



# May bloodied, but not beaten

● **Wounded May seeks EU compromise to save Brexit**

● **British leader survived a confidence vote staged by her own party's MPs**

● **May won the backing of 200 Conservative lawmakers, but 117 voted to oust her**

● **Now she wants Europe to sweeten the offer with "reassurances"**

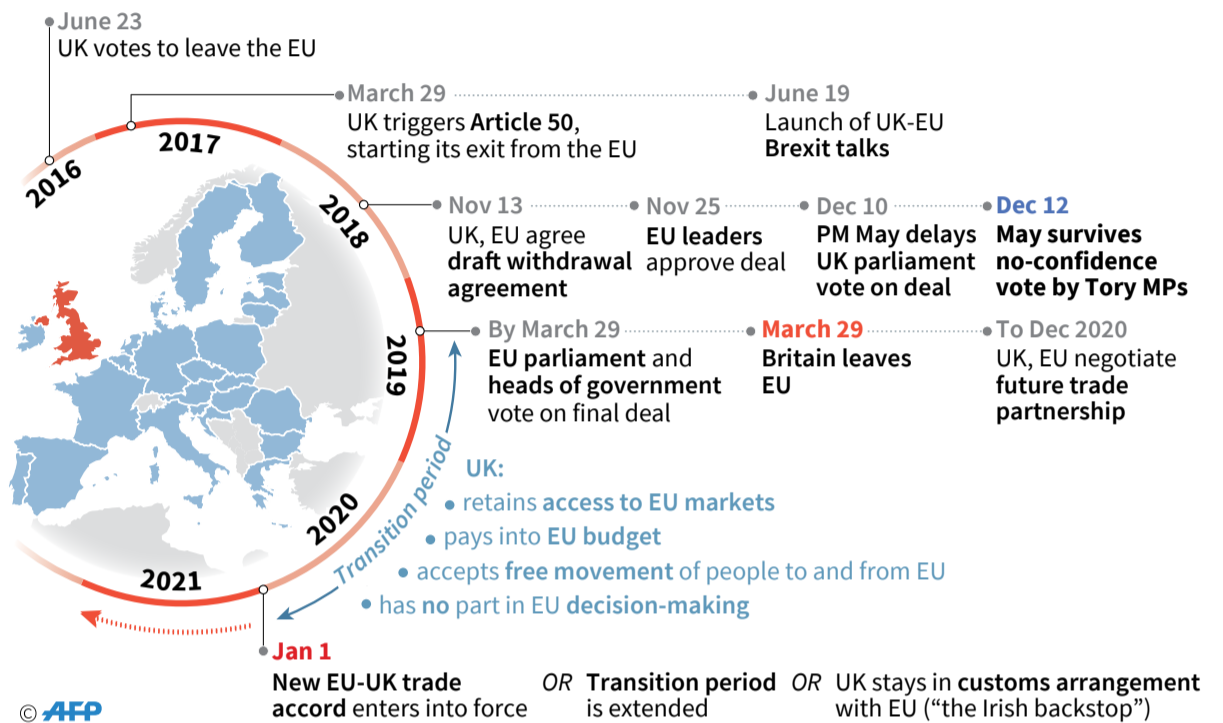
AFP | Brussels, Belgium

## British Prime Minister

- ◆ **Since 1997**  
Conservative member of parliament
- ◆ **2010-16**  
Home Secretary (*interior minister*)
- ◆ **2016**  
Argues against UK leaving EU
- ◆ **July 2016**  
Becomes prime minister
- ◆ **June 8, 2017**  
Loses majority in snap election. Strikes deal with pro-Brexit DUP
- ◆ **Dec 10, 2018**  
Delays key UK parliament vote on Brexit to avoid certain defeat
- ◆ **Dec 12**  
**Survives no-confidence vote by Tory MPs, cannot be challenged again for 1 year**

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## Brexit timeline



**B**loodied but not yet beaten, Prime Minister Theresa May comes to Brussels for the second time in three days yesterday, battling to save her Brexit deal and her career.

