

**Isabelle Huppert plays a clingy stalker in 'Greta'**

New in New York, poor, callow Frances (Chloë Grace Moretz) is just out of Smith College and devastated by her mother's untimely death, when she finds a green leather purse on the MTA. | P13

THE DAILY **tribune**



Evan Rachel Wood self harmed during abusive relationship

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\$7 billion aid pledged for Syria

Brussels, Belgium

International donors yesterday pledged nearly \$7 billion in aid for 2019 for civilians caught up in Syria's bloody civil war but the total fell short of what the UN says is needed.

EU Humanitarian Commissioner Christos Stylianides announced the total at the end of a three-day conference of 80 countries and organisations in Brussels, on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the start of the conflict.

The European Union led the pledges with two billion euros, but the conference failed to drum up the \$9 billion the United Nations said was needed to help the millions of Syrians forced to flee the country as well as those facing a humanitarian crisis at home.

Two NASA astronauts, one cosmonaut blast off for ISS

Baikonur, Kazakhstan

NASA astronaut Nick Hague and his Russian colleague Alexey Ovchinin, who survived a dramatically aborted Soyuz launch last year, blasted off to the International Space Station yesterday.

The two men lifted off along with rookie US astronaut Christina Koch from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 1914 GMT.

The October abort was caused by a sensor damaged during the rocket's assembly.

Brought perpetrators of Khashoggi murder to justice: Saudi

Geneva, Switzerland

Saudi Arabia yesterday reiterated its rejection of calls to "internationalise" the investigation into Khashoggi murder, saying the Kingdom has brought the perpetrators of Khashoggi murder to justice.

Addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council, President of Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Commission (HRC), Dr Bandar al-Aiban, said that the Kingdom was taking all the "measures required for us to resolve this heinous crime".

"We are horrified at Khashoggi killing and that it was a 'heinous crime' and an 'unfortunate accident'," said Dr Bandar al-Aiban.

Dr Bandar al-Aiban, who heads Saudi Arabia's human rights commission, stressed that any calls to "internationalise" the investigation "amount to an interference in our domestic affairs".

Dr al-Aiban was in Geneva presenting his country's response to a review of its rights record before the council last November. He told the council that most of the recommendations Riyadh had received regarding how to pursue the Khashoggi case during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in November were already guaranteed by its constitution.

The suspects, he said, "were entitled to a fair trial... and none of their human rights has been

violated, and they have been subjected to no form of torture or cruel and inhuman treatment".

"They are entitled to legal counsel, and they have also been informed of their rights to resort to the services of counsel during the investigation phase and during the trial," he said.

Aiban said that there had so far been three hearings and that the accused and their lawyers had been present.

He also said, "representatives of international organisations as well as NGOs and other stakeholders... were able to monitor and see how the court cases were unfolding."

Saudi Arabia has accepted as many as 453 human rights rec-



Dr Bandar al-Aiban

ommendations, of which 52 were accepted by the Kingdom. In 2013, it accepted 151 out of 225 recommendations. In 2018, the number of accepted recommendations was 182 out of a total of 258 recommendations.

But he said Saudi Arabia could not accept recommendations during the UPR for the country to allow international experts to participate in the investigation and to oversee the process.

"Saudi Arabia is a sovereign country... Such demands made upon us are tantamount to the international community doubting the integrity of our judicial apparatus and doubting the independence of our judiciary," he said.

Abbas slams US dropping 'occupied' in report



Mahmud Abbas

Trump is expected to unveil his plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace in the coming months

Ramallah

A spokesman for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas has criticised a US move to no longer refer to the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights as occupied territories in its annual human rights report.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh called it "a continuation of the hostile approach of the American administration toward our Palestinian people and... contrary to all UN resolutions."

In a statement carried by official Palestinian news agency WAFA late Wednesday, he said the change was part of US President Donald Trump's plan to "liquidate" the Palestinian cause.

Trump is expected to unveil his long-awaited plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace in the coming months, even though the Palestinian leadership has frozen contact with Washington over Trump's 2017 declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Delay Brexit

British MPs vote for Brexit delay and new vote on deal

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Britain's parliament yesterday voted to ask the European Union to delay Brexit until at least June and head off a potentially calamitous end to their 46-year partnership in two weeks.

MPS, however, also voted against a proposal to hold a second referendum during the delay, dealing a blow to the hopes of pro-EU campaigners.

Britain is barreling towards the March 29 Brexit deadline with no approved EU withdrawal agreement and a prime minister who appears to have lost control over her bickering cabinet.

Anxious businesses are pleading for action and US President Donald Trump waded in to pronounce himself "surprised to see how badly it has all gone".

MPS have twice rejected the deal struck by Prime Minister Theresa May's with the other 27 EU nations -- in January and



The tellers delivering the result of vote on a government motion on whether to seek a delay in the date of leaving the EU, in the House of Commons in London on Tuesday.

They voted on Wednesday not to leave without an agreement but without any firm roadmap on the way forward three years after Brexit was launched in a bitterly divisive referendum.

The plan they all finally agreed on -- after turning down four other proposals -- was submitted by May herself to ask EU leaders to postpone Brexit.

The motion also included a proposal to hold a third vote early next week on May's

twice-rejected deal.

It passed by a 412-202 margin, providing some welcome respite to the prime minister.

"All of us now have the opportunity and responsibility to work together to find a solution to the crisis facing this country, where the government has so dramatically failed to do so," said Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour party.

European Union leaders must now unanimously approve the delay. They will meet at a summit in Brussels on March 21-22.

'VETO!' says Trump after Senate votes to end border emergency



Donald Trump

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump made clear yesterday he would use his veto powers, as promised, to override a congressional vote to terminate his border emergency, following an embarrassing defeat in the US Senate.

"VETO!" came the president's one-word response, tweeted after a dozen fellow Republicans joined all Democrats in voting down the emergency declared by Trump as a way to secure alternative funding for his US-Mexico border wall.

But opponents warned that Trump's move smacked of executive overreach, and insisted a vote to curtail his authority would preserve the constitutionally mandated separation of powers.

WAKE-UP CALL

Norway MPs want Nobel for student climate campaigner

Oslo, Norway

Greta Thunberg, the Swedish school girl climate campaigner who has inspired worldwide protests, should be awarded this year's Nobel Peace prize, Norwegian lawmakers said yesterday.

"We have proposed Greta Thunberg because if we do nothing to halt climate change it will be the cause of wars, conflict and refugees," Norwegian Socialist MP Freddy Andre Ovstegard said.

"Greta Thunberg has launched a mass movement which I see as a major contribution to peace," he added.

Six months ago no one knew who

Thunberg was when, as a 15-year-old, she camped outside Sweden's parliament next to a hand-written sign: "SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE".

Since then she has gone global, striking a chord with younger people disillusioned by the slow progress of the adult world in halting climate change.

On Friday, thousands of students are expected to demonstrate in more than 100 countries in what activists say could be a milestone moment.

"We are only seeing the beginning," Thunberg, now 16, tweeted recently.

"I think that change is on the horizon and the people will stand up for their future."



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg holds a placard bearing the number of signatures of a petition to support her during a demonstration of students calling for climate protection



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