

UN Envoy on Syria Warns That May Talks are Not Negotiations

WASHINGTON - A new series of talks on the Syrian war that begin next month in Geneva should not be seen as negotiations toward a peace deal, the U.N. special envoy on Syria warned the Security Council on Friday, while an Iranian diplomat indicated that his country would take part.

De Mistura intends to meet separately with a range of parties to see if they are ready to move on to talks toward finding an end to the conflict, which is now in its fifth year. He expects to report his findings



to the U.N. chief by the end of June.

"This is not a Geneva

III," de Mistura later told reporters, referring to previous nego-

tiations on Syria that failed over disagreement on whether Presi-

dent Bashar Assad must go. He said he had been instructed by U.N. chief

Ban Ki-moon to redouble efforts to find a political solution and seek out "even the remotest possibility" that positions had changed.

A spokesman for de Mistura said Iran, a key Syria ally, had been invited. De Mistura called Iran a "major player" in the region.

A diplomat with Iran's mission to the U.N. said his country would be happy to participate as long as there are no pre-conditions to the talks. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly... (More on P4)...(24)

Nepal Quake: Hundreds Dead, History Crumbles, Everest Shaken

KATHMANDU, Nepal - A powerful earthquake struck Nepal Saturday, killing at least 906 people across a swath of four countries as the violently shaking earth collapsed houses, leveled centuries-old temples and triggered avalanches on Mt. Everest. It was the worst tremor to hit the poor South Asian nation in over 80 years. At least 876 people were confirmed dead in Nepal, according to the police. Another 20 were killed in India, six in Tibet and two in Bangladesh. Two Chinese citizens died at the Nepal-China border. The death toll is almost certain to rise, said deputy Inspector General

of Police Komal Singh Bam.

It was a few minutes before noon when the quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.8, began to rumble across the densely populated Kathmandu Valley, rippling through the capital Kathmandu and spreading in all directions - north toward the Himalayas and Tibet, south to the Indo-Gangetic plains, east toward the Brahmaputra delta of Bangladesh and west toward the historical city of Lahore in Pakistan. A magnitude-6.6 aftershock hit about an hour later, and smaller aftershocks continued to jolt the region for hours. (AP)

Car Bombs Driven by Foreigners Hit Iraq-Jordan Border Post

BAGHDAD - Three suicide car bombs driven by foreigners targeted the remote desert border crossing between Iraq and Jordan Saturday, killing at least four Iraqi soldiers, said Iraqi officials. The statement, which was translated by the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group, said the men targeted the dining facility, an army patrol and the border crossing itself. Pictures of the alleged French and Belgian bombers suggest they were of Middle Eastern origin. Sabah Karhout, head of the local council of the Trebill crossing area, said three soldiers were killed along with Capt. Salah al-Dulai-

mi, the head of the border post's protection force. Twelve Iraqis were taken across the border and treated for their wounds, said a Jordanian official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

The attack came as there was fierce fighting on the other side of Anbar province north of the IS-controlled city of Fallujah after an ambush Friday killed an Iraqi general and staff officers. Militants launched a complex attack on Friday involving a bulldozer packed with explosives against a convoy as it approached an army camp. (AP)

Boko Haram Retakes NE Town from Nigerian Army

MAIDUGURI (Nigeria) - Suspected Boko Haram insurgents have forced hundreds of soldiers to flee Marte, a border town along the shores of Lake Chad, a local official and witnesses said.

"The terrorists, numbering over 2,000, appeared from various directions on Thursday and engaged the soldiers in Kirenova town and adjoining communities in Marte," said Imamu Habeeb, a local community leader.

"They fought with soldiers over the night and the fight continued today (Friday), forcing hundreds of soldiers to flee," he added from Borno state capital Maiduguri.

Local fighter Shehu Dan Baiwa said the more than 2,000 fighters had been armed with bombs and tanks. "They used the weapons without restraint and succeeded in killing several people," he said. This is the third time Boko Haram has seized control of Marte in restive Borno state, a key battleground of their six-year insurgency, which has killed more than 13,000 and left 1.5 million homeless. The city is among several retaken in recent weeks by Nigeria's military, which has launched an offensive against the Islamists as part of a regional operation supported by Chad, Cameroon and Niger. (AFP)

Former Yemeni President Calls for Political Dialogue to End War

DOHA - Former president Ali Abdullah Saleh called on Friday on all Yemenis to return to political dialogue to find a way to end the country's spiraling conflict. Saleh also called for talks between Yemenis and Saudi Arabia, which has led a nearly month-long bombing campaign against the Shi'ite Muslim Houthis militia, to be held under United Nations auspices in Geneva.

