

Summary of Today's News

SKY

Theresa May to reveal departure date as talks with Labour under threat of collapse

Theresa May will set out the timetable for her departure following one final attempt to get her Brexit deal passed by MPs.

Sir Graham Brady, chairman of the 1922 Committee of backbench Tory MPs, said he will meet Mrs May to agree the details of her exit from Downing Street early next month. Tabling the Brexit deal places an effective deadline on those cross-party discussions. Earlier this year, Mrs May promised to go once her Brexit deal has been passed by MPs. But with this looking like an increasingly remote prospect, growing numbers within her party have been pushing for a more specific timetable for when she will quit.

Israel Folau: Australian rugby star sacked over anti-gay social media post

Rugby Australia has sacked one of its biggest stars for social media posts which were critical of gay people.

Israel Folau's contract was terminated this morning after he was found guilty earlier this month of a "high-level breach of the professional players' code of conduct" over the Instagram and Twitter post.

Only last month, the former rugby league international and Australian Rules player became the top try scorer in the history of Super Rugby by scoring his 60th try in his most recent match for the Sydney-based New South Wales Waratahs. "Israel is a great rugby player and we are disappointed and saddened by the fact that he will not see out his four-year contract and commitment to the Wallabies and also with the Waratahs." Ms Castle had previously said the way Folau had expressed his religious beliefs was "inconsistent with the values of the sport" and described the language used in the post as "unacceptable".

UK sold 11.5m of arms to Saudi Arabia in months after Khashoggi murder

The British government licenced the sale of almost 11.5m worth of military equipment to Saudi Arabia in the three months after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Sky News has learnt.

Figures from the Department of International Trade (DIT), compiled by the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), and verified and analysed by Sky News, show between October and December 2018 a total of £11,414,054 military licences were granted to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Mr Khashoggi, a staunch critic of his crown prince, was last seen entering the country's consulate in Istanbul on 2 October last year. Sky News previously revealed that the UK sold at least £5.7bn worth of arms to the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen since the start of the war in 2015 - with more than 80% of those sales received by Saudi Arabia.

"We will not a grant a licence if to do so would be inconsistent with these criteria." Andrew Smith, spokesperson for CAAT, said: "The murder of Jamal Khashoggi was condemned around the world, but for the arms dealers it was business as usual.

Pregnant athletes 'punished' by Nike, says champion British runner Jo Pavey

British runner Jo Pavey has revealed Nike stopped her sponsorship money immediately when she told the sportswear company she was pregnant.

The European 10,000m champion told Sky News female athletes were being "punished" by their sponsor for starting a family.

Pavey is the first British athlete to add her voice to a chorus of American runners who say Nike also froze their sponsorship when they became pregnant. "Historically, a few female athletes had reduced payments based on failure to meet their contractual performance obligations.

Pregnant woman strangled and has baby cut from womb after responding to offer on Facebook

A pregnant woman who responded to an offer of free baby clothes on Facebook was strangled and had her child cut from her womb, say Chicago police.

Two, 46-year-old Clarisa Figueroa and her 24-year-old daughter Desiree, were charged with murder. Yiovanni Lopez, the baby's father, has been visiting his son in hospital.

Women share their abortion stories in rebuke of Alabama 'ban'

Women are sharing their stories of having an abortion on social media in response to the state of Alabama voting to enforce a near-total ban on the procedure.

Talk show host and actress Busy Philipps shared her own experience of having an abortion aged 15 and called for other women to voice their stories to "end the shame" which surrounds abortions.

Her motivation behind the campaign is to show how common it is for women to end their pregnancies. When I think about the fact that women might have to face abortions in even worse conditions than I did because of new laws, my stomach turns." Actor and politician Cynthia Nixon said her mother underwent a "harrowing" backstreet abortion before the procedure was made legal and that her wife also had an abortion. It was super weird but I was incredibly loved and supported by friends, family and the unbelievable NHS." Wokoma, who is working on a film about women who have abortions with support from the NHS, added: "Keep your hands off our f***ing bodies".

Bullying campaigner admits cyberbullying 'not as prevalent' as offline bullying

A member of Prince William's Cyberbullying Taskforce has warned that the treatment of cyberbullying by politicians and the media is unbalanced because online bullying is less significant than its face-to-face equivalent.

"It's very easy to paint the internet as this really scary place and I think sometimes we forget that school for a lot of young people is just as scary. "Different studies have shown that there isn't such a prevalence of online bullying as there is compared to offline bullying," he said. Mr Holmes agreed that "dealing with global companies" was "not the most straightforward task", but defended the work of the group, saying: "What came out of it was a really powerful educational campaign, 'Stop, Speak, Support', that's reached half of the schools in the country."

