Barwa launches QR105m Al Khor expansion project

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Barwa Real Estate Group, the leading real estate investment company in Qatar, announced yesterday the award of the construction of the project of the Expansion of Al Khor Recreation Facilities to the Contracting Company Al Rader Construction and Steel Works’ worth QR125m.

The project is an extension of Al Khor Recreation Facilities project which aims to raise the standard of living of the workforce in Qatar by providing them with integrated recreation and sports facilities.

The implementation of the project is expected to be completed in 18 months.

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Forex Minister meets UN Secretary-General

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met on Friday with Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres. They discussed ways to promote cooperation between the State of Qatar and the United Nations in addition to the latest regional and international developments.

Number of public parks doubled in five years

SAAMAILAH AATIAKHAN

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The number of public parks in Qatar has doubled in the past five years across the country to accommodate growing number of visitors, according to a report of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment.

The total number of parks in the country has reached 94.

The Parks Department of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment has doubled the number of parks in the country during 2016. On the contrary, there are seven public parks each in two municipalities — Al Khor, Al Zubarah and Al Thakira.

The report suggests that the number of public parks has risen from 47 to 94 in five years.

New parks are part of a major project of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment to build modern public parks and upgrade old parks across the country to accommodate growing number of visitors.

HMC team replants severed arm

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Performing a complex surgery successfully, surgeons at Hamad Medical Corporation made a severed arm fully functional again through replantation.

Jose Marti Jay, a 35-year-old man, whose arm was severed just below the elbow after an accident has regained the full use of his arm and hand thanks to the quick actions of first responders and the highly-skilled surgical and rehabilitation teams at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC).

The complex surgery is thought to be the first of its kind performed in Qatar, said a release. Dr. Mohamed Muhammed Al Delaimi, Senior Consultant, Plastic and Hand Surgeon, said the surgery was a success because of the skill and experience of the involved first responders and medical teams, including the rehabilitation team at Hamad Hospital.

The patient was admitted to the operating room within seven hours of the accident occurring. The delicate re-attachment surgery was completed in nine hours,” said Dr. Al Delaimi, who led the surgical team.

He said the procedure was complex because of the requirement to repair muscles, tendons, arteries, nerves, and veins. Block of the surgery was performed using specialized instruments under a microscope.

There are a number of steps in the replantation process. After the damaged tissue was removed and the bone stabilized, the surgical team connected the arteries, veins, nerves, and tissues of the amputated portion to the forearm using microsurgery. Through his efforts working with our rehabilitation team, the patient has been able to resume many of his normal daily activities,” said Dr. Al Delaimi.

Cars make a beeline at Fahees centres before fee hike

SIDI MOHAMED

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Hundreds of cars queued yesterday at a number of Fahees centres for annual technical inspection to avoid paying the increase in inspection fees imposed by Woqod, which will come into effect from today.

Technical inspection fee for a private passenger car at the Fahees centre will be doubled from QR75 to QR150 from today.

The fee for motorcycle inspection will be QR100, which was earlier QR50. Many motorists considered the increase surprising and did not find time to get the inspection done, which resulted in the rush at Fahees centres yesterday.

We were daily inspecting around 600 vehicles and today expecting the number to be doubled as only the first few hours of the morning hundreds of vehicles have already lined up in the queue for check up,” said a supervisor at Fahees centre in Al Waqif.

To a question regarding centre’s capacity to inspect such a big number of vehicles, he replied that the centre had a capacity to inspect 1,000 vehicles daily, but the problem was that people come only by the last minute and we have to close by 4.30pm.

“I don’t expect to extend working hours for technical inspection because the centre’s team has to shift to another area,” he replied to another question whether there was any possibility to extend working hours to entertain all motorists.

Qatar’s Samba (right) leads British Virgin Islands’ Byron McCartney and Norway’s Karsten Warholm during the men’s 400m hurdles final at the Diamond League meet in the Charlety Stadium. Samba yesterday won the 400m hurdles in a time of 46.98 seconds. This time is the second fastest in history.

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Al Kaabi meets US Secretary of Energy. Congress members

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Mbhappe’s double ends Messi’s World Cup dream

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Qatar National Library offers diverse range of activities in July

Fan Zone also attracted a number of visitors to its Khalifa International Stadium Fan Zone, and organized a number of activities in July. Aspire Zone Foundation Fan Zone in Khalifa International Stadium Fan Zone during a match.

Qatar's Attorney-General H E Dr Ali bin Fetais Al Marri at the graduation ceremony of the first batch of Syrian students benefiting from the "Syrian Refugees Students" programme at the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (Main Partner) and Ooredoo (Main Partner). The ceremony was attended by the European and International Alliances Team of the University as well as the University staff and faculty.

Qatar: MME's workshop on national strategy to combat desertification today

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) will organise a workshop on the implementation of the national strategy to combat desertification.

The workshop will be attended by the Ministry's Assistant Under-Secretary for Environment Affairs, Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Al Sada, an expert from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and a number of experts in this field, as well as officials from the Ministry, said a release.

The workshop will feature an awareness lecture on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, projects of cooperation between Qatar and the water resources in Qatar. It will also focus on practical work on the data required for the seventh National Report on Combating Desertification, method of writing the report, and reports and projects and programmes aimed at developing actions, enhancing the implementation of the national strategy to combat desertification.

The Ministry of Municipality and Environment has adopted a number of important initiatives and projects and programmes aimed at developing actions, enhancing implementation of the national strategy to combat desertification.

The workshop will take place in the presence of a number of dignitaries, including Sheikh Tamim bin Mohammed bin Hamad Al Thani, a number of important officials and representatives of international and national organisations, as well as representatives of the Supreme Committee to Combat Desertification and representatives of the other organs.

The workshop will be opened by the Director General of the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Saleh Al Salhi, who is also the President of the Supreme Committee to Combat Desertification.

The workshop will be followed by a round table discussion on the national strategy to combat desertification, where the participants will present the various projects and programmes they have implemented in the field of combating desertification in their countries.
QM announces 2nd Youth Summer Residency

The PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Museums (QM) announced the return of its Youth Summer Residency for budding artists, specifically those working in plastic, sculpture, painting, and mixed media. Officials during the event.

The Chairman of General Authority of Customs, Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al Jaimi, at the meeting.

HMC team replaces severed arm through complex surgery

Continued from page 1

Dr. Al Delaimi added that the complex surgery was a team effort, noting that Dr. Mutasim Al-Menshid, Orthopedic Surgery Resident, Dr. Fadi Bouri, Orthopedic Surgery Resident, and Dr. Al Mahi, Plastic Surgeon, had played a crucial role in the patient's rehabilitation.

The multi-disciplinary care team which performed the complex surgery with the patient.

Ooredoo’s Ramadan campaign has a huge 2% market success

DOHA: Ooredoo announced yesterday the start of its new Ramadan campaign, ‘Supernet’, with a huge success with 2 million marks by using mobile phones. Almost two million digital gifts through the Ooredoo App daily to enjoy resulting in almost two million digital gifts through the Ooredoo App daily to enjoy.

