

NATION & WORLD

French presidential race ends, bitterness remains

Both candidates are unpopular with divided electorate

By ELAINE GANLEY AND NADINE ACHOUT-LESAGE  
Associated Press

PARIS — Far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen said Friday she believes she can pull off a victory in France's high-stakes runoff Sunday, while independent front-runner Emmanuel Macron accused her of exploiting voter fears.

In an interview with The Associated Press in the final hours of a hostile, topsy-turvy campaign, Le Pen said that win or lose, "we changed everything."

She claimed an "ideological victory" for her populist, anti-immigrant worldview in an election that could change Europe's direction.

Macron acknowledged that the French are exasperated by the government's ineffectiveness, but he dismissed Le Pen's vision of an infuriated country.

She "speaks for no one. Madame Le Pen exploits anger and hatred," Macron told RTL radio.

The pro-business Macron said he has not bowed to pressure to change his platform to appeal to a broader electorate — on the left or the right — since winning the first round of the presidential election on April 23. He told the news website Mediapart that

would not have been "democratically honest."

The candidates must stop campaigning at midnight Friday to give voters a day of reflection before the election. It's a stark choice: Le Pen's anti-immigration, anti-European Union platform vs. Macron's progressive, pro-EU stance.

Tensions marred the race right to the end.

France's presidential voting watchdog called on the Interior Ministry late Friday to look into claims by the Le Pen campaign that ballot papers are being tampered with nationwide to benefit Macron. The Le Pen campaign said electoral administrators in several regions who receive ballot papers for both candidates have found the Le Pen ballot "systematically torn up."

Earlier in the day, anti-Le Pen crowds disrupted her visit to a renowned cathedral in Reims.

The presidential campaign has been unusually bitter, with voters hurling eggs and flour, protesters clashing with police and candidates insulting each other on national television — a reflection of the widespread public disaffection with politics as usual.

Le Pen, 48, has brought her far-right National Front party, once a pariah for its racism and anti-Semitism, closer than ever to the French presidency, seizing on working-class voters' growing frustration with globalization and immigration. Even if she

loses, she is likely to be a powerful opposition figure in French politics in the upcoming parliamentary election campaign.

"Even if we don't reach our goal, in any event there is a gigantic political force that is born," she told AP in her campaign headquarters. Her party "imposed the overhaul" of French politics and set the tone of the election, she said.

The 39-year-old Macron, too, played a key role in upending France's traditional political structure with his wild-card campaign.

Voters liked the idea, and chose Macron and Le Pen in the first-round vote, dumping the traditional parties that have governed modern France. Le Pen said those parties have been "blackballed."

Many voters, however, don't like either Le Pen or Macron. They fear her party's racist past, while worrying that his platform would demolish job protections or be too much like his mentor, the deeply unpopular outgoing President Francois Hollande.

Students protested both presidential candidates Friday by blocking high schools and marching through Paris.

Le Pen, who was pelted with eggs Thursday in Brittany, was met by hecklers Friday at the Reims cathedral.

Le Pen denounced her critics for disrupting a sacred place during her final campaign stop.

U.S. Navy SEAL killed in Somalia operation

Death first since 'Black Hawk Down' in 1993

By ABDI GULED  
Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — A Navy SEAL was killed in Somalia during an operation against the extremist group al-Shabab — the first U.S. combat death there in more than two decades — as the United States steps up its fight against the al-Qaida-linked organization in a country that remains chaotic.

"We do not believe there has been a case where a U.S. service member has been killed in combat action in Somalia since the incident there in 1993," U.S. Africa Command spokesman Patrick Barnes said Friday.

The United States pulled out of Somalia after that incident, known as "Black Hawk Down," in which two helicopters were shot down in the capital, Mogadishu, and bodies of Americans were dragged through the streets.

In a statement, the U.S. Africa Command said the service member was killed Thursday during the operation near Bari, 40 miles west of Mogadishu. The Pentagon said two other U.S. service members were wounded.

The identities of the dead and injured Americans were not released.

The U.S. special operations troops came under fire after U.S. aircraft delivered Somali forces to the target area, said a Pentagon spokesman, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis. He said the U.S. troops were "a distance back" from the compound, which had been "associated with some attacks on facilities that we use and that our Somali partners use nearby."

Davis said the U.S. has



Al-Shabab fighters patrol in 2009 in Somalia. The U.S. says a service member has been killed in Somalia during an operation against the extremist group.

worked with the Somali National Army to counter al-Shabab since 2013 with the goal of "degrading this al-Qaida affiliate's ability to recruit, train and plot external terror attacks throughout the region and the United States."

