
JULY 13: Following a Conservative Party leadership contest, May, then Home Secretary, becomes Prime Minister
MARCH 29, 2017: The British government triggers Article 50, setting in motion a plan for Britain to leave the EU on March 29, 2019
JUNE 8: A general election called by May backfires as her Conservative Party loses majority and continues in a weakened state as a minority government
JULY 7, 2018: May and her Cabinet endorse the so-called

"It will be for my successor to seek a way forward that honours the result of the referendum"



Chequers Plan worked out at a fractious session at the Prime Minister's country retreat

NOVEMBER 25: EU leaders approve a withdrawal deal reached with Britain

JANUARY 15, 2019: The Brexit deal comes back to Parliament, where it is overwhelmingly defeated in a 432-202 vote

MARCH 12: Lawmakers reject deal again

MARCH 28: May offers up her job in exchange for her Brexit deal

MARCH 30: British lawmakers reject the government's Brexit deal for a third time

APRIL 11: Britain and the EU agree to extend the

Brexit deadline to Halloween. The Oct. 31 cutoff date averts a precipitous Brexit on April 12

MAY 17: Talks between Britain's Conservative government and the opposition Labour Party seeking a compromise over Brexit break down without agreement

MAY 21: May offers a concession to lawmakers, giving them the chance to vote on whether to hold a new referendum on the country's membership in the EU but only if they back her Brexit agreement

MAY 24: May says she will step down as Conservative Party leader on June 7

What's next?

1 The Conservative Party should elect May's successor as party leader

2 If there are more than three candidates for the leadership post, legislators vote in multiple rounds until there are two candidates left

3 All party members can vote in the contest between two candidates

4 The party leader will become the new PM

Brexit became a trap for Theresa May

The British Prime Minister never got the support of lawmakers for her withdrawal agreement

ELLEN BARRY
LONDON

An iconic image of Theresa May appeared this week, as Britain readied for the news that she would step down. It showed her in the back of her car, her face pale and sheened with sweat, her eyes red-rimmed and watery. The image resonated because it was nearly identical to one taken of Margaret Thatcher in November of 1990, as a car whisked her away from her own resignation. "Tears in the Back Seat," read the *Daily Mirror's* headline, on both days. The tears were notable because they were out of the ordinary. In two years and 10 months as Prime Minister, Ms. May has made toughness into a personal brand, ploughing forward even as her hopes of delivering Brexit faded. It became one of the central mysteries of British politics: What exactly would it take for Ms. May to give up? On Friday, we found out.



Teary exit: A file photo of Brexit supporters in London. •NYT

She said she would stand aside as leader of the Conservative Party on June 7, but remain as Prime Minister until a successor was chosen.

Abandoned by allies
Contemplating a fourth humiliating defeat in Parliament, abandoned by the last of her allies, Ms. May at last concluded that she had exhausted every possible pathway to success. Her Brexit strategy has left the country in dire straits: Its populace is poisonously divided, its two venerable parties are gravely damaged and her likely successors pushing the hard-line fantasy of a no-deal exit. She has to date served 1,044 days in office, one of the shortest tenures of any postwar Prime Minister, and her government has passed fewer pieces of legislation than any other in the last three decades. As Ms. May steps down in comprehensive defeat, it is in large part because she was slow to adjust to the political realities of Brexit. Though she ultimately made clear that she was not willing to lead the country into a no-deal exit, she did so only this spring, at the tail end of the process. Though she finally reached out beyond her own party, in hopes of cobbling together a coalition with Labour centrists, she did so tentatively, and too late. "She missed her moment," said Rosa Prince, the author of a biography of Ms. May. "She just didn't have the flexibility or insight to change course. She's like a tanker that takes forever to change direction, and then can't recalibrate when it's clear the new course is fatal." Tim Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University, was unsparing, calling Ms. May's time in office "a complete and utter waste, an exercise in futility." "She will be seen as one of the worst-performing Prime Ministers ever to occupy that office," Mr. Bale said. NY TIMES

EU says no change in its stand

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

The European Union's position on the terms of Britain's exit from the bloc has not changed despite British Prime Minister Theresa May announcing her June 7 resignation earlier on Friday, Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said. " (European Commission) President (Jean-Claude) Juncker followed PM May's announcement," she told a news briefing. "The President appreciated working with PM May. He will equally respect and establish working relations with any new PM, whomever it may be. Our position on the withdrawal agreement – there is no change to that," she said.

U.S. charges Julian Assange with violating Espionage Act

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The Justice Department on Thursday charged WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange with violating the US Espionage Act by publishing military and diplomatic files in 2010, rejecting his claim that he is a journalist. The department unveiled 17 new charges against Mr. Assange, accusing him of directing and abetting intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning in stealing secret U.S. files, and also recklessly exposing confidential sources in West Asia and China who were named in the files. The charges against Mr. Assange, now 18 in total, reject his claim that he was simply a publisher receiving leaked material from Mr. Manning, an action that is protected under the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of the press. A new indictment alleges that Mr. Assange actively conspired with Mr. Manning to steal the classified files "with reason to believe that the information was to be used to the injury of the U.S. or the advantage of a foreign nation," the Justice Department said. It also said that Mr. As-



Julian Assange

sange rejected the U.S. State Department's warning in 2010 to redact the names of its and the U.S. military's confidential sources in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Iran and China, sources it said included journalists, religious leaders, human rights advocates, and political dissidents. "Assange's actions risked serious harm to U.S. national security to the benefit of our adversaries and put the unredacted named human sources at a grave and imminent risk of serious physical harm and/or arbitrary detention," the department said. "The department takes seriously the role of journalists in our democracy," said Assistant Attorney General John Demers. "But Julian Assange is no journalist."

