

# Iran parliament approves nuclear deal

## Tehran

Iran's parliament approved the country's nuclear deal with world powers yesterday, paving the way for the historic agreement curbing Tehran's atomic programme to take effect and for sanctions to

**A motion to approve the nuclear deal was passed with 161 votes in favour, 59 against and 13 abstentions**

end. The vote came after fierce debate among lawmakers over the terms of the accord, which was struck on July 14 but has faced a rough ride from hardliners in Tehran and in the US Congress.

A motion to approve the nuclear deal was however passed with 161 votes in favour, 59 against and 13 abstentions.

State television did not broadcast Yesterday's vote, but Iranian media outlets reported angry scenes including some MPs shouting that their concerns had not been addressed.

A critic of the nuclear diplomacy, Hamid Rasaie, was pictured on social media



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (C) smiles as he chats with parliament members during a session in Tehran

holding up a piece of paper is a sham." Another MP, Mehdi Kouchakzadeh, was quoted as saying: "This is no

**A government statement after yesterday's vote thanked parliament for approving the agreement**

one's decision, it is Larijani's decision," a reference to the refusal of parliament speaker Ali Larijani to allow him to speak. A tally of votes to pass the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear

deal's official name, said 250 of Iran's 290 lawmakers were present and 17 of those in the chamber did not vote. The nuclear agreement between Iran and the so-called P5+1 group (Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany) came after almost two years of diplomacy.

Yesterday's vote, however, again reiterated a permanent ban on the "production and use" of atomic weapons issued by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Meanwhile, a government statement after yesterday's vote thanked parliament for approving the agreement.

## Threatens another city

# Taliban leaves Kunduz

## Ghazni

The Taliban have withdrawn from the north Afghan city of Kunduz two weeks after their fighters swept through its streets, breaking open a jail and routing thousands of government forces.

The city was the first major urban centre to fall under insurgent control since 2001, and the rapid collapse of police and army, even though they heavily outnumbered their attackers, sent shockwaves across Afghanistan.

The insurgent group had come under heavy pressure in recent days from government forces, as officials and residents filtered back into the city to assess the damage to their homes and businesses, at least in daylight hours.

Shops are opening again after two weeks of fighting, and electricity is being restored, 32-year-old Sultan Mohammad said. But there are problems with the water supply, buildings



Afghan security personnel search a passenger at a checkpoint in Ghazni

have been looted or burned and despite claims by both sides that they were protecting non-combatants, more than 60 civilians have been killed, and about 800 wounded in the fighting so far, the public health ministry said.

The damage to morale may

be even harder to weigh up than physical damage. The Taliban described the retreat from Kunduz as a tactical withdrawal, as attacks in other parts of the country served as a grim reminder of their reach.

Meanwhile, explosions and sporadic gunfire rocked the

outskirts of Ghazni yesterday after the Taliban attempted to storm the southeastern city.

Afghan forces repelled the brazen assault on Monday, but it rang security alarm bells as the largely rural insurgency threatens large cities for the first time in 14 years of war.

The violence, which emptied the streets of Ghazni, follows the Taliban's three-day occupation of northern Kunduz city and other attempts by militants to overrun provincial capitals in the north.

Around 2,000 insurgents attacked Ghazni from several directions on Monday, coming as close as five kilometres (three miles) to the city, deputy provincial governor Mohammad Ali Ahmadi said. "But they were quickly pushed back by Afghan forces," Ahmadi said.

"Military reinforcements have arrived from neighbouring provinces to secure the city."

**Around 2,000 insurgents attacked Ghazni from several directions on Monday**

## End of war lies with the Huthis, Saleh: Saudi Minister

## Riyadh

Huthi rebels and their allies in Yemen are the only ones who can bring an end to the seven-month-old war there, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said yesterday.

"I believe that the matter of the end of hostilities lies entirely with the Huthis and with Saleh," Adel Al Jubeir said, referring to former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"They are the ones who started this, and they are the ones who continue this," he told a joint news conference with his French counterpart Laurent Fabius.

The Iran-backed Huthis overran Yemen's capital Sanaa unopposed in September last year and went on to seize territory as far south as Aden, aided by renegade troops loyal to Saleh.

Their advance prompted Saudi Arabia in March to form an Arab coalition, which began air strikes and assistance to Yemeni forces on the ground.

# Man found alive and naked in lake, after chopper crash

## Samosir

A missing Indonesian man was found alive, naked and floating in a huge volcanic lake yesterday two days after the helicopter in which he was travelling crashed.

The man, named in local reports as Fransiskus Subihardayan, was rushed to hospital after being found conscious but very weak, and wearing only a black watch, in Lake Toba, into which the aircraft is believed to have plummeted, on western

Sumatra island. The survivor, in his 20s, was one of five people aboard the Eurocopter EC-130 when it disappeared on Sunday during a short flight from Samosir island, a popular tourist spot on the lake, to the city of Medan.

"The man was found by the navy at around 1:00pm (0600 GMT)," Hisar Turnip, a search and rescue agency spokesman, said. "He was not swimming, just floating. He was found without clothes, stark naked." He told rescuers

he was a passenger on the helicopter and gave some details, but he was slipping in and out of consciousness as he was taken to a local hospital, officials said.

His current condition was not immediately clear.

Search and rescue agency official Heronimus Guru said that Subihardayan told rescuers that all on board - himself, two other passengers, one pilot and one engineer - managed to jump from the helicopter as it went down.

"He said the five managed to jump off, and they managed to stay afloat by holding on to water hyacinths until 11:00pm, but then they were separated," he said.

The rescue came after a helicopter seat cushion was found in the lake late Monday. Search teams are still hunting for the wreckage of the missing aircraft and the other passengers and crew.

Lake Toba sits amid volcanos on vast, jungle-clad Sumatra island.



An Indonesian Navy diver rescues helicopter crash survivor Fransiskus Subihardayan after he was found by the search and rescue team in Lake Toba