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Heathrow's new runway to be given the green light

London.—Prime minister Theresa May is set to end decades of indecision by backing the expansion of Britain and Europe's busiest airport, Heathrow, finally kickstarting a project made more pressing by the vote to leave the EU. May and a small team of ministers will meet today to choose between expanding Heathrow, to the west of London, or Gatwick, to the south - making a decision on airport expansion after more than 25 years of debate.

Key opponents of Heathrow expansion such as foreign secretary Boris Johnson, who as then London mayor said last year it would not solve capacity issues and the scheme was

doomed to fail, will not be present. Both airports are running at close to full capacity and big business argues that Britain needs a new runway to build trade ties and better compete with Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam.

While there are three options on the table - a new runway at Heathrow, lengthening one of its existing two runways, or a new runway at Gatwick - the government has indicated it will opt for a new Heathrow runway - the more ambitious and expensive option.

In 2015, a three-year independent inquiry set up by the government recommended that option, subject to a list of conditions over night flights, noise and air quality.

Spain will finally get a government but local coalition in trouble

- Spain's Socialists clear way for minority conservative government in Madrid but Balearic coalition regional government in deep trouble.
- Local government coalition parties object to socialist move to allow Partido Popular to form minority government.
- See Full Report Inside on Page 3.



Balearic President Armengol said that it would be a historic mistake to allow Partido Popular to form government.



Talking European Union with the governments of the Home nations.

At odds over Brexit, UK nations hold "frustrating" talks on common stance

London.—British prime minister Theresa May tried to persuade the leaders of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland yesterday to work with her government on a common Brexit negotiating position, but the Scottish leader dismissed the meeting as "deeply frustrating". May says that while the devolved governments of the UK's three smaller nations should give their views on what the terms of Brexit should be, they must not undermine the UK's strategy by seeking separate settlements with the EU.

"I don't know what the UK's negotiating position is because they can't tell us," Scotland's first minister Nicola Sturgeon said after talks at May's Downing Street office. "I can't undermine something that doesn't exist, it doesn't appear to me at the moment that there is a UK negotiating strategy," she told Sky News television. **See Inside**