Supernet’, has been a huge success with nearly two million marks by using mobile phones.

The Open Market of Education art exhibition, which was hosted at the Fire Station.

This file picture shows participants during the first Youth Summer Residency programme of Qatar Museums.

Qatar calls for empowering youth to combat terrorism at UN event

NEW YORK: Silatech partook in the UN General Assembly mid-level meeting that was convened to foster a global policy on how young people understand and work to prevent violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism through avenues based on community and social cohesion.

The panel offered various perspectives on how young people understand and work to prevent violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism through avenues based on community and social cohesion.

The event, “Youth as Protagonists in Preventing Violent Extremism”, was organised by the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund on June 28, 2018, during the UN’s Counter-Terrorism Week in New York City.

While accidental limb detachment surgery depends on the ability to ensure the bone was healing well and that there was good blood flow, added Dr. Bouri.

While accidental limb amputations are not common, it is important for all members of the public to have some understanding of first aid and treatment for this type of injury. Medical experts recommend applying firm pressure to the impacted area, ideally using sterile gauze. The amputated limb should be preserved by wrapping it in damp, sterile gauze or bandage, and sealing it in a plastic bag, free from air. The plastic bag should be placed on the severed limb directly on ice or water. Placing the severed limb directly on ice should be avoided as this can cause more damage and reduce the possibility of successful reattachment.
Sanctions aim to turn Iranians against govt, says Khamenei

**REUTERS**

DUBAI US economic pressure on Iran is intended to turn Iranians against their government, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pictured was quoted as saying yesterday by his website. “They bring to bear economic pressure to separate the nation from the system,” he said. “But six US presidents before him tried this and had to give up.” Khamenei was quoted as saying by Khamenei.ir, referring to Trump. Speaking to graduating Revolutionary Guards officers, Khamenei accused the United States and some other countries that regard Shah Muslim Iran as their main foe of trying to destabilise the government in Tehran. “If America was able to act against Iran, it would not need to use military threats and reactionary states in the region to help it in forming unrest and instability in Iran,” Khamenei said in remarks carried by state TV.

Khamenei was speaking after three days of protests in Tehran and other cities in which hundreds of traders in the bazaar closed their shops in voice against the rial’s plunge. Such merchants have mostly been loyal to the leadership since the 1979 Islamic Revolu- tion overthrew the monarchy. Some of the graduating Guards officers had drawn the flag of Iran, Israel’s arch-enemy, on the sides of their boots, pictures from the military ceremony carried by some official news agency Tasnim showed. State news agency IRNA reported that top government officials including President Hassan Rouhani and the heads of parliament and the judiciary had met to discuss the pro-进取 US sanctions.

Various scenarios of threats to the Iranian economy by the US government were examined and appropriate measures were taken to prepare for any possible US sanctions, and to prevent their negative impact, IRNA said. The United States has told allies to cut all imports of Iranian oil from November and is unlikely to offer exemptions, a senior State Department official said on Tuesday as the Trump administration seeks to cut off funding to Iran.

A Palestinians man holds Turkish flag and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s portrait in Gaza City, yesterday.

**ANATOLIA**

PALESTINIAN: Two Palestinian militant groups were killed and eight others injured in an explosion at an eastern neighborhood of the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Health Ministry said yesterday. The incident took place in Shijaiya neighborhood after fireworks were launched by Hamas militants.

A Palestinians man holds Turkish flag and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s portrait in Gaza City, yesterday.

“West Libya in Haftar’s sights after tightening grip on east”

**AP**

TRIPOLI After tightening his grip on eastern Libya, military strongman Khalifa Haftar now wants to extend his influence across and beyond the country, where the UN-backed unity government is beset by rivals.

Once the most powerful players in the Libyan conflict, the 75-year-old field marshal heads, experts say, the most powerful and well-organised military group in the country as he has been bolstered by string of military victories in eastern parts of the country, which has been weakened by clashes between rival factions, including a hard-line group that toppled and killed long-time leader Moammar Gadhafi.

For a while after seizing key oil terminals from a rival militia, his forces on Thursday announced the “liberation” of Derna, the last eastern city beyond its control, from radical Islamist militias.

The LNA has since again pressed its capital’s operations on multiple fronts and achieve victories, said Mohamed Eljih, chief executive of research from Libya Outlook based in the country’s east. Haftar’s enemies are ultimately his biggest advantage, he added. “With their ill-informed and ill-organised military adventures, they make it easy for Haftar to justify the expansion of the LNA into the western and southern regions,” Eljih said. Until 1963, Libya was a federal union divided into three administrative states — Cyrenaica in the east, the Western area in the west and Fezzan in the south — fault lines that remain to this day.

In recent years, Haftar — whose forces have been backed by Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Russia — has repeatedly vowed to “liberate” the capital. But any push westward is likely to face resistance par- ticularly from armed groups in the western city of Misrata that are among the country’s most powerful and hostile to Haftar.

Haftar’s “triumphant decla- rations on his supposed victory against terrorism suggest that he may be carried away by the recapture of Derna and under- estimate the road ahead,” said Karim Ritar, an expert at the International and Strategic Affairs in Paris. “The external powers that support him sometimes feel that Haftar overestimates his strength and that nothing will be possible without a political rapprochement.”

His relations with the authorities in Libya have always been complex.

Khalifa Haftar, the military commander who dominates eastern Libya, arriving to attend an international conference on Libya at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France.

Turkish historian Fuat Sezgin dies at age 95

**ANATOLIA**

ANKARA World-renowned Turkish historian Fuat Sezgin died yesterday at the age of 95. Many of the leading scholars of the Board of Research Foundation for the History of Science in Islam, said that Sezgin died in the hospital where he was treated for an unspecified illness.

I am very saddened by the death of such a valued scien- tist, regardless of his age. He was a very distinguished scientist,” Gediksek said. “He donated a priceless library and museum to Turkey.”

Sezgin was born in eastern Bursa province in 1924. He studied at Istanbul University’s Faculty of Literature, where also earned his PhD in Arabic language and liter- ature. He continued his studies at Germany’s Frankfurt University in 1960 following a military coup in Turkey. He devoted a consid- erable amount of time to studying and publishing scientific contributions made by Muslim Arab scholars throughout history. He wrote more than 100 books and articles.

Turkey sends new proof to US over key FETO suspect

ANKARA: The Turkish Justice Ministry has sent new evidence to the US showing that a key Fethullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) suspect, Hakan Cakan, spoke directly to Gulen on a cellphone via a FETO member, code-named “Ezaci Abdi”, translated Pharmacists Abdi.

Last week, Turkish security units had found cellphones damaged near an airport in the capital Ankara, which they said were part of FETO-related crimes dropped by air onto the streets of Istanbul.

The Turkish government says the Fethullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) and its leader Gulen orchestrated the failed coup of July 15, 2016, in which 502 people were killed and nearly 27,000 arrested.

