

## Iran marks Army Day with parade

Iran has commemorated its Army Day with a ceremony attended by President Hassan Rouhani and military brass. The ceremony, held in the capital, featured a parade showcasing the Islamic Republic's military achievements. Apart from President Rouhani, the chiefs of the Iranian Army, Air Force, and Navy, as well as the heads of the main divisions of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), were in attendance. President Rouhani delivered a speech during the event. He said the Iranian Armed Forces were not directed to launch an act of aggression against anyone. "The Armed Forces will not be a threat to others. We move in the direction of avoiding confrontations and tensions; however, we should always maintain our alertness against conspiracies to subvert and should enhance our deterrent power day by day," he said.

## Melania nudges Trump to raise hand during national anthem

US First Lady Melania Trump nudged President Donald Trump to put his hand over his heart during the National Anthem at the White House on Monday. She was standing on the White House balcony facing the crowd.



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A man riding a motorcycle carrying four others on their way back home from "Judas Tree Festival" in Parwan province.

### News-in-Brief

#### ISIS seeking alliance with al Qaeda, Iraqi vice president says

ISIS is talking to al Qaeda about a possible alliance, Iraqi Vice President Ayad Allawi said in an interview on Monday. Allawi said he got the information from Iraqi and regional contacts knowledgeable about Iraq. "The discussion has started," Allawi said. "There are discussions and dialogue between messengers representing Baghdad and representing Mosul," he said. Allawi is the head of the Iraqi National Council, a coalition of Sunni and Shia groups that has been pushing out of the half of Mosul that lies east of the Tigris River, but Iraqi soldiers and their allies are now bogged down in tough fighting in the narrow streets of the Old City of Mosul, west of the river, according to Iraqi security officials. ISIS has used suicide bombers, soldiers and armed drones to defend the territory under their control. The group has also repeatedly targeted civilians and used them as human shields during the fighting, according to Iraqi and American security officials.

#### Taliban's shadow governor among 16 killed in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY: At least 16 people were killed in an attack on Kunduz province in the shadow of the Taliban shadow governor. The attack was carried out in the vicinity of Dabke-Archi district. The Taliban shadow governor further added that the insurgents were targeted by the Afghan army. The Taliban shadow governor Dabke-Archi was among the 16 killed. The Taliban shadow governor did not elaborate further regarding the attack, but he said that the Taliban leader was killed in an attack. The Taliban shadow governor further added that the attack was carried out by the Afghan army. The Taliban shadow governor further added that the attack was carried out by the Afghan army.

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### Turkey to extend state of emergency by three months

Turkey's government has extended the country's state of emergency for three more months. The National Security Council had recommended extending the state of emergency to expire on April 19, to deal with the aftermath of the coup attempt.

### 'North Korea not to act like Syria in case US attacks'

The war of words between North Korea and the United States has intensified in recent days. Pyongyang has said that Washington is pushing the region to the brink of an all-out nuclear war, after the US warned that the period of strategic patience was over with North Korea.

### Theresa May calls snap general election for June 8

British Prime Minister Theresa May called for an early general election to be held on June 8, in a surprise announcement on Monday. She also prepared for delicate negotiations on leaving the European Union.



North Korea over its nuclear and missile programs. The parade shows the country's military strength.

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