

50 Killed, 53 Injured in Florida Nightclub Shooting

WASHINGTON - Fifty people were killed and 53 others were injured early Sunday morning in a shooting incident at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, said the city's authorities.

The gunman was found dead inside the Pulse nightclub after a shootout with police, according to Orlando Police Chief John Mina.

The authorities had already identified the alleged shooter as Omar Mateen of Port St. Lucie, Florida.

According to Ronald Hopper, an assistant



Federal Bureau of Investigation agent in charge,

the authorities now had "suggestions that the indi-

vidual may have leanings toward" ideology held by

the extremist group the Islamic State.

"It appeared he was organized and well-prepared," said Mina at an earlier press conference, adding that the suspect had an assault-type weapon and a handgun.

FBI spokesman Danny Banks said at the press conference that the mass shooting was being investigated as an act of terrorism.

"Do we consider this an act of terrorism? Absolutely, we are investigating this from all parties' perspective as an act of terrorism," said Banks.

The shooting began ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Iraqi Forces Tighten Grip on IS Stronghold in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, Iraq - Iraqi security forces on Saturday tightened their grip around the city of Fallujah and freed some areas from Islamic State (IS) militants after fierce clashes, a security source said.

The troops, backed by U.S.-led coalition aircraft, carried out an operation in the early morning to recapture areas on the western side of Euphrates River, which flows on the edge of the western part of Fallujah, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of

Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Area of Falahat in west of Fallujah was recaptured after fierce clashes in which IS militants were forced to withdraw, the source said.

It added that the troops will continue their advance toward the militant-seized area of al-Halabsa in order to push further toward Fallujah from the western bank of Euphrates River.

...*(More on P4)...(17)*

75% of Democrats Want 'Major' Role for Bernie Sanders

WASHINGTON - Bernie Sanders may have lost his bid to become the Democratic nominee for the White House, but party members don't want the U.S. senator from Vermont to step off the stage.

More than three-quarters of Democrats say Sanders should have a "major role" in shaping the party's positions, while nearly two thirds say Hillary Clinton - who beat him for the nomination - should pick him as her vice-presidential running mate, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll.

In a sign that Democrats hope their party can unite after a fierce primary season, two-thirds also said that Sanders should endorse Clinton, a former secretary of state and senator who appears bound for a showdown with Republican Donald Trump in November's presidential election.

Sanders, a self-described Democratic socialist, managed to turn his long-shot run into a mass movement with hard-line proposals to combat wealth inequality, increase access to health



care and education, and defend the environment. His challenge to Clinton, one of the best-known figures in American politics,

lasted far longer than expected, as he racked up strong results in a number of state nominating contests ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Trump Calls Syrian Refugees 'Trojan Horse'

PITTSBURGH - US presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump takes yet another jab at the government's refugee policy, saying Syrians accepted for asylum in the country are a "Trojan horse."

Trump was addressing a campaign rally on Saturday at Pittsburgh International Airport near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A Trojan horse is a mythological wooden statue in which ancient Greeks are said to have concealed themselves in order to enter the city of Troy.

Trump has repeatedly

warned that the US should not accept Syrian refugees. He has also accused US President Barack Obama of purposefully funneling refugees into states with sizeable Republican votes.

Trump, a billionaire businessman from New York, has propelled himself as the presumptive Republican nominee by framing himself as an anti-establishment outsider. However, his campaign has been defined by controversy from the beginning, including disparaging remarks about women, Mexican immigrants and Muslims.

...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Russia, England Could Be Kicked Out If Violence Continues: UEFA

PARIS - England and Russia were warned Sunday they could be disqualified from Euro 2016 if there is further violence involving their fans at the tournament.

UEFA's executive committee said both federations could be disqualified irrespective of any disciplinary measures taken if there is a repeat of the scenes in Marseille around Saturday's match between the two nations.

Disciplinary proceedings were earlier opened by European football's organizing body against the Rus-



sian Football Union after fans appeared to charge England supporters at the end of the match.

