THE PENINSULA
Over 60 technicians certified to work on child passenger safety

FAZEENA SALEEM

The Qatar National Child Passenger Safety Program ‘Ghalai’ has seen some important developments within the recent months including the launch of a unique certification program.

The Qatar National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program which certifies people as child passenger safety technicians and instructors has been launched as part of ‘Ghalai’, said Dr Khalid Abdulnoor Safeedeen, Director, Hamad International Training Centre (HITC) at Hamad Medical Corporation and Chairman of Ghalai Program. More than 60 technicians have been certified since the launch of the new program.

“Since we launched ‘Ghalai’ in March, we have seen a number of positive developments. It is a result of the efforts of all stakeholders including the Ministry of Public Health,” Safeedeen added. “The only certified child passenger safety certification training program, which provides online modules and on-site lessons,” he told The Peninsula.

“We provide a mix of education and skills for parents, caregivers and others on how to ensure the safety of children in a car and we are also involved in promoting awareness on the importance of the use of child car seats in general,” he added.

‘Ghalai’ initiative, launched by the Ministry of Public Health, aims at creating awareness about the importance of using child passenger seats among parents. The initiative is a collaboration between several governmental and private institutions.

The first Ghalai station at the Women’s Wellness and Caregivers and they help parents fit child safety seats in their car. It is operated and managed by the HITC.

“We have reached out to many pregnant women and new mothers. We will send our technicians to meet the new mothers before discharge from the hospital. We educate them, share information, schedule them an appointment to come and see us. Meanwhile we will offer home visits,” said Dr Safeedeen.

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As part of ‘Doha — OIC Youth Capital 2019’ activities, the Ministry of Culture and Sports in collaboration with Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum announced the organization of activity ‘Doha Oasis for Innovation from today until September 20, 2019.

The activity will continue until September 20 under the motto “The youth is the power of nation” in collaboration with the Qatar Scientific Club and under the supervision of the Qatar Center for Cultural and Heritage Events.

The activity aims at stimulating creativity among youth in the field of invention and innovation, which consolidates a culture of science and work to achieve the demands of development and prosperity.

‘Doha Oasis for Innovation’ is meant to provide individual and group competitions to develop the talents and abilities of young people in the areas of invention, innovation and manufacturing.

The competition is divided into two sections. The first is an individual competition that will be held on September 15 and 16 at Ali Bin Hamad Al Attiyah Arena, in which each participant will present their invention as a new product within two days and there will be a jury working according to international standards for this area, selecting standards adopted by the most important exhibition fairs in the world.

It is open to everyone between the ages of 18 and 30 and includes 15 disciplines covering all fields of science from medicine to engineering.

The second competition will be a group competition which will begin on September 18 and will continue until September 20 at Qatar Scientific Club. The participants are distributed into various groups based on different categories. The Qatar Scientific Club will provide all the necessary facilities and assistance for the winners.

Russia, Turkey eyeing fighter jet deal

ANATOLIA PRESS

Russia and Turkey are interested to land a possible deal on fighter jets, Russian President Recep Tayyip Erdogan personally examined latest Russian technologies at the International Aviation and Space Salon MAKS-2019 on Aug. 27, including fifth generation fighter jets Su-57 and 4++ generation fighter jets Su-35.

“Those talks relate to an extremely sensitive topic, as it is premature to talk about it now,” many people observed Erdogan’s stay in Zhukovsky, what he looked at, what we showed. Both the Turkish side and our side have interest in this,” Ushakov told reporters in Moscow, adding that another Russian-Turkish contract on the delivery of the T-50 PAK FA multirole fighter is in the offing.

The Russian and Turkish state companies that are working in the next generation fighter aircraft are expected to sign a new contract this year.

The two countries have been working on the joint development of the fifth generation fighter jet, which is expected to enter service in the early 2020s.

The joint project is part of a broader military cooperation between the two nations, which includes a deal for the supply of Russian Su-35 fighters to Turkey, as well as the sale of the S-400 missile defense system to Turkey.

Under the contract, Russia will supply 40 Su-35 fighters to Turkey, which will be based on the Su-30MKI, a variant of the Su-30MKK that is already in service with the Indian Air Force.

The Su-35 is a multirole fighter that can carry a wide range of weapons, including air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles, as well as guided bombs and laser-guided bombs.

The Turkish government has signed a contract with Russia to acquire 40 Su-35 fighters, which will be used by the Turkish Air Force to replace its aging fleet of F-4 Phantom II and F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft.

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Sidra Medicine transmits live interventional cardiac procedures at symposium in US

The PICS-AICS live surgery team from Sidra Medicine

Sidra Medicine has transmitted live interventional cardiac procedures from its cardiac catheterisation laboratories in Qatar to a delegation of over 800 healthcare professionals at the 22nd annual Ped Assad, and Adult Interventional Cardiac Symposium (PICS-AICS) in San Diego in the United States of America.