A Somali intelligence official said U.S. forces killed at least six people in the raid on a building housing the al-Shabab extremist group's Andalus radio station at a farm near Dare Salaam village. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the dead included al-Shabab journalists.

Via its Shahada News Agency, al-Shabab said "an air landing operation by U.S. special forces was thwarted in Lower Shabelle province and a number of their soldiers were killed and wounded," the SITE Intelligence Group reported.

The United States and Somalia in recent weeks have declared new efforts against al-Shabab.

President Donald Trump has approved expanded military operations against the extremist group, including more aggressive airstrikes and considering parts of southern Somalia areas of active hostilities.

Somalia's new Somali-American president, Mohamed Abdullahi Mo-

hamed, last month declared a new offensive against al-Shabab, which is based in Somalia but has claimed responsibility for major attacks elsewhere in East Africa.

Also last month, the U.S. military announced it was sending dozens of regular troops to Somalia in the largest such deployment to the country in two decades. The U.S. Africa Command said the deployment was for logistics training of Somalia's army.

The U.S. in recent years has sent a small number of special operations forces and counter-terror advisers to Somalia and has carried out a number of airstrikes, including drone strikes, against al-Shabab.

The extremist group, which was chased out of Mogadishu years ago but continues to carry out deadly attacks there, has vowed to step up the violence in response to the moves by Trump and Mohamed.

Aid groups have raised concerns about the new military efforts, saying civilians could be at risk as hundreds of thousands are displaced by a drought that threatens half the country's population of 12 million.

Washington Post contributed.

FROM PAGE ONE

Jobs data show some scars from recession finally healing

**JOBS,** *From page 1*  
mist at Barclays Capital, said in an email to clients.

The gradual shift in hiring from part-time to full-time work is an encouraging one. It suggests that many businesses are meeting rising customer demand by expanding some employees' hours. During much of the economic recovery, the number of part-timers remained unusually high — one reason that steady job growth didn't produce sharp gains in pay or consumer spending.

The shift toward full-time work has also helped reduce a measure of the job market that includes people who aren't counted as unemployed: They are the part-time workers who want full-time jobs as well as people who have given up their job hunts.

This broader figure reached 8.6 percent in April, the lowest point since November 2007, just before the recession officially began. In 2009, it had topped 17 percent.

That broader measure has been cited by President Donald Trump and his advisers as a more accurate gauge of the job market's health than the unemployment rate.

So far, the job market under Trump closely resembles the one Barack Obama presided over. This year, employers have added an average of 185,000 jobs a month, matching last year's pace.

In his first 3½ months, Trump has sought to put his imprint on the economy. A deputy White House spokeswoman, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, said falsely at a briefing for reporters Friday that job growth in April occurred "especially" in industries where the president has focused: coal mining, construction and manufacturing. In fact, those three sectors accounted for less than 6 percent of April's job growth.

A representative of the White House, contacted later by the Associated Press, said that Sanders had misspoken.

Some of the job market's scars from the Great Recession have yet to heal. The proportion of Americans who either have jobs or are looking for one dipped in April to 62.9 percent from 63 percent. While that figure has improved over the past 18 months, it remains well below the pre-recession level of 66 percent.

Economists don't expect that figure to get much better. With the vast baby boom generation retiring and younger Americans more likely to stay in high school and attend college, fewer Americans will likely work or seek work in the foreseeable future.

Friday's jobs report makes it highly likely that the Federal Reserve will resume raising

short-term interest rates when it next meets in mid-June. Investors have estimated the likelihood of a June rate hike at 83 percent.

Beyond hiring, the economy is showing other signs of health: Sales of existing homes have reached the highest point in a decade. And a survey of services firms this week — including restaurants, banks and retailers — showed that they are expanding steadily.

Average paychecks did grow more slowly in April, increasing 2.5 percent over the past 12 months, below March's year-over-year gain. Companies may not yet feel much pressure to raise pay to find or keep the workers they need. Typically, employers feel compelled to pay more as the number of unemployed dwindles. In a strong economy, hourly pay gains tend to average around 3.5 percent.

One reason for the tepid wage gain is that hiring was strongest last month in lower-paying industries. One such category that includes hotels, restaurants, casinos and amusement parks added 55,000 jobs, the most of any major sector.