Political reality catches up with May but will victory last for new leader?

For months Theresa May has defied political precedent. She has survived two confidence votes; three parliamentary defeats on her Brexit deal and more than three dozen resignations from her government.

"[The prime minister] is focused on securing the second reading of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill and that will take place in the second week of June. So the party has allowed the prime minister one last attempt to leave office with her Brexit pledge delivered and her legacy guaranteed.

She now has just weeks left as Conservative party leader and prime minister.

Some Brexiteers want a short, sharp race, with a new leader installed before recess in July.

The Conservative party will still be split on what to do about Brexit.

Political reality catches up with May but will victory last for new leader?

For months Theresa May has defied political precedent. She has survived two confidence votes; three parliamentary defeats on her Brexit deal and more than three dozen resignations from her government.

"[The prime minister] is focused on securing the second reading of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill and that will take place in the second week of June. So the party has allowed the prime minister one last attempt to leave office with her Brexit pledge delivered and her legacy guaranteed.

She now has just weeks left as Conservative party leader and prime minister.
Some Brexiteers want a short, sharp race, with a new leader installed before recess in July.
The Conservative party will still be split on what to do about Brexit.

US public 'kept in the dark' over possible war with Iran

The UK is scrambling to show its support for America's position on Iran.

Democratic senator Richard Blumenthal said: "The American people have been kept in the dark. It is disgraceful and despicable that we're on the verge of war and the American people are given this kind of confused and chaotic picture of what the situation is on the ground." He added: "We are supposedly going to have a briefing on Tuesday. Air Force Brigadier General Rob Spalding left the National Security Council in January, and said Huawei could put US-Russia relations under threat.
"If we felt it was a national security risk for ourselves, then over time, maybe there's going to be less of an inclination to want to share information," he said.

US public 'kept in the dark' over possible war with Iran

The UK is scrambling to show its support for America's position on Iran.

Democratic senator Richard Blumenthal said: "The American people have been kept in the dark. It is disgraceful and despicable that we're on the verge of war and the American people are given this kind of confused and chaotic picture of what the situation is on the ground." He added: "We are supposedly going to have a briefing on Tuesday. Air Force Brigadier General Rob Spalding left the National Security Council in January, and said Huawei could put US-Russia relations under threat.
"If we felt it was a national security risk for ourselves, then over time, maybe there's going to be less of an inclination to want to share information," he said.

The runners and riders who could replace Theresa May

Theresa May will set out the timetable for her departure after a final push to get her Brexit deal passed by MPs, paving the way for a leadership battle for the top spot in the Conservative Party.

It comes after months of speculation over her position, with the PM facing pressure from all sides of her party and the House of Commons to stand down. The former foreign secretary was one of the PM's guests for lunch at Chequers, an event seen as her attempt to quell the opposition within her party.

Mrs May's former Brexit secretary could be her replacement, as he quit seemingly in time to avoid any further association with such an unpopular deal. Sky Bet puts the odds of him taking over from Mrs May at 11/2. The environment secretary has been hankering after Mrs May's job for a long time, running against her for the leadership in 2016. Sky Bet puts the odds of Ms Rudd replacing Theresa May at 28/1. Despite his protestations, the odds of him becoming Tory leader are 33/1.

However, following Mrs May's speech outside Downing Street last year where she vowed to fight on, Ms Mordaunt tweeted: "The prime minister has my full support, not least because she has always done what she firmly believes is in the national interest. A new name to the leadership questions, the health secretary appears to have been positioning himself in the field over the last few months. He says that despite voting Remain in the 2016 referendum, he now identifies as a "Brexiteer" who accepts the referendum decision. Brandon Lewis is the Conservative Party chairman, who in recent months has had to deal with Islamophobia rows in the group.

James Cleverly is no stranger to leadership rumours, with his name linked to the top job since 2017.

Off the rails: Seven mishaps suffered by 'failing' Chris Grayling

Another policy pioneered by Chris Grayling is being reversed, marking the latest in a series of mishaps presided over by the transport secretary.

As the government announces it is re-nationalising probation services Mr Grayling privatised just six years ago, Sky News takes a look back at some of the problems he is blamed for. The video was only published after a cyclist who was following behind and wearing a helmet camera decided to go public following Mr Grayling's claim that cycle lanes "cause too much of a problem for road users" in London. Shadow transport secretary Andy McDonald said Mr Grayling had "gifted" Stagecoach and Virgin, which took over in 2015, a "£2bn bailout" after they failed on the major route.

Autogenerated by Harris Vince on 2019-05-17 in 0.00499s.