Rival supporters and locals had been involved in clash-

es in the days ahead of the game and further violence in the city took place before and after the match as police used tear gas for a third straight day. In a statement

UEFA's executive committee said it "would like to express its disgust for the violent clashes" in Marseille.

...*(More on P4)...(20)*

61 Migrants from Central, South America Rescued in Mexico

MEXICO - Mexico's federal agents and marines rescued 61 Central and South American migrants during two different operations, federal and state authorities said on Saturday.

Twenty-one migrants from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Colombia were discovered confined in a house in Reynosa, a city on the Mexico-U.S. border Monday night.

The migrants, including at least one minor, were being kept captive by smugglers who were allegedly stealing them to the United States, authorities said.

Two vehicles carrying 40 migrants on a highway in Cardenas, a city in southeast Mexico, was intercepted in a separate operation.

Women and children were among the migrants, who were allegedly from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, local newspaper El Heroico reported.

Two Honduran men were detained for being allegedly responsible for transporting the migrants. (Xinhua)

Political, Military Balance Shifting in Favor of Assad, Syrians: Iran

TEHRAN - The political situation in Syria is changing in favor of the Arab country's government and nation, says a senior adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"The political and military balance in Syria is shifting in favor of the country's government, people and its allies," Ali Akbar Velayati, who advises Ayatollah Khamenei on international affairs, told reporters on Sunday.

"We firmly believe that victory belongs to the Syrian government and nation," he said.

Velayati emphasized that given the legitimacy of the Syrian government



and the dire situation of the country's people, "it is incumbent upon us to help them and this has been done."

Iran, Russia and Syria all pursue a common objective and are united in the fight against terrorism, which poses a danger to the security of regional states, the senior Iranian official said, adding that

the three countries have achieved positive results during recent years and months.

Velayati's remarks came after Iran, Russia and Syria recently agreed to step up cooperation in their fight against Takfiri terrorist groups wreaking havoc in Syria and across the region.

...*(More on P4)...(21)*

WB to Fund Projects Worth \$1.1 Bln in N. Kenya

NAIROBI - The World Bank (WB) will finance various energy, water and infrastructure projects in northern Kenya worth 1.1 billion U.S. dollars totally, an official has said.

State House spokesman Manohar Espisu told journalists on Sunday that the government was committed to the development of the northern region where World Bank will launch its Northeastern Kenya Development Initiative.

His remarks came after visiting World Bank Vice-President for Africa Region,

Mokhtar Diop, held talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta in Nairobi on Sunday.

Espisu said World Bank will finance an Off-grid Solar Energy Access project, which will provide solar energy access to households, public institutions such as health centers, educational institutions in 14 counties in northern Kenya.

"Key features of the program include incentivizing private companies to expand into these counties, developing mechanisms to make solar products more affordable to ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Undocumented Immigrants Protest U.S. Controversial Deportation Program

HOUSTON - About 1,000 people from across the United States on Saturday took to streets in downtown Houston, the fourth largest U.S. city, to protest against deportation of undocumented immigrants under a controversial government program.

Undocumented immigrant youth leaders, students and their supporters marched from Discovery Green, a popular park for Houstonians, to the Harris County Sheriff's Office, advocating for giving young immigrants a chance to realize the "American Dream," according to local daily

the Houston Chronicle. Wearing orange shirts reading "Undocumented and here to stay," protesters shouted chants such as "I am somebody" and "We are the mighty, mighty immigrants".

The gathering was part of a national conference for young Hispanics entitled United We Dream Congress 2016, the largest immigration event of its kind in the country where an estimated 1.4 million people are dubbed dreamers, meaning they came to America without authorization.

They are eligible for ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Five Injured in Shanghai Airport Explosion

SHANGHAI - Five people were injured in an explosion at Shanghai Pudong International Airport Sunday afternoon, authorities said.

The explosion happened at around 2:26 p.m. when a man threw a homemade beer bottle explosive to a check-in counter in Terminal 2, the Shanghai Municipal Public Security Bureau

said in a statement Sunday evening.

