





(From left, clockwise) Demonstrators (picture 1 &2) take part in a protest aimed at showing London's solidarity with the European Union, in Trafalgar Square, central London, Britain yesterday; Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (L) and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker arrive at the EU Summit in Brussels, Belgium,yesterday.

ing tongue of EU institutions, may no longer be an official language of the European bloc, a senior EU lawmaker said on Monday.

The symbolic, if impractical, move would further reduce London's influence on the continent.

Although English is the most spoken language in Europe, and an official language in three member states, only Britain legally chose it in Brussels.

"English is our official

language because it has been notified by the UK. If we don't have the UK, we don't have English," Danuta Hubner, chair of the European Parliament's constitutional affairs com-

mittee told a news conference on the legal consequences of the British referendum to leave the EU.

English might remain a working language, even if it were no longer an official one, Hubner said, adding that keeping it an official language would require agreement by all member states.

. AFP, London

British health minister Jeremy Hunt yesterday raised the : AFP, Berlin Union once Britain leaves the possibility of holding a second referendum on the terms of . Britain's departure from the European Union, but stressed . German Chancellor Angela Merkel yester-Britain "must" leave the bloc.

· leadership of the Conservative party following the resignation : of Prime Minister David Cameron, insisted that Britain must inegotiations on their future relations. maintain access to the EU's free-trade zone, but that a deal . needed to be struck to limit the free movement of people.

· is also at the heart of our identity as one of

the most open, liberal, outward-looking societies anywhere," he wrote in the Daily · Telegraph. "But... it is clear that the country has

rejected the free movement of people as · it currently operates. The EU faces : collapse unless they reform free movement rules," he said. The minister called for a "Norway

plus" option, comprising "full access to the single market: referendum last week to

with a sensible compromise on free movement rules". This could then be put it to the British public, via a .

referendum or in the Conservative Party's manifesto ahead interest" in maintaining "close and friendly of a general election, he said. Prominent Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage responded:

that another poll "would be a betrayal" of voters. The minister also asked other potential Conservative:

leaders to pledge that full permanent residence be granted based on the principle of cherry-picking," to all European citizens living in Britain on the day of the · she said to applause. referendum in order to reassure EU citizens concerned : · about "disgusting examples of anti-Polish xenophobia" : difference between whether a country wants seen after Thursday's vote.

EU could drop There could be a EU 'strong enough' to English as official tongue and referendum official tongue and referendum official tongue and referendum of the break-up of the

terms; Obama warns against 'hysteria'

· day said that the EU could survive a Brexit The minister, who said he was considering running for the · and warned Britain the union would not tolerate "cherry-picking" in upcoming

"The EU is strong enough to withstand Britain's withdrawal," she told the German Free trade "is not just at the heart of our economic success -- it : parliament ahead of a crisis summit of the · 28 member states in Brussels.

> "It is also strong enough to successfully defend its interests in the

Merkel, who is expected to take a leading role in future negotiations with London, again voiced her regret that · Britain had voted in a

world in future."

quit the bloc. She said both sides had a "strong relations". But she stressed Britain would not be able

 to dictate the terms of its ties to the EU. "We will ensure there are no negotiations

"There must be and will be a noticeable

· to be a member of the European Union

family or not."

She added: "Anyone wishing to leave this : country. family cannot expect to lose all the obligations but keep the privileges."

capital, she added, mentioning the National Front, hailed the Brexit vote as the most momenexample of Norway.

Barack Obama yesterday warned against : blackmail and lies, " she added.

he respected the results of : for Obama, the vote:

on the project of full European integration." "I would not overstate it," he added.

"There's been a little bit of hysteria post-Brexit vote, as if somehow Nato's gone, the: trans-Atlantic alliance is dissolving, and : every country is rushing off to its own · corner. That's not what's happening."

He described the results as a reaction to a rapidly growing European Union "that was probably moving faster and without as . much consensus as it should have."



'Why are you here?' Brexiteer' Farage booed in rowdy

parliament debate in Brussels

REUTERS, Brussels

Leading Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage was booed and heckled in a raucous special session of the European Parliament on Tuesday as he accused the EU of imposing a superstate on its citizens and predicted other countries would leave the bloc like Britain.

