



Brexit Secretary David Davis Credit: Gareth Fuller/PA Wire

Brexit minister says it is 'very improbable' UK will remain a member of the single market

Michael Wilkinson , Political Correspondent

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- **May rules out Boris Johnson's plans for points-based migration**
- **Nigel Farage accuses May of 'backsliding' on migration pledge**
- **May will not rule out preferential treatment for EU citizens**
- **Australia wants 'very strong' trade deal with Britain**
- **David Davis: Control of borders is 'not negotiable'**

Britain's Brexit minister has said it is “very improbable” that the UK will remain a member of the single market if the country is to get control of its borders after leaving the EU, **reports Peter Dominiczak, Laura Hughes and Steven Swinford.**

In comments that go further than those made by the Prime Minister, David Davis told Parliament that it is a “simple truth” that Britain

could have to leave the single market so it can control European migration.

EU leaders have repeatedly said that Britain will have to accept freedom of movement rules if it wants to remain a part of the single market after Brexit.

Mr Davis' comments came after an Italian minister threatened to start a trade war with the UK if the British Government attempts to curb free movement rules.

In his first statement to the Commons about Brexit, Mr Davis was asked to for “clarity” over whether Britain will retain membership of the single market, which currently gives UK businesses access to the EU's 500 million consumers.

Mr Davis said: “This Government is looking at every option. But the simple truth is that if a requirement of membership is giving up control of our borders, I think that makes it very improbable.



Passport control at Gatwick Airport Credit: Oli Scarff/Getty Images

“What we are looking for, in the words of the Prime Minister, is a unique solution, one which matches the fact we are one of the largest trading counties in the world.”

He insisted that Britain will still be able to “access” the single market even if it is no longer a member.

“There are many, many countries, many countries outside the European Union, that do a better job, frankly, of exporting to the single market than we do, even without a trade arrangement,” he said. “So of course we want to have access to the single market. We don’t need to be a member of it to do it.”



SNP mock IDS's talk of Brexit 'specifics' Play!00:27

Mrs May has previously refused to say whether the UK will remain a member or attempt to maintain access to the single market, insisting that she does “not want to adopt a particular model”.

In a sign of Italy's concerns about Brexit, the country's economic development minister Carlo Calenda warned that measures to curb free movement would be met with trade barriers from Brussels.

"The more they are going to regulate and limit the presence of EU citizens in the UK, the more we are going to limit the presence of UK goods into Europe," Carlo Calenda told Bloomberg Television.



*Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May Credit:
REUTERS/Nicolas Asfonri/Pool/File Photo*

"There should be a balance there. You cannot be here in the single market but at the same time excluding some part of the European relationship which is very important."

During his Commons appearance, Mr Davis pledged that Britain's immigration system after Brexit will be "more rigorous" than the one which Leave campaigners called for before the referendum.

It follows criticism of Mrs May's decision to rule out the introduction of an Australian-style points-based system, which was a central pledge of the Leave campaign.

[5:47PM](#)

Article 50 will be triggered as 'expeditiously' as possible

David Davis has said Article 50 will be triggered as "expeditiously as possible".

[5:32PM](#)

The experts have 'oeuf on their face'

Michael Gove, the former Justice Secretary and Brexiter, says there's been "a record increase" in the service and manufacturing industries, which shows that all those who voted to leave the EU "know a darn sight more about economics than the soi-disant experts".

He says they now have "oeuf on their face".

David Davis agrees "much of the gloom and doom and fear mongering that went on before the referendum has been proven to be wrong", but says he "would not be quite so unalloyed optimistic".

[5:29PM](#)

Membership of single market 'very improbable'

David Davis has said membership of single market is "very improbable" unless we can control our borders.

He says: "This government is looking at every option. But the simple truth is that if a requirement of membership is giving up control of our borders, I think that makes it very improbable.

"What we are looking for is a unique solution, one that matches the fact we are one of the largest trading countries in the world."