U.S. to deploy 1,500 additional troops to West Asia: Trump

‘This is a prudent response to credible threats from Iran’

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump announced on Friday that some 1,500 additional U.S. troops would be deployed to West Asia against a backdrop of soaring tensions with Iran.



Donald Trump

"We want to have protection in the Middle East," Mr. Trump told reporters as he prepared to set off on a trip to Japan. "We're going to be sending a relatively small number of troops, mostly protective," Mr. Trump added. "It'll

be about 1,500 people." The deployment includes reconnaissance aircraft, fighter jets, engineers, and the extension of the presence of a Patriot missile defense battalion that accounts for 600 of the personnel. "This is a prudent response to credible threats from Iran," said Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan. Pentagon officials said the move is in response to recent incidents in the region, including a rocket attack on the Green Zone in Baghdad, explosion that damaged four tankers in Fujairah at the entrance to the Gulf, and a Houthi drone attack against a Saudi oil installation. The U.S. intelligence had tied the incidents to Iran.

Trump, Pelosi trade barbs over impeachment talks

Speaker questions President's mental fitness; he calls her crazy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Democratic Congressional leader Nancy Pelosi on Thursday said President Donald Trump is angry that her party is not rushing to impeach him, as the relationship reached new lows with the rivals trading crude personal barbs. It was the second straight day of a public war of words between Mr. Trump and the speaker of the House of Representatives, who earlier questioned the President's mental fitness for office and expressed hope that those close to Mr. Trump would stage an intervention "for the good of the country."



Nancy Pelosi

of the special counsel's report on Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election. According to Ms. Pelosi, Mr. Trump's strategy is to get his opponents to commit themselves to impeachment – a process that would almost certainly pass in the House, and then fail in the Republican-controlled Senate, ultimately energising Mr. Trump's core voters during his re-election bid. Mr. Trump is "disappointed" that the Democrats are holding off, Ms. Pelosi said, even as they intensify Congressional investigations into Mr. Trump's links to Russia and his alleged obstruction of justice.

Bodies of four Indians found in Oman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Bodies of four Indians were found in a flooded area in Oman after rescue authorities launched a massive search operation to trace six members of an Indian healthcare worker's family who went missing after torrential rains. On May 18, the family went on a picnic to Wadi Bani Khalid, about 200 km from Muscat, where they got trapped inside their vehicle due to torrential rains. The worker managed to exit the vehicle and survived by clutching on to a palm tree. His parents, wife and three children went missing after they were swept away by flood water, the *Gulf News* reported.

ELSEWHERE



Iran's Foreign Minister in Pak. amid crisis with U.S.
ISLAMABAD
Iran's Foreign Minister lashed out at President Donald Trump on Friday during a visit to Pakistan amid a simmering crisis between Tehran and U.S., and ahead of next week's Arab League meeting called by Saudi Arabia over the region's tensions. AP

Bomb blast in French city of Lyon injures 13
LYON
A bomb blast on a pedestrian street in the French city of Lyon injured 13 people on Friday, officials said, just two days ahead of the hotly contested European Parliament polls. President Emmanuel Macron called the blast an "attack". AFP

Pakistani teacher hails the release of ‘American Taliban’

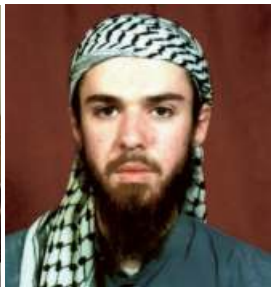
Lindh was ‘upset over situation in Afghanistan, Kashmir & Palestine’

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani religious teacher who spent six months with "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh has hailed his release, describing him as a "good person" who became upset over the situation in Afghanistan, Kashmir and Palestine. Lindh symbolised betrayal for the U.S. when he was captured, bearded and dishevelled, while fighting for the Taliban in Mazar-i-Sharif in 2001. His release from prison on Thursday – three years before the end of his 20-year sentence – has re-awakened memories of the September 11 attacks. President Donald Trump said he was upset about the



Teacher's account: Mohammad Iltimas, who taught John Walker Lindh, right, displaying a school book of Lindh. •AFP



release. "We'll be watching him and watching him closely," Mr. Trump told reporters. But Mohammad Iltimas, who taught Lindh for six months at a Muslim school in Pakistan's northwest, said he was happy to hear of the decision to release him. "He was such a pure person, such a positive-thinking man," Mr. Iltimas said. "He wanted to memorise the Koran," he said, describing how Lindh could often be seen listening to Koranic verses on a tape recorder or learning Pashto. "He was such a good student, pious and focused on his studies."

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