PICS-AICS is one of the largest cardiology symposiums in the world and attracts thousands of delegates from all over the world. Prof. Hijazi is the chairman of PICS-AICS, and also Executive Chair of Medicine and the Medical Director of the world-class Heart Center at Sidra Medicine.

This year’s PICS-AICS symposium, which took place from September four to seven in San Diego, focused on Quality and Outcomes. In addition to presentations and abstracts, the symposium aired taped and live cases examining congenital and structural heart diseases as well as anatomical and surgical interventions using minimally invasive hybrid vascular, valve, and heart defect closure. Sympathetic infranoy lesions and vascular stenting.

Prof. Ziyad M Hijazi, Executive Chair of Medicine and Director of the Sidra Medicine Heart Center said: “The goal of establishing PICS-AICS is to educate doctors and nurses about the latest scientific and technological advances in the field of congenital and structural cardiac defects. It gives me great pride that for the second year running, our team at Sidra Medicine transmitted two live cases from Qatar, to the delegates in the USA. We were among only 26 centers chosen worldwide to feature live case demonstrations. It was a fantastic opportunity to highlight our cutting-edge techniques and highly-skilled teams. For a main hospital that has only been operational for a year and a half, it also showcases our advances in the field of interventional cardiology.”

Prof. Hijazi who welcomed the delegates at PICS-AICS also moderated the live cases throughout the four-day symposium and closed the event.

“PICS-AICS also continues to extend its philosophy of developing congenital and structural catheterisation throughout the world. It works very closely with the United States Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory agencies in Europe and Asia to help bring novel technologies for children and adults with congenital heart disease,” said Prof. Hijazi.

As if to lend Dr. Yonus Boujdeljine, Director of the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory at Sidra Medicine’s Heart Centre, he concluded the live interventional cardiac procedure in Qatar. The two patients a child and an adult, suffered from congenital heart defects.

Both patients, had a narrow area associated leading to high blood pressure (high blood pressure) and his team used a minimally invasive technique to address the use of haloangiology and stent technique.

UN praises Qatar’s efforts in leading negotiations to hold meeting to mark anniversary of World Conference on Women in Beijing

The United Nations General Assembly on Thursday adopted, at its seventy-third session, a resolution in which Qatar played a leading role in facilitating its negotiations, as it decided to hold a one-day high-level meeting to mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BEPA), is set to coincide with the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2020. The General Assembly also decided that the theme of the high-level meeting would be “Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”

The General Assembly decided that the meeting would highlight achievements, best practices, gaps and challenges, and that the theme of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations would be an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of Member States to multisectoral coordination to support women and girls.

The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the meeting for submission to the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

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Qatar Philharmonic concert to tell stories through music

Under the baton of rapidly emerging young German conductor David Niemann, the Qatar Philharmonic marks the second of the series of rich and diverse offerings lined up for this season with this concert tonight at Qatar National Convention Centre.

The Stenden University of Applied Sciences-Qatar receives new batch

The university welcomed the new batch of students of the Stenden University of Applied Sciences-Qatar during the orientation programme held to get them acquainted with the academic environment.

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QM invites applications from Indian photographers to attend “Life in Qatar” expo

Qatar Museums (QMO) has announced an open call for all professional Indian photographers born in Qatar aged 16 years and above to apply in the Qatar India 2019 Year of Culture photography exchange.

Photographers who want to be considered for an upcoming exhibition showcasing the best of Qatar contemporary photography under the theme “Life in Qatar”, are welcome to apply.

Photographers can choose to submit images that showcase any aspect of Qatar’s portraits, architecture and landscapes, and all styles and formats of photography are eligible.

A final selection of photographs will be exhibited in forthcoming exhibitions held by QM, locally and internationally. The two chosen photographers will also win an economy ticket to India.

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Indian photographers to be showcased at IBC expo

“Many people have volunteered to follow the child passenger safety certification training programme. They come from hospitals, health departments, emergency departments and automobile industry. Many technicians are also parents and volunteers, but they all have one thing in common. They care deeply about kids and want to make sure they are safe,” said Dr. Khalid Abdulnoor Ninov, stated that new students at Stenden Qatar University of Applied Sciences will experience a very pleasant international environment with a friendly and family-like atmosphere in which they will feel at home from the very first moment.

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US won't send more troops to Syria for joint Turkish patrols

REUTERS

The US military will not increase troop levels in Syria to carry out joint patrols with Turkish forces, a top general said yesterday, adding that the US position to keep its forces there indefinitely will remain.

The military, which has been withdrawing its forces in Syria, had warned in May of a collapse in security in the region if US forces pull out.

US troops in Syria, which number around 1,000, have been under intense pressure to leave as President Donald Trump last year ordered their complete withdrawal—only to later be reversed and leave some forces behind to ensure that Islamic State militants cannot stage a comeback.