[5:18PM](#)

SNP mock IDS's talk of Brexit 'specifics'

Former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith is mocked by SNP MPs in the Commons for talking about the "specifics" of Brexit Secretary David Davis' statement on Britain leaving the EU.

[5:01PM](#)

UK will remain a member of Europol

Yvette Cooper asks if the government have decided whether or not they want to remain a member of Europol?

David Davis replies that the government's aim is to "preserve the relationship with the EU on security matters as best we can".

[4:54PM](#)

Control of borders is 'not negotiable'

Iain Duncan Smith, the former Work and Pensions Secretary and Brexit backer, wants to know about the "detail of controlling borders".

He says the "number one thing that is absolutely not negotiable that the UK will take control of its borders".

Mr Davis replies a clear "large part" of the vote to leave the EU was clearly on immigration and the "current status of immigration cannot go on".

Mr Davis adds that Theresa May wants an immigration system that will be "more rigorous not less" than a points-based system.

He adds that Mrs May wants a "results based immigration system that delivers what British people voted for".

[4:45PM](#)

'What have you been doing all summer?'

The SNP are not happy with Davis Davis' progress on leaving the EU.

They say his Brexit team have nothing but a blank piece of paper in front of them and ask "what have you been doing all summer?"

[4:40PM](#)

Labour: 'We are no further forward'

Emily Thornberry accuses the government of "making it up as it goes along".

She says the country is "no further forward."

The shadow minister says the final draft for Brexit should be voted on by MPs and suggests Mr Davis would feel the same if he was still on the backbenches.

She also jokes that Mr David should put a number on his website, as they are hard to come by.

She also calls for a vote on triggering Article 50- something Theresa May has already ruled out.

[4:33PM](#)

We will not turn our back on Europe

In conclusion, he says they are confident of negotiating a new position that will mean this country "flourishing outside the EU, while keeping its members as our friends, allies and trading partners."

He ends: "We will leave the European Union, but we will not turn our back on Europe.

"We will embrace the opportunities and freedoms that will open up for Britain.

"We will deliver on the national mandate for Brexit, and we will deliver it in the national interest."

[4:32PM](#)

EU nationals in the UK will be protected

David Davis says the status of EU nationals already living here will be protected and the only circumstances in which that would not be possible is if British citizens' rights in European member states were not protected in return .

This is something he finds hard to imagine, he says.

The referendum result was a clear sign that the majority of British people wish to see Parliament's "sovereignty strengthened – and so throughout this process, Parliament will be regularly informed, updated and engaged", he says.

"Finally, we are determined to ensure that people have as much stability and certainty in the period leading up to our departure from the EU," the Minister says.

He says that until we leave the European Union, we must respect the laws and obligations that membership requires of us.

Mr Davis adds that the government want to ensure certainty when it comes to public funding.

"Agriculture is a vital part of the economy, and the Government will match the current level of annual payments that the sector receives through the direct payment scheme until 2020, providing certainty", he says.

[4:19PM](#)

'The people have spoken'

David Davis is up to huge cheers and applause from the Conservative side of the House.

He dismisses those calling for a second referendum and says the "people have spoken".

"Naturally we all want to know what Brexit will mean, simply it means leaving the European Union", he says.

Mr David adds: This is an historic and positive moment for our nation. Brexit isn't about making the best of a bad job. It is about seizing the huge and exciting opportunities that will flow from a new place for Britain in the world.

"There will be new freedoms, new opportunities, new horizons for this great country."

He says that it is important to get this right and so it could take the government some time.

The new Secretary of State says his new department has 180 staff in London and is supported by a firther 120 in Brussels.

[4:17PM](#)

David Davis to make a statement on Brexit

The minister responsible for Britain leaving the EU is about to give a statement in the House of Commons on Britain leaving the EU.

This is his first statement a from the frontbench since 1997.

[3:02PM](#)

China-US row over Obama's aircraft

China has levelled responsibility at the United States and journalists for a fracas at a Chinese airport, in which officials of both countries exchanged heated remarks as President Barack Obama disembarked from his aircraft.

