

Hundreds Hospitalized in Dezful After Chlorine Leak
 TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- More than 470 people suffered respiratory and other symptoms after a chlorine gas leak in southern Iran, state media reported Sunday.
 The report said 475 victims were taken to local hospitals in the city of Dezful, some 500 miles (805 kilometers) southwest of the capital, Tehran. Forty-five people were hospitalized and the rest were released. The report from the official IRNA news agency said the gas leaked from reservoirs in an abandoned warehouse belonging to the local water supply company. Dezful, with a population 250,000, is located in the oil-rich Khuzestan province.


Kayhan International

Majlis Softens Drugs Law
 TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's parliament passed a long-awaited amendment to its drug trafficking laws on Sunday, raising the thresholds that can trigger capital punishment.
 The bill must still be approved by the Guardian Council but gained parliamentary approval after months of debate, according to parliament's website and the ISNA news agency.
 The new law raises the amounts that can trigger the death penalty. The amendment will apply retroactively, thus commuting the sentences for many of the 5,300 inmates.

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Viewpoint
 By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer
It's the End of ISIL as We Know It

Father of Fuzzy Logic Passes Away



Iran Defeat China in FIVB World Championship Qualifier



HRW: Saudi Forces Cordon Off Shia Town of Awamiyah



Trump's Racial White Terrorism Leaves 3 Dead

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Neo-Nazis have applauded Donald Trump's response to the violent clashes between white supremacists and anti-fascists which swept Charlottesville and left three people dead.
 The U.S. president has refused to condemn the actions of the neo-Nazis, skinheads, and members of the Ku Klux Klan who descended on the Virginia city on Saturday carrying flaming torches and assault rifles, yelling racial abuse and wearing paramilitary clothing.
 Speaking from a stage in a golf clubhouse, Trump decried "violence on all sides" rather than explicitly taking aim at far-right extremists.
 "We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides," he said. "On many sides."
 The billionaire property developer then left the conference, turning a deaf ear to reporters' shouted questions, including whether he wanted the support of white nationalists who have allied themselves with him or whether he deemed the violence to be terrorism.
 But while Trump has sparked widespread condemnation from across the political spectrum for failing to denounce the largest gathering of white nationalists in America for decades, his response has been actively celebrated by neo-Nazis and white supremacists.
 The founder of Daily Stormer, an American neo-Nazi and white supremacist site which considers itself to be part of the alt-right movement, hailed the fact President Trump "outright refused to disavow" the gathering of white supremacists.
 "People saying he cucked are shills and kikes," said its editor Andrew Anglin. "He did the opposite of cuck. He refused to even mention anything to do with us. When reporters were screaming at him about White Nationalism he just walked out of the room."
 David Duke, the former head of the Ku Klux Klan who found himself at the center of controversy after Trump failed to immediately condemn his endorsement during the 2016 presidential campaign, was less effusive.
 Duke, who in Charlottesville, said: "I would recommend you take a good look in the mirror and remember it was White Americans who put you in the presidency, not radical leftists."
 Chaos broke out on the streets of Charlottesville as tensions spilled into street clashes using rocks and pepper spray. A 32-year-old woman was killed after a car was driven at speed into a group of anti-fascist protesters and two po-

licemen died in a helicopter crash while taking part in efforts to restore peace to the area.
 A state of emergency was announced by the local and state governments with police declaring the "Unite the Right" rally an unlawful assembly and demanding the crowds to disperse.
 Fellow Republicans have slammed President Trump, who spent his presidential bid repeatedly attacking Obama and Clinton for failing to label terrorist attacks as such, for his response to the furor.
 "Mr. President - we must call evil by its name," said Republican Senator Cory Gardner, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.
 The alt-right - a political movement which has been accused of racism, antisemitism and misogyny and of sharing an ideology with far-right parties such as the French National Front - gained increasing prominence during Trump's presidential bid and has continued to do so since his arrival in the White House.
 During the campaign, Hillary Clinton accused President Trump of making the alt-right "mainstream" and attacked the movement as "racist ideas ... anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, anti-women ideas."
 White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon is the former executive chair of far-right online publication Breitbart News which he described as "the platform for the alt-right" last year.

MPs Pass Bill to Counter U.S. 'Terrorist' Moves



A general view of the Iranian parliament in session.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's lawmakers on Sunday overwhelmingly approved a motion in response to recent U.S. sanctions, voting to boost spending on Tehran's missile program and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).
 In a session, 240 lawmakers voted for the bill, with only one abstention, to confront "America's terrorist and adventurous actions" in the region.
 The measure came after President Donald Trump signed into law a bill passed by U.S. Congress to impose new sanctions on Iran over its missile program in early August.
 Washington's new sanctions vio-

late a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran both "in letter and spirit." Tehran says its missile program does not breach a UN resolution which endorsed the nuclear deal.
 Devising the Sunday motion, the Parliament took great care not to violate the nuclear accord and provide excuses for opposing sides, spokesman for Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy Hussein Naqavi Hussein said.
 The plan would require Iran's government and armed forces to draw up a strategy to counter U.S. violations of human rights around the world, and to support Iranian

