

Yemen Talks End, to Resume on January 14: Govt. Source

DUBAI - Yemeni peace talks concluded in Switzerland on Sunday without an agreement to end nine months of civil war and foreign intervention, but rival factions will resume negotiations on Jan. 14, a government delegation source told Reuters.

Analysts believe the latest round of talks represented the best chance yet to end the conflict given months of stalemate in ground combat and the rise of Islamic State militants, who threaten both sides.

"The first round of Yemeni discussions ended with an agreement for



them to be revived ... in Ethiopia on the 14th of January," the source told

Reuters.

A military alliance of mostly Gulf Arab coun-

tries led by Saudi Arabia began bombing Yemen's Houthi movement, an

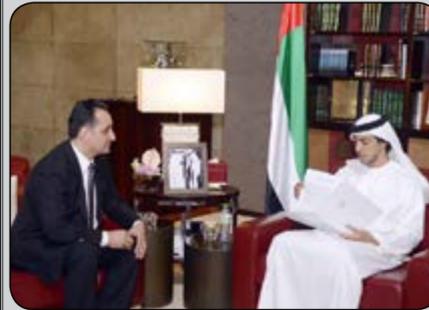
ally of Iran, in March to try to restore the government of President Abd-

Rabbu Mansour Hadi. The conflict has killed nearly 6,000 people and plunged the impoverished country into a humanitarian crisis.

It remains unclear whether the two sides have agreed to renew a troubled ceasefire which coincided with the start of the United Nations-backed talks on Dec. 15. Though Saudi Arabia and the Houthis have accused each other of many violations of the ceasefire, it did significantly reduce the fighting and allowed for deliveries of small amounts of badly-needed aid to the war zones. (Reuters)

Nieghbor News

UAE, Tajikistan Discuss Bilateral Relations



ABU DHABI - United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan received Sunday visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich. During the meeting, they reviewed cooperation

between the UAE and Tajikistan in various domains as well as ways to enhance it to fulfill joint interests, according to Emirates News Agency (WAM).

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Presidential Affairs Ahmed Juma Al Za'abi, and other officials. (KUNA)

US New Visa Law not to Harm Iran's Interests: Kerry

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that the US Secretary of State John Kerry in a letter to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif assured that the US government would not allow the US new visa law create obstacles to Iran's economic interests.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari said Kerry has stressed in his letter that the US is committed to lift anti-Iran sanctions and implement its commitments stipulated in the recent

nuclear deal struck between Tehran and world powers, IRNA reported. Chairman of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Alaeddin Boroujerdi had criticized new US legislation to tighten visa-free travel to the United States, saying it violates an agreement reached between Iran and six world powers in mid-July. Also over 100 of Iranian lawmakers also on Sunday called on the government to adopt reciprocal measures in



proportion to the US move to change the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), Press TV reported. Boroujerdi said that the nuclear agreement,

known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), stipulates that Washington should set no new restrictions on Iran. (Agencies)

Sri Lanka Hopes to have Strong Defence Ties with China, India: PM

COLOMBO - The Sri Lankan government said on Sunday that it needs to have strong defence ties with countries like China and India.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, speaking at an event to mark the recruitment of a new batch of soldiers to the military, said that the Sri Lankan army needs to modernize to be on par with the developing world. He said that in order to improve the standards of the army, Sri Lanka needs to maintain

good ties with China, India and Pakistan as well as the United States and Britain. "It is because of the relationship that we have with these countries that the army was able to develop."

The prime minister said that Sri Lanka hopes to launch a program through the Ministry of Defence on future warfare to ensure the army is geared to face any situation in future.

The Sri Lanka army defeated the Tamil Tiger ... (More on P4)... (21)

Iraq Military asks Residents of ISIS-Controlled Ramadi to Leave City

BAGHDAD - Iraqi military planes dropped leaflets on Sunday on Ramadi, asking residents to leave within 72 hours the western city which is under the control of Islamic State militants, state TV reported, citing a military statement. It gave no further details but an army officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters: "It is an indication that a major military operation to retake the

city center will start soon." Last week Iraqi security forces said they had made advances on two fronts in Ramadi, clearing Islamic State militants from a key military command base and the sprawling neighborhood of al-Taamim on the western rim of the city. Iraqi intelligence estimates the number of Islamic State fighters that are entrenched in the centre of Ramadi at 250 to 300. (Reuters)

British PM Wants Women Training for Front Line in 2016

LONDON - British Prime Minister David Cameron told The Sunday Telegraph newspaper he wanted to see female British soldiers training to fight on the front line in 2016.

Cameron has asked the Ministry of Defence to be ready to post women in ground close-combat roles by the end of next year, after Washington announced this month its military will open all positions - including frontline combat roles - to women. "The Defence Secretary (Michael Fallon) and I are



united in wanting to see all roles in our armed forces opened up to women in 2016," Cameron said. "We've already lifted a number of barriers in our armed forces with the

introduction of female submariners and women reaching the highest ranks in all services.

