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Bluff or masterstroke? Johnson’s Brexit riddle baffles his party

London.—As Britain’s governing Conservatives hold their annual conference in Manchester there is one riddle which has echoed around the bars and restaurants - how will Prime Minister Boris Johnson fulfil his pledge to deliver Brexit on Oct. 31?

Johnson opened the four-day event by repeating a pledge to take Britain out of the European Union with or without a deal, but there is a catch. A law passed by parliament says that if he fails to strike a deal and get it approved by lawmakers by Oct. 19, he must request a delay. So how he might deliver on his promise in that case is baffling his party, his government and his opponents. Is he bluffing over a no-deal Brexit or does he have a masterstroke to take the United Kingdom out of the EU in just a month’s time?

“Get Brexit done” is the slogan of the conference, yet Johnson has refused to shed any light on the question that could define the United Kingdom’s most significant geopolitical move since World War Two.

The question - which could send shockwaves through financial markets, undermine global growth and divide the West - has been asked repeatedly of panellists at events on the sidelines of the conference.



Thomas Cook customers may face two-month delay for refunds: watchdog

London.—Britain’s aviation regulator said yesterday that refunds of bookings by Thomas Cook customers could take longer than expected as the regulator does not have all information needed from the collapsed travel firm. The Civil Aviation Authority said it was launching a new, online payment system next week for bookings made by payments methods other than direct debit and would enable customers to get refunds within 60 days of receiving refund forms.

A total of 100,000 bookings made by direct debit would be refunded within the next 14 days. 53 flights are scheduled to operate on Sept. 30, returning 8,000 people following the collapse of collapsed British travel firm Thomas Cook, the regulator said. CAA said more than two-thirds of the total number of customers have been repatriated.



Prince Harry makes conservation appeal, observes anti-poaching drill in Malawi: Inside

Balearic parliament to abate collapse of tour firm: See Full Report Inside Today