The comments by a foreign ministry spokeswoman were in response to questions whether China, which is hosting a G20 summit meeting in its eastern city of Hangzhou, intentionally failed to provide Obama's plane with a staircase, an event that has fuelled speculation it was a diplomatic snub.

"I think if only the American group had respected the working arrangements first made with China then this wouldn't have occurred," Hua Chunying told reporters in Beijing on Monday.



Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands with US President Barack Obama at the G20 SummitCredit: Getty Images

"You saw that all the other country leaders all used the stairs that China provided. So why was it only the United States that didn't? These were the stairs the United States requested."

Hua questioned why China would intentionally create trouble for the United States, adding that the incident was not a high-level issue, echoing comments made by Obama on Sunday.

A Chinese security official had also blocked National Security Adviser Susan Rice on the tarmac and yelled at another U.S. official trying to help journalists get closer to Obama.

Hua criticised the media for not respecting China's rules on where to stand to capture images of the Obama leaving the plane, adding that other countries' reporters were fine.

[2:36PM](#)

Italian PM kicks a large carp... then falls backwards

The Italian Prime Minister kicked a large carp and then fell backwards after it jumped onto a boat carrying World leaders during the G20 summit.

Prime Ministers and Presidents scattered in an attempt to avoid getting wet after the carp leapt out of the water and onto their boat during a tour of a lake.

However Matteo Renzi, the Italian Prime Minister who is nicknamed "the scrapper", stepped forward and attempted to kick the carp back into the water. However he slipped and fell backwards.



[12:55PM](#)

Theresa May on triggering Article 50

Theresa May has reiterated that she will not be triggering Article 50 until next year.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi Credit: AFP/Getty Images

She said there is a "genuine willingness" on the part of other world leaders to open up trade talks, while other European leaders has expressed to her that they wanted to the transition for UK to leave the EU be "as smooth as possible".

[12:54PM](#)

Theresa May defends Hinkley Point delay

Theresa May insists that investment in the Hinkley Point nuclear power station is not the only strand to UK-China relations.

Mrs May has been criticised for risking relations by delaying the decision on whether to go-ahead with the £18 billion.



Hinkley Point artist's impression Credit: EDF Energy

Today she said: "I have been clear a decision about Hinkley will be taken this month. But our relationship with China is more than just about Hinkley. I have been clear we will continue building our strategic relationship with China."

She will meet with Chinese president Xi Jinping this afternoon.

[12:47PM](#)

May explains why she has ruled out points-based migration system

Theresa May has explained why she has ruled out introducing a points-based migration system.

Asked if she had gone "soft" on Brexit and tackling migration, she said: "What the British people voted for on 23 June was for some control of movement of people into the UK. A points-based system does not give you that control.

"I want a system where the Government can decide who comes into the system. A points-based system means they come in automatically if they meet the criteria."



May: Points-based migration system won't give us control Play! 01:15

[12:42PM](#)

Theresa May vows to take 'bold action' to deliver successful Brexit

Theresa May says she wants Britain to be "the global leader in free trade".

Speaking ahead of a meeting with Chinese president Xi Jinping, she said: "We can be confident about the fundamental strengths of the UK economy.

"Britain has a proud history as a trading nation and we have long been one of the strongest advocates for free trade.

"As the UK leaves the EU I've set out our ambition to be the global leader in free trade."

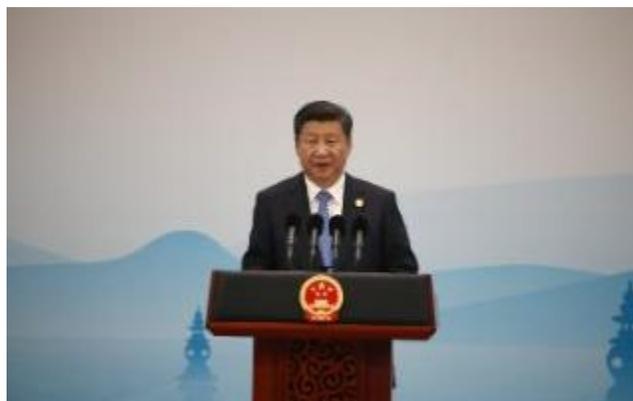
She revealed that an Australian trade minister would be visiting the UK this week to begin exploring the possibility of a trade deal between the two nations.