Saudi-led coalition warplanes continue to target the positions of the Houthis and Saleh loyalists

despite announcing an end to the campaign it began a month ago with the goal of helping restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

"I call on all conflicting parties in all provinces to stop fighting and return to dialogue in all provinces," Saleh, who was forced from power by months of mass protests in 2011, said in an emailed statement.

He also urged the Houthis to accept an April 13 U.N. Security Council resolution calling on them to drop their

weapons and quit cities they have seized, after Saudi-led forces stop their intervention in Yemen. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and arch regional adversary of Iran, is concerned about possible security threats posed by the Houthis' advance across Yemen since last September. Sporadic clashes were reported in Aden on Saturday, after a night of heavy air strikes by Saudi-led forces on Houthi targets in the Lahj provincial capital, al-Houta. (Reuters)

Clashes Rage in Yemen as Calls for Peace Talks Grow

TAEZ, Yemen - Fierce fighting raged Saturday in south Yemen between Iran-backed rebels and loyalists of exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, as pressure mounted for the warring factions to hold political talks. Clashes left at least 38 people dead on Saturday in towns in the south of the impoverished country, strategically located next to oil-rich Saudi Arabia and key shipping routes. Former strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh, who still holds sway over army units allied with the Shiite rebels, late on Friday urged the Houthis to heed UN demands to withdraw from territory they have seized.

US Secretary of State John Kerry also called on the anti-government forces to en-



ter into political dialogue to end a conflict that the UN says has killed more than 1,000 people since late March. "This has to be a two-way street," Kerry told reporters, adding: "We need the Houthi and we need those that can influence them to make sure that they are prepared to

try to move... to the negotiating table.

"UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has announced plans to appoint Mauritanian diplomat Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed as his new envoy to Yemen after the previous pointman lost the confidence of Gulf countries. (AFP)

US Aircraft Carrier Heading away from Yemen: Officials

WASHINGTON - A US aircraft carrier and a guided-missile cruiser are leaving the waters off Yemen and heading back to the Gulf after an Iranian naval convoy also turned back from the area, officials said Friday.

The carrier and the cruiser, the USS Theodore Roosevelt and the USS Normandy, had deployed to the region this week amid signs of a possible showdown with the Iranian flotilla. Washington suspected the convoy of carrying weapons destined for Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen. The Roosevelt and the Normandy are expected to re-enter the Gulf "very soon," a defense official told AFP.

Seven other American combat ships would remain in the Gulf of Aden and waters in the vicinity of Yemen, officials said. The Iranian convoy, including cargo ships and two armed vessels, earlier turned back from Yemen and headed north off the coast of Oman, officials said, possibly to return to Iran. (AFP)

US Seeks Access to Philippine Bases as Part of Asia Pivot

MANILA - The United States has asked for access to Philippine military bases in eight locations to rotate troops, aircraft, and ships as Washington shifts its forces to Asia and as China expands its military presence in the South China Sea. The Asia "pivot" has already seen U.S. Marines rotating through the Australian tropical city of Darwin, the country's closest city to Asia, for training. At least eight locations in the Philippines have been identified as possible sites where U.S. troops, planes and ships will be rotated through a series of military training and exercises, Philippine General Gregorio Catapang, military chief, told local television network ABS-CBN. But, the Americans will have to wait until after the Philippine's Supreme Court makes its rulings on the... (More on P4)...(25)

Neighbour News

Iran Summons Saudi Diplomat over Plane Interception

ANKARA - Iran's foreign ministry summoned the Saudi charge d'affaires on Friday to protest Riyadh's interception of two Iranian planes carrying humanitarian aid to Yemen, the Students News Agency ISNA reported. "Unfortunately, Saudi fighter jets have blocked two Iranian planes, which were carrying wounded Yemenis who had been treated in Iran and also carrying humanitarian and medical aid, from landing in Yemen and forced them to return home," ISNA quoted an unnamed Iranian official as telling the Saudi diplomat. "This is brazen interference in Yemen's state affairs and also a violation of Yem-

en's airspace." The United States and Tehran's regional rival Saudi Arabia have accused Iran of arming Houthi rebels. Iran denies this and has repeatedly called for a political solution to restore peace in Yemen. Tasnim news agency said the foreign ministry also had complained to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) over Riyadh's blocking of the humanitarian aid sent to Yemen.