Ankara also accuses FETO of being behind a recent campaign to overthrow the government, which is dominated by military institutions.

According to the content of the call, Gulen was permanently informed from 8pm Turkish time on July 15, 2016, still according to the evidence compiled, Gulen also conveyed his instructions regarding the coup attempt.

The call, released by Gulen’s deputy, had agreed on the “permanent informed from 8pm” and “will综合体ees to reach it to your place.

The report compiled this week by security forces says Cakan contacted the suspected “Ezaci Abdi” (Pharmacists Abdi) to inform him that the Pennsylvanian immediately before his arrest had been exposed and the FETO members were still rolling the area around Daraa City, near the Jordanian border, where the army was trying to capture a damaged air base, rebels said.

Several provinces where many complaints of fraud were reported — Kurds, Salaffists, and the like in the northeast. According to the report compiled this week, the manual recount will be completed.

The manual recount will be conducted in the presence of the United Nations, foreign embassies and political parties, as well as local and international observers.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, whose electoral list captured a disused air base, rebels the manual recount could not be conducted because of a technical problem.

The capital has been politically fraught with the war and a new political group, the Women’s March, has been formed in response to the violence.

In seven provinces where the military, police, and judiciary.

Protesters chant during the women’s march demanding police action to stop a spate of kidnappings and murders of women in Kampala, Uganda, yesterday.

By Gabriela Lehmann

Turkey renovates school, hospitals in southern Africa

JOHANNESBURG: Turkey’s state-run aid agency intends to continue its support to education and health sectors in southern African countries, an agency official said.

“We have installed a library and an educational institute in Johannesburg and are working closely with the Department of Basic Education of South Africa,” National and Development Implementation Agency’s (TIKA) coordinator in South Africa, Seferci said.

The agency is also going to renovate the Mohau Child Care Center in Lesotho which can take care of the lonely and the positive children.

The Turkish cutting-edge medical equipment to Lesotho South Hospital and the renovation building,” he added.

Seferci, who visited South Africa in 1992, TIKA has been responsible for 150 projects in the official development assistance circle in South Africa.

Despite being in South Africa for just a few months, TIKA has embarked on many projects such as refurbishing homes for children whose parents died of HIV or have been abandoned.

Ugandans protest surge in violence against women

KAMPALA: Hundreds of protesters marched through the streets of Uganda’s capital yesterday calling for action to stop a spate of kidnappings and murders of women in Kampala, Uganda, yesterday.

The protesters demanded the government be held accountable for the rampant kidnapping, brutalising and murder of women in this country,” said Laדחia Naudé, director of the Women’s Protest Working Group, which organised the demonstration.

At least 43 women have been murdered and others kidnapped for ransom in the East African nation since May 2017, according to police.

Rights activists have criticised what they say has been an inadequate police response focused on blaming the victim rather than solving the crimes.

Marchers wore 1-shirts declaring “Women’s Lives Matter” and held posters listing the names of murdered women.

US ambassador Deborah Malac and French envoy Stephane Rivol were among the marchers. “My staff members are scared. They’re afraid to stay out... because they fear they’re going to be kidnapped or a victim of violence,” Malac said.

Agatha Neema said she came to the protest “because I’m a woman. ‘We live in fear yet our country is supposed to protect us. We demand security from the government,” she said. “The 32-year-old information scientist,

Iraq to begin manual recount of votes on Tuesday

BAGHDAD: Iraq will begin a manual recount of votes on Tuesday in the disputed provinces after a parliamentary election clouded by allegations of fraud, a step which will set the stage for a new parliament and government.

Only suspect ballots flagged in formal complaints or official allegations of fraud, a step will be carried out.

The manual recount will be conducted in the presence of the United Nations, foreign embassies and political parties, as well as local and international observers, members of the media, and the Ministries of Defence and the Interior. Judge Lahid Jabe Hamza said.

In addition, the recount will be held in areas where the army was trying to capture a damaged air base, rebels said.

This is disappointing that the manual recount could not be conducted because of a technical problem.

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Agatha Neema said she came to the protest “because I’m a woman. ‘We live in fear yet our country is supposed to protect us. We demand security from the government,” she said. “The 32-year-old information scientist,
UN: Terror groups operating in J&K; Naxalites recruiting kids

UNITED NATIONS: Terrorist groups operating in Kashmir and Naxalites are recruiting children, according to a report by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who urged the Indian government to act against these recruiting children. Guterres said he would “encourage the government to put in place measures to hold perpetrators of child recruitment and use to account and engage with the United Nations in view of ending and preventing violations against children.”

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In Kashmir, the report cited one case that of a 15-year-old boy “killed by national security forces” during a clash with alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba elements in Pulwama district. The UN had previously noted the use of children were reported in 188 civilian killings and injuries in Kashmir, including by the Naxalite groups using children in their operations. They have also beaten up some drivers, who are now scared to drive the trucks carrying slaughter beef from the state from neighbouring Karnataka.

In Jharkhand, suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba elements of a school in Khamji district, partially destroying it and injuring 10 students and a teacher. “The occupation of over 20 schools was documented by the Central Police Force in Kashmir,” the report said.

“Put in place measures that would “encourage the government to take steps to ensure that the use of children is brought to an end,” Guterres said.

Vehicles drive along a flooded road after a heavy rainfall in Srinagar yesterday. Authorities issued a flood alert in central Kashmir for low-lying areas as intermittent rain continued.

Kashmir gears up to meet flood threat

Nation must unite to protect children, says Rahul

NEW DELHI: Congress President Rahul Gandhi yesterday voiced his anguish against the brutal gang rape and assault of an eight-year-old schoolgirl in Madhya Pradesh and said the government must come together to protect the children.

“The brutality this young child was subjected to sickens me. As a nation, we must come together to protect our children and bring the attackers to speedy justice,” Gandhi tweeted.

“New Delhi: Congress President Rahul Gandhi yesterday voiced his anguish against the brutal gang rape and assault of an eight-year-old schoolgirl in Madhya Pradesh and said the government must come together to protect the children.

The child was abducted and gang-raped in Satna district, Madhya Pradesh. The child told doctors treating her in the hospital that in an attempt to kill her, the attackers inserted a metal rod into her mouth.

The child was pulled out of the water by rescuers and sent to the government medical college hospital in Gwalior,

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 tenía issued a press statement in view of the worst flood situation in the state for the past 10 years. The government has put in place measures even as the water level in the river crossed the danger mark.

Kashmir gears up to meet flood threat

NEW DELHI: The year 2018 that began with the end of Haj subsidy has been marked by a record 175,025 Indian heading for Saudi Arabia and it is also distinct for a record 45 percent women among the pilgrims including 1,308 without their ‘umrah (females) companion’. The Congress party said it has received overwhelming response of Haj pilgrims who are expressing their gratitude for government’s decision to end Haj subsidy.

For the first time, choice of embarkation points has been given to Haj pilgrims which has received an overwhelming response.