The New York Times reported on Thursday that the Pentagon was planning to send about 150 troops to conduct ground patrols with Turkish forces. But Marine General Kenneth Frank, head of US Central Command, said the new mission would not require additional forces in the country.

"We’re not going to increase our footprint on the ground in order to conduct three patrols," McKenzie said during a trip to Baghdad while acknowledging that troop levels can fluctuate as forces rotate into and out of Syria. "We’re going to do patrolling with the Turks and we’re going to be clearly the current number while actively seeking opportunities to get smaller over time.

"I don’t want to clear our border of Syrian YPG militia, which is part of a US-protected organization. But the YPG has been a main US ally in the fight against ISIS, and any country in Syria, infuriating Turkey and straining ties with Washington.

Tunisia gears up for presidential poll steeped in uncertainty

AP

Tunisia will hold tomorrow its second five-presidential poll in five years, as the country's young democracy faces a significant election season.

The election will be held in the wake of the 2011 revolution, which toppled an autocratic regime and paved the way for a democratic transition.

In the first round of the election, which was held in 2019, only two candidates were selected to proceed to the second round.

In the second round, a runoff election will be held to determine the winner.

Supporters of presidential candidate in detention, Tunisian media mogul Nabil Karoui, carrying his pictures during an election campaign rally in Tunis, yesterday. Heavyweight candidates include Prime Minister Youssef Chahed and his nemesis Nabil Karoui, the media mogul, arrested on charges of money laundering just three weeks before the election.

Karoui’s supporters accuse Chahed of orchestrating his arrest, a charge denied by the ambitious prime minister, who became the country’s youngest ever head of government in 2016 at the age of 40.

That charge has also been denied by the deputy prosecutor of the court of appeal in Tunis. Ibrahim Boussaid, who has said that "we are not acting under the pressure of politics."

But Boussaid described the affair as unprecedented in Tunisia and said it could result in a legal stalemate if Karoui were to appear in front of government in 2016 at the age of 40.

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**UK wants India, Pakistan to find solution to Kashmir**

**LONDON/NEW DELHI**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said that the UK wants India and Pakistan to find a “lasting political solution to the situation in Kashmir, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.”

In a reply to a letter by Conservative MP Bob Blackman who has spoken in favour of revocation of Article 370 in Kashmir, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said both India and Pakistan are important partners for Britain.

“Your government’s long standing position remains that it is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political solution to the situation in Kashmir, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people,” Johnson said. “Both India and Pakistan are important partners to the UK. Our respective bilateral relationships continue to grow. This is demonstrated by our cooperation on important issues in a range of issues, as well as the vibrancy of our trade relationship.”

**CBI at Rajeev Kumar’s door, as protection from arrest ends**

Soon after the Calcutta High Court yesterday withdrew some of the arrest given to former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar in the Saradha chit fund scam case, CBI officials reached his official residence here apparently to serve a notice.

In a July 10 letter to the High Court, the interim protection given the CBI an immediate chance to ask him to appear before the court and in connection with the ponzi scam, Kumar had said that some multi-crore fraud cases were pending against him pending his appeal against the revocation of Article 370. The CBI, the court had observed, could not be satisfied that there were no grounds to believe that Kumar had any connection with the multi-crore Ponzi scam.

A source said Kumar — presently posted as Additional Director General of the state Police Investigation Department — was on leave at the time of the CBI’s intervention. When the CBI officers reached Kumar’s Park Street residence, the former Kolkata Police Commissioner was not there.

A large number of uniformed and plain dressed policemen from the Park Street police station were present at the spot when the CBI officials arrived there at 4.55 pm. The investigation agency had sent a notice to Kumar asking him to appear before it and then later to appear before the trial court on August 5, which he had failed to comply with.

Kejriwal also announced plans to sweeping roads mechanica, plant trees and control pollution at 12 hotspots in the city. The state government will sell government-certified N 95 masks that filter out at least 95% of dust in the air. Kejriwal appealed to people not to light firecrackers during the Diwali festival on Oct 27 to prevent smoke from accumulating in air.

**30 dead in religious rituals across India**

Odisha dismisss 16 govt officials over corruption charges

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik yesterday dismissed 16 government officials for their alleged involvement in corrupt prac- tices.

The dismissed officials include five headmasters, four engi- neers, two revenue inspectors, two clerks, one pharmacist, one Asst Surveyor and one Revenue Inspector.

All of them were held guilty of corruption by the vigilance team. During the last one month, the state government has dismissed 37 government employees on corruption charges, the release said.

**Delhi to temporarily restrict cars to curb pollution**

Indian authorities yesterday announced a plan to restrict the movement of private cars in the capital for nearly 15 days, in 18 major Hindu festival that features firework that deplete the air with toxic smog, dust. Private cars running on petrol and diesel will be allowed to be driven in New Delhi only on alternate days from November 4 to 19 depending on whether they have even or odd numbered plates.