Mrs May will also lead a Cabinet meeting on Brexit and trade this week to work out which markets to prioritise.

She warned: "It's not enough to take a hands-off approach. We need bold action at home and collective action abroad."



Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, and Barack Obama, the US President, meet at the G20Credit: AFP



China's President Xi Jinping speaks at a news conference after the closing of G20 Summit in Hangzhou, Zhejiang ProvinceCredit: REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

[11:31AM](#)

'It's a farce' says Tim Farron on Brexit migration

The focus of today's political agenda very much remains on Theresa May's dismissal of the points-based immigration system which was pledged by the Leave camp during the referendum.

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron said: "The Prime Minister has now questioned the idea of a points-based immigration system so my question for the Brexiteers like Fox, Boris and Davis is this - what are you going to do now?"



Tim Farron

"Are you going to fight for the points-based immigration system you so vigorously proposed? Or are you happy to sit round the Cabinet table, with your red boxes and chauffeur-driven cars, and look the other way?"

"This is the problem with the constant 'Brexit means Brexit' mantra - no-one has any real idea about what the Government is going to do, not even the Cabinet. It's a farce."

[11:19AM](#)

Lord Ashdown attacked for 'Brexit brownshirts' remark

Lord Ashdown, the former Liberal Democrat leader, has been attacked for describing Brexiteers as "brownshirts", a comparison to Nazi paramilitaries.

Brownshirts was the name given to the Sturmabteilung, which acted as the paramilitary wing of the Nazi Party during Hitler's rise to power.



Lord Ashdown Credit: Heathcliff O'Malley

Tory MP James Cleverly said an apology was needed for the "disgusting" remark.

But Lord Ashdown has defended himself:

[11:10AM](#)

May meets Australian PM to talk post-Brexit trade deals

Theresa May meets Australian prime minister Malcolm Turnbull at the G20 summit at Hangzhou in China, who promised her a "very strong" free trade agreement after the UK leaves the EU.





May meets Australian PM to talk post-Brexit trade deals Play!01:04

[10:38AM](#)

May on how to 'civilise capitalism' amid lack of trust

Theresa May and other world leaders have discussed the need to "civilise capitalism" amid a populist backlash against globalisation.

The Prime Minister discussed concerns about people losing trust in politics because they are not feeling the benefits of economic growth.



Theresa May Credit: Barcroft Images

The issue was raised during a bi-lateral with Malcolm Turnbull, the Australian Prime Minister, and is likely to feature in the G20 communique at the end of the summit.

"They talked about the rising sentiment of anti-globalisation and how to respond to that. They talked about Prime Minister May's ideas around corporate governance. Turnbull put it quite well in terms of how you go about civilising capitalism."

[10:30AM](#)

The lighter side of the G20

On Sunday night Mrs May and other world leaders dined on pine mushroom soup, stir fried shrimps longjing tea leaves, orange flavoured crab-meat. The meal was accompanied by Chinese wine.

During dinner they enjoyed an orchestral music programme which included scores from every country in the G20. It included Annie Laurie, an old Chinese folk song.



Performers give a performance during an evening gala for the G20 Summit at West Lake in HangzhouCredit: Reuters

The meal was followed by a "cultural performance" on a boat in a lake, with a series of light and dance shows. The performance opened with a set inspired by a "moonlit night" poem written more than 1,300 years ago, followed by a "local ditty" about tea-picking and interludes with Swan Lake and Clair de Lune.

[10:11AM](#)

May tells India to take back illegal migrants

Theresa May has told India's Prime Minister that he is failing to do enough to take back immigrants who have overstayed in the UK.

Mrs May met with Narendra Modi, the Indian Prime Minister, at the G20 summit.



