

# Major Differences Overshadow Yemen Peace Talks in Kuwait

CAIRO - After days of delay, the negotiations to end Yemen's disastrous civil war are finally underway in Kuwait despite major differences between the warring sides still overshadow the latest peace attempt.

In the talks, the rival parties, the Saudi-backed internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and the Shiite Houthi militia along with forces loyal to ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh, insisted on different agendas and traded accusations over breaches



to a truce that went into effect at midnight on April 10. Local residents said

nothing has changed after the cease-fire, as the conflicting sides were re-

portedly reinforcing their frontlines and re-positioning heavy weapons for fur-

ther advances. In Kuwait city and only one day into the talks, the session came

to a deadlock and was adjourned shortly after, said the sources close to the negotiations.

On Friday, Yemeni rival delegations disagreed over a previously agreed agenda, which was first declared in March by the UN, and was repeated publicly in Thursday's opening ceremony by the UN envoy to Yemen, Ismail Ould-Cheikh Ahmed. The agenda calls on the Houthi group to cede power to the internationally recognized government, disarm and withdraw

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## Britain Says can't Rule out Sending Troops to Libya

LONDON - British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said on Sunday that he could not rule out sending troops to Libya if requested to do so by the Libyan government, but that any deployment would need to be approved by parliament. Western powers are backing a new Libyan unity government, hoping it will seek foreign support to confront Islamic State militants, deal with migrant flows from Libya to Europe and restore oil

production to shore up Libya's economy. "It wouldn't make sense to rule anything out because you never know how things are going to evolve," Hammond told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper. "But if there were ever any question of a British combat role in any form - ground, sea or air - that would go to the House of Commons," he said referring to Britain's elected parliament. Last week Hammond told



parliament there were no plans to send combat troops to Libya, responding to media reports that

British special forces were already operating in the country. Libya has been

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

## Erdogan Needs Thicker Skin, EU's Tusk Says

GAZIANTEP - Turkey's president needs a thicker skin against criticism, a senior EU official suggested as European leaders try to shore up support at home for their deal with Ankara to hold back migrants. Former Polish prime minister Donald Tusk, who chairs EU summits, was visiting a refugee camp at Gaziantep near the Syrian border on Saturday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and was asked about Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's legal moves against critical me-

dia, including a German comedian. Tusk said press freedom was a "permanent topic" of his talks with Turkish leaders which have produced the deal under which Turkey is taking back all refugees and migrants who reach Greek islands in return for concessions from the European Union. Recalling his own jailing in the 1980s for opposing Poland's communist government, Tusk recalled that Erdogan, too, had been imprisoned in 1999

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## Syrian Army Foils Rebels Infiltration Attempt in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - Syrian army foiled a massive infiltration attempt by opposition militants in the western part of the northern city of Aleppo, killing many of them, a military source told Xinhua on Sunday.

The armed militants attempted to infiltrate the al-Assad Suburb west of Aleppo at dawn Sunday, but the Syrian army repelled the attack, after carrying out air strikes against the attackers' positions and shelling them with rockets and artillery, the



source said on condition of anonymity. He said the infiltrators were sneaking into the area through the sewage system. The rebels,

mainly the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, in the eastern part of Aleppo city has repeatedly attempted to infiltrate government-con-

trolled areas in the western Aleppo in recent weeks. The rebels' attempts to attack government areas

... (More on P4)... (22)

## Merkel Welcomes Obama At Rebuilt Palace

HANNOVER - The Latest on President Barack Obama's visit to Germany. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has welcomed U.S. President Barack Obama with military honors ahead of their bilateral talks. Merkel received Obama at Herrenhausen Palace, a rebuilt version of the 19th-century summer home of the royal house of Hannover. The palace was destroyed during World War II and reopened in 2013. Merkel and Obama are due to meet for an hour before holding a joint

news conference. Following the news conference, they will together open the city's annual industrial fair, at which the United States is the featured country this year. President Barack Obama has arrived in Germany to mount a two-day push to sell his trans-Atlantic trade pact. Obama landed in the northern city of Hannover on Sunday afternoon. He's leading a delegation of American business leaders attending the Hannover Messe, the world's largest industrial technology trade fair. (AP)

## Migrants Seek New Routes into Balkans After Formal Borders Sealed

IDOMENI - After weeks stranded at a closed border in northern Greece, migrants and refugees are seeking out new, irregular routes to get into Macedonia, clambering through forests and over hills under the cover of darkness.