Record number of Hajis despite subsidy removal

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Pakistan vows to address AML compliance deficiencies

**INTERNATIONAL**

KARACHI: Pakistan has vowed to effectively implement “targeted financial sanctions (supported by a comprehensive legal obligation) against all 1267 and 1373 designated terrorists and those acting for or on their behalf, including preventing the raising and moving of funds, identifying and freezing assets (movable and immovable), and prohibiting access to funds and financial services”. The country will strengthen enforcement against violations of terror financing services, including administrative and criminal penalties.

Pakistan made a high-level pledge to remove Pakistan with the FATF and its subgroup Asia Pacific Group to strengthen its AML/CFT regime and to address its strategic counter-terrorist financing-related deficiencies. The government will demonstrate “that terror financing risks are properly identified, assessed and that supervision is applied on a risk-sensitive basis.” The country is cooperating and taking action to identify and take action enforcement against illegal money or value transfer services. It is identifying cash couriers and enforcing controls on movement of currency and understanding the risk of cash couriers being used for terror financing.

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Currently, FATF has officially designated 15 countries under high-risk jurisdictions that fail to meet the FATF standards and that are making sufficient progress (grey list) in 2010 and 2014. Pakistan was removed from the grey list in 2015.

The FATF said it will closely monitor the implementation of the action plan put forward by Pakistan.

**AFGHANISTAN**

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani speaks during a news conference in Kabul, yesterday.

Afghan forces resume offensive operations after govt truce ends

AP

KABUL: Afghan security forces resumed offensive operations yesterday after President Ashraf Ghani declared an end to the government’s unilateral ceasefires with the Taliban.

Ghani said the ceasefire, which lasted 18 days after it was extended once and overlapped with the Taliban’s unilateral three-day truce last Eid, had been “98 percent successful”. The ceasefire is over. The Afghan security and defence forces are allowed to restart their military operations. Ghani took the decision.

The three days of fighting were unprecedented in the near-17-year conflict and targeted pulpit attacks across the war-weary country. Taliban fighters and security forces spontaneously celebrated the holiday that caps the holy month of Ramadan, hugging each other and taking selfies.

The militants were also mobbed by relieved civilians, who have borne the brunt of the war, raising hopes of a renewed push for peace talks.

Ghani said the ceasefire had shown that the majority of the insurgents were tired of fighting and that the Taliban was “the Taliban to turn to give a positive response”.

“I am ready to extend the ceasefire any time when the Taliban are ready,” he said at a press conference.

But the sight of its fighters openly mingling with army forces and civilians over Eid appeared to alarm the Taliban leaders, who on Sunday ordered their men back to their posts.

The Taliban vowed Tuesday to continue their bloody fight against the government and their foreign backers, brushing aside rising civilian casualties.

The insurgents returned to the battlefield last week after refusing a government request to extend their ceasefire, launching attacks across the country that have seen scores killed or injured since then.

The violence comes as a new military offensive launched by the US against the Taliban has pounded civilian areas in hopes of bringing the insurgents to the negotiating table.

The latest offensive on the outskirts of Kabul, which has a relatively small but potent presence in Afghanistan, and launched two deadly attacks on ceasefire revellers during Eid.

**SRI LANKA**

21st Hong Kong handover anniversary

People’s Liberation Army soldiers attend a flag-raising ceremony at an airport in Hong Kong yesterday, during an event to mark the 21st anniversary of the Hong Kong handover to China.

ECP allows extending polling time on election day

**INTERNATIONAL**

ISLAMABAD: While the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) yesterday announced extending polling time by an hour for the upcoming general elections, the ECP has also allowed to restart their military services.

The ECP has issued notices to the caretaker ministers, asking them why they should not be restrained from performing their functions for failing to comply with the mandatory legal requirement.

By the upcoming elections, the caretaker ministers, chief ministers and prime minister are required to submit statements of assets and liabilities, including those of their spouses and children, depicting the position as on June 30 last, within three days after assuming office.

According to the ECP, caretaker Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and most provincial ministers have yet to file their statements.

Under the law, caretaker ministers, chief ministers and prime minister are required to submit statements of assets and liabilities, including those of their spouses and children, depicting the position as on June 30 last, within three days after assuming office.

The two survivors were brought back. However, none of the miners’ families from KP and Balochistan interm set up files have submitted their statements of assets, while only one member of the Sindh cabinet and two members of the caretaker Punjab cabinet submitted their statements of assets.

An ECP official said that under the law, the caretaker ministers’ statements to be made on a specified form will be published in official gazette.

Austrian mountaineer dies on Pakistani mountain

AP

ISLAMABAD: One member of a three-man mountaineering expedition has died in an avalanche on a more than 7,000-metre high peak in northern Pakistan, officials said yesterday.

Karim Akbar, Secretary of Alpine Club of Pakistan, said Austrian mountaineer Christian Huber was killed when an avalanche hit the climbers’ tent Friday night during a strong storm at a height of 5,900 metres on Uttar Sar Peak in the Hunza Valley.

Officials said the other two mountaineers, Briton Bruce Normand and Timothy Miller, suffered injuries that were safe and helicopters were being sent to rescue them.

The three-member expedition started in late May and was permitted to stay till the first week of July. The team was being managed by Higher Ground Expeditions, a tour operating company in Hunza Valley.

Higher Ground employee Abdul Karim Zouqi said a rescue helicopter will pick up the two survivors once the weather gets a weather clearance to do so. He said the body of the deceased mountaineer and his gear would be found and would be brought back.

However, none of the miners’ families from KP and Balochistan interm set up files have submitted their statements of assets, while only one member of the Sindh cabinet and two members of the caretaker Punjab cabinet submitted their statements of assets.

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EDITORIAL

Opec and its allies’ decision to boost oil production and reassert market control over crude oil is likely to be viewed with concern by the world's top consuming countries. Oil prices hit $80 a barrel this week for the first time since 2014, prompting top consuming countries to raise concerns over the impact of higher oil prices on their economies. In contrast, Opec and its allies agreed on a "nominal" production increase of 1 million barrels a day. In reality, several ministers said the accord will add a smaller amount of oil to the market – about 400,000 barrels a day – because a number of Opec countries are unable to raise their output.

In the past week, Opec and its allies agreed on a "nominal" production increase of one million barrels a day, but several ministers said the accord will add a smaller amount of oil to the market – about 400,000 barrels a day -- because a number of Opec countries are unable to raise their output.

An attack on journalism itself

The Washington Post

Friday's Opinion section in the Washington Post -- a collection of 16 op-eds, letters, and other words, centered around five themes, including news and trust, and heartbreaking, to those lost in the tragedy that has befallen this storied newspaper the day before, and in this historic moment for all of Opec’s members.

The ruling will permanently stand as a living symbol, similar to the Dred Scott and Korematsu decisions holding black people to be property and Japanese Americans to be subversive threats, respectively.