The move came after the Supreme Court this week asked the Centre to take steps to curb pollution in the national capital, where air quality is among the worst in the world.

**President Kovind in Switzerland**

Swiss Federal President Ueli Maurer welcomes President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, during the latter’s visit, at the Munsterplatz in Bern, Switzerland, yesterday.

**Kashmir’s new timetable for shopping**

In Kashmir, shopkeepers have adopted a unique method to protest the abrogation of Article 370. Markets open for a few hours in the morning and then shut down during the day only to reopen briefly in the evenings. When open, the shops are bustling with activity as the backstreet stores are chock-a-block with customers.

“The day is a democratic way to register our protest against the revocation of Article 370,” said Naseer Ahmad who runs a grocery store in Rmatralo area. In the past three cycles of unrest in Kashmir like 2008, 2010 and 2016 which went on for months together were guided by separatist calls of shutdowns for a week or more, but this is a spontaneous reaction against the revocation of Article 370.”

In reply to a letter by Conservative MP Bob Blackman who has spoken in favour of revocation of Article 370 in Kashmir, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said both India and Pakistan are important partners for Britain.

The government is monitoring the situation in Kashmir closely and has been in touch with both the Indian and Pakistani governments.

A Delhi court yesterday disqualified the application filed by former Finance Minister P Chidambaram seeking permission to surrender to the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case against him relating to INX Media.

Chidambaram is under probe in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and ED over alleged irregularities in the IPB clearance granted to INX Media for receiving overseas loans of Rs 305 crore in 2007 during his tenure as Finance Minister.

D K Shivakumar jail term cut after two years

D K Shivakumar, who was in jail for two years after being convicted in a money laundering case against him relating to INX Media, has been released on bail.

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Khan also requested that rally-goers refrain from making the heavily militarised Line of Control that separates Kashmir between Pakistan and Indian sides, saying they should wait for his call.

Khan was attempting to calm down the angry youth who, this month clashed with police in Pakistan-held Kashmir upon being stopped from marching toward the frontier, where Pakistan and Indian troops are in close quarters. The appeal to angry youth came days after thousands of unarmed young people marched toward the frontier to protest the lockdown in Indian-administered Kashmir, triggering clashes with police. Pakistan and Indian troops often exchange fire, casting troops and civilian casualties. The rally also comes a day after the country's military said Indian forces had killed one of its soldiers in Kashmir in the latest round of violence.

Khan urged the world community to pressure India to give the right of self-determination to Kashmiris. In his speech to rallying thousands in Kashmir, Khan said the people of Kashmir were given the right of self-determination to decide their future, saying he had received reports from a caretaker that there was no pressure in Indian-administered Kashmir since last month.

India's crackdown on pro-independence elements in Kashmir will drive more of the world's Muslims into extremism, Imran Khan said.

Pakistan said it would respect its people's decision.

IMRAN KHASIIR Issue at UN General Assembly

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan urged the world community to pressure India to give the right of self-determination to Kashmiris.

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Indonesians pray for rain as forest fires rage

AFP BANDUNG, INDONESIA

Hundreds hold a mass prayer for rain as a smoke-filled Indonesian city yesterday, desperately hoping that downpours will extinguish the fires that have sent acrid toxic haze covering wide swathes of the country that has funneled mass school closures.

Illegal fires to clear land for farming are raging on Indonesia’s Sumatra and Borneo islands with forest fires and smoke blanketing the country as helicopters deployed to douse the flames.

Illegal fires are cleared due to over 1,000 Pekanbaru, a provincial capital on Sumatra, seeing the sky dark even at midnight and residents fearing for their health.

Around 1,000 Pekanbaru residents — many dressed in white Muslim robes with radiant facemasks — held a prayer meeting in an open field as a thick, acrid fog drifted across the city, praying that rain would come immediately, as they no longer got the sunlight.

Myanmar and Sri Lanka in 2014, to work in the country as missionaries.

The earthquake, that struck east of the Philippine capital, set buildings swaying and sent scores into the streets as forest fires rage.

Office workers standing outside their building after a 5.2-magnitude earthquake hit Manila yesterday.

People die as Manila traffic jams block ambulances

AFP MANILA

Gunfight in Manila is causing traffic jams in the city where face severe delays in the race against the clock to reach the city’s hospitals and medical centers.

Special lanes for emergency vehicles, including ambulances, are marked in Manila. However, the infrastructure is outdated, and local drivers are often unwilling or unable to make way — a situation experts say is causing patients to die on the streets.

“Jing Zamora, said. “If we are not given a chance to do everything in your capacity to help,” said ambulance driver and paramedic Joseph Laylo.

"If the traffic was not that bad it had could have saved the patient," he added, recalling how he lost a patient when conges-

tripped the time to hospital.

Even with an encyclopedic knowledge of short cuts or aggressive driving such as blasting their horns or bumping against idling cars — a 25km end to an hour.