The British leader, who survived a confidence vote staged by her own party's MPs late on Wednesday, now needs to turn a narrow victory on home turf into an unlikely away win.

May's 27 counterparts will join her in Brussels for a European Union summit less than three weeks after a November 25 meeting at which they approved the Brexit divorce papers.

The accord was hailed as the end to a 17-month negotiation, and leaders dared hope they had saved Britain from crashing out of the union on March 29 with no ongoing trade arrangements.

But when May brought the hard-fought compromise back to Britain she ran into renewed opposition from hardline Brexiters on her own backbenches and balked at putting it to

parliament. Now she wants Europe to sweeten the offer with "reassurances" that the so-called "backstop" -- measures to prevent the return of a hard border with Ireland -- will not last indefinitely.

Negotiators said the leaders would listen to May and see what they can offer her in terms of a statement, but insist the 585-page withdrawal agreement itself can not be renegotiated.

"The margin is really tight, it will be an exercise in presentation," one senior European diplomat confided Wednesday.

They will, however, hear May out, setting aside time on Thursday during a summit they had hoped would deal with migration, budgets and eurozone reform to talk about Brexit once again.

"The discussions in Britain... do not make the situation any easier, but we should nevertheless do everything we can to avoid a hard Brexit," Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said.

Austria holds the rotating EU pres-

idency and Kurz arrived in Brussels ahead of the summit to talk with host Donald Tusk, the president of the European Council, about the agenda.

"It is clear that the withdrawal agreement will not be opened up and amended but there are, of course, other ways of moving towards one another that are in the interests of both sides," Kurz said.

### Backstop sell-by date?

After May made a desperate three-capital European tour on Tuesday to seek assistance from fellow leaders, Tusk had said he would love to help her, but "the question is how".

On Wednesday, Kurz suggested the secret may lie in the question of the backstop.

When asked what could be clarified, he said: "For example the question: 'When does the backstop end?'"

"I think there is a certain room to move towards each other."

But determined to remain loyal to

continuing member Ireland, European officials insist in public and in private that the backstop must stay. "The idea of a sell-by date won't stand," one said.

And any modification or addendum to an agreement on plans for future UK-EU relations will not be legally binding, negotiators say.

Anything May does come away with must convince her own party, its angry Northern Irish allies and a majority of British MPs to back the deal if and when it returns to Westminster.

If the agreement is still found wanting not only would Britain and its main trading partners face economic chaos, but May could be finished off by a parliamentary vote of no confidence.

On Thursday, May won the backing of 200 Conservative lawmakers, but 117 voted to oust her -- and only after she had conceded she would step down before 2022 elections.

## National Day: 50pc discount at Al Salam specialist hospital



Board members and senior management of Al Salam Specialist Hospital during the press conference

TDT | Manama

**A**l Salam Specialist Hospital has launched its National Day offering a 50 per cent discount on consultations, Laboratory and Radiology services starting this Saturday until 31 December 2018.

The announcement, part of the 47th National Day of Bah-

rain was made at a Press Conference held yesterday at the hospital's conference room.

Al Salam Specialist Hospital is one of the largest private medical complexes within Bahrain.

Commenting on the offer, Dr Ramez Elawady, the Chief Executive Officer of Al Salam Specialist Hospital, said that the campaign aims at offering

"our high-quality care and services" to the people of Bahrain on the occasion of National Day.

Chief Medical Officer of Al Salam Specialist Hospital, Dr Mohammed Al-Sowaidi said, "We have equipped our hospital with the state-of-the-art technology to provide patient-centered quality care with the highest level of personal integrity and business excellence".



Four Central Bank of Bahrain staff, Amina Al Maskati, Senior Analyst at the Islamic Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate, Hesa Al Bardooli, Superintendent at the Financial Institutions Supervision Directorate, Husain Khamis, Analyst at the Wholesale Banking Supervision Directorate, and Jaber Al Aali, Superintendent at the Capital Markets Supervision Directorate, have successfully passed the third level of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification. In the picture, winners with Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and other officials during a photocall