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EU to Britain fair trade deal worth every effort but stand ready to fail

London.— European Union leaders said yesterday agreeing a “fair” new partnership with Britain was “worth every effort” but that the bloc would not compromise at any cost and was ready for an abrupt split in trade worth a trillion euros every year.

Meeting face-to-face for only the third time in the coronavirus pandemic, the EU leaders wore masks and kept their distance as they gathered in Brussels to discuss Brexit, where a new trade pact is still elusive as an year-end deadline nears.

“We want a deal, but obviously not at any price. It has to be a fair agreement that serves the interests of both sides. This is worth every effort,” said German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Britain left the EU in January and the estranged allies have since been locked in complex negotiations to try and keep trading without tariffs or quotas from 2021.

Talks have narrowed gaps on issues from social welfare to transport but three contentious areas have so far prevented a deal: fair competition, dispute resolution and fisheries, which is particularly important to France.

“In no case shall our fishermen be sacrificed for Brexit,” French President Emmanuel Macron said on arriving in Brussels.

“If these conditions are not met, it’s possible we won’t have a deal. If the right terms can’t be found at the end of these discussions, we’re ready for a no-deal for our future relations,” he added.

Paguera police probe after two bodies discovered in car



Bodies found near petrol station.

● Man and a woman found dead in a car near petrol station. Both had suffered gun shot wounds. Police have launched a full investigation. See Page 3 and follow our website: (www.majorcadailybulletin.es) for updates.

BETTER EQUIPPED BUT EMOTIONALLY DRAINED, SPANISH INTENSIVE CARE STAFF CONFRONT COVID SECOND WAVE

London.— Emotional fatigue has begun to set in among the intensive care staff at the Infanta Sofia hospital near Madrid, even though the team is better equipped now than during the pandemic’s March-April peak.

“At that time we had a spike that completely overwhelmed us,” said intensive care chief Dr. Miguel Angel Gonzalez Gallego. “We had to increase the number of beds five-fold.”

A shortage of personal protective gear as well as respirators and monitors further complicated the situation.

As that first peak receded and admissions dwindled in late spring, the team began to feel the worst was behind them and the situation had become more manageable.

“Then all of a sudden you find yourself with an outbreak that is far from small ... That produces a feeling of emotional exhaustion that we just didn’t have during the first wave,” Gonzalez said.

Since Spain exited a tough lockdown in



Spanish doctors battle coronavirus.

June, the infection rate has soared, with daily diagnoses frequently exceeding 10,000 from late August. Hospitalizations are on the increase too but the number of

severe cases remains far lower than during the first wave. On the ward at Infanta Sofia, a team of three nurses, protected by double masks, turned a comatose COVID-19 patient onto his side to massage his muscles and prevent bedsores from building up.

Gonzalez said treatment for severe cases had improved during seven months of dealing with the coronavirus but acknowledged that the pressure was unlikely to ease anytime soon.

“We still have a lot of sick people admitted and we don’t see a clear decline to be very optimistic about.”

Intensive-care occupancy in the Madrid region, Spain’s hardest-hit, has reached 38%, compared with a national average of around 19%. Nationwide Spain has recorded 908,506 confirmed infections -- more than anywhere else in Western Europe. The number of cumulative cases rose by nearly 12,000 on Wednesday, while total deaths rose by 209 to reach 33,413, according to the health ministry.