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## China's Xi restructures military, consolidates control

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a military restructure of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to transform it into a leaner fighting force, with improved joint operations capability, state media said.



"This has profound and significant meaning in building a world-class military," Xi told commanders of the new units at the PLA headquarters in Beijing, according to the official Xinhua news agency report late on Tuesday.



### Political Desk

Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday called for a massive turnout in the upcoming presidential and council elections in a bid to immunize the country against threats.

## Leader urges high turnout in upcoming elections

Leaders and staff members in Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei warned of "hostile attempts" aimed at disrupting the elections, urging the nation to turn out in mass to disappoint the enemies, IRNA reported.

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## Kuwait: Iran may keep same oil output

Iran will probably be allowed to keep its oil production unchanged if OPEC decides to extend its six-month agreement on output cuts beyond June, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Issam Almarzoog said.



Iran was allowed to increase its output under the deal as the nation rebuilds from international sanctions that crippled its energy industry.

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## World-famous Persian poet Sa'di to be commemorated

### Compiled from Dispatches

Tributes will be paid to the great Persian poet Sa'di Shirazi in a ceremony at his tomb in Shiraz, Fars Province on April 21 which is observed as National Sa'di Day.

ing on Sa'di and Hugo (1802-1885) in on April 18 and 19, Director of the Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel, delivered a keynote speech at the event.



### Iranian carpet on UN wall

Also on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif recounted the story of an Iranian carpet adorned with a famous poem by Sa'di on a wall of the United Nations headquarters.

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## US: Iran complies with nuclear deal

The Trump administration acknowledged that Iran has been complying with a nuclear deal signed between Tehran and world powers.



"President Donald J. Trump has directed a National Security Council-led interagency review of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," Tillerson said in a statement.

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## Zarif: No limit to expansion of Iran-Kyrgyzstan ties

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrapped up a visit to three Central Asian countries on Wednesday after holding talks with Kyrgyz senior officials about ways of broadening bilateral relations in various areas on the last leg of his tour.

Speaking on a different note, he said, "While the threat of extremism and terror menaces the region and the world, cooperation, cultural promotion and tolerance are among the most important methods of confronting" the scourges.



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (R) meets with Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev in Bishkek on Wednesday.

Zarif headed a 20-member delegation of businessmen and company representatives from Iranian public and private sectors during the three-day tour, which has also taken him to Turkmenistan and Georgia.

During the talks, the Kyrgyz head of state called for closer economic relations between Tehran and Bishkek, saying efforts must be made to remove the obstacles to bilateral trade.

## British Parliament backs PM plan for snap election

Prime Minister Theresa May won Parliament's backing for an early election on Wednesday, a vote she said would strengthen her hand in divorce talks with the European Union and help heal divisions in Britain.

makers in the 650-seat Parliament for an election on June 8, an easy victory for the prime minister who could see her majority increase by at least 100 seats in the poll, Reuters reported on Wednesday.

That is crucial." The former home secretary, who became prime minister without an election when her predecessor David Cameron quit after last year's referendum vote for Brexit, enjoys a runaway lead over the main opposition Labour Party in opinion polls.

May formally notified the European Union on March 29 of Britain's intention to leave, and has said she is confident of reaching a deal on the terms of withdrawal in the two years available.