

Analysis Says IS Used Chemical Weapons 52 Times

BAGHDAD - A new analysis has found that the Islamic State group has used chemical weapons at least 52 times since 2014 in Iraq and Syria, including 19 times in the Mosul area alone.

It says there's a high risk that the group will deploy the weapons again in Mosul against civilians or the military forces trying to retake the northern Iraqi city. IHS Markit released the analysis on Tuesday.

The analysis says Mosul was a center for chemical weapons pro-



duction for the Sunni militant group, but experts believe IS moved the materials and experts to Syria ahead of the U.S.-backed Iraqi offensive that began last month.

IHS concluded that chlorine and mustard agents are the most likely chemicals to be used in Mosul.

Iraq's foreign minister says progress in liberating the northern city of Mosul has been slowed by the Islamic State group's use of civilians as human shields. (AP)

Assad Hails Russia's Stance as "Natural Superpower"

DAMASCUS - Syria's President Bashar al-Assad hailed on Tuesday the Russian stance regarding the war on terror in Syria, saying such a stance proves Moscow's "natural status" as a superpower.

Dmitry Rogozin, the head of the Russian delegation to Syria and Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, said the main goal behind the military and economic as well as the political support provided from Moscow to Damascus is to reinforce the steadfastness of the Syrian people

in face of terrorism. "The Russian policies, whether at the international level or the war on terror in Syria, prove Moscow's natural status as a superpower based on its principles and values as well as its adherence to the international law," Assad said during his meeting Tuesday with the delegation in Damascus.

The president further underlined the importance of the Russian role in supporting Syria at all levels, particularly the economic one, as it ... (More on P4)...(16)

EU Conservative Warns UK it can't Keep Best Bits of Relationship

STRASBOURG, France - Britain's minister in charge of leaving the European Union told a leading EU lawmaker on Tuesday he wants to keep strong ties to the bloc's single market but the parliamentarian warned that the UK must exit the Union entirely, without special deals.

EU leaders have insisted Britain can retain membership of the lucrative single market only if it sticks by all its rules, including accepting free movement of workers

and oversight by EU courts, both things Prime Minister Theresa May has said voters rejected in the June referendum vote to exit the bloc.

Manfred Weber, an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel who leads the conservative group in the European Parliament, told reporters after meeting Brexit Minister David Davis in Strasbourg that he had heard "no new ideas on ... what Brexit really means".

"On the contrary, it was proposed to me today



that on the economy, the British government wants to stay in the internal market," Weber said, adding that Britain also wanted to keep ties in many other areas, including crime and justice

affairs. "I see a British government that keeps saying where it wants to cooperate closely and not how it wants to leave the European Union. So I must stress again: Brexit ... (More on P4)...(17)

68,000 Individuals have Fled Iraq's Mosul as Fighting Rages: IOM

GENEVA - Some 68,100 individuals have fled the Iraqi city of Mosul since military operations to recapture one of the Islamic State (IS)'s last strongholds began on Oct. 17, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Tuesday.

"The number of displaced people continues to increase, even as we are seeing more people returning to their homes," IOM Iraq Chief of Mission Thomas Weiss said in a statement. "Making sure displaced people as well as affected

communities are receiving assistance is more critical than ever as temperatures are close to freezing at night," he added.

According to figures, some 6,120 individuals were forced to flee the center of Mosul on Nov. 19 as a result of indiscriminate shelling carried out by IS fighters.

A further 3,180 civilians were displaced on Nov. 18 and Nov. 21, with most internally displaced people arriving at Khazer M1 camp. IOM revealed that ... (More on P4)...(18)

Turkey Sacks 15,000 More People as Part of Coup Probe

ANKARA, Turkey - Turkey's government on Tuesday dismissed a further 15,000 people from the military, police and the civil service as part of an ongoing investigation into the failed military coup in July.

The government also shut down some 500 associations, 19 health establishments and nine media outlets within the two government decrees issued Tuesday.