Facing Farage, who sat with a British "Union Jack" flag planted on the table in front of him, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker asked: "Why are you here?" When Farage interrupted Juncker's speech to applaud the

results of last week's British vote to leave the EU, the Commission chief shot back: "That is the last time you are · applauding here." The parliamentary session began on a friendly note, with Juncker air-kissing Farage, acknowledging sadness at the

outcome of the referendum. But the air of somber civility did not last long, as leading lawmakers accused the Leave camp of having lied their way to victory. In a fiery speech, former Belgian prime minister Guy Verhofstadt accused British politicians of creating a "toxic · climate" of uncertainty since the Brexit vote and described

former London mayor Boris Johnson, a Brexit advocate and leading candidate to replace Cameron, as a "selfish man" who · had put his own political ambitions above the interests of his German Manfred Weber, an ally of Chacellor Angela · Merkel and the leader of the biggest group in parliament,

A non-EU country can join the : took on Farage in the packed house: "If you had an ounce of common market if it accepts the free decency today, you would apologise to the British people." movement of people, goods, services and · But Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right

tous event in Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall. "It is a Her warning came as US President · huge victory for democracy and a slap at an EU built on fear, international "hysteria": Speaking to reporters earlier, Farage appeared to backtrack following last week's · on disputed claims by the Leave campaign that an exit would

: allow London to redirect 350 million pounds per week they In an interview with alleged it sent to Brussels to Britain's National Health Service National Public Radio, (NHS). Farage estimated the savings at 34 million pounds the US president said that : per day, significantly less than promised on a weekly basis.

"If you had said this before the vote I could have congratuthe referendum. However · lated you, "Juncker said. "But you lied. You didn't tell the truth."

By the time Farage rose to speak, hissing from other means that "a pause members of parliament had grown so loud that parliament button has been pressed . president Martin Schulz was forced to admonish members to stop acting like Farage's UKIP.

> The gritty anti-immigration politician hit back, calling the Brexit vote a "seismic" result that offered a "beacon of hope" for democrats across Europe.

> "I will make one prediction this morning, the United Kingdom will not be the last member state to leave the European Union," he said.

"Isn't it funny. When I came here 17 years ago and I said I wanted to lead a campaign to get Britain to leave the EU, you all · laughed at me but you are not laughing now," Farage told MEPs.

Clashes, Saudi-led air strikes kill 80 people

AFP, Aden

Intensified fighting and air strikes over the past 24 hours in Yemen have left 80 people dead, including 37 civilians, as lengthy peace talks in Kuwait made no headway, officials said.

In the largest toll, warplanes from the pro-government Saudi-led coalition killed 34 people, including 19 civilians when they targeted Shia rebels in the southwestern region of Taez, a Yemeni military official said.

The pre-dawn air strike hit a lorry transporting weapons for

the Huthi rebels as it crossed a busy road, a provincial official said, adding that four women were among the dead, as well as 15 In the flashpoint city of Taez, 11 civilians

and a soldier were killed when rebels bombed a residential area, a military official

Meanwhile, 12 rebels and three loyalist soldiers were killed in clashes in Nahm, northeast of Sanaa, while six other rebels were killed in fighting in Marib, east of the capital, the official said.

In the same province, a coalition warplane hit a vehicle carrying progovernment forces "by mistake", killing four soldiers and wounding four others, another military official said.

In the south, at least seven civilians including two children were killed in air strikes "probably by drones" on jihadists which mistakenly hit a nearby house in Mahfed, between the provinces

of Abyan and Shabwa in Yemen's south, a local official told AFP.

2014 before moving into other parts of Yemen, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene in March last year. The United Nations says more than

The Huthis overran the capital in late

6,400 people have been killed in Yemen since then, mostly civilians.

The fighting has also driven 2.8 million people from their homes and left more than 80 percent of the population in need of humanitarian aid.

REUTERS, Cincinnati



French anti-riot police officers hold a man during a demonstration against controversial labour reforms on Bastille Square in Paris yesterday. Unions have called repeated strikes and marches in opposition to the law, which seeks to bring down France's intractable 10-percent unemployment rate by making it easier to hire and fire workers.