After the explosion, the man took a knife from his backpack, cut his neck and then fell to the ground, police said.

The suspect, now in critical condition, was under emergency treatment. Four passengers, including a Philippine national, were slightly ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Nieghbor News

Anti-Iran Hostilities to Continue Despite Nuclear Deal: Zarif

TEHRAN - Mohammad Javad Zarif made the remarks on Sunday as he attended a parliament session in Tehran to brief lawmakers on the results of the nuclear deal reached in July last year.

"This agreement does not mean that the enmities of the other side have come to an end because they always view the Islamic Republic of Iran as an obstacle in their way," said Zarif.

"This also doesn't mean the other side has abandoned its sabotage," the foreign minister added.

Since the nuclear agreement, the US and its allies have directed their focus on Iran's missile

program, with Iranian officials saying the West was trying to sabotage it. Zarif stressed that Iran's missile program was not on the agenda of the nuclear negotiations.

He said Iran's adversaries have always regarded the Islamic Revolution as an impediment to their goals and adopted a policy of pressuring the country. Through the nuclear agreement, "we managed to take away the excuses and remove the obstacles in the way of the nation but this doesn't mean an end to excuses and attempts to exert pressure" on Iran, he added.

...*(More on P4)...(25)*

US Asks Pakistan to Seek NSG's Acceptance, not Individual Endorsements

WASHINGTON - The United States has asked Pakistan to put its case before all 48 members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, instead of seeking individual endorsements for joining the NSG.

Earlier this week, Pakistan sent letters to US officials and lawmakers, urging them to support its bid for joining the exclusive club that controls access to sensitive nuclear technology.

Apparently neither India nor Pakistan is likely to join the NSG in the near future as New Delhi failed to win over China while Islamabad failed to persuade Washington to

back its bid. Editorial: US support for India on NSG

The 48-nation NSG held a special meeting in Vienna, Austria, on Thursday to consider applications from the two South Asian nations, both of whom possess atomic weapons and have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On Thursday afternoon, when it became obvious that China will not allow India to join the NSG, a spokesman for the US State Department urged Pakistan to present its application before the entire group.

...*(More on P4)...(26)*

China Says further Discussion Needed on NPT Non-Signatories' Application to NSG

BEIJING - China said Sunday further discussion is needed to decide on the application of non-signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) for membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

China has always supported a full discussion within the NSG on the membership issue and a decision based on the consensus of all sides through consultation, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said.

Hong made the remarks in response to a report saying China, New Zealand, Ireland, Turkey, South Africa and Austria opposed India's inclu-

sion in the NSG, which controls the export and re-transfer of nuclear weapons materials. The NSG has taken NPT signatory status as a precondition for membership but India is not a signatory to the treaty.

"China's stance is applicable to all non-signatories to the NPT, not just certain countries. Many other NSG member states also hold the same stance," Hong added in a press release.

Hong also denied discussion on India and other NPT non-signatories' admission to the NSG at an unofficial meeting held Thursday. The meeting, summoned by the Argentine ambassador who holds

...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Iftar Banned in Uzbekistan's Mosques, Restaurants

ASHGABAT - For the first time in Uzbekistan's post-Soviet history, the customary of breaking fast at sundown during the Ramadan period is being banned from mosques and restaurants.

This week the ban was introduced not by the government itself, however, but by the state-run Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Uzbekistan.

"The ban on performing iftar in cafes, restaurants and mosques is not government policy. We have gone down this road bearing in mind the history of Islam. At the time of the Prophet

Muhammad, iftar was organized solely for those who had little or nothing to eat. But now iftar, which had always been a manifestation of the need to care for the needy, has become another display of waste and ostentatious celebration," Abdul-Aziz Mansur, the deputy head of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Uzbekistan said.

Accordingly, the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Uzbekistan is inviting people to invite small groups of people home instead of gathering in large groups in public places. ...*(More on P4)...(28)*