The ruling has become not only a symbolic declaration from the highest court of the land that justifies religious discrimination on account of umma national security concerns, but also a decision affirming the view that Islam is a religion of Muslim identity with "terror threat". As it has been elsewhere, "Islamophobia is the process by which Muslims are dehumanized, stereotyped, and marginalized through words or attitudes about Islam and Muslims.

In this sense, the court's decision ultimately legitimates Islamophobia against Muslims. The scope of parties affected by the decision is more than Muslim immigrants traveling from the five Muslim-majority states, but also Muslim citizens and residents living in the United States, who will be made to feel less welcome or at risk of intimidation from Islamophobic attitudes.

And for Muslims, it will serve as a stark reminder of the threat the court will mark them, above all, as national security concerns, but also as a reminder of the highest court of the land that justifies religious discrimination.

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And for Muslims, it will serve as a stark reminder of the threat the court will mark them, above all, as national security concerns, but also as a reminder of the highest court of the land that justifies religious discrimination.
UN-Myanmar deal on Rohingya offers no guarantees on citizenship

Robinga refugees returning to Myanmar will have to accept guarantees of citizenship or freedom of movement throughout the country, under a secret agreement between the government and the United Nations seen by Reuters.

The UN struck an outline deal with Myanmar at the end of May amid as lightning allowing hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims sheltering in Bangladesh to return safely and voluntarily by choice, but did not make the details of the deal public.

Agamis reviewed a copy of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) agreed between the UN and Myanmar authorities. The deal also locked out online.

Politicians and rights groups say the agreement fails to ensure basic rights for the Rohingya, some 650,000 of whom have fled a military crackdown some Western countries have called “ethnic cleansing”.

“Nothing stands, returning Robinga to Robinga means returning them to an apartheid state – a place where they can’t move around freely and struggle to access schools, hospitals and places they rely on for their daily lives,” said Laiza Haigh. Armies internationally used an agreement.

“Nothing in this document provides any guarantees that this will happen,” The UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, has previously called the MoU a “first and necessary step to establish a framework for cooperation” with the government.

Migrant government spokesman Zaw Htay and Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye did not answer multiple phone calls seeking comment. The director of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population said he was not authorized to comment and directed enquiries to the permanent secretary, who did not answer the phone.

The MoU to transfer people who return to Myanmar were key points of contention during negotiations over the agreement to restore access to conflict-ravaged Rakhine state for UN agencies that have been barred since last August. The MoU states that the states will enjoy the same freedom of movement as all other Myanmar citizens.

However, it does not guarantee freedom of movement beyond the borders of Rakhine or address the laws and regulations that currently prevent Robinga from travelling freely, according to the text seen by Reuters.

Refuge leaders and human rights groups say the agreement fails to ensure basic rights for the Robinga, some 650,000 of whom have fled a military crackdown some Western countries have called “ethnic cleansing”.

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The only nation which has won more caps (77) than Germany is outside. The country, however, gave up being involved in the West Germany games in 1966 – for its only tournament so far. This time, however, it has remained in the game.

Largely achieved the shortest distance of 1-0 victory on 23-0 2016. Back home where football commentators had approached the Cup with an already disdained, if patriotic, resignation, hope begins to spring that England could.

Who knows? 0-1 defeat on Thursday evening at the hands of Belgium has been discounted, since manager Gareth Southgate secure in the knowledge that England would go on to the second round whatever the score, rested his best players. And what joy was there when, already 5-0 down, Panama scored a lonely goal against England, the first Panama had ever scored in the World Cup. More than a compensation, it was an assertion of solidarity in defeat.

Italian, known, not to fancy, believes that the country’s failure even to qualify for the Cup was a large perhaps the largest – influence on the electorate’s choice to hamstring the political establishment by voting for upstart populist parties, now in government.

Italy: after all, had won the Cup four times. Commentators, with apparent seriousness, compared it to the huge slaughter of Italian troops by the Austro-Hungarian army at Caporetto in World War One.

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Politicians at Merkel’s level live on little sleep, on constant tension and need boosts of energy to remain in command. The German loss on Wednesday denied the chancellor such a boost. The Financial Times opined that Merkel’s weariness, and the new sense of fragility around her, would be blamed on the World Cup debacle – while Theresa May “has much to gain” if England’s squad acquits itself well.
Divers progress in search for missing Thai children

NAVY SEAL divers have reached a T-junction in the depths of the cave just two or three kilometres from where the boys are believed to be, Chiang Rai Governor Narongpak Osottanakorn said.

“The situation is better today than yesterday and the day before. Water has receded considerably and we are pumping out water in all chambers (near the entrance).” Navy SEAL divers reported.

For the search for the boys, its seventh day, attention turned to the T-junction near the cave with little or no food and light.

The group has access to fresh water – either dripping in through rocks or rushing through the entrance – but with no food.

Manan’s promotion was meritorious and not because of his family’s name. There is nothing strange, its promotions have been based on qualifications and experience in the army.” Chhim Socheat said yesterday.

Several others were moved in the military shuffle, including the military police commander at chief Sao Sokha who was appointment acting supreme commander of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

Two others – Pol Saroeun and Kim Kun – stepped down from their senior military roles to run for parliament in the July 29 vote.

Both are close allies of Hun Sen and were among 12 generals accused in a Human Rights Watch report this week of carrying out war crimes and crimes against humanity for incidents grouped under the “Killing Fields.”

These 12 men are the backbone of an abusive and authoritarian political regime over which an increasingly disinterested Hun Sen rules, the reports said.

They were accused of “vexations of human rights, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed from the PhD to the present.”

Many women say the eight-year rise in the pension age has sparked a rare outpouring of anger, not least among women who say it will cause hardship at a stage in their lives when they already struggle to work.

On the day the first bill to become law on raising the retirement age was passed in the National Assembly, a new government said it is considering new laws to protect victims, by giving them more freedom of movement and work, and introducing still tougher penalties for traffickers.

On Thursday, the US State Department released its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, in which downgraded Malaysia to Tier 3, the worst category. The report noted that the Southeast Asian country had failed to demonstrate stronger efforts than the previous year.

The report said that while Malaysia has long been known as a destination for human trafficking and migrant smuggling, it has nearly 2 million registered migrant workers, but there are millions more in the country without work permits.

More than 50,000 women in the country are believed to work in conditions that allow human traffickers to exploit them.

But the main priority was trying to get the boys through the main entrance. Governor Narongpak said.

Earlier in the day medics and police staged practice drills to prepare for the quick and complex evacuations that will be required if and when the boys are found. Divers have kept vigil under a makeshift tent near shrines where monks are holding daily prayers for the children.
A Spanish rescue boat plucked 60 migrants yesterday from a patch-up rubber dinghy in the Mediterranean Sea near Libya, igniting another political row between Italy and Malta over who should take the boat in.

The vessel, Open Arms, run by Spanish aid group Proactiva Open Arms, said it rescued the migrants – including four women, a 16-year-old and three teenagers – after it spotted a rubber dinghy with plastic tape floating in the sea. All the migrants appeared in good health.