"We should finish the job next year and open up ground combat roles to

women." Female troops make up around 10 percent of Britain's armed forces. Women are currently banned from ground combat units ... (More on P4)... (22)

Iraq Gets First Miss Pageant in 40 Years

BAGHDAD - Iraq held first internationally recognized miss beauty contest since 1972, showing unfamiliar side of a country which its name has become synonymous to violence and epicenter of the world's anti-terror war. The contest was held at a ballroom of Crystal Grand Ishtar Hotel in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, as crowds of people spilled out of the place. The jury chose Shaymaa Abdul-Rahman, 20, from Iraq's ethnically mix city of Kirkuk, according to the international criteria of beauty contests, and under the pressure of those in attendance, especially in the back rows where dozens of young men were shouting her name. At the end of the contest the green-eyed Shaymaa Abdul-... (More on P4)... (23)

Suspected Russian Warplanes Kill Scores in Syrian City

BEIRUT - Air strikes believed to have been carried out by Russian warplanes killed scores of people in the center of the rebel-held city of Idlib in northwest Syria on Sunday, rescue workers and residents said. They said at least six strikes had hit a busy market place in the heart of the city, several government buildings and residential areas. Rescue workers said they had confirmed 43 dead but that at least 30 more bodies had been retrieved that had still to be identified. "There are a lot of corpses under the rubble," Yasser Hammo, a civil defense worker, said via an Internet messaging system, adding that volunteers and civil defense workers were still pulling bodies out. Footage on social media and the pro-opposition Orient TV station ... (More on P4)... (24)

Syrian Army Recaptures Key Rebel Stronghold in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army backed by the Hezbollah fighters took full control over one of the largest rebel strongholds in Syria's northern province of Aleppo, Hezbollah TV, al-Manar, and state news agency SANA reported on Sunday.



Syria's military forces backed by allied troops succeeded to fully recapture the town of Khan Tuman, one of the largest strongholds of the Jaish al-Fateh, or the Conquer Army, an alliance of several jihadi groups, mainly the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front.

The report said the army units have also captured the al-Amara hilltop in

the surrounding of Khan Tuman, securing the entire vicinity of the town. SANA also reported the fresh victory, adding that the Syrian army also captured weapon depots near the town.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said intense battles

continued after midnight between the Syrian army backed by Hezbollah and several jihadi groups in the vicinity of Khan Tuman. It added that Russian airstrikes carried out over 40 airstrikes on the clashes sites in support of the Syrian ground troops. (Xinhua)

110 PKK Rebels Killed in Military Operations in Turkey

ANKARA - A total of 110 militants of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) have been killed in the military operations in southeastern Turkey in last four days, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported on Sunday. The Turkish security forces have killed 78 PKK rebels in the ongoing military operations in the town of Cizre of Sirnak province in southeastern Turkey, the report quoted a security source as saying. In addition, six PKK militants

were killed in Silopi town of Sirnak, 16 others in the central Sur town of Diyarbakir province and 10 in Dargecit town of Mardin province, said the source. The security operations launched Tuesday against the PKK in southeastern Turkey will continue "until public security is established", the Turkish military said Saturday. The PKK negotiated a cease-fire with Ankara in 2013. But the truce fell apart in the wake of a suicide bomb attack in ... (More on P4)... (25)

Military Called in as Northern Spain Assaulted by over 100 Wildfires

MADRID - Members of Spain's Emergency Military Response Unit (UME) have been called in to help fight around 130 different forest fires which are burning across the north of Spain on Sunday.

Around 100 separate fires have been reported in the Autonomous Community of Asturias alone, but many others are also burning in the Communities of Cantabria, Navarra and in the Basque Region.

In Asturias along over 300 firefighters, comprised of the Asturias Emergency Services and the UME are working to put out the flames and received some help overnight with the arrival of rain in the area.

A hundred members of the UME arrived in Asturias between Saturday night and Sunday morning, although gusts of wind reaching up to 100 km/h made it impossible to deploy aerial measures against the flames.

A further 40 fires were reported in Cantabria, which is to the east of Asturias and 30 of those were still active at midday on Sunday and are reported to have severely damaged local woodland containing beech, oak and eucalyptus trees.

Although some rural properties have been burned, fortunately there has been little damage to buildings so far, given that the fires are generally in rural areas. Fortunately there are no casualties to lament, although 25 people had to be evacuated from a rural hotel on the emblematic Mount Igueldo next to San Sebastian. (Xinhua)

Iran, France Determined to Boost Cooperation

TEHRAN - Political Desk Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that Tehran and Paris should step up their efforts to improve their cooperation in different fields.

"Iran and France have common goals in many fields and there are political wills in both sides to use existing opportunities in favor of both states," the president said in a meeting with President of the French Senate Gerard Larcher in Tehran, president.ir reported. Rouhani also described the July 14 nuclear deal as an opportunity that gives impetus to the expansion of Tehran-Paris ties. "Iran,

as a stable country in the region, and France, as a powerful country in Europe and the world, can cooperate and take good measures in the settlement of regional and international disputes," the president further said.

Rouhani also called for concerted action to cut the financial resources of terrorist groups operating in the region, noting that "it's not difficult to find who supports such groups financially or militarily."

"Unfortunately, certain countries are now supporting terrorist groups by providing them with facilities and arms," he said. (Agencies)

Chinese Leaders Order Immediate Rescue Following Massive Landslide

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang have ordered immediate rescue efforts after a massive landslide hit an industrial park in Shenzhen city of south China's Guangdong Province.

Three people were injured and 27 remain missing after the landslide buried 22 residential and industrial buildings in the Hengtaiyu Industrial Park on Sunday. Xi ordered Guangdong and Shenzhen authorities to do everything possible to minimize casualties, treat the injured and comfort

the family members of the victims. He said scientific rescue efforts are needed to prevent further damages.

Li urged the ministry of land and resources and other central authorities to send officials to help the local government in its rescue efforts. He ordered investigations into the cause of the disaster.

The State Council, China's cabinet, has sent a working group to Shenzhen to help coordinate rescue efforts. Guangdong and Shenzhen officials are already at the site. (Xinhua)