In the eyes of the police, the traffic jams are a matter of personnel constraints.

"We need to be able to reach patients in time, Laylo explained. "When we’re trying to save a person’s life, that’s the worst," he added.

But the traffic in Manila can take as long as 10 minutes over 3.2 million times.

“Some people simply do not know how to move, Laylo said, while a six-month-old baby died inside his ambulance after 40 minutes that time," Laylo said.

The rising cost of the city’s annual traffic jams is not the only issue.

No matter how hard we try, nothing will move it — even if we use our siren, if the vehicles are not moving it could have saved the patient," Laylo said, adding 10 minutes to the journey was a matter of personnel constraints.

The traffic jams are not only a matter of personnel constraints. The measure also extends to light up some of the city’s most densely populated places.

Under the new legislation, a registration will be set up that is unforgiving sticky evening heat.

"We are going to fight with democracy and fight for freedom," added another pro-

One of the most notable of the measures has been to reduce the number of people on the roads and roadsides, which has been an issue of national concern.

New Zealand tightens gun laws again after mosque massacre

AFP WELLINGTON

New Zealand’s new legislation yesterday aimed at making it easier for people to own guns in the wake of the Christchurch mosque attacks that killed 51 Muslim worshipers.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern had immediately banned military-style semi-automatic rifles after the shootings in March but further restrictions were needed to target the black market.

"It is an issue that we need to all work together to ensure that only those who need to have access to firearms have access to them," she said in Christchurch. “That means we need to be able to do so in a way that is both consistent with international law and protects the rights of New Zealanders.”

Philippine capital jolted by quake

OPINION

Office workers standing outside their building after a 5.2-magnitude earthquake hit Manila yesterday.

Newseum's latest guns laws

New Zealand tightened gun laws after a terrorist attack on two Christchurch mosques that killed 51 people.

The measure also increases the jail term for supplying firearms to an unlicensed person from three months to two years, as well as tightening gun importation and sales. Police will determine if someone is “fit and proper” to hold a firearm, with a police officer to ensure anyone promoting extremism, convicted of terrorism or with mental health issues, including suitability for semi-automatic weapons.

The new legislation also includes a registry that will be set up that is unforgiving sticky evening heat.

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EDITORIAL

Fighting corruption in sports

Sports and its development is a matter of prime importance for any country, and it is evident from the country’s efforts in organizing various global, regional and local sporting events and also from the endeavors it undertakes to promote the sector. Qatar’s vision on sports is not just limited to organizing sporting events but the country’s leadership is keen to safeguard sports from all sorts of malpractices. Qatar has been doing remarkably well, in coordination with international community, to curb corruption and other malpractices from sports. By organizing conferences, working in close coordination with global agencies and raising the level of awareness among public, Qatar has been a pioneer of integrity and transparency in sports.

Qatar’s hosting of Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) Inter-Regional Summit on Monday and Tuesday is indeed a noble gesture by the nation to protect sports from the menace of corruption. To be attended by the Minister of Culture and Sports, H E Salah bin Ebrahim Al-Sulaiti and nearly 60 integrity experts, the conference will discuss a number of suggestions and ideas which allow to provide solutions to move forward in the fight against corruption and achieve sports integrity.

The unflinching stance of Qatar against corruption in sports is not something new or unfamiliar to the world. Backed by willpower and determination. Qatar has been taking huge strides for many years to push the sector to the shore of transparency. SIGA was founded in 2016, after Qatar hosted the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) to establish this international alliance, which includes more than 100 members of international organisations, sports federations, major sponsors of global sports and civil society organisations.

The outcomes of the summit will definitely help contribute towards the betterment of sports’ image, fight the seriousness of corruption in sport, and also develop solutions by encouraging countries to adapt SIGA’s international standard legal texts into their own legal system. SIGA summit will definitely bring some good news to sport lovers across the world.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We face ongoing challenges, especially when it comes to accelerating our water wells and maintaining them to water our crops. Our water wells are under the fate of Israeli control," said Adayat, who farmed for more than 30 years in the occupied Jordan Valley.

Meanwhile, the annexation of the Jordan Valley has left most fertile lands in Palestinian control. Those areas bring a lot of income to the sector to the shore of stability. Qatar has been doing remarkably well, in coordination with international community, to curb corruption and other malpractices from sports. By organizing conferences, working in close coordination with global agencies and raising the level of awareness among public, Qatar has been a pioneer of integrity and transparency in sports.

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After Trump’s failed Afghan gambit, violence and uncertainty remains.

Disagreement over President Donald Trump’s Afghanistan strategy doomed the tenure of John Bolton, Trump’s third national security adviser. Bolton resigned this week after falling out with Trump and other national security officials over the president’s desire to hasten the pullout of US military forces.

A new strategy, drafted by National Security Adviser Robert O’Brien, would keep a minimal US presence in Afghanistan, but it faces significant opposition from the Taliban and other Afghan forces.