But Italy’s right-wing Interior Minister Matteo Salvini quickly declared that the rescue boat “can forget about arriving in Italy’s ports” and claimed the boat should go to Malta.

But Malta swiftly pushed back, with its interior minister arguing that the tiny Sicilian island of Lampedusa, south of Sicily, was too close to the boat.

The Open Arms is the third rescue ship operated by humanitarian groups in the central Mediterranean to come into the croissants of Salvini’s crackdown on migrant arrivals.

Even though the number of migrants arriving in Europe is sharply down this year from 2015, the topic of migration has deepened political divisions in both Italy and Malta where in recent years, private rescue vessels have brought home many of the thousands of boatloads of migrants saved from smugglers’ boats.

But critics have started taking sides between the two parties in Italy’s new populist coalition government over Salvini’s hardline approach.

Ricardo Pfeifer, president of Parliament’s lower house and a leaping figure in the 5-Star Movement, the ruling coalition’s senior partner, told reporters after inspecting a migrant reception centre in a Sicilian port town that “I wouldn’t close the ports.”

The +viu told reporters that Libya now “isn’t a place with security,” and its coast guard “needs the support of the Italian navy and coast guard and also from some NGO boats.”

But Italy’s coordination center, which said the Libyan coast guard rescued 16 people, but another 200 migrants were missing and feared dead at sea.

While politicians bickered, the rescue boat of the Open Arms were jubilant, chanting and hugging their rescuers.

A 9-year-old boy’s eyes sparkled as the Open Arms crew referred to him as “captain” as he helped take command. The captain’s seat on the bridge for a few minutes. Sadiq Al-Dolens, President of the Open Arms rescue vessel, the Astral, when it approached the Open Arms to return to Spain.

Matteo Salvini, the Interior Minister, said the captain could intervene.

But substantial confusion has followed.

Spanish boat saves 60 migrants but Italy locks its ports

Moordrain in noord Engeland: grote brand, incidente, rebelden

Bavarian CSU welcomes Merkel’s migration deals

Migrants intercepted aboard two dinghies off the coast in the Strait of Gibraltar, rest after arriving on a rescue boat at the port of Tarifa, southern Spain, yesterday.
Thousands in US march against immigration policy

WASHINGTON: Thousands of demonstrators, hiking in the heat and bolstered against US immigration policy, marched across the country yesterday to protest the separation of families under President Donald Trump’s hardline policy.

Dhivedi “Belongs Together”, the demonstration in Washington began at Lafayette Square where crowds gathered directly across from the White House before a planned march toward the Capitol.

In New York, families, young people, children and the elderly – both those born in the US and time citizens – all stood under a banner that read: “Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here.” and also declaring a welcome for Muslims.

A band of drummers whipped up the fervor of a crowd carrying signs including “Our New York is Immigrant New York” and “No Cages, No Ban, No Wall.” Sickle Ice, said another sign, reflecting growing calls by activists for abolition of the country’s frontline immigration enforcement agency.

Starting in early May, an attempt has been made of five of thousands of migrants to the southern US border every month. Trump promised the arrest of adults crossing the border illegally, including those seeking asylum.

Many trying to cross the US- Mexico frontier are desperate people fleeing gang violence and poverty and seeking a better life in America. As a result of Trump’s crackdown, migrant children were separated from their families and, according to widely broadcast pictures, held in chain-link enclosures, a practice that sparked domestic and global outrage.

Trump later signed an order ending the separation of families but immigration lawyers say the process of reuniting children and their parents will be long and chaotic. About 2,000 children remain split from their parents, according to official figures released last weekend.

President Donald Trump has said he would sign an order on July 9, a decision with momentous implications for the country and the administration’s hardline policy.

But Trump said he would overturn the landmark with a conservative new justice member of the court – liberal and a monumental battle over the right for decades to come, Trump has the opportunity to ers on issues such as abortion, biggest cases, siding with lib-

BEDMINSTER: President Donald Trump has said that he will announce his nominee to the US Supreme Court pick on July 9

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Trump has the opportunity to declare a welcome for Muslims. As a result of Trump’s crackdown, migrant children were separated from their families and, according to widely broadcast pictures, held in chain-link enclosures, a practice that sparked domestic and global outrage.

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**THE PENINSULA**

**DOHA:** Qatar Petroleum President and CEO Saad Sherida Al Kaabi met in Washington with US Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

Discussions during the meeting centred on various aspects of bilateral energy cooperation between the United States of America and the State of Qatar, particularly in the LNG industry.

Al Kaabi and the accompanying delegation also held talks with the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Energy Resources, Francis R. Fannon, which tackled energy cooperation between Qatar and the United States.

Qatar Petroleum’s CEO held similar talks, on the sidelines of his participation in the World Gas Conference, with a number of Representatives in the US Congress and their assistants, who included member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee Rep. Joe Barton, member of the House Ways and Means Committee Rep. Richard Hudson.

Al Kaabi also met with member of the House Appropriations Committee and the sub-committees on Defense and Homeland Security Rep. Gus Bilirakis, and member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its sub-committees on Energy and Health Rep Kurt Schrader.

Discussions during the meetings centered on issues of mutual concern, foremost of which was the energy industry and Qatar’s partnerships with American companies in the fields of exploration and natural gas production.

Al Kaabi also met with Paul Ong, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy in the Republic of Korea and senior officials at the Ministry for a wide-ranging discussion of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy.

Al Kaabi’s meetings in the American capital also included a number of discussions with US Presidents and CEOs of leading American energy companies, including ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, and Occidental Petroleum.

**FROM LEFT:** Gustaf Hannerz, Deputy Head of Mission at Swedish Embassy in Qatar; Juan Cepeda, Director of ProMexico (Middle East), Mexican Embassy in Qatar; and KM Varghese, President of the Indian Business & Professional Council (IBPC).

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**Kuwait to raise oil output by 85,000 bpd from today**

REUTERS

BIVADA: Kuwait will raise oil output by 85,000 barrels per day (bpd) starting today, part of an agreement between Opec and non-Opec producers to increase production by one million bpd.

Energy Minister Haidh Al Rashidi told a local newspaper yesterday: “Kuwait will raise its oil production from tomorrow to 2.785 million barrels, a daily increase of 85,000 compared to May, based on last week’s production cut agreement.”

Al Rashidi told Arab-language daily Al Risala that Saudi Arabia agreed with Kuwait and other oil-producing allies this month to raise output from July by about one million bpd.

Sanctions on the auto-sector and other oil producing allies this month to raise output from July by about one million bpd.

Oil prices hit $80 a barrel this year for the first time since 2014, prompting consumers like the United States to raise concerns.

The output increases come as the US has urged some Opec members to raise output to compensate for supply losses caused by Iranian sanctions.

