

BREXIT SINCE 2016 VOTE

**VOTE TO LEAVE:** In an advisory referendum on June 23, 2016, Britons choose to leave the 28-nation EU by 52 to 48 percent. The shock outcome prompts Conservative PM David Cameron to resign the next day.

**MAY BECOMES PM:** Theresa May, the interior minister who also backed remaining in the EU, becomes prime minister on July 13. On January 17, 2017.

**EXIT PROCESS TRIGGERED:** On March 29, 2017 the government starts a two-year timetable for withdrawal with a letter to the EU Council formally announcing Britain's intention to leave. The Brexit deadline is set for March 29, 2019.

**LOST MAJORITY:** To strengthen her hand in Brexit negotiations, May calls a snap election for June 8, 2017. But the Conservatives lose their parliamentary majority and, to stay in power, strike a deal for support from Northern Ireland's hardline Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

**DRAFT DEAL AGREED:** On November 13, 2018 British and EU negotiators reach a draft divorce agreement. EU leaders approve the accord on November 25.

**REJECTED THREE TIMES:** In the first parliament vote on the deal on January 15, 2019, MPs vote 432 to 202 against -- the biggest government defeat in British parliamentary history. The deal was voted two more times.

**DEADLINE DELAYS:** The EU agrees to delay Brexit until May 22 and then -- at an April 10-11 summit -- until October 31, the current deadline.

**MAY OUT, JOHNSON IN:** The European election defeat prompts May to announce on May 24 that she will step down as Conservative leader on June 7. On July 23 Boris Johnson is voted in as new Conservative leader, becoming prime minister the next day.

**QUEEN BACKS DELAY LAW:** On September 9 Queen Elizabeth II gives her approval to a law that would force the government to delay Brexit if it is not able to strike a divorce deal with Brussels.

**NEW DRAFT DEAL AGREED:** On October 17, the European Union and Britain announce their agreement on a new draft Brexit accord. It is then endorsed at a key EU summit by the other 27 EU members, but also needs approval by the British and European parliaments.

**PARLIAMENT VOTES:** On October 19, the British parliament votes to delay a decision on Johnson's Brexit deal, arguing they needed more time to study its contents before an October 31 deadline.



Demonstrators hold placards and EU flags as they take part in a march by the People's Vote organisation in central London yesterday, calling for a final say in a second referendum on Brexit.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'We are voiceless'

Hundreds of thousands protest in London for new Brexit vote

REUTERS, London

Hundreds of thousands of Britons marched through London on Saturday to demand a new Brexit referendum, saying their views were being ignored as lawmakers in parliament decided the fate of Britain's departure from the European Union.

The protesters, some having travelled for hours from around the United Kingdom to get to the capital, waved EU flags under sunny skies and held placards that employed creativity and wit.

The crowd clogged vast stretches of central London, with thousands of people waiting to begin the march at Hyde Park by the time others had reached parliament as lawmakers held the first Saturday session since the 1982 Falklands war.

"I am incensed that we are not being listened to. Nearly all the polls show that now people want to remain in the EU. We feel that we are voiceless," said Hannah Barton, 56, a cider maker from central England, who was draped in an EU flag.



"This is a national disaster waiting to happen and it is going to destroy the economy."

After more than three years of tortuous debate, it is still uncertain how, when or even if Brexit will happen as Prime Minister Boris Johnson tries to pass his new Brexit deal and plots a way out of the deepest political crisis in a generation.

Many of the signs displayed a dry British sense of humour. One said: "I am very cross about this" while

another was: "I made this sign instead of screaming."

As the marchers advanced some blew whistles and erupted in shouts of "Stop Brexit". A percussion band played and a gathering sang the EU's anthem "Ode to Joy".

James McGrory, director of the People's Vote campaign, which organised the march, said ahead of the protest the government should heed the anger of pro-Europeans

and hold another referendum on EU membership.

"This new deal bears no resemblance to what people were promised and so it is only right that the public deserve another chance to have their say," he said.

The mood of protesters ranged from anger to despair. Many railed against political leaders championing Brexit for being elite and out of touch.

Some were young people who were unable to vote during the 2016 referendum and described the fight for another vote as the defining political event of their lives.

"If we leave the EU this is not the end of this, we will keep fighting to rejoin until that happens," said Victoria Paynter, 17, who held a sign "check us before you wreck us".

In 2016, 52% backed Brexit, while 48% backed remaining in the EU.