As dusk fell on Saturday evening, a Reuters witness saw a group of up to 70 people crossing into Macedonia from Greece, at a point where there is no razor wire fence between the two countries. They darted in and out of a forest, hiding from authorities.

It was roughly a 20 km (12 mile), or four hour walk from Idomeni, a sprawling tent city hosting thousands of refugees



and migrants stranded by a cascade of border shutdowns throughout the Balkans in February.

Others at the campsite were also mulling their options to leave Idomeni and find vulnerable points along the border to cross into the Balkans, the preferred route to

western Europe. "There is no other solution," said Moutaz, a Syrian from Aleppo.

"Let him (others) put himself in my position, what would he do with this life we are living? Will he be ok with it, what is happening and what he

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## Rockets Fired from Syrian Side Hit SE Turkey, 10 Wounded

ANKARA - Two Rockets fired from Syria hit southeastern Turkish border province of Kilis on Sunday, injuring at least 10 locals, Dogan News Agency reported. The two rockets fired from the Islamic State (IS) controlled region in northern Syria hit the central Demirciler neighborhood, the report said. Kilis has been repeatedly attacked by rockets fired from IS controlled region in northern Syria. On Friday, three people were killed ... (More on P4)... (25)

## Gov't Forces Attack Al-Qaida in Yemen

ADEN - Yemeni government forces supported by the Saudi-led Arab coalition launched a military campaign against militants of the Yemen-based al-Qaida offshoot in the southeastern province Hadramout on Sunday, a military official told Xinhua. The official said local forces trained by the Saudi-led coalition and supported by the United Arab Emirates armored vehicles began an anti-terror offensive to drive al-Qaida militants out of Hadramout's provincial capital of Mukalla city. Warplanes of the Saudi-led Arab coalition ... (More on P4)... (26)

## Kenya to Resume Construction of Security Wall Along Somali Border

NAIROBI - Kenya confirmed Sunday it will resume construction of the security wall along its border with Somalia to help curb cross border incursions by Al-Shabaab militants.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Joseph Nkaissery said the building of the 700km wall on the Kenya-Somalia border from Mandera in northeast Kenya to Kiunga in the coast will keep

out the Al-Shabaab elements from infiltrating the country from Somalia as well as bar unwanted persons from illegally getting into the country.

"This fence will help us check on people like Al-Shabaab from crossing to and from Somalia. We will not limit movement of other people," he said when he met group of Marehan clan leaders who

... (More on P4)... (23)

## 35 Killed in Clashes with, Air Strikes on IS Militants in Iraq

RAMADI - A total of 35 people were killed on Sunday in U.S.-led coalition air strikes and clashes between Iraqi security forces and Islamic State (IS) militants in the western province of Anbar, a provincial security source said.

At least 17 IS militants were killed and five of their vehicles destroyed when international warplanes bombarded IS positions in Albu Ali al-Jasim in north of the provincial capital Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Separately, six soldiers were killed and eight others wounded when a sui-

cide bomber detonated his explosive-laden car into a military base in Roufa area in northeast of the militant-seized town of Garma in east of the flashpoint city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source said.

The suicide bombing was followed by an attack of dozens of IS militants on the military base, sparking heavy clashes with the troops which resulted in the killing of 12 extremist militants, the source said, adding that international warplanes took part in the battle, bombed the attackers and destroyed a vehicle carrying heavy machine gun. (Xinhua)

## Sisi Vows Never to Give up Inch of Egyptian Lands

CAIRO - Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi stressed on Sunday that his government will never give up any inch of Egypt's lands and "will take all measures to preserve homeland and develop it," state-run MENA news agency reported.