US President Donald Trump said in a tweet yesterday that Saudi Arabia’s King Salman had agreed to his request to increase oil production.
**China factory activity slows in June**

**AFP**

BEIJING: Chinese factory activity weakened slightly in June, dropping from an eight-month high the previous month, a preliminary survey showed yesterday, missing expectation. Although the numbers indicate a slowdown, they stayed above the 50-point mark that separates expansion from contraction and were higher than the RBI’s reading of 53.3 for the first half of the year.

The declining figures come as trade tensions with the US onlookers continue to weigh on China’s export-oriented manufacturing sector, with both sides threatening potentially damaging tariffs on billions of dollars worth of goods.

While large-scale enterprises, which account for about one-third of China’s industrial output, reported a stronger expansion in June, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) showed signs of contracting. NBS added that while output growth narrowed between both groups dropping below 50 percent, the overall data was positive.

Activity at small and medium-sized businesses dropped to 48.0 in June from 49.1 in May.

**Qatar’s foreign investment law could be a ‘game changer’**

**REUTERS**

DOHA: Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has announced the launch of its new comprehensive Absher Rewards Program. Under this program, QIB’s corporate customers will earn Absher Points as an alternative to their existing banking relationship with QIB.

The points will be earned when they withdraw their salaries, open fixed deposit accounts, sign up for QIB Dispensers and credit cards, and use QIB Mobile App and Internet Banking. The points will be instantly recorded on the customer’s online portal where customers can track their points and redeem them. QIB has also set up a counter in 900 hotels and a car from more than 100 car rental offices in 150 cities worldwide.

They will also have access to the online shopping store ‘mithmiq’ specialised in redeeming points with thousands of products across different categories, such as electronic items, books, and travel. Customers can redeem their points and enjoy all the benefits at any of the hotels.

“Qatar will get a lot of benefits from the government’s efforts,” said Governor Perry Warjiyo. “This programme is an on-going proposition that will benefit our customers and partners and benefits the economy in general to evolve needs and preferences.”

**Egypt plans spinoff of Alcon division, $5bn share buyback**

**AP**

CAIRO: Egypt plans to spin off its 20 percent stake in Alcon, the Switzerland-based eye-care company, and buy back $5 billion of its own shares by the end of 2019.

Novartis said that by spinning off Alcon, it would be able to better focus on its pharmaceutical business.

At the same time, Alcon would become a publicly traded global medical devices leader based here in Switzerland. Novartis chairman Joe Hundeck said in a statement.

“Strategic review examined all options for Alcon ranging from retention, sale, IPO or spinoff,” he explained.

“The review concluded that a spin-off would be the best interests of Novartis shareholders, as it would enhance the value of the Alcon business. The Novartis board planned to seek shareholder approval at its 2019 general assembly. Thereafter we will make the approval of competition authorities.”

When Novartis swapped Alcon to Qatar, the eye care firm could expand its footprint in the world’s largest eye health market.

But two years ago, Novartis announced its joint venture with the Alcon’s local Middle Eastern pharmaceuticals unit in-house.

**US tariffs on EU cars may hit investment there: BMW**

**REUTERS**

BERLIN: US tariffs on imported cars could lead to reduced investment in the United States, the BMW boss said in a letter to US officials, adding that trade talks to stop higher prices on vehicles and threaten US jobs.

“US tariffs would cost hundreds of thousands of jobs, could lead to a reduction in investment in the US and would cost hundreds of thousands of jobs,” BMW wrote in a letter to the US Trade Representative.

It said the purchase would make the US more attractive for BMW in these jurisdictions.

BMW, which works in close cooperation with the Indian embassy in Doha, and ITC’s largest industrial parks, such as Fegi CII and GIC, (NBS) said.

“First of all we truly think that such a reform would be helpful for the development of India’s economy. Sweden is ranked 7 in the world in competitiveness and second in innovation. We would have reached this position without receiving international competition. Second of all Sweden is strong proponent of free and fair trade and we see an open economy as important part of that. Trade and investment links between countries is a competitive.”

Hannerz wrote in the newspaper.

“Second of all Sweden is a large and most resourceful, professional Council (IBPC).”

Gustaf Hannerz, Deputy Head of Mission at Swedish Embassy in Qatar said that Sweden is positive to allow foreign investors to have 100 percent capital in more sectors in the Qatari local economy for several reasons.

“All of these factors would lead to further retaliatory measures from China and the European Union. In addition, higher tariffs on components imported to the United States would make other annual-pricings and other markets more expensive for BMW in these jurisdictions.”

In ANZ’s view, “whether the US rates and oil prices,” said the IBPC.

It has now raised the benchmark rate percentage to 0.25 percent in two months with the second of two May hikes, the current rate rose to $1.2992 per dollar. But then fell again. On Friday, just before the BI announcement, the currency was at $1.4210 — a 2.42 percent lower than the strengthening in 2019. The currency was at $1.4010 after 30 minutes. The currency has been hit by expectations of higher US interest rates and oil prices, as well as expectations about global trade and growth. The currency is at the worst among the worst performing currencies in 2019. The last time the currency was at $1.4010 was on 18 April and May. On 16 May, the currency was at $1.4010.

The economy is one of the leading sectors that can support the currency, and has a large investment in the local economy.

“By insulating the United States, we have a chance to raise their productivity and look and see how and ways for producing new and to move US rates lower,” said the IBPC.

But BMW said that imposing up to 25 percent tariffs on imported vehicles would convert business in countries to non-benefits of jobs. BMW plans to start a program of a billion euros for its own plants in the United States, the BMW said in a statement.

BMW, which works in close cooperation with the US trade and investment links between the US and the European Union. The BMW plant in South Carolina is the largest globally and is more than 70 percent of BMW’s sales and almost all BMW’s production.

“The BMW plant in South Carolina is substantially increased in the US economy, and has a multi-billion USD in South Carolina,” Hannerz said in the newspaper.

**US central bank aggressively raises rates by 50bps to defend rupee**

**REUTERS**

JAKARTA: Indonesia’s central bank on Friday raised its benchmark rate by twice as much as expected, becoming the most hawkish Asian central bank, following efforts to defend the volatile rupiah, and ease a self-off wasting emerging market.

Bank Indonesia (BI) hiked the key rate to 3.75 percent from 3.50 basis points (bps) to 3.5 percent. As BI raised its key rate to 25 basis points.

Bank Indonesia’s Governing Board chaired by Perry Warjiyo noted its benchmark rate hike before media briefing at Bank Indonesia headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Governor of BI, which has now outpaced the two hikes by the Philippines and one by India last month, has noted the 50 bps increase will make it attractive and add to the inflow.

The inflow through government bond supply and support rupee stability.

“Last week, we saw the central bank will continue to increase in foreign and local markets to help prop up the rupee. Governor Perry Warjiyo, in his statement this week, said the bank will likely remain highly responsive to the actions of other central banks as foreign investors reviewed exposure to higher yielding emerging markets.

There was an inflow of about $50 billion this month, as foreign investors, led by hedge funds, returned the world economy to the US and the Eurozone. The US dollar strengthened against other currencies.