The Taliban have rejected the new plan, accusing the US of trying to “legitimize” their gains in the war.

The US administration is considering a new approach to the conflict, which could involve direct negotiations with the Taliban and a possible peace deal.

However, it is unclear whether the Taliban will accept a negotiated settlement or continue to fight.

In the meantime, the violence continues, with dozens of Afghan soldiers and police officers killed in bomb attacks.

Biden looks like a front-runner, until he doesn’t

Biden was at his best in his lengthy exchange with Sanders and Warren over the future of health care in America. He confidently pressed them over the cost of their sweeping “Medicare for All” proposals, exposing Warren’s unfamiliarity with the issue and Sanders’s lack of a plan.

Biden also defended his record on Iraq and Afghanistan, arguing that he made mistakes but learned from them.

On the economy, Biden called for a $1.9 trillion stimulus package to help the struggling middle class, arguing that it would create jobs and boost the economy.

Biden’s stumbles later in the debate were attributed to his lack of a clear message and his difficulty in differentiating himself from the other candidates.

The election campaign takes place under a cloud of suspicion and doubt. The Taliban’s continued attacks on civilians have raised concerns about the safety of the election process.

The Taliban have threatened to disrupt the election, but Biden has vowed to win.

The election is a crucial test for the US in its war against terrorism and for democracy in Afghanistan.

On foreign policy, Biden has pledged to reverse many of Trump’s actions, including withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan and limiting its role in the Middle East.

However, Biden has also been criticized for his handling of the economy and his record on foreign policy.

The election is a test of the American people’s faith in their government and their leaders.

Trump had had enough of the treaty negotiated in Afghanistan. Like a growing number of US officials, he wanted a release from the political spectrum, so he used the button in the basement of the White House to make it happen.

The treaty was signed in July 2020, and it is expected to bring a reduction in violence and a withdrawal of US troops from the country.

However, the treaty has been met with mixed reactions, with some supporting it and others expressing concern.

The US military has been in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years, and many are skeptical about the wisdom of continuing the war.

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**Paris traffic snarled as metro workers strike over pension reforms**

AP

PARIS

Metro workers said the reforms would force them to work longer by removing their long-held rights to early retirement, secured decades ago to compensate for spending long hours underground.

The three main BTP labour unions have called the strike ‘a shot across the bow’ against the pension reforms.

‘It’s not a strike by the privileged. It is a strike by employees needing to retire at a reasonable age with a full pension. It is shaping up to be the biggest metro strike since 2017, when former prime minister Nicolas Sarkozy pushed through pension reforms.

During his 2017 presidential campaign, Macron pledged not to touch the current earliest retirement age of 62 for most workers.

The reforms unravelled in July, which would harmonise the 42 different pension systems in place, would still allow people to retire at 62, but on a reduced pension.

A full pension would only be available from 65.

The government is in negotiations with unions over the reforms. Lawyers, airline pilots, railway workers and farmers have already called for a strike on Monday.

**Protestors drop fraud charges against Czech PM**

AP

PRAGUE

Prosecutors drop fraud charges against Czech PM and recipient were relatives, he added.

He faced a difficult task to face down the anti-Comunist 1989 Velvet Revolution.

The case involves a farm стоим for transplants, prosecutors announced yesterday.

Babis, a billionaire populist, said in an interview.

Babis, a farm owner who had the Czechs in capital in recent months, prompting a surge in traffic on the city’s bur-

Verena, a woman using one of the city’s Veih hire-sharing systems, said she had signed up for the service the day before the strike.

“We would have to walk for an hour this morning,” she said.

**Meghan launches clothing line for British charity**

AP

LONDON

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has launched a clothing line for a British charity that helps unemployed women find work.

Meghan, 37, attended a reception at a John Lewis department store to launch the collection.

The line includes professional attire such as a blazer, tunic and trouser.

The launch came the day before London Fashion Week starts.

The Smart Set collection supports Smart Works.

Meghan is royal patron of the charity that provides women with training and interview skills.

**Bulgaria breaks up kidney trafficking ring**

AP

SOFIA

Bulgarian authorities broke up an organised criminal group that allegedly recruited poor people to sell their kidneys for transplant operations, prosecutors announced yesterday.

The crackdown was spurred by an alert from the European Union which accused Bulgaria of allowing the trade to flourish.

Prosecutors said at least five people had received transplants under the criminal scheme since February 2019, with two more patients and three potential donors still waiting under surgery.

The patients paid between 35,400-105,000 euros for the transplant; prosecutors said.

The ring also trafficked in organs from poor people from countries which are actually working’.

A British pm, who gave his name as Tim said.

But with other workers taking the day off to avoid the gruelling, the situation was not as chaotic as many feared.

But further hurdles could well lie ahead this week, with the transport system already at breaking point.

The strike is the first major protest against President Emmanuel Macron’s pension plan.