Some opinion polls have shown a slight shift in favour of remaining in the EU, but there has yet to be a decisive change in attitudes and many voters say they have become increasingly bored by Brexit.

## Facebook to deliver News Corp stories

Facebook Inc's upcoming news tab will feature headlines from the Wall Street Journal and some other News Corp media properties when it launches in fall of 2019, the social network said on Friday. The WSJ, which first reported about the deal, said news publications Washington Post, BuzzFeed News, and Business Insider have also reached a similar deal with Facebook. The news organizations will be paid a licensing fee to supply headlines, the WSJ reported. Last year, News Corp founder Rupert Murdoch had called on Facebook to pay "trusted" news publishers a carriage fee, similar to the model used by cable companies. Certain headlines appearing in Facebook's news section will be curated by a team of editors, while others will be selected by the company's algorithm, according to the WSJ report.

## Trump resort to host G7!

Furious that US President Donald Trump announced he will host the next G7 summit at his own golf resort in Florida, congressional Democrats introduced legislation Friday to block his plan. Lawmakers said the "Trump's Heist Undermines the G-7 (THUG) Act" would cut off all federal funding for the move to have leaders of the seven largest economies in the world gather next June at the Trump National Doral Golf Club in Miami. The bill would also require the White House to turn over all relevant documents that show how administration officials decided on Doral. Critics say Trump's brazen move would be a clear violation of both the foreign and domestic emoluments clauses that are designed to shield a US leader from outside influence.

## Google completes first drone delivery in the US



Alphabet (Google) subsidiary Wing has become the first company in the United States to deliver packages by drone. In Christiansburg, the small Virginia town chosen as Wing's test location, the 22,000 residents can order products normally shipped by FedEx, medicine from Walgreens and a selection of candy from a local business -- all of which will arrive via drone. Wing, which already operates in two Australian cities as well as Helsinki, announced in a statement that the first drone-powered deliveries had taken place Friday afternoon in Christiansburg, "paving the way for the most advanced drone delivery service in the nation." One family used the Wing app to order Tylenol, cough drops, Vitamin C tablets, bottled water and tissues, the statement said. Once they have arrived at their destination, the drones don't land. Instead, they hover above the house and lower the package with a cable.

SOURCE: AFP

## NEWSIN brief

### Tragedy at Siberian gold mine kills 15

AFP, Moscow

Fifteen people were killed and another 13 missing after an illegally built dam collapsed at a gold mine in a remote Siberian settlement yesterday. The dam on the Seiba River in the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk burst and flooded several cabins where the victims lived, Russian authorities said. Rescue operations are ongoing and a probe has been launched to know how the illegal dam was built and why it collapsed.

### Biden leads US Democratic race

REUTERS, New York

Former Vice President Joe Biden expanded his lead over more than a dozen other candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination this month, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday. The Oct 17-18 opinion poll found that 21% of Democrats and independents said they would vote for Biden. According to the poll, Bernie Sanders got 16% support and Elizabeth Warren 15%.

### Israeli guards kill Palestinian 'assailant'

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli security guards at a West Bank crossing into Israel shot dead a Palestinian assailant who ran at them with a knife on Friday, the Israeli defence ministry said. Civilian guards employed by the MOD Crossing Points Authority called on the man to stop but when he kept coming he was shot and killed, it added.

## VIOLENT PROTESTS IN CHILE State of emergency declared in capital

AFP, Santiago

Chile's president declared a state of emergency in Santiago Friday night and gave the military responsibility for security after a day of violent protests over an increase in the price of metro tickets.

Throughout Friday, protestors clashed with riot police in several parts of the capital and the subway system was shut after attacks on stations in some of the worst violence the city has seen in years. At least 16 buses were torched and a dozen metro stations totally destroyed.

Around midnight President Sebastian Pinera declared a state of emergency and appointed Major General Javier Iturriga del Campo as head of national defense.

The state of emergency is initially for 15 days and restricts freedom of movement and assembly. Due to the emergency, the National Football Association has suspended matches this weekend. General Iturriga said the military would patrol major trouble spots in the city of seven million but would not impose a curfew at present.

The unrest started as a fare-dodging protest mainly by students against the hike in metro ticket prices, which increased from 800 to 830 peso (\$1.13 to \$1.17) for peak-hour travel, following a 20 peso rise in January.

The fare hike was blamed on rising oil prices and a weaker peso.



