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Valldemossa is richest place in Majorca: See Inside Today

BIG AID PLAN FOR FLOOD-HIT AREA

● The Balearic government approved a decree yesterday to facilitate rapid aid to be given to Sant Llorenç and neighbouring areas. This financial assistance will be for damage to property and vehicles, for loss of livestock and crops, for environmental damage and for repair to public infrastructure.

● The maximum amount to be made available will be 60,000 euros.

● See Page Three Inside.



Take it or leave it, EU tells May

London.—The European Union and Britain have given themselves a few more weeks to break the deadlock in their Brexit talks but for Brussels the delay seems mainly about Prime Minister Theresa May dealing with critics back in London.

An accord sketched by officials from both sides last weekend stalled because May's fractious government rejected a "backstop" insurance clause the EU wants in case future talks fail to forge a trade pact that

avoids customs posts on the Irish border.

An EU offer to extend a status-quo transition period by a year to end-2021, keeping Britain in a customs union to diminish the chances of the backstop being triggered, was not enough.

EU negotiator Michel Barnier pledged at a summit to keep working "calmly and patiently". But many EU leaders see the main negotiations to be had now as being among May and her allies in London, possibly only

after she gets a budget through parliament early next month. They see little scope now for the EU to move.

"We took our steps. We need to know what the other side wants - finally," said Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė.

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, 2019, less than three years since Britons voted for an exit in a referendum.

"This is pretty much it," an EU diplomat said of the weekend offer, which included

a longer transition to give time for a customs deal. "This is the deal - if ever there's to be one."

French President Emmanuel Macron noted the tricky "political balance" May faces at home -- her vital Northern Irish allies say the EU's backstop, by keeping Northern Ireland alone in the EU customs area, would break up the United Kingdom; and Brexit hardliners insist the UK must leave the EU customs union soon.