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UK air travel could slump if no early Brexit aviation deal, says report

London.— Britain's airports could see passenger numbers plunge by as much as 40 percent unless the government strikes an interim aviation deal with the European Union by October 2018, according to an industry report seen by Reuters yesterday. The study, commissioned by leading British airports including London's Heathrow and Gatwick, said flights could be grounded and Britain's economy would be hit without a guarantee of future access to the EU's single aviation market.

Britain is due to leave the EU in March 2019, but with many air passengers book-

ing months in advance, the government needs to secure a deal well before then to reduce uncertainty, the report said.

Unlike other areas, such as trade, there is no automatic fallback position if no deal is reached.

In its most pessimistic scenario, the report said there could be a 41 percent plunge in passengers at Britain's biggest airports between March 2018 and March 2019.

Its central scenario, assuming uncertainty over the status of flights, is for an 11.5 percent drop during that period.

Barcelona plot suspect tells Spanish court that group planned bigger attack with explosives

Madrid.—An alleged member of an Islamist group that carried out the Barcelona van attack told a Spanish court yesterday that the group had been planning a much bigger at-

tack using explosives, a judicial source said. The testimony to Spain's High Court came from Mohamed Houli Chemlal, who was arrested after being hurt in a blast at a house

in Alcanar, southwest of Barcelona, a day before Thursday's van attack on the crowded Las Ramblas boulevard in Barcelona which killed 13 people. **Page 3**



The four suspects in court.

Three die in Majorca horrific crash: See Page Four