Pakistan transgender fatwa a 'good step'

BBC ONLINE

A religious decree declaring transgender marriage to be legal has been cautiously welcomed in Pakistan, but activists say attitudes still need to change.

The decree, or fatwa, was passed on Sunday by a group of clerics. It said that according to Islam transgender people with "visible signs" of being male or female may marry someone of the opposite sex. But those with "visible signs of both genders" may not marry, it said.

The 50 clerics, part of the little-known Tanzeem Ittehad-i-Ummat body based in Lahore, also said any act intended to "humiliate, insult or tease" transgender individuals should be considered a crime under Islam.

The fatwa is not legally binding in any way. "We are glad that somebody's talked about us too," transgender rights worker Almas Bobby told BBC Urdu. "By Sharia we already had the right [to marry], but unless measures are taken to remove the misconceptions about us in society, the condition of our community will not be changed."

Another social worker for gender issues told BBC Urdu that it was a "good step", but that issues would remain until transgender marriage was officially legitimised.

Trump driven by greed Says Senator Warren in campaign trail debut with Clinton

Liberal Elizabeth Warren attacked Republican Donald Trump on Monday

during her first campaign appearance with US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, calling him an "insecure money grubber" who

Warren, a leader of the Democratic Party's progressive wing and a potential vice presidential pick, said Clinton had spent her career fighting for liberal values while Trump, a wealthy real estate developer, was

is driven by greed and

focused on boosting his bottom line.

The US senator from Massachusetts appeared with Clinton before a raucous, enthusiastic crowd in Cincinnati, Ohio, targeting a battleground state in a potential

preview of a Clinton-Warren campaign

team. She repeatedly accused Trump of looking out for himself instead of for average Americans. "When Donald Trump says he'll make

America great, he means make it even greater for rich guys just like Donald Trump," Warren said, standing shoulder to

shoulder with a cheering Clinton. Warren, who has

vigorously attacked Trump in recent weeks, called him "a small, insecure money grubber who fights for no one but himself" and warned: "He will crush you into the dirt to get whatever he

wants. That's who he is.

The capacity crowd repeatedly roared its approval, and a line of supporters who could not get inside stretched out the door and down the street. At one point, Warren stopped her speech to turn and applaud Clinton, a former secretary of state.

Sri Lanka must rein in its military forces

Says UN, urges govt to prosecute war crimes REUTERS, Geneva

Sri Lanka must rein in its military forces, prosecute war crimes committed during the long civil war with Tamil rebels and win the confidence of the Tamil minority, the United Nations said yesterday.

Witnesses must be protected under an effective transitional justice mechanism that should include international judges, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in an annual report.

The military and Tamil Tiger rebels - who were fighting for an independent Tamil state in the north and east of the Indian Ocean island - are both likely to have committed war crimes during the 26-year conflict that ended in 2009, the UN said last year.

President Maithripala Sirisena's government, formed in March 2015, has "consolidated its position, creating a political environment conducive to reforms", but governance reform and transitional justice had lagged, the report said. Deputy Foreign Minister Harsha de Silva said the foreign

minister would respond today. "But overall, Zeid's report is positive," he said. Sirisena has said that foreign participation is not needed for an impartial inquiry.

130 in hospital

after China plant leak

AFP, Beijing

More than 130 people were taken to hospital after chemicals leaked from a plant in eastern China, state media reported yesterday. The compound diketene, which is used to make paper and pharmaceuticals, leaked from a plant in Shandong province, Xinhua news agency reported. It cited local officials who blamed negligence for the leak.

France charges Assad's uncle with graft

AFP, Paris

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's uncle, suspected of using ill-gotten gains to build a real estate empire in France, has been charged with corruption, a judicial source said yesterday. Rifaat al-Assad, 78, who commanded Syria's notorious internal security forces in the 1970s and early 1980s, was charged on June 9 with receiving embezzled funds and tax fraud, the source told AFP.

Suicide bomber kills 9 at Iraq Sunni mosque AFP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber detonated

explosives at a Sunni mosque near Baghdad where worshippers were gathered for prayers, killing at least nine people, officials said yesterday. The attack on the mosque in Abu Ghraib, which also wounded at least 28 people, took place during evening prayers on Monday as Muslims mark the holy fasting month of Ramadan.