The transport network’s two fully autonomous lines.

The case involves a farm doll that has the same name as Tim said.

“Babis, a billionnaire populist, has denied any wrongdoing, but sources say there is a widespread belief that he is involved in a criminal scheme since February 2019, with two more patients and three potential donors still waiting under surgery.

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**Three held in probe linked to Genoa bridge collapse**

AP

REUTERS

Three employees of companies owned by infrastructure group Atlantia were arrested on Wednesday, police said, as part of an investigation into the company’s role in the collapse of the bridge in Genoa last August.

The three people at the same company who were temporarily banned from holding office, the police said, adding that the other companies affected by the probe have been named.

Shares in Atlantia fell more than 7% in Milan on news of the house arrests, prompting them to be briefly suspended on the Italian stock exchange.

A Milan trader said the arrests had revived concerns that the company could make good on its threat of suing everyone involved in the discussions over the administration of the Viadotto della Grazia.”

**Conventio of the North**

EUROPE

14 SEPTEMBER 2019

Paris traffic snarled as metro workers strike over pension reforms

AP

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**Protestors drop fraud charges against Czech PM**

AP

PRAGUE

Prosecutors said yesterday that they have decided to drop fraud charges against Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis over allegations that he hired British EU officials to help

The prosecutors announced the move following an investigation into Babis and former EU Commissioners.

They also dropped charges against his wife and son in the case.

“On this occasion it will be overturned by the prosecutor general,” she said.

“We will see what happens next,” Babis said yesterday. Our case. Our case.

Babis, a billionaire populist, said in an interview.

Babis, a billionnaire populist, has denied any wrongdoing, but sources say there is a widespread belief that he is involved in a criminal scheme since February 2019, with two more patients and three potential donors still waiting under surgery.

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**Venezuela**, opposition leader refuses ties to criminal gang

AP  **CARACAS**

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó released allegations yesterday that he has ties to an illegal armed group in Colombia, as officials launched an investigation based on photos published on social media purportedly showing him posing with two members of a criminal gang.

The photos were allegedly taken in Colombia in October and are reported to show Guaidó crossed into Colombia and met with the group at a concert organised by illegal armed groups.

Government officials loyal to President Nicolás Maduro are holding up the photos as proof that Guaidó’s image is being orchestrated with the help of a criminal gang known as the Rastrojos, an accusation denied by Guaidó.

That day I took photos with two people,” Guaidó told Colombia’s El Universal. “Evidently it’s hard to know who is asking you for a photo.”

The news comes amid tensions between Colombia and Venezuela. Relations between the neighbouring Andean nations have been hovering for months amid a bitter power-struggle and humanitarian crisis.

In recent weeks, Colombian President Iván Duque and Maduro have each accused the other of harboring illegal armed groups plotting attacks across their borders.

Maduro’s Interior Minister Nestor Reverol announced on state television yesterday that the new probe into Guaidó and displaying images at the center of the controversy.

They prove yet again Guaido’s association with all the terrorist actions and plots inside Venezuela to disrupt the stability and peace of our democracy,” Reverol said.

On Sunday, an opposition leader who had been in government custody since the capture of his brother, opposition leader Leopoldo López, in early February, abandoned his position.

**Bolsonaro surgery recovery extended by four days:** Spokesman

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who underwent hip surgery last Tuesday, will need four more days than planned to recover from abdominal surgery.

Bolsonaro’s spokesman said yesterday that he had no recollection of taking the photos, which may make it impossible to determine that both men are no longer free.

“I’m not in a position to say that they’re both detained,” Guaidó said.

**Russia ready for Ukraine talks but sets preconditions**

REUTERS  **MOSCOW**

Russia is ready to take part in a four-way summit in Paris to try to break the stalemate in the Ukrainian peace process but has three preconditions for such a meeting, a senior Kremlin aide said yesterday.

The Russian government said the law is necessary to ensure society in secular Critic charges it is a racist measure aimed at the country’s Muslims.

Trudeau says he could one day challenge Quebec’s ban on religious symbols

Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said yesterday that he would take a stand on the Quebec ban on religious symbols such as hijabs and Jewish skull caps.

The Quebec law, which came into force in June, bars public sector employees from wearing religious symbols, a stance that could hurt him with voters in the province in October 21 election.

“The government said the law would also take place this week.”

Orban also said if countries failed to perform much better.”

**Hungary’s PM points to EU ‘enlargement fatigue’**

AP  **BUDAPEST**

Hungary’s Prime Minister said yesterday that Western countries in the European Union are suffering from “enlargement fatigue” and using newer members as a scapegoat for their problems.

“Things have not been as expected in Western Europe that if expansion had not taken place 20 years ago then the Western half of the continent would perform much better,” Orbán said.

On the new EU Commission.

A bomb threat emailed to a Berlin mosque Friday that both of the men are no longer free.

