

Brexit – Britain's divorce issues

Prime Minister Theresa May will meet European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier to discuss three priority areas ahead of an EU summit on December 14-15



DIVORCE BILL (estimates, € billions) **€86.4 billion**

9.6	17.4	14.2	32.4	12.8
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Officials' pensions Projects 2019-20 Agriculture 2019-20 "Reste à liquider" (unpaid commitments) Other

Commission wants Britain to pay its share of EU's €665bn long-term liabilities – estimated to be 13% or €86.4bn. London has increased its offer of €20bn to €40-45bn

EU CITIZENS' RIGHTS

More than 3 million EU citizens live in UK. Differences remain on status of EU citizens in UK after Brexit, so-called right of family reunification.

EU wants unrestricted entry of family members to EU citizens in UK. European Parliament's lead Brexit negotiator



Guy Verhofstadt (left) opposes any attempt to dilute citizens' rights

IRISH BORDER ISSUE

Dublin wants Northern Ireland to remain in EU customs union and single market, London says Britain will leave both institutions. Ireland's Taoiseach **Leo Varadkar** (right) wants open border guaranteed in writing before start of trade talks. 35,000 people commute across border every day – bilateral trade with UK amounted to €29bn in 2016



Sources: CSO, Financial Times, LSE, Politico, Reuters Pictures: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS

Foreign involvement in Syria's civil war

As Syria's long-running civil war winds down slowly, the country is awash with weapons and a bewildering array of local militias and thousands of foreign troops, some of which may never leave



Syria's President **Bashar al-Assad** has regained control over large parts of Syria but is heavily reliant on support from Russia and Iran

AREAS OF CONTROL (Nov 28)

- Syrian government and allies
- Syrian rebel groups
- Turkish troops and allies
- So-called Islamic State (IS)
- Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (U.S-backed)

United States Number of troops in north may exceed 1,500 – including special forces, Marine artillery unit and forward air controllers. Presence could be maintained until settlement for war is found

Russia: Plans to maintain and expand main bases at Hemeimeem and Tartus. Troop count could exceed Sep 2016 figure of 4,300, as Moscow has this year deployed military police to patrol Syria's so-called "de-escalation zones"

Iran: Revolutionary Guards, Iranian officers and tens of thousands of militia deployed across Syria, plus Iranian-backed Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon. Iran reportedly building permanent base in Syria

Turkey: At least 2,500 troops in border zone retaken from IS in 2016, plus 400 in Idlib province as part of de-escalation agreement with Russia and Iran. Key strategy is to limit expansion of Syrian Kurds



Sources: Associated Press, LiveUAMap Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

Apple to audit development after finding new Mac bug



A guest points to a new MacBook Pro during an Apple media event in Cupertino, California

Apple Inc said yesterday it would review its software development process a day after a researcher discovered a bug in a new version of its Mac operating system that could give hackers total control of vulnerable machines.

Apple said it released a patch to fix the bug on Wednesday morning and it would be automatically installed on vulnerable machines later in the day.

"We greatly regret this error and we apologize to all Mac users," Apple said in a statement. "Our customers deserve better. We are auditing our development

processes to help prevent this from happening again."

To exploit the bug, a hacker would need to have physical access to a vulnerable Mac when a user is logged on to the computer. The attacker would then need to change settings on the computer to establish a "root" account, which they could later access.

Root accounts give users complete control over a machine. The U.S. and German governments issued alerts advising Mac users to install the patch.

Apple said its security engineers learned of the problem on Tuesday

afternoon and posted the patch within 24 hours.

"Security is a top priority for every Apple product, and regrettably we stumbled with this release of Mac OS," Apple said in its statement.

Apple stock was down 2.6 percent at \$168.55 on Wednesday during a broad selloff in tech stocks.

The behaviour in the Mac operating system that led to the bug's discovery was described by developers on an Apple forum as early as Nov. 13 as a workaround for problem accessing administrator accounts. (Reuters)

UN weighs response as North Korea claims nuclear power status

United Nations (United States)

The UN Security Council faced calls to ratchet up pressure yesterday on North Korea after its groundbreaking missile test, as leader Kim Jong-Un declared his country had completed its drive to become a nuclear power.

US President Donald Trump vowed to respond to Pyongyang's test-firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) with "major sanctions" following crisis telephone talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Pyongyang on Wednesday tested its third ICBM -- which it claimed was capable of striking anywhere in the United States -- snapping a two-month pause in missile launches.

The council was set to open an emergency meeting at 4:30 pm (2130 GMT) at the request of the United States, Japan and South Korea to weigh a response to the ICBM test, which violates UN resolution.

Ahead of the urgent talks, the White House said Trump urged China to use "all available levers" to press the hermit state.

"Additional major sanctions will be imposed on North Korea today. This situation will be handled!" Trump said on Twitter.

"The ICBM Hwasong-15 type weaponry system is an intercontinental ballistic rocket tipped with super-large heavy warhead which is capable of striking the whole mainland of the US," the North's official news agency KCNA said.

North Korean state television brought out Ri Chun-Hee, a star presenter who only appears for significant developments, to announce the landmark. (AFP)



Gulf Air yesterday celebrated Bahraini Women's Day by honouring its women employees in its engineering section. Those honoured, as part of a company-wide celebration held at its Muharraq headquarters, included: Hameeda Mohamed Sharif, Controller Engineering Publications & Modification; Maryam Isa Ali, Technical Records Officer; Mardheya A.Majeed Mosawi, Repair Specialist; Eman Hameed Mandeel, Aircraft Maintenance Supervisor; Batool Adnan AlQassab, Aircraft Maintenance Technician; Buthaina Abdullatif AlGHunaim, Aircraft Maintenance Technician; Sameera Abdulla Jamal, Controller Engineering Publications & Modification; Ameera Mohamed Aljasim, Administration Assistant; Maryam Faisal Ali, Assistant Planner; and Amal Husain AlHoori, Project Engineer. Bahraini Women's Day is celebrated annually on 1st December.