Turkey has accused U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen of masterminding the failed



July 15 attempt to topple the government and has launched a large-scale crackdown on his followers and institutions said to be run by his movement. Authorities have arrested

close to 38,000 people and purged more than 100,000 others from government jobs. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Tuesday that the civil service was still not entire-

ly purged of Gulen's followers and vowed to take all measures necessary to eradicate the group.

"We know that the state is not fully cleared of this treacherous gang. They are still within the Armed Forces, they are still within the judiciary and they are still within the various sections of the state," Erdogan said.

He added: "We won't allow them to destroy this country nor to crush the people. We will do whatever is necessary." ... (More on P4)...(19)

Stability in Iraq Key Issue to European Security: Hungarian FM

BUDAPEST - Stability in Iraq is a key issue to European security, said Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Sijjarto on Tuesday.

He made the remarks while addressing a news conference following a meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

Sijjarto noted Iraq was engaged in a crucial battle against the Islamic State (IS) militants, which had to be annihilated for the world's safety.

The victory of the Iraqi forces would also mean an end to the migration crisis,



he added. The two officials signed an accord eliminating dual taxation, and discussed ways of improving cooperation between Iraq and the European Union since 4.5 million people living in Iraq were displaced from their homes and 10 million needed govern-

ment aid to survive. Hungary, Sijjarto said, was doing its part, including deploying 146 Hungarian soldiers in northern Iraq and supplying weapons and training Iraqi forces in Hungary.

Hungary is also ready to ... (More on P4)...(20)

I'll Push Back on Trump if Needed to Defend US Ideals: Obama

LIMA, Peru - US President Barack Obama said Sunday he doesn't intend to become his successor's constant critic - but reserved the right to speak out if President-elect Donald Trump or his policies breach certain "values or ideals."

Offering a rare glimpse into his thoughts on his post-presidency, Obama suggested once he was out of office he would uphold the tradition of ex-presidents stepping aside quietly to allow their successors space to govern. He heaped praise on former President George W. Bush, saying he "could not have been more gracious to me when I came in" and said he wanted to give Trump the same chance to pursue his agenda "without somebody popping off" at every turn.

But Obama suggested there may be limits to his silence. ... (More on P4)...(21)

Thailand to Cut Visa Fee for Tourists from 18 Countries

BANGKOK - Thai cabinet on Tuesday resolved to waive the visa fee and halve the visa-on-arrival costs for tourists from 18 countries including China, the country that provided the most tourists to Thailand.

From the beginning of next month until the end of next February, the 1,000 baht (28 U.S. dollars) fee for visas sought at Thai embassies and consulates would be lifted, and the 2,000 baht (56 dollars) fee for visas on arrival would be cut to 1,000 baht, ... (More on P4)...(22)

Turkey Issues Arrest Warrant for 48 Terrorists over Ankara Attack

ANKARA - An Ankara court Tuesday issued arrest warrants for 48 Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) members, including several senior figures, over a terrorist attack in Ankara this February. Salih Muslim, the head of the PYD, is on the terrorist list of planning and carrying out the February bomb attack, state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

The arrest warrant covers the PKK's senior members, Zübeyir Aydar and Remzi Kartal, both responsible for the terror group's operations in European countries. Turkish government regards the PYD as the Syrian affiliate of the terror group of the PKK.

A total of 29 people were killed and more than 60 were wounded in the attack on Feb. 17 when a bomb-laden car was detonated during the passing of a military vehicle. (Xinhua)

Russia Deploys New Missiles to the Baltic Sea Region

MOSCOW - The Russian military has deployed state-of-the-art anti-shiping missiles in the nation's westernmost Baltic region, the Interfax news agency reported Monday, a move that comes amid spiraling tensions in Russia-West ties. Interfax said Monday that the military has put Bastion missile-launchers on duty in the Kaliningrad exclave that borders NATO members Poland and Lithuania. The Russian Defense Ministry said over the weekend that the Baltic Fleet was rearming itself with new missile-launchers, but didn't provide specifics. The ministry had no immediate ... (More on P4)...(23)