Health care, which includes some higher-paying jobs in nursing as well as lower-paid home health care aides, added 37,000 in April.

Many manufacturers are looking to add jobs but say they can't find enough qualified workers. Eric Kus, CEO of Goshen Stamping in Goshen, Ind., wants to add six to eight employees to his 80-person staff. The company makes parts for the stepladder and RV industries.

"It's getting better," Kus said of the economy. Rising home sales and growing interest in do-it-yourself work among homeowners have boosted his company's revenue about 6 percent so far this year, he said.

Friday's jobs report adds to evidence that economic growth is rebounding in the current April-June quarter, with some economists forecasting that it could top a 3 percent annual rate, compared with the first quarter's 0.7 percent rate. Last quarter, consumers spent less in part because of low utility bills during an unseasonably warm winter. That's likely to prove a temporary restraint.

The retail industry's woes continued, with stores adding just 6,000 jobs, below their long-run average and after retailers slashed a combined 55,000 jobs in February and March. Traditional chains like Sears and Macy's have been shedding jobs in the face of ferocious competition from Amazon.com and other e-commerce companies.

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PROPOSALS  
CITY OF BALTIMORE  
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Sealed Bids or Proposals, in duplicate addressed to the Board of Estimates of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore and marked for Sanitary Contract No. S.C. 892R-Structural Rehabilitation of Chlorine Contact Chambers at Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant will be received at the Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland until 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. Positively no bids will be received after 11:00 A.M. Bids will be publicly opened by the Board of Estimates in Room 215, City Hall at Noon.  
The Contract Documents may be examined, without charge, at the Department of Public Works in Room 6 located on the first floor of the Abel Wolman Municipal Building, 200 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 as of Friday, May 5, 2017 and copies may be purchased for a non-refundable cost of \$35.00.  
Conditions and requirements of the Bid are found in the bid package.  
All contractors bidding on this Contract must first be prequalified by the City of Baltimore Contractors Qualification Committee. Interested parties should call 410-396-6883 or contact the Committee at 4 South Frederick Street, 4th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. If a bid is submitted by a joint venture ("JV"), then in that event, the document that established the JV shall be submitted with the bid for verification purposes.  
The Prequalification Category required for bidding on this project is G90039-Concrete and Masonry Structural Repairs  
Cost Qualification Range for this work shall be \$5,000,000.01 to \$10,000,000.00  
A "Pre-Bidding Information" session will be conducted at the Administration Building, Operations Conference Room at the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant (3501 Asiatic Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21222) on Tuesday, May 18, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.  
Principal Items of work for this project are:  
Structural repair and rehabilitation of the four chlorine contact chambers, their walls, effluent channel and other structural elements located within the chambers. The repair and rehabilitation shall consist of sealing the cracks and spalls on the concrete surfaces; removal and replacement of the deteriorated or missing expansion joint material in all the basin walls with specified chemical resistant expansion joint material and coating of all the walls and floor slabs by chemical resistant epoxy coatings as shown on the contract drawings and specifications. In addition, the work includes partial demolition and disposal of all the masonry baffle walls in the chambers and other miscellaneous work, as shown on the contract documents.  
This project is a recipient of the State Revolving Loan  
The MBE goal is 13%  
The WBE goal is 4%  
SANITARY CONTRACT NO. 892R  
APPROVED: Bernice H. Taylor  
Clark, Board of Estimates  
APPROVED: Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

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The Johns Hopkins Hospital maintains accessibility to all services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The hospital policy on charity care is that the hospital will provide necessary emergency medical care to all persons regardless of their ability to pay and will consider for charity care those patients who cannot pay the total cost of hospitalization due to lack of insurance coverage and/or inability to pay.  
JOHNS HOPKINS BAYVIEW MEDICAL CENTER CHARITY CARE POLICY:  
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center maintains accessibility to all services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The hospital policy on charity care is that the hospital will provide necessary emergency medical care to all persons regardless of their ability to pay and will consider for charity care those patients who cannot pay the total cost of hospitalization due to lack of insurance coverage and/or inability to pay.

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Applications received:  
The University of Baltimore proposes the construction of a USPS Vehicle Maintenance Facility in Baltimore City, affecting 0.0 acres of existing forest, as part of a Forest Conservation Plan (C17-12) submitted to the State of Maryland Forest Conservation Program. The site is located in the Patapsco River watershed. Information about this project may be obtained by contacting the Central Region State Forest Conservation Program Coordinator at (410) 836-4568.

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