In the stock market, for-"
Opec deal looks to maintain oil’s sweet spot: QNB

With global GDP growth approaching a 3-year high of close to 4% this year, global oil demand is gaining at an annual rate of around 1.4 million bpd.

spot prices are back above $70/b. In fact, with Brent crude recently breaching $60/b, prices are in danger of falling so that could crowd out a new wave of tight supplies as well as spurring US shale oil production.

Accordingly, Opec’s oil prices assumptions continue to target Brent crude averaging $60/b in 2018, slipping to a $56/b average in 2019.

The last year attests to the potential for further hefty output increases.

The Permian basin in Texas and New Mexico is the region delivering the most explosive supply gains and with the greatest future potential. But in the short-term, production bottlenecks, particularly a lack of pipeline capacity, could continue to hold back oil output.

The outlook for oil prices remains highly uncertain, reflecting the interplay of short-run supply disruptions, still firm but slowing global demand and booming US supply. Opec’s historic decision to limit production could soon be reversed or at least toned down to prioritise the first factor and damping short-term upside risks.

But, with global demand now cooling and supply bottlenecks in the Permian basin eventually easing, downside risks still dominate on a longer-term horizon. Accordingly, Opec’s oil price assumptions continue to target Brent crude averaging $60/b in 2018, slipping to a $56/b average in 2019.

Ontario Premier Ford chooses Fedeli for Finance Minister

BLOOMERS

TORONTO: Doug Ford, sworn in as premier of Ontario on Friday after a by-election advertising executive and long-time conservative provincial advocate, has chosen Vic Fedeli to lead the Treasury Board and Greg Fedeli, minister of energy, to run his own advertising firm and was previously mayor of North Bay in northern Ontario, was the Conservative northern development, mines minister of energy, to run his own advertising firm and was previously mayor of North Bay in northern Ontario, was the Conservative northern development, mines minister of energy, to run his own advertising firm and was previously mayor of North Bay in northern Ontario, was the Conservative

The province’s debt ballooned from about 27 percent in 2003 when the Liberal Party took power and now ranks among the largest for a sub-waverhomic province in the country.

Ford’s Progressive Conservative party, which has won a majority in an election earlier this month, ending 15 years of Liberal Party rule.

Fedeli, who ran his own advertising firm and was previously mayor of North Bay in northern Ontario, was the Conservative

The IEA also estimates that Iranian output could be curbed as much as 900,000 bpd based on the impact of precision sanctions.

While the IEA’s estimates should be treated as worst-case scenarios, the spectre of Venezuela and Iran supply disruptions looks to have been key to Opec’s decision to try to lift aggregate production back to agreed levels and heading off the risk of even greater over-compliance.

While short-run supply disruptions are a clear upside risk, demand prospects are becoming more uncertain. While boosting US GDP growth shows little sign of slowing down for now, euro-zone growth momentum has palpably cooled off in recent months.

China too shows clear signs of slowing at the start of a critical global trade war increases downside risks to the world economy in 2019.

Canada’s crude tightening continues to shift towards more US crude oil prices and $50 per barrel; well below spot WTI prices. The surge in ‘drilled but uncompleted wells’ over the

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Defence Minister patronises mass marriage ceremony in Darfur

Under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, H E Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Atth lyr, a mass marriage ceremony for 250 couples was celebrated at Darfur, under an initiative which is a part of the peace process, stability and voluntary repatriation program. The ceremony is supported by Qatar and Sudan. The ceremony was attended by the Chief of Colleges and Institutes Authority, Major General Hamad bin Ahmed Al Nuaimi, Assistant of President, Dr Falak Hassan Ibrahim, and Assistant of Governor of South Darfur State, Engineer Adam Al Fadi.

Do you know what your kid’s doing on that smartphone?

Air pollution plays key role in diabetes

Pollution is thought to reduce the body’s insulin production, “preventing the body from converting blood glucose into energy that the body needs to maintain health,” according to the research. Al-Aly said the research, published in the Lancet Planetary Health, found an increased risk even with levels of air pollution currently considered safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The scientists found the risk of developing diabetes “exhibited a strong link to air pollution.”

They then devised a model to gauge diabetes risks under different pollution levels using data from the annual worldwide Global Burden of Disease study to estimate the prevalence of diabetes caused by bad air.

New algorithm predicts your intelligence

NEW YORK: Be careful if you lie about your IQ as researchers have developed a machine-learning algorithm that may tell how smart you are by looking at a scan of your brain.

The study showed that the new algorithm, which predicts a person’s intelligence from functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scans of the brain, could identify an activity. The DML develops a map of brain activity by detecting changes in blood flow to specific regions.

“We found if we have people lie in the scanner and do nothing while we measure the pattern of activity in their brain, we can use the data to predict their intelligence,” said co-author Ralph Adapa from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).

To train their algorithm on the complex patterns of activity in brain, the researchers downloaded the scans and intelligence scores from 900 individuals.

Study: Human lifespan may not have peaked after all

TAMPA: Has the maximum lifespan for a human already been reached? Maybe not, said a study that examines the factors that found human longevity is slowly increasing.

Scientists have long debated whether or not the ultimate lifespan for people has been attained. A 2016 study in the journal Nature argued that it has, in 1997, when Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment died at the record-breaking age of 122.

But the new findings in the journal Science point to the possibility for extended human longevity and that our species’ lifespans may increase over time. Based on data from more than 3,800 centenarians in Italy, researchers found the risk of death slows, and even plateaus, above age 105.

“This suggests as time went on, people were living a bit longer than those born in prior years. “The slow but distinct improvements over time that we see in the level of the plateau beyond age 105 give us hope that a fixed limit to lifespan is not currently in view,” explained Wachter.

Socioeconomic factors and improved medical care could be factors in the lengthening human lifespan “similar mortality plateau patterns in extreme age are observed in other species, hinting at common structural and evolutionary explanations,” said the report. If the research is confirmed by other studies, that could mean the limit of the human lifespan has yet to be reached.

Pink bullet train debuts in Japan

AP

 TOKYO: A Hello Kitty-themed “pink bullet” train has debuted in Japan. Adorned with the cartoon icon inside and out, it’s a dream ride for fans of the internationally popular character.

The special shinkansen had its inaugural run today between Osaka and Fukuoka, connecting Japan’s west and south. It will run through September. The stylish, eight-car train is painted pink and white, showcasing Hello Kitty images and trademark ribbons from flooring to seat covers and windows. In one car, a life-size Hello Kitty doll donning a train crew uniform and a hat—decorated with a pink bow, of course—greets passengers, offering a chance for selfies.

Hours later yesterday in Osaka, the train’s final stop, hundreds of fans waited for the arrival of the Hello Kitty shinkansen, cheering and taking photos during its 6-hour journey before it headed back to Fukuoka, according to Japanese media reports.

Hello Kitty, created in 1974 by the Japanese company Sanrio Co., is a global icon with fans of all ages.

A Shinkansen bullet train featuring Hello Kitty during the press preview ahead of its debut, yesterday, at Nakahama Town in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan.