US hopes for success in nuke talks

The United States hopes to reach agreement with Britain, France and Germany to address President Donald

Trump's concerns about the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, Washington's disarmament ambassador said yesterday. U.S. disarmament ambassador Robert Wood said discussions with the three European powers were "intense" ahead of the May 12 deadline.



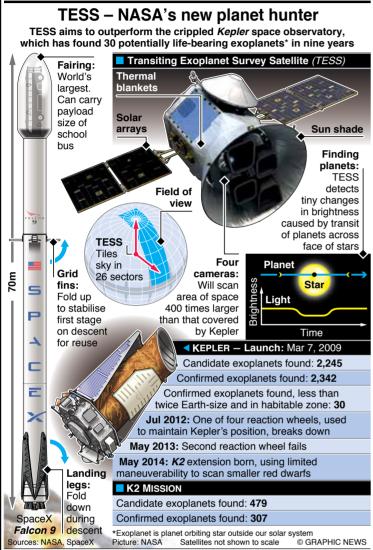
Britain's health minister in the dock

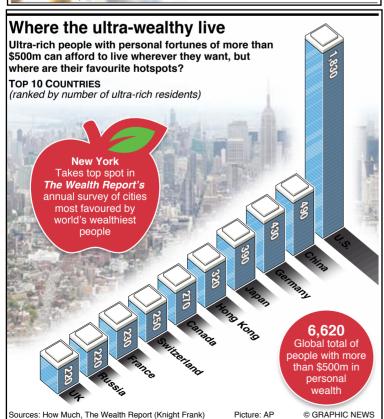
Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, is facing an investigation by a parliamentary watchdog over his failure to declare

a property investment deal. Hunt, one of Britain's wealthiest politicians, apologized last week for failing to initially disclose his interest in a company set up to purchase luxury flats, saying it was an honest administrative











Oil prices kept rising to their highest since late 2014 as U.S. crude inventories declined. moving closer to five-year averages

Brent crude futures LCOc1 reached \$74.74 a barrel, the highest since Nov. 27, 2014 — the day OPEC decided to pump as much as it could to defend market share, sending the price to a low of \$27 just over a year later.

slightly to \$74.40 a barrel by 1316 GMT, still up 92 cents from the previous close.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures CLc1 were up 53 cents at \$69.00. WTI had earlier hit \$69.56, its highest since Nov. 28.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other major producers including Russia started to withhold output in 2017 had depressed prices since

OPEC and its partners will meet in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on April 20. OPEC will then meet on June 22 to review its oil production policy.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that top oil exporter Saudi Arabia would be happy for crude to reach \$80 or even \$100 a barrel, which was viewed as a sign that Riyadh will not seek changes to the supply

In the United States, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said on Wednesday that commercial crude stocks fell close to the five-year average of about 420 million barrels.

Also supporting prices is the possibility that the United States might reimpose sanctions on Iran, OPEC's third-largest producer, which could result in further supply reductions from the Middle

Daimler open to buying small stake in Volvo cars

Daimler is open to supplying Volvo with engines and could even take a small stake in the Swedish carmaker, Manager Magazin said, raising the possibility of increased cooperation between Mercedes-Benz and China's

Daimler could buy "a couple of percent" in Volvo Cars, Manager Magazin said on Thursday, without citing sources.

Volvo declined to comment and a Daimler spokesman said: "This is pure speculation which we will not Daimler could buy "a couple of percent" in Volvo Cars, Manager Magazin said on Thursday, without citing sources

comment on."

Volvo The chairman of owner Geely, Li Shufu, stealthily built a \$9 billion stake in Daimler by the end of February,

seeking to forge an alliance with the German carmaker as a way to counter the threat from new competitors such as Tesla, Google and Uber. (Reuters)