"We want repatriation of illegal migrants," a Downing Street source said. "From our perspective an issue is to make sure we speed up the pace of returns of illegal immigrants from India."



Theresa May meets India's Prime Minister Narendra ModiCredit: AFP

**Steven Swinford, Deputy
Political Editor**

[9:45AM](#)

May hits back at claims Britain's migration system will be weaker without points based system

Theresa May has hit back against claims that Britain's migration system will be weaker because she is refusing to introduce a points based system.

A Downing Street spokesman said: "One of the opportunities of Brexit is that we will be able to control the number of people coming to Britain from the EU.

"The precise way in which the Government will control the movement of EU nationals to Britain after Brexit is yet to be determined. However, as the PM has said many times in the past, a PBS will not work and is not an option.

"When Labour introduced a PBS, the numbers went straight up. In Australia, they have a PBS, and they have higher immigration per capita than Britain. A PBS would give foreign nationals the right to come to Britain if they meet certain criteria: an immigration system that works for Britain would ensure that the right to decide who comes to the country resides with the Government."

[9:20AM](#)

Japanese firms could move out of UK, ambassador warns

Japanese companies could move operations out of the UK if Brexit makes it a less profitable place to do business, the country's ambassador in London has warned.

Koji Tsuruoka said he had spoken with executives at leading Japanese firms in the UK and none of them wanted to pull out.

But he stressed that all options are open to the companies, which have a duty to their shareholders to remain profitable.

Mr Tsuruoka's warning comes a day after Japan's government issued a 15-page list of demands aimed at protecting the country's car manufacturers and financial institutions as well as the jobs of Britons working for Japanese firms after Brexit.

Prime Minister Theresa May was due to speak face to face with Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe at the G20 summit in China later on Monday.



Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, attending the G20 Summit
Credit: Reuters

Mr Tsuruoka told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme that hundreds of Japanese companies have operations in the UK, adding: "They are companies responsible to their stakeholders and their duty is to produce profit.

"If the way Brexit ends up does not provide companies with a prospect of making sufficient profit to continue operating in the UK, of course there is no option that they can't choose. All options are open to them."

Asked whether that could mean a company like Nissan closing its car plant in Sunderland, Mr Tsuruoka said: "These are exactly the predic-

tions that are going to hurt the future of the economy because these decisions have not been made.



Nissan has a car plant in Sunderland Credit: Reuters

"I have been talking to a number of Japanese business leaders operating in the UK and they all agree that the UK is the best place to do business in Europe. They want to continue to operate from the UK, and the list of issues we have put out to the UK as well as the EU are issues that they are seeking to achieve.

"However, there is a negotiation that will have to be conducted and if these requests are not met, then it will be for industry to decide what to do."

[9:04AM](#)

Farage accuses May of 'backsliding' on Brexit migration

Nigel Farage has accused Theresa May of "backsliding" after she abandoned Boris Johnson's plans for a points-based migration system.

The former Ukip leader said: "Theresa May's track record on immigration as Home Secretary was appalling and her comments rejecting an Australian-style points system really worry me.

"There is already huge anxiety out there in the country regarding Theresa May's reluctance to trigger Article 50. Her rejection of the type of migration system so many went out there and voted Leave to see implemented indicates serious backsliding.



Nigel Farage Credit: Steve Finn

"Those of us on the Leave side were perfectly clear in campaigning for strong border controls outside of the EU.

"The people were clear in wanting a points-based immigration system which is why so many went out and voted to Leave the European Union. Any watering down from that will lead to real anger.

"Given that myself and others also campaigned for a migration system that would treat all who wanted to come equally, any preference for EU nationals would be totally unacceptable

"If the establishment think they can stitch-up Brexit then they better be ready for the huge electoral consequences from a British public who on June 23rd voted for radical political change and now expect it to be delivered without failure."

[8:49AM](#)

Juncker tells May to halt her free trade discussions

Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of the European Commission, has told Theresa May that she should not be holding free trade discussions with other nations while Britain is still a member of the EU.