"The Iranian planes had the necessary permissions for flying the Oman-Yemen air route and had fully coordinated the plan with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent societies". (Reuters)

China to Provide 110 Fighter Jets to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan will acquire 110 latest JF-17 Thunder fighter jets from China as the two countries forge closer economic and defence cooperation following President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan earlier this week, a media report said today. Radio Pakistan reported that China will deliver the first batch of 50 jets over a period of three years.

The Head of Chinese Aircraft Industry told a Chinese daily that under the contract signed between the two countries, Pakistan will receive a total of 110 JF-17 Thunder fighter aircraft from China.

It is not clear when the delivery of the remaining 60 jets will be completed. The JF-17 Thunder is also built in Pakistan as China has already transferred

its technology. But Pakistan needs more fighter jets at faster pace due to its fight against Taliban militants.

Xi also launched a USD 46 billion economic corridor to link China's western region to Pakistan's Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea.

During Xi's visit, a fleet of eight JF-17 jets escorted the special aircraft of the Chinese president when it entered Pakistan's airspace.

The two countries signed 51 agreements to boost economic cooperation during Xi's trip.

Earlier, reports said China would provide eight latest submarines to Pakistan, more than doubling its fleet, in a deal worth USD 4-5 billion. (Agencies)

Uzbekistan to Introduce Modern Management Methods in JSC

TASHKENT - President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov adopted a decree defining the main directions of developing the corporate management system in the country.

A program of measures on radical improvement of the corporate governance system was approved by the decree on "Measures for the introduction of modern methods of corporate management in joint stock companies", published on April 25.

The program envisages more efficient use of production, investment, logistical, financial and human resources in the joint stock company on

the basis of international experience.

The decree also determines the priority establishment of the joint stock company with foreign capital, creating favorable conditions for broad drawing of foreign investments in the joint stock company.

The joint stock company's management structure must be radically reorganized. The outdated, obsolete units and positions must be eliminated. The new units and positions, corresponding to the modern international standards and requirements of the market economy, must be introduced. (Agencies)

Pakistan Gas Deal: Iran Backs China's Inclusion

BEIJING - Iran has jumped decisively on the "belt and road" bandwagon, flagging its interest in linking China with its proposed natural gas pipeline to Pakistan. "I don't think it's too far away for this pipeline to be extended to China through Pakistan. This is something that would be of common interest to Iran, China and Pakistan," Iran's Ambassador to China Ali Asghar Khaji told South China Morning Post. Iran's Press TV is reporting that China has signed an initial agreement to construct the pipeline from Gwadar to Nawabshah in the southwest of Pakistan, during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, which concluded earlier this week. Gwadar is also

the starting point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which was formally inaugurated during the presidential visit. The CPEC will terminate in China's Xinjiang province, which is already an energy hub from where imported gas from Central Asia is channeled to China's industrial heartland along the coast. Analysts say that extension of the Iran-Pakistan pipeline to China will be a blow to India, which had pioneered with Iran, the concept of the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) peace pipeline in 1995. The Iranians have blamed India of dropping out of the project under pressure from the United States in 2009. (Monitoring Desk)

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
د اقتصاد وزارت
د افغانستان د بیارغونې او پرمختیایي خدماتو دفتر



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
وزارت اقتصاد
دفتر خدمات بازاری و انکشافی افغانستان

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Economy
Afghanistan Reconstruction & Development Services

ARDS

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
ACAA/1986/ICB

Procurement Entities	ARDS on Behalf of Afghan Civil Aviation Authority
Funded By	GOA
Item Description	Aviation Security and Screening Services for Hamid Karzai Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif Airports
Ref. No	ACAA/1986/ICB
Bid Security	All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of US\$ 250,000 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency in the prescribed form provided in 'Section 3 bidding Forms' of the respective Bid Documents.
Deadline for Bid Submission	2 nd June, 2015 at 2:00PM (Kabul Local Time).
Address for Bid Submission	Afghanistan Reconstruction & Development Services (ARDS) 4th Floors, Ministry of Economy Building Malik Asghar Square, Kabul - Afghanistan. Telephone: +93 (0) 752055747
Website	A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders, free of cost, by downloading from the ARDS website www.ards.org.af or may obtain in CD from the ARDS Office (Address given above). In case of any difficulty in downloading from website, interested bidders may contact at e-mail address: ards.procurement@ards.org.af & wafullah.ebadi@ards.org.af with a copy to pavel@ards.org.af