Protesters use fences as a barricade during clashes near the Police headquarters in Barcelona, on Friday. Nearly 200 people were hurt in Friday night's violent clashes in Catalonia, authorities said yesterday, after radical separatists hurled rocks and fireworks at police who responded with teargas and rubber bullets.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'She's favourite of the Russians'

Tulsi Gabbard calls Hillary 'queen of warmongers' after accusation

AGENCIES

US Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard has fired back at Hillary Clinton after the former secretary of state appeared to call her "the favourite of the Russians" in the 2020 elections race.

"I think they've got their eye on somebody who's currently in the Democratic primary, and they're grooming her to be the third-party candidate," Clinton said on the "Campaign HQ" podcast that first aired on Thursday.

"She's the favourite of the Russians. They have a bunch of sites and bots and other ways of supporting her so far."

Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, did not name Gabbard directly, but the Hawaii congresswoman essentially acknowledged she was the target by blasting out a stunning Twitter thread against the former first lady on Friday.

"Great! Thank you @HillaryClinton. You, the queen of warmongers, embodiment of

corruption, and personification of the rot that has sickened the Democratic Party for so long, have finally come out from behind the curtain," Gabbard ranted at her fellow Democrat.

Gabbard, 38, accused 71-year-old Clinton, long a doyenne of the Washington establishment, of leading



a "concerted campaign" to destroy her reputation since she announced her presidential run in January.

"Now we know - it was always you, through your proxies and powerful allies in the corporate media and war machine, afraid of the threat I pose," she added.

"It's now clear that this primary is between you and me," she sneered. "Don't cowardly hide behind your

proxies. Join the race directly."

Clinton has said she is done running for president.

In the 2016 presidential election, Clinton won the popular vote with a margin of some three million votes but lost to Donald Trump through the electoral college vote, which went in the Republican candidate's favour with 304 to Clinton's 227.

There is lingering trepidation in the Democratic Party of a repeat of the 2016 presidential race, when Russia interfered in the polls in an effort to help Trump defeat Clinton. US intelligence agencies have warned that Russia intends to meddle in the 2020 presidential election, as well.

During a Democratic presidential debate on Tuesday, Gabbard criticised a TV commentator who she said had called her "an asset of Russia". She called the comments "completely despicable".

Clinton also called Trump "Vladimir Putin's dream" in the interview. The former US top diplomat also described 2016 Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein as "a Russian asset".

## Lam backs police's use of force in HK

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam took to the airwaves yesterday to back the use of force by police ahead of a major anti-government march planned this weekend in the Chinese-ruled city, which has been battered by months of violent protests.

Following a week of relative calm, today's march will test the strength of the pro-democracy movement. Campaigners vowed it would go ahead despite police ruling the rally illegal.

In the past, thousands of people have defied police and staged mass rallies without permission, often peaceful at the start but becoming violent at night.

The trigger for unrest in Hong Kong had been a now-withdrawn proposal to allow extradition to mainland China, as well as Taiwan and Macau.

Lam said in an interview with broadcaster RTHK that police had used appropriate force in handling the protests, and were responding to protesters' violence, amid criticism of heavy-handed tactics.

More than 2,600 people have been arrested since the protests escalated in June.

Protesters' demands have, since then, swelled far beyond opposing the extradition bill, to take in broader concerns that Beijing is eroding freedoms granted when Britain handed the city back to China in 1997.

## Protests rage on for the third day in Lebanon

AFP, Beirut

Hundreds gathered in Lebanon yesterday for a third day of protests against tax increases and alleged official corruption after the security forces made dozens of arrests.

Crowds began gathering in front of the seat of government in the capital Beirut around lunchtime, with many waving billowing Lebanese flags.

The protesters are demanding a sweeping overhaul of Lebanon's political system, citing grievances ranging from austerity measures to poor infrastructure.

They have crippled the capital Beirut and threatened to topple the country's fragile coalition government.

In Beirut, troops reopened blocked highways after security forces used tear gas and water cannons to disperse a huge crowd of protesters who had gathered in the heart of Beirut on Friday evening. 70 people were arrested.

Prime Minister Saad Hariri has given his deeply divided coalition until Monday evening to give their backing to a reform package aimed at shoring up the government's finances and securing the disbursement of desperately needed economic assistance from donors.

Hariri's political rival, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, gave his first response yesterday, telling protesters their "message was heard loudly" and calling for political action.

But he warned against demanding resignation of the government, saying it could take a long time to form a new one.