Mrs May held informal discussions about future free trade deals after Brexit with the US, Australia and India at the G20 summit.

Mr Juncker said: "I don't like the idea that member states of the EU, including those who are still a member state of the European Union, are negotiating free trade agreements," he said on Sunday.

Such discussions were an "exclusive matter" for the European Union on behalf of its members and "we are sticking to it", he told reporters.

Steven Swinford, in Hangzhou

[7:45AM](#)

7.45am summary

May to block Boris Johnson's points-based migration plan

Theresa May has said that she is prepared to block Boris Johnson's plans for a points-based migration system after Britain leaves the European Union, reports **Steven Swinford** in Hangzhou.

Mr Johnson and four other Eurosceptic Cabinet ministers put plans for an [Australian-style immigration system](#) at the heart of the Leave campaign. However the Prime Minister yesterday criticised them for assuming that a points-based system is a "silver bullet", adding that there is no evidence it will actually work.

‘There is no single silver bullet that is the answer in terms of dealing with immigration’ Theresa May

Critics have suggested that the system, [which is used in Australia](#), could actually lead to increased levels of migration. Mrs May is instead considering a work permit system, which would enable Britain to introduce quotas on the numbers of migrants for different parts of the economy.

The Prime Minister, [who has been conducting talks with other world leaders at the G20 Summit in China over the weekend](#), also declined to commit to a series of other flagship Leave campaign commitments, including using EU contributions to give the NHS an extra £100million a week and cutting VAT on energy bills.

She did not rule out giving EU migrants preferential treatment as part of any post-Brexit deal, insisting that she did not "want to give away any part of our negotiating hand".

She said: "You really don't want to ask a former Home Secretary about the intricacies of points-based systems. One of the issues is whether or not points-based systems do work.

"The voice of the British people is very clear. They wanted control. They didn't want free movement to continue as it had done in the past. We will be going out there to deliver on that.

"A lot of people talk about a points-based system as always being the answer in immigration. There is no single silver bullet that is the answer in terms of dealing with immigration.

"You have to look across the board. You have to look at the whole range of issues, not just how you bring control through the rules you have for people coming in, but also making sure you are rooting out abuse in the system and dealing with people if they are discovered here illegally."



Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson attended a Cabinet meeting hosted by Theresa May at the Prime Minister's country retreat, Chequers, before the G20 SummitCredit: Stefan Rousseau

Other Cabinet ministers who have backed a points-based system include Liam Fox, the International Trade Secretary, Priti Patel, the International Development Secretary, Chris Grayling, the Transport Secretary and Andrea Leadsom, the Environment Secretary.

Mrs May said: "People voted for a points-based system, that's what they thought they were choosing. People voted I think for control. What they wanted to see was control in the movement of people from EU countries into the UK."

During the EU referendum campaign Mr Johnson made a joint statement calling for an Australian-style points system with Mrs Patel and Michael Gove, the former justice secretary.



Theresa May in Hangzhou for the G20 Summit. Top of her agenda will be addressing concerns over trade deals after BrexitCredit: Getty

Under the Australian system, migrants are only granted skilled migration visas if they pass a points test based on what type of job they do, their age, English language skills, previous employment and education.

However Mrs May has been a long-term critic of the approach because it grants migrants automatic entry if they have the right number of points, regardless of whether they have a job lined up.

She said in June 2010, shortly after her appointment as home secretary:

"Under the points-based system the impetus is with the individual migrant: if they have the right number of points, they can decide whether they want to try to come into the UK.

Under our system, we are saying, 'We do want to welcome the brightest and the best, but we recognise that it is necessary to have a limit because we want to ensure that we are able to control immigration.'

The approach has been heavily criticised by migration experts, who have pointed out that the system is actually used to increase the level of migration.

Lord Green of Deddington, the head of Migration Watch, has described a points-based system as "fool's gold" and called for a work permit system to be introduced instead.

[6:42AM](#)

US-Russia talks on Syria end without a deal as Putin and Obama due to meet

The latest round of talks about curbing the violence in Syria have ended without a deal.

