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Reuters

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May vows to talk tough with EU on trade and immigration

SHE IS POLLING AROUND 30 POINTS HIGHER THAN CHALLENGER GOVE FOR THE PM'S POST

LONDON

The runaway favourite to become Britain's next prime minister yesterday vowed to push for an European Union (EU) trade deal that limited immigration, as her most high-profile challenger struggled to brush off claims of treachery.

"The Brexit vote gave us a very clear message that we couldn't allow free movement [of people] to continue as it had," interior minister Theresa May said of last week's stunning decision to leave the EU.

"It's important we get the right deal about controlling free movement, but it's also about ensuring that we get the best deal possible on the trade of goods and services," May, who campaigned to stay in the bloc, told ITV political show *Peston*.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has insisted that a British trade deal would have to include freedom of movement, but French finance minister Michel Sapin later said that all issues were "on the table".

May said she would seek to "guarantee" that EU nationals already in Britain would be protected by any change in the immigration law, and said there was "no timescale" for leaving the union.

"This is not about the UK retreating, this is about the

UK going centre stage in the world," she added.

May is polling around 30 points higher than closest challenger Michael Gove among Conservative Party members, who will decide Cameron's successor, according to an ICM survey published in the *Sun* yesterday.

She has the strong backing of the party's MPs, who will whittle the five candidates down to two, but insisted it was in the best interest of the party that "there should be a contest" rather than a coronation.

However, she once again ruled out holding another general election before 2020.

Lost opponent

Former education minister Michael Gove was expected to be her stiffest opponent, but appears to have alienated MPs over his last-minute withdrawal of support for close referendum ally Boris Johnson in order to launch his own bid.

"I love my country, I could not recommend that Boris be prime minister," he told BBC's *Andrew Marr* show, when faced with accusations that he had knifed his friend in the back.

Both main parties are gripped by turmoil, and embattled opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn yesterday warned rebelling Labour MPs that his grass-roots supporters would oppose any attempts to unseat him.

— AFP



AFP

■ British Conservative party leadership candidate Andrea Leadsom at the BBC television centre in London for the *The Andrew Marr Show* in London yesterday.

Planning a swift exit

■ Andrea Leadsom, one of five candidates to succeed David Cameron as British prime minister, said yesterday she would be quick to start the process of negotiating the terms of Britain's exit from the European Union (EU). Asked when she would trigger article 50, the step that will formally begin the process, Leadsom declined to give an exact framework, but made clear she thought it should happen as quickly as possible. "We need to get on with it, we need to seize the opportunity," she told BBC television. "It's about giving certainty to businesses, it's about saying to the world 'we're open for business'. Let's start getting some free trade agreements started as soon as we can. We need to get on with it, we need to get a grip and make progress." Leadsom, a prominent campaigner for a "Leave" vote ahead of the June 23 referendum that saw Britain vote to quit the EU, has emerged in the early stages of the contest to succeed Cameron as one of strongest candidates from the Brexit camp. The front-runner is Home Secretary Theresa May, who campaigned for a "Remain" vote. May said on Thursday she would not trigger article 50 this year.

— Reuters

Dubai artist wades into 'Brexit' debate

The 15-metre mural in London depicts the date for the next UK-wide referendum to re-enter the EU

DUBAI

BY N.P. KRISHNA KUMAR
Special to Gulf News

While the UK was going through the European Union (EU) referendum, Dubai-based mural artist Marwan Shakarchi (artistic name Myneandours) was in East End of London with plans to work on a large mural.

The location for the street mural was a wall in a car park on Clerkenwell Road, and Marwan's partner on the project was Dr Lee Bofkin of Global Street Art.

Because of access issues, the pair was forced to paint another larger wall in the same area, but did not have enough paint for the visually arresting original design.

The results of the referendum had been out a day earlier. While painting the wall on June 25, Marwan and Lee got talking about Brexit.

Pro-Europe group

Because of voter demographics, the young were much more pro-Europe than older generations.

At some point, the pair hypothesised, there would be a switch when the large Remain minority, would become a small majority. Using a weighted average method, Lee (who has a PhD in evolutionary mathematics from Cambridge University) cal-

culated the date would be in 2022, all other things being equal.

The pair, who have been friends and worked together over the past four years, thought that painting the date on the wall would spark debate.

They started painting the wall white at half past seven and had the idea at 9pm. The design and the calculations were done soon after and they started painting the mural at midnight, finishing by 4am. They were back again at 9am at the site to take photos.

The impromptu 15-metre high mural depicts the date for the next UK-wide referendum to re-enter the EU (or 'Brenter') – when the 48 per cent Remain minority will become a small majority, based on simple demographics (voter preferences by age and an ageing population).

Art talk

Marwan says: "Art is about provoking conversation. The Leave campaign won a democratic referendum, but the quality of the debate was poor... As the population ages we thought it would be interesting to offer an alternative anchoring point – a date for another referendum."

Lee Bofkin says: "Marwan and I are both descendants of immigrants – we'd never have become friends if the UK hadn't accepted our families."

Manchester-born Marwan whose parents immigrated from Iraq, relocated to Dubai two years ago. His work incorporates a quirky cloud symbol, that has become synonymous with the artist himself.

Speaking to *Gulf News* from London on Thursday evening, Marwan says he and his painting partner, Lee, went back two days later to the site and repainted the 'Brenter' date, with a different message of optimism and hope: 'May You Be Happy'.

■ The writer is a journalist based in Dubai.

▶ **Using a weighted average method, Lee calculated the date when there would be a large pro-European group in the UK would be in 2022, all other things being equal.**



Krishna Kumar

■ Marwan Shakarchi and Dr Lee Bofkin from Global Street Art on Clerkenwell Road, East End of London, hope to spark conversation on EU re-entry into UK with their mural.



AFP

■ Two people restore Le Vizir, the last horse of Napoleon Bonaparte, at the Museum of the Army in Paris on June 27. The museum resorted to crowd funding for the project.

Napoleon's last horse gets a makeover

The white Arabian stallion was a gift from an Ottoman sultan in 1802

PARIS

Visitors to the Army Museum in Paris are being treated to the rare sight of two taxidermists at work restoring a stuffed horse – the last one ridden by Napoleon Bonaparte.

Le Vizir is a little worse for

wear more than 200 years after carrying the emperor to victory against the Prussians and the Russians – not to mention being stuffed not just once, but twice.

"It's a specimen that has suffered," was the expert, if understated, assessment of taxidermist Yveline Huguet as she worked putty into a crack in Le Vizir's chest.

The white Arabian stallion, a gift to Napoleon from an Ottoman sultan in 1802, sports a

brand on his rump made up of an N topped with a crown.

One of the emperor's favourites, he accompanied his master to exile in Elba after Napoleon's first forced abdication in 1814.

By the time Napoleon swept back to power – for 100 days – in France the following year after escaping from Elba, Le Vizir was old enough to retire.

So, while Le Vizir also returned to France, he was spared the ignominy that awaited Napoleon at Waterloo. Instead, he

spent his twilight years in the care of Leon de Chanlaire, an officer of the imperial stables, while Napoleon was banished to the British crown colony of Saint Helena in the southern Atlantic.

Chanlaire had Le Vizir stuffed shortly after the horse died at the ripe old age of 33 in 1826.

The Army Museum made a crowdfunding appeal to finance Le Vizir's restoration, easily surpassing its target of €15,000 (Dh61,366), taking in €20,534.

— AFP