"I assure everyone that the state institutions and the armed forces understand the importance of preserving our nation's territories," said the president. Sisi made the remarks in his speech ahead of the 34th anniversary of the Sinai Liberation Day which marks the 1982 withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from the Sinai Peninsula. He said restoring Sinai by war and negotiations represents a magnificent epic manifesting the importance of preserving Egyptian lands.

"Restoring Sinai and then Taba was a great manifestation of the integration of Egyptian military, diplomatic and legal capabilities," the Egyptian president said. Sisi's speech came days after Egypt's official transfer of two controversial islands to his oil-rich ally Saudi Arabia.

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## Neighbor News

### China Open to Sino-U.S. Space Cooperation

BEIJING - China is open to space cooperation with all nations including the United States, the heavyweights of China's space program said on Sunday, the anniversary of China's first satellite launch 46 years ago. "China will not rule out cooperating with any country, and that includes the United States," said Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut. Payload has been reserved in the Chinese space station, due to enter service around 2022, for international projects and foreign astronauts, said Yang on the occasion of the first China Space Day, an annual celebration newly designated by the government.

Upon request, China

will also train astronauts for other countries, and jointly train astronauts with the European space station, Yang said. "The future of space exploration lies in international cooperation. It's true for us, and for the United States too," according to the senior astronaut. His words were echoed by Zhou Jianping, chief engineer of China's manned space program. Zhou said, "It is well understood that the United States is a global leader in space technology. But China is no less ambitious in contributing to human development." "Cooperation between major space players will be conducive to the development of all mankind," Zhou added. (Xinhua)

### Iran Reports Huge Rail Purchase from India

TEHRAN - Iran said on Sunday that it had made a major purchase of rails from India, adding the payment for almost the entire of the purchase had been made by New Delhi.

Mohsen Pour-SeyyedAqaei, the managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (IRIR), has been quoted by the media as saying that the total weight of the rails that have been purchased from India stands at 250,000 tons. "Five percent of the funds required for the purchase will be provided by the IRIR," said Pour-SeyyedAqaei. "The remaining 95 percent of the funds will be provided by the Indian government."

The official further added that the rails will be used to develop the train network across Iran over the current Iranian calendar year which ends in March 2017.

He also emphasized that the priority for the IRIR is to provide its required rails from domestic sources, but added that the leading supplier in the market - Esfahan Steel Company (also known as ZobAhan) - has is yet to announce when it can supply IRIR's demands. Last July, IRIR's Deputy Director SaeidMohammadzadeh was quoted by the media as saying that India plans to finance exporting about 150,000 tons of standard rail tracks to Iran. (PressTV)

### Joan Meets Turkmenistan Leader



ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov met with Qatar Olympic Committee President, Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, in Ashgabat. The QOC chief conveyed the greetings of HH the Emir Sheikh Tamim

bin Hamad al-Thani to Turkmenistan leader, wishing him health and the people of his country further progress and prosperity. The meeting dealt with bilateral relations and the means to enhance them in the sports field. (Agencies)

### Pakistan's Khan Sees Panama Papers as Second Chance to Oust PM

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani opposition political party, Tehrik-e-Insaaf Pakistan, lead by Imran Khan is leading a party rally on Sunday to rail against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, seizing on the Panama Papers leak linking Sharif's family with offshore wealth as a second chance to unseat the leader. Imran Khan, who staged protests in Islamabad for months in 2014 over alleged electoral fraud, has threatened to call new demonstrations for Sharif's resignation, saying this month the prime minister has lost the "moral authority to rule".

Khan aides insist the government is wobbling and it is time to strike. Critics, however, say Khan may be overplaying his hand for the second time. "We demand the resignation of the prime minister on moral grounds," said Shafqat-Mahmood, a senior leader of Khan's party. This month, leaked documents from the Mossack Fonseca law firm in Panama showed Sharif's sons Hassan and Hussain, and daughter Maryam, owned at least three offshore holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands. (Agencies)