bodies and individuals affected by U.S. sanctions.
 The measure would also allocate over \$260 million each to Iran's ballistic missile program and the Quds Force - the external arm of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), which has sent military advisers to Iraq and Syria to fight terrorists.
 Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, who is the head of an Iranian commission tasked with monitoring the agreement's implementation, told MPs that the government backed the bill which he described as "very strong."
 He said Iran has many devices at

its disposal apart from the nuclear agreement to confront the United States.
 The motion was designed in view of continued bellicose policies of the U.S. towards Iran, and its persisting measures aimed at endangering peace and security in the region, it said.
 It also took into account America's enmity towards the Iranian government and people and their interests through supporting terrorism and violent extremism, as well as taking adventurous actions, creating divisions, and stoking sectarianism.
 The bill tasks Foreign, Intelligence, and Defense Ministries, Iran's Army, and the IRGC, and its Quds Force to produce a comprehensive strategy aimed at countering U.S. threats.
 It considers the entirety of the U.S. military forces and intelligence operatives in the region to be supporters of regional terrorist groups, and subject to punitive measures.
 The blacklisted individuals will be denied Iranian visas, their assets will be frozen by Iran's Judiciary, and their bank accounts blocked by its Ministry of Economy.
 A parliamentary committee is also tasked with monitoring U.S. government and congressional moves and proposing appropriate reciprocal measures to the Parliament.
 To counter U.S. economic sanctions, the government has been ordered to provide a comprehensive plan on expanding economic

(Continued on Page 7)

Syrian Government Doubles Territory It Controls

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Sunday the Syrian government has increased the size of the territory under its control by 2 1/2 times in just two months.
 Shoigu made the comments in an interview with state-owned TV channel Rossiya 24 in which he predicted the end of the fight with Daesh.
 Shoigu said the fall of the militant stronghold Deir el-Zour on the Euphrates "will say a lot, if not everything, about the end of the battle with" Daesh.
 Russia is a close ally of the Syrian government and has been providing air support for Syrian forces since 2015. Under pressure from Syrian troops and their allies, Daesh has seen the territory it holds contract in recent months.
 A commando operation backed by warplanes and helicopters has killed 25 members of Daesh in central Syria, a monitor said Sunday.
 Syria's army has waged a months-long offensive to recapture the vast desert region that stretches from the country's center to the Iraqi and Jordanian borders.
 On Saturday, 25 Daesh members were killed and others wounded in a commando

operation by Syrian government forces with air support from Russian warplanes and helicopters in the northeast of Homs province, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.
 Six members of the government forces were also killed, it said. A military source said the operation occurred "20 kilometers inside Daesh terrorist lines."
 The raid allowed government forces to seize control of three villages in the area, official news agency SANA reported the source as saying.
 The army has captured swathes of territory from the Takfiri terrorists in the province. According to the Observatory, Daesh now controls just dozens of villages in the east of Homs.
 The Syrian "Badiya" is a large stretch of desert that extends over around 90,000 square kilometers of territory. Since 2015, much of the Badiya has been held by Daesh, but Syria's army has been chipping away at it since May.
 Government forces have ousted Daesh from Al-Sukhna, the last terrorist-held town in Homs province. Syrian troops are also fighting the militants in the south of neighboring Raqa province.

(Continued on Page 7)

Saudis Ask Iraq to Help Ease Iran Tensions

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iraqi Interior Minister Qasim al-Araji says the Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman has called on Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to help ease tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.
 Speaking after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart here Sunday, al-Araji referred to his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with bin Salman, and said, "He officially asked for Iraq's mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia to ease tensions."
 "Saudi King Salman had earlier made the same request, but I told them you should show the best behavior towards Iranian pilgrims and allow them to visit Jannat al-Baqi cemetery," he noted, according to a Farsi report by ISNA.
 "The Saudi side has made certain promises in this regard, and the door to the cemetery is already open to Iranian pilgrims," al-Araji said, adding that Tehran-Riyadh friendly relations will help ensure regional security.
 Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, for his part, highlighted the importance of respecting and maintaining the dignity of Iranian Hajj pilgrims, saying Tehran has always sought cordial relations with

Saudi Arabia.
 "Iran's policy is to have effective cooperation with regional states, and Tehran has never been the first to sever its relations with others," he added.
 He also expressed hope that regional countries would join hands and seek to resolve the problems of Muslims while enjoying their people's support and avoiding the real enemies of Islam.
 Earlier this year, Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said he had been carrying out certain mediatory measures in order to help the improvement of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.
 He said on January 14 any crisis in the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia affected Iraq as well and a rapprochement between the two countries would also benefit Iraq.
 Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia worsened after a deadly human crush occurred during Hajj rituals in Mina, near the holy city of Mecca, in September 2015.
 Days into the incident, Saudi Arabia published a death toll of 770, but refused to update it despite gradually surging fatality

(Continued on Page 7)