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Iran's parliament puts CENTCOM on terror list

By Aylin Sirikli

TEHRAN- The Iranian parliament on Tuesday approved a bill placing the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) on the country's terror list, according to the

official IRNA news agency. The decision came in response to Washington's blacklisting of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization. IRNA said the decision

came to "counter the U.S. move to weaken peace and security of the region and the entire world by labeling IRGC..., as a terrorist group." It also qualifies the Iranian government and...



MORE DETAILS



'New IRA' admits killing journalist

Armed republican group, which formed in 2012, offers 'full, sincere' apologies to family, friend of victim

By Faruk Zorlu

BAKU -Dissident republican group the New IRA has claimed responsibility for the killing last week of journalist Lyra McKee in Northern Ireland. In a statement issued early Tuesday to The Irish News, the group admitted that its activists killed the 29-year-old reporter, according to local media reports. "In the course of attacking the enemy, Lyra McKee was tragically killed while standing beside enemy forces," the group said in the statement. "The IRA offer our full and sincere apologies to the partner, family and friends of Lyra McKee for her death," it added. McKee,

who had been observing a police operation in the Creggan area of the city of Londonderry, was shot dead Thursday night. Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hamilton said the shooting happened when police were searching for munitions and firearms after tips that terror attacks were planned for the Easter weekend. He called McKee's death "horrendous and unjustified". "A single gunman fired shots in a residential area of the city and as a result wounded Ms. McKee," Hamilton said in a statement Friday. "Officers quickly administered first aid before transporting her in the back of a Land Rover to hospital ... MORE DETAILS

41,000+ voters to be probed in Istanbul

Decision comes after ruling AK Party's objection to Istanbul poll results



By Aylin Sirikli

ANKARA -Turkish Supreme Election Council (YSK) will investigate over 41,000 ineligible voters following a contest by the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party to the Istanbul poll results of last month's mayoral election. On Tuesday, the YSK held a meeting to discuss the ruling party's extraordinary appeal to cancel the election

results in Istanbul. In its interim decision, the top election authority announced that it decided to probe 41,132 voters of the March 31 elections, as well as the presiding officers and polling station staffs who are not civil servants. Last week, the ruling party claimed that 41,132 people had voted despite being... MORE DETAILS

Death toll from Sri Lanka bombings rises to 310

By Recep Sakar

MELBOURNE -The death toll from Sunday's multiple terror attacks in Sri Lanka has risen to 310, according to media reports. Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara, according to the Daily Mirror, said around 40 suspects -- all from Sri Lanka -- have also been detained in operation carried

out following the attacks. On Easter Sunday, a total of eight explosions targeted eight different locations in and outside Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. The bombings hit churches in Kochchikade, Negombo and Batticaloa cities, as well as Kingsbury, Cinnamon Grand and Shangri La hotels in.... MORE DETAILS



Putin, Kim to meet on Thursday

Russian, North Korean leaders first-ever meeting to be held in Vladivostok

By Elena Teslova

MOSCOW -Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Thursday, a Kremlin official announced on Tuesday. The first-ever meeting of two leaders will take place in the Russian port city of Vladivostok, Putin's aide Yury Ushakov told reporters in the capital Moscow. "The program of negotiations is typical, it suggests a conversation in

a narrow format, and then there will be talks between the delegations," Ushakov said. "Neither the signing of documents or statements has yet been scheduled. A joint statement has not been worked out or planned yet," he added. Russian side intends to strengthen the positive trends on the Korean peninsula and will contribute to reaching "serious agreements"... MORE DETAILS



Turkey celebrates 99th anniversary of first parliament

By Diyar Guldogan

ANKARA - Turkey on Tuesday celebrated the 99th anniversary of the first session of its Grand National Assembly and also National Sovereignty and Children's Day. Senior politicians, including Parliament

Speaker Mustafa Sentop, Republican People's Party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu and IYI Party leader Meral Aksener, visited the mausoleum of the republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in the capital Ankara. "Our

determination to work continues for our country's unity and solidarity, and for nation's peace and welfare," Sentop wrote in the mausoleum's memorial book. Sentop also said the parliament continues to work... MORE DETAILS