**Toll from Spain floods rises to four**

AP  **ADRIANA**

Two more people died as torrential rain and flash floods battered southern Spain, raising the death toll to four as the storm caused havoc for travels. An accusation he denied yesterday.

A middle-aged died early yesterday in the city of Almeta after his car was trapped in a tunnel that flooded within minutes. Local emergency services said.

Almeta’s Mayor Ramón Fernández Pacheco said that a policeman managed to rescue two of the three people in the vehicle but that one occupant remained inside.

Several hours later an emergency services helicopter spotted the body of a 36-year-old man in the region of Andalucía who had been reported missing and feared dead due to the flooding.

Local emergency services spokesperson said.

A 36-year-old and his 52-year-old sister died Wednesday when their vehicle was swept away as fast-moving waters swept a road in Guadix.
Appeals Court revives Trump’s emoluments case

A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals in Manhattan, on a 2-1 vote, rejected a judge’s finding that the plaintiffs did not have standing to sue in governmental decisions. It said the lower-court judge effectively insisted that the plaintiffs prove the facts necessary to win at trial before they had a chance to gather all of them.

Trump has made appearances at his resorts, golf clubs and a hotel in Washington frequently since he was sworn in as president in January 2017. In a dissent, Circuit Judge John M. Walker Jr. said the plaintiffs were invoking constitutional provisions never directly invoked in two centuries prior to the Trump presidency.

He called the case “deeply political” and said it was an area where federal courts ought to tread lightly. “President Trump was democratically elected by the American people—and he was elected with his business holdings and brand prominence in full view,” Walker wrote.

The majority opinion, written by Circuit Judge Pierre N. Leval, took issue with Walker’s observations, saying that legal challenges under the Constitution’s Emoluments Clause may be “fueled in part by political motivations” but it is hard to ascertain the significance of that fact. The majority said whether a lawsuit has political motivations is irrelevant to legal issues to be litigated in over two centuries.

The 29-year-old officer was struck in the lower abdomen, just below the vest, police Chief Art Acevedo said during a news conference. “Markings on the vest indicate the suspect may have tried to shoot the officer two other times,” he added. The officer underwent surgery that lasted several hours and Acevedo said he was “hopeful for a full recovery.”

The chaotic scene began when the group captured a SUV at a gas station as its driver was filling it with fuel. The driver told the men the SUV was running on flames. The four abandoned the SUV when it ran out of gas and soon after encountered a priest in the parking lot of his church. They beat the man and took two cell phones from him, the chief said. “At one point, the priest was on his knees praying when one suspect attempted to shoot him twice, only to have the weapon misfire on both occasions.”

A woman driving nearby was shot dead. After the officer was shot, another officer ran into the yard and shot the suspect once, killing him. Two other suspects were taken into custody and police are searching for the fourth man.

Blaze at Brazil hospital leaves 11 people dead

A fire raced through a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, forcing staff to wheel patients from the streets on beds or in wheelchairs and leaving at least 11 people, many of them elderly, dead. Four firefighters were hospitalized after battling the fire.

A hospital official said that about 90 patients were transferred to other hospitals, the fire department said yesterday. Authorities are investigating the cause of the blaze.

Medical workers in surgical masks rolled up equipment in the road as smoke billowed from the building after fire broke out late on Thursday. Television images showed staff tending to patients sitting in wheelchairs with IV poles beside them in the street, some on sheets and mattresses.

In the chaos, distraught relatives tried to track down patients, unsure of whether they had perished in the fire or had been transferred to another hospital. A rope made from bed sheets and used as an attempt to escape the fire was still hanging from an upper floor window of the hospital yesterday morning.

The state Institute of Forensic Medicine released a list of names of 10 of the dead, some of them in their 80s and 90s.

Republican threatens presidential candidate over gun confiscation pledge

A Republican lawmaker from Texas who barely voted against the GOP presidential hopeful said he would seize assault rifles behind many mass shootings in the country.

“My AR is ready for you, Robert Francis,” Texas state legislator Brian Cain tweeted on Saturday, August 3, referring to Texas state sen. Ted Cruz. “O’Rourke’s pledge in the Democratic presidential debate last Thursday, using O’Rourke’s given name, asked in the debate if he is for confiscating assault weapons — one of which is used to kill 22 people at a Walmart store in his own state, El Paso, Texas, on August 3 — O’Rourke said, “I am, if it’s a weapon that was designed to kill people on the battlefield.” “When we see that being used against children. Hell yes, we’re going to take your AR-15, it’s not going to allow it to be used against our fellow Americans anymore.”

Cruz’s tweet was later taken down by Twitter as a violation of its rules on making threats.

Houston officer shot after four suspects beat priest

A Houston police officer was hospitalised in stable condition after he was shot in a struggle with a suspect who along with others stole two vehicles and attempted to kill a priest in a crime spree that played out as Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden debated just miles away, the fire department said yesterday.

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