NATO Criticizes New Russian Missiles near Poland, Lithuania

BRUSSELS - NATO is criticizing Russia's deployment of anti-ship missiles in its westernmost Baltic region as "aggressive military posturing," and is urging dialogue to cool escalating tensions. NATO said in a statement to The Associated Press on Tuesday that the missile deployment near the alliance's borders "does not help to lower tensions or restore predictability to our relations." NATO called for more transparency on military activities "to avoid incidents and the risk of misunderstandings." Moscow has vigorously objected to the deployment of NATO's military units near Russia's borders, and is now reportedly installing Bastion mis-



sile-launchers in the Kaliningrad exclave, which borders NATO members Poland and Lithuania. President Vladimir Putin said in remarks carried by Russian news agencies Monday night that Moscow would target NATO sites if it thinks they threaten Russia. (AP)

Nieghbor News

China, Malaysia begin Joint Military Exercises Amid Closer Ties

PAYA INDAH - Chinese and Malaysian armed forces began a joint exercise on Tuesday in Paya Indah, a wetlands park in the state of Selangor, as the two countries aim to forge closer military ties and safety and security cooperation. "Aman Youyi 2016," or "Peace Friendship 2016," is a joint exercise on humanitarian assistance and disaster re-

lief, involving 410 participants from the Malaysian Armed Forces and 195 from the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Observers from the Royal Thai Armed Forces will also witness the exercise. Launching the opening ceremony of the exercise, Fang Fenghui, a member of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) ... (More on P4)...(24)

Iran, EU Resolved to Strengthen JCPOA: President Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iran and the European Union (EU) are resolved to "strengthen" a nuclear agreement between the Islamic Republic and world powers, says the Iranian president.

"With all their might, Iran and the European Union are seeking to strengthen this important multilateral agreement and to use the post-JCPOA opportunities," President Hassan Rouhani made at a joint press conference with

his visiting Slovenian counterpart Borut Pahor on Tuesday.

Pahor has traveled to the Iranian capital at the head of a large economic delegation. Known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the deal was struck in July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, namely the US, Britain, Russia, France, China, plus Germany. It introduced certain restrictions on ... (More on P4)...(25)

Pakistan Army Chief Confirms Death Sentence to 10 Hardcore Terrorists

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif on Tuesday confirmed death sentences to 10 hardcore terrorists after they were found guilty of carrying out terrorist acts, the military said. Those criminals, who were given death sentence, were involved in heinous offences related to terrorism, including killing of innocent civilians and military officials, a statement from

the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The convicts are associated with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Islam groups, according to ISPR. Both groups are accused of attacking the security forces, political leaders, government officials and members of the peace committees. These convicts were tried by military courts that were set up after ... (More on P4)...(26)

UN Committee Against Torture Examines Situation in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Torture-no At its current session in Geneva, on 21-22 November 2016, the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) will examine the situation in Turkmenistan. The Committee will review the second periodic report submitted by Turkmenistan about its implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or

Punishment, which the country ratified in 1999. Turkmen Initiative for Human Rights (TIHR) and International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHHR) have prepared an alternative NGO report for the CAT review. This report provides information on a number of key issues concerning the realization of the Convention against Torture in Turkmenistan ... (More on P4)...(27)

Tajikistan, Urumqi Discuss Customs Cooperation

DUSHANBEH - The Tajik Customs Service Chairman Abdufatoh Goib discussed customs cooperation with Urumqi customs authorities in Dushanbe, reported the press service of the Customs Service of Tajikistan. The talks addressed checkpoint activities and a timely customs declar-

ing process of the freights. The sides considered also a timely passage of agricultural goods through the customs points, establishment of bilateral cooperation in the exchange of information on the border checkpoints. The fight against terrorism, illicit drug trafficking ... (More on P4)...(28)

Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan Might Resolve Issues of Disputed Border Areas by End of 2016

TASHKENT - barbed wire2The necessary protocol on the disputed border areas of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan will be signed in this December. Uzbekistan might soon declare its willingness to join the Eurasian Economic Union, first deputy governor of Osh

region Baiysh Yusupov told Vesti.kg. "By the end of this year, the protocol on defining the disputed border areas will be signed. The recent trip to Uzbekistan was very effective, more than 50 percent of the territory [of Kyrgyzstan] bordering ... (More on P4)...(29)