**UK Ministers in Emergency Meeting over Russian Ex-Spy Case**

LONDON — British government officials are attending an emergency committee meeting Wednesday to discuss the mysterious death of a former Russian spy and his daughter, who were found dead on a park bench in southwest London, according to a source familiar with the situation. The source confirmed that the body of Sergei Skripal, a former Russian military intelligence officer, and his 33-year-old daughter, Yulia, were found dead Monday morning. The official said the bodies were found by a police officer who was called to the scene by a passerby who was concerned for their welfare. The source added that the police officer was fit to travel an “anti-Russian campaign” but declined to comment further on the matter.

**Another Malsmo: Far-right Agenda in Sweden**

BRUSSELS — The European Union on Wednesday recommended Sweden to complete a comprehensive national anti-terrorism strategy, as the country struggles to fight a far-right agenda. The recommendation comes in response to a request from the Swedish government for help in combating far-right extremism. The EU said Sweden should strengthen its anti-terrorism efforts and dismantle far-right networks.

**EU Warns Of Brexit Trade Frictions ’Rebuff to May’**

BRUSSELS — The European Commission has warned that a “rebuff” to British Prime Minister Theresa May’s Brexit proposals could lead to “serious frictions” in trade negotiations, and that any deal must include a “close and deep” economic relationship with the EU. The Commission said it would continue to negotiate with the UK on a comprehensive withdrawal agreement, but that any deal must be agreed in full by the end of the year.

**Russia Increases Iskander-M Ballistic Missile System to Have No Alternative**

MOSCOW — Russia is increasing the capability of its Iskander-M ballistic missile system, which is a threat to international security in the Middle East, the Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday. The ministry said the Iskander-M system, which is capable of hitting targets at a range of up to 280 kilometers, will be deployed in the Russian Arctic and in Syria, and that it will be used to protect national security.

**South Korea Sees Fears Hurdles Ahead**

SEOUL — With the specter of two past summits that failed to blunt North Korea’s nuclear ambitions looming large, South Korean officials plan to hold talks next month to try to overcome the uncertainty and familiar sticking points with the threat of war looming over any failure. A special South Korean delegation returned home on Tuesday from talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, to announce that the agreement on a North-South summit next month is possible.

Serif officials said they see the talks as the first step in “restoring mutual trust” and building lasting peace on the peninsular nation.

**Russia’s New Hovercraft Plans Reveal Its Ambitions**

BRUSSELS — A new Chinese-made hovercraft, capable of carrying up to 30 passengers, was unveiled on Tuesday in Russia. The hovercraft is expected to revolutionize transportation in the region, offering a faster and more efficient mode of travel. The unveiling comes as China continues to invest heavily in infrastructure projects in the region, particularly in the Far East.

**China’s Railway Giant Signs Deal to Supply Metro Cars to Iran**

TOKYO — China’s state-owned railway company has signed a deal to supply metro cars to the Iranian capital Tehran. The agreement, which is worth $600 million, is seen as a significant boost for China’s railway industry, and is expected to lead to further cooperation in the region.

**Germany, Tajikistan Interested In Developing Agricultural Projects**

BRUSSELS — The European Commission has recommended that Germany and Tajikistan increase cooperation in the field of agriculture. The recommendation comes as the two countries aim to strengthen their economic and political ties.

**“Operation Red Sea” Toppns Chinese Box Office**

HONG KONG — The Chinese film “Detective Chinatown” has retained its position as the country’s top-grossing film for a fifth consecutive week, according to data from the China Film rating agency. The film has earned nearly 3 billion yuan ($460 million) at the domestic box office since its release on March 21.

**IMF’s Russian Ex-Kudos, Million System to Have No Real Until Late 2023**

MOSCOW — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is unlikely to be able to create a Russian ruble-linked currency system before 2023, a Russian economist said Wednesday. According to the economist, the creation of such a system would require significant changes to Russia’s economy, including a reduction in its dependency on oil exports.

**U.N. Rights Chief Urges EU and Migrants and Asylum Seekers**

BRUSSELS — The European Union’s top human rights official has urged the EU to do more to protect migrants and asylum seekers, saying that the bloc’s policies are “too often based on ignorance and xenophobia.” Jeppe Kofod, the EU’s rapporteur on migration, said that the EU needs to do more to ensure that migrants and asylum seekers are treated fairly and with respect.

**As Talks With North Near, South Korea Sees Fears Hurdles Ahead**

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