

# Kerry and Iran's Zarif to Try to Narrow Gaps

GENEVA - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif will try to narrow gaps in another round of nuclear talks in Geneva on Sunday as they press to meet a March 31 deadline for a political framework agreement.

Before Kerry's arrival in Geneva, Zarif told Iranian state media that mid-level bilateral talks had produced "good discussions but no agreements", and some differences remained.

"The fundamental gap, in my view, is psychological. Some Western countries, the United States in particular, see sanctions as an asset, a lever to exert pressure on Iran. As long as this thinking persists it will be very hard,

difficult to reach a settlement."

Joining the talks for the first time are U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, as well as a close aide and the brother of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Hossein Fereydoon. Zarif said this reflected a need "for higher level people with all-embracing command over all issues", while Fereydoon was involved for better "coordination with the president".

Kerry said on Saturday the presence of Moniz reflected the highly technical nature of the current talks and in no way meant "that something is about to be decided".

"There is still a distance to travel," Kerry said in



London where he met British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond. The negotiations between Iran and "P5+1" powers - the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China - have reached a sensitive stage with gaps remaining, mainly over Iranian uranium enrichment and the pace of removing sanctions.

Kerry said U.S. President

Barack Obama was not inclined to extend the talks again. The parties already missed a November 2014 target date. Obama believed it was "imperative to be able to come to a fundamental political outline and agreement within the time space that we have left," Kerry said.

"If that can't be done, it ... (More on P4)...(20)

## Egypt Prosecutor Refers 215 to Trial for Forming Armed Group

CAIRO - Egypt's top prosecutor has referred 215 alleged Islamists to trial in a criminal court on charges of forming armed groups responsible for killing half a dozen security personnel and damaging public

property. The prosecutor said Sunday in a statement that only 125 defendants are detained. No date has been set for the trial.

Egypt's courts are swamped with the trials of hundreds of Islamists

and supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi on charges that include violence against state officials, treason and illegal protests. Harsh sentences, including life in prison and the death penalty, have been

handed down in swift trials. The prosecutor's statement said an investigation had revealed that the defendants in this case used the Internet to organize violent protests, calling themselves the "Helwan Brigades." (AP)

## Turkey Seizes Site to Relocate Historical Tomb: PM

ANKARA - Turkey has seized a new site in Syria to relocate a revered historical tomb after military evacuation operations from its previous location, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Sunday.

Turkish troops have brought another land in Syria under control and the tomb was left "within Syrian border due to our rights derived from international law," the prime minister told a press conference in the Turkish

capital of Ankara. The Tomb of Suleyman Shah, located in the city of Aleppo in Syria near the Turkish border, is considered to be Turkish territory by Ankara. The tomb used to be guarded by 38 Turkish soldiers. Suleyman Shah was the grandfather of Osman I, founder of the Ottoman Empire. The tomb was built at the end of the 13th century.

Earlier, Turkish media reported that Turkish soldiers were trapped by

nearby Islamic State (IS) fighters for months, and the Ankara has vowed repeatedly to defend the tomb.

According to the Turkish leader, about 100 military vehicles, including 39 tanks, and 522 soldiers were involved in the operations that started late Saturday and continued through Sunday.

After removing the valuable artifacts, the soldiers detonated the symbolic building to prevent IS ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Kurdish Fighters Liberate Dozens of Villages

TEHRAN - The Syrian Kurdish fighters gained the upper-hand against the Takfiri terrorists in Al-Raqqa countryside in Northern Syria and liberated nearly two dozen of villages in there.

The Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) regained control over 20 villages in the surrounding areas of the town of Tal Abyaz in Raqqa countryside. The villages liberated by the YPG forces include Tal Mamal al-Esmant,

Al-Shalabieh and Kourki. Regaining control of the Kurdish villages will pave the way for the liberation of Tal Abyaz.

On Friday, the Syrian Kurdish fighters liberated more villages in the surrounding areas of the town of Kobani.

The Kurdish Pishmarga forces regained control of Birlouz, Seif Ali, Darbazen Kabir, Darbazen Saqir and Darbazen Houran in the Western countryside of Kobani. The Kurdish popular

forces also liberated Birkalk, Mabr Ali, Salanak, Shakrolou, Kerk, Jaqour, Shakhi and Hadid Castle as well as two strategic villages of Aidaneye and Mandek in the Eastern countryside of Kobani in heavy clashes with the foreign-backed militants.

Syria has been the scene of insurgency since 2011 when certain western powers and their regional allies voiced loudly that Syrian protests have no ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Israel Opens Dams, Floods Gaza

GAZA - A Palestinian minister lashed out at Israel on Sunday after it opened its dams near the border with the Gaza Strip, flooding the central area of the besieged enclave with huge amounts of water.