A senior State Department official says Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov failed to overcome differences at a morning meeting.

The diplomats have been trying to broker a cease-fire between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and moderate rebels that would expand access to humanitarian aid for hundreds of thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire. The strategy has hinged on an unlikely US-Russian military partnership against extremist groups operating in Syria.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the private negotiations.

The diplomatic failure comes as President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin are due to meet Monday on the margins of the G-20 summit.

[6:28AM](#)

North Korea fires three ballistic missiles off east coast, says Seoul

North Korea fired three ballistic missiles off its east coast Monday, Seoul said, a new show of force that comes hours after South Korean President Park Geun-Hye and Chinese President Xi Jinping met on the sideline of the G20 Summit.

[6:26AM](#)

More details on Ukraine to be released later

Reporters covering the summit had no access to the private meeting between the Barack Obama, Francois Hollande and Angela Merkel to review the status of the conflict in Ukraine.

The White House said it would release more details on the talk later on Monday.

After weeks of intensifying fighting between government forces and Russian-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine, a new cease-fire took effect last week and has been holding.

[5:52AM](#)

US and Russia fail to reach Syria deal as differences remain

Top diplomats from the United States and Russia on Monday failed to reach a deal to ease fighting in Syria, with a senior State Department official saying differences remained.

The official said a fresh round of talks between Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on the margins of the G20 summit in Hangzhou had ended without agreement.

[5:51AM](#)

Obama meets Hollande, Merkel on G20 sidelines to discuss Ukraine

US President Barack Obama on Monday met on the sidelines of the G20 summit with French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel to discuss the situation in Ukraine, a White House spokesman said.

[4:38AM](#)

Theresa May: Australia will be one of the first countries will be looking to

Theresa May has said that Australia will be one of the first countries that Britain will look to for a future free trade deal as she hailed the "long-standing ties" between the two nations.

Speaking after a bi-lateral meeting Mrs May said: "It is a historic decision for British people. It will be a complex and challenging process leaving the European Union.

"But I'm very clear that it doesn't mean that we are going to be inward-looking. In fact, we want to be even more outward-looking around the whole of the world. And obviously, Australia, with our longstanding ties and our close relationship, will be one of the first countries will be looking to."

Mr Turnbull said that Britain and Australia are "great friends" as he pledged to provide "all the support and assistance that we can" with Brexit.

He said: "Britain's made a very momentous and historic choice to leave the European Union and we have already been engaged in discussions with you about what the free trade arrangements may look like after that.

"Australia is determined to provide Britain with all the support and assistance that we can. We are such great friends, such strong allies. (There) couldn't be two countries with closer bonds."

[4:25AM](#)

Xi Jinping reaffirms China's commitment to denuclearising Korean peninsula

Chinese President Xi Jinping has told his South Korean counterpart that China is opposed to the deployment of a powerful US anti-missile system in her country.

During their bilateral meeting on Monday's final day of the G-20 meeting, Mr Xi warned that "mishandling the issue is not conducive to strategic stability in the region, and could intensify disputes."

China has responded angrily to Seoul's decision to base the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system south of the South Korean capital, Seoul.

While Seoul and Washington say the system is intended solely to defend against North Korea's missile threat, Beijing says it will allow the US military to peer deeply into northeastern China.

Beijing's reaction has also stoked public outrage, threatening everything from tourism exchanges to appearances by K-pop stars in China.

[3:52AM](#)

Australia says wants "very strong" Britain free trade deal

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said he wants to negotiate a "very strong" free trade agreement with Britain after it leaves the European Union.

Mr Turnbull spoke ahead of a formal meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May on the sidelines of the G-20 economic summit in China.

Mr Turnbull told reporters that British Prime Minister told the Australians she "remains very grateful for the assistance we are providing, both legislative and in terms of other resources."

"And of course, from our point of view, getting in to deal with the British early and making sure we can negotiate a very strong, very open free trade agreement once they are actually out of the European Union."

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