Mufid al-Hasaynah, minister of Housing and Public Works in the Palestinian unity government, told Xinhua that Israel deliberately increases the suffering of the Gazans.

"Dozens of houses were filled with water of the Israeli dams, which were largely opened this morning towards the Gaza Strip. These actions double the people's suffering who live under a tight Israeli siege," said the minister.

Early on Sunday, rescue teams and firefighters rushed to the central area of the Gaza Strip to rescue dozens of Palestinians who were stuck in their houses after Israel opened the dams.

Witnesses said that bulldozers were bringing sands to reduce the amounts of water that covered the houses in the area and that several main roads and streets were closed due to the floods.

The Gaza-based Ministry of Interior said in an emailed press statement that the civil defense teams rescued 18 families after their homes were fully covered with water that came from the Israeli side. Xinhua

## Syria Slams Turkey's Military Operation as "Flagrant Aggression"

DAMASCUS/ANKARA - Syria's Foreign Ministry slammed on Sunday Turkey's military operation in Syria, calling it a "flagrant aggression," according to the state news agency SANA.

The ministry's remarks came after Turkish troops entered into a northern Syrian area overnight to extract some 40 Turkish soldiers who had been guarding the Tomb of

Suleyman Shah, which was located in the city of Aleppo in Syria near the Turkish border.

Suleyman Shah was the grandfather of Osman I, founder of the Ottoman Empire. The tomb was built at the end of the 13th century.

The ministry said the Turkish authorities had informed the Syrian consulate in Ankara about the ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Neighbor News

### NAP Implementation is Fruitful: Sharif

LAHORE - Chief Minister of Punjab Province of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday stated that the implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) is giving out fruitful outcomes.

As per details, CM Punjab met members of National Assembly (MNAs) belonging from different districts of the Punjab.

During the meeting, CM Punjab lauded the responses of the nation on war against terror and added that the whole nation is enthusiastic in eliminating terrorism from the country.

Shahbaz Sharif further vowed to take strict action against the peace enemies and terrorists. (Agencies)

### China to Step up Construction on Major Transport Infrastructure

BEIJING - China will maintain the scale and intensity of major transportation infrastructure construction in 2015 to buoy growth.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said that more railway lines, particularly in the central and western regions, will be put into operation this year, which will stabilize economic growth and improve people's livelihoods.

The NDRC will continue to encourage social capi-

tal through preferential measures to attract investment in major transportation infrastructure in 2015.

In 2014, the NDRC approved 34 billion yuan (5.56 billion U.S. dollars) for transportation infrastructure, which included railways, roads, airports and waterways. China had more than 110,000 kilometers of railways by the end of 2014, 15,800 kilometers were high speed rail (HSR), making it the HSR world leader. (Xinhua)

### Iran Enjoys Most Powerful Army in Region: Deputy DM

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Defense Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Reza Talayee Nik underlined the country's capability to build different defense equipment and weapons, and said Iran is the

top military power in the region. "Iran is the top military and defense power in the region, but its defense budget stands the 8th among the regional countries," Talayee Nik said on Sunday.

In ... (More on P4)...(24)

### Tajikistan Studies the Possibility of Using CNY for Trade Settlement

DUSHANBE - The head of the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT), Abdujabbor Shirinov, says Tajikistan is currently studying the possibility of using the Chinese national currency, the yuan (CNY), for trade settle-

ment with China. "Tajikistan's law on the currency regulation and the currency control does not restrict exchange of foreign currencies in domestic market but the problem is that a wide ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Tender Notice

MTN Afghanistan invites potential suppliers to submit their proposals regarding SIM packing Services to MTNA for a period of twelve (12) months.

Suppliers will be required to provide information with respect to:

1. The Company Profile / Factsheet
2. Valid License from GoA (Relevant License duration should be more than one year old)

Only qualified suppliers who meet above criteria will be shortlisted for further process.

Security Deposit at the time of signing the contract	Announcement Start Date	Last date & time for submission of Profiles
MTN AF reserves the right to request for special insurance from contractors.	From 15th Feb-2015 to 19th Feb-2015	1600 hrs on 22nd Feb-2015

The completed tender documents are to be submitted in SEALED envelopes addressed to Procurement Manager, MTN Afghanistan in tender box located at MTNA reception.

MTN Afghanistan reserves the right to reject/cancel/postpone any or all tenders without assigning any reason and is not bound to accept the lowest tender.

Procurement Supervisor  
MTN Afghanistan  
Park Plaza opposite to Shar-e- Naw Park, Kabul.  
Email: asahil@mtn.com.af  
Cell: 0772221774



everywhere you go