

High-Level U.S. and Iran Nuclear Talks Resume

GENEVA - High-level nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran resumed in Geneva on Monday as both sides work through technical and political differences to come up with an initial deal by a March 31 deadline.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, as well as U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Iran's atomic nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi met for a second day following a two-hour meeting on Sunday.

"Both sides are determined to resolve the remaining issues," a senior Iranian official told Reuters.

"Gaps still remain and the negotiators are trying hard to reach a common point," the official said, describing the atmosphere as "good but very serious".

A senior State Department official said the session would cover "virtually every topic".

Few details of the negotiations have emerged, but the approaching deadline has caused divisions between the United States and one of its closest allies, Israel, which has called the talks "dangerous" and "astounding". The United States has accused it of distorting Washington's position.

Helga Schmid, political director of the European



Union's External Action Service, was also at the table for the Kerry-Zarif meeting on Monday.

The United States and five other major powers - Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany

- are seeking to negotiate an agreement with Tehran to end a 12-year standoff over its nuclear ambitions. Iran says it does not intend to develop atomic bombs.

A deal would offer Iran

relief from economic sanctions.

With talks mainly between Washington and Tehran, Kerry insisted at the weekend "there is absolutely no divergence" between the United

States and the five other powers, with everyone focused on the common goal.

Both sides have said that the presence of Moniz and Salehi at the talks in Geneva reflected the technical nature of the talks, which have reached a sensitive stage, with gaps remaining mostly over Iranian uranium enrichment and the pace of removing sanctions, official said.

Kerry was due to return to Washington late on Monday, in time for a congressional hearing over the State Department's budget request for fiscal 2016. His talks in Geneva are likely to be raised during the testimony. (Reuters)

Carter Convenes Unusual Counter-IS Meeting

CAMP ARIJAN, Kuwait - U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter convened an extraordinary war council Monday on Iraq's doorstep, six days after taking office, to discuss the nitty-gritty of the administration's oft-criticized strategy for countering the Islamic State militant group and probe for gaps and weaknesses.

The Army general commanding the war effort in Iraq and Syria, meanwhile, told reporters that the Islamic State's fighters are "halted, on the defensive" in Iraq and fac-

ing a new counterattack by Iraqi forces in Anbar province to retake a town the militants seized earlier this month. Lt. Gen. James L. Terry said he is confident the Iraqi push, dubbed "Lion's Revenge," will succeed in retaking the town of al-Baghdadi.

While portraying the Iraqis as being on a path to success, Terry said of the Islamic State group, "No doubt, they're adaptive." Carter said he assembled an array of U.S. generals, diplomats and intelligence officials not just to hear the latest on bat-



tlefield progress but also to better understanding the intellectual underpinnings of President Barack Obama's counter-IS strategy, including the ways

military force is supposed to combine with political and economic measures to reverse the Islamic State's gains and ... (More on P4)... (24)

Russian Offers Iran Latest Anti-Aircraft Missiles: TASS

MOSCOW - Russia has offered Iran its latest Antey-2500 missiles, the head of Russian state defense conglomerate Rosstec said on Monday according to media reports, after a deal to supply less powerful S-300 missiles was dropped under Western pressure.

Sergei Chemezov said Tehran was now considering the offer, TASS news agency reported.

Russia scrapped a con-

tract to supply Iran with S-300 surface-to-air missiles under Western pressure in 2010, and Iran later filed a \$4-billion international arbitration suit against Russia in Geneva, but the two countries remain allies.

The United States and Israel lobbied Russia to block the missile sale, saying it could be used to shield Iran's nuclear facilities from possible future air strikes.

There was no immediate response to Chemezov's comments from Iran, Israel or the United States.

"As far as Iran is concerned, we offered Antey-2500 instead of S-300. They are thinking. No decision has been made yet," Chemezov was quoted as saying.

Rostec includes state-owned arms exporting monopoly Rosoboronexport, which has the sole right to export and im-

port arms in Russia.

The Antey-2500 was developed from the 1980s-generation S-300V system (SA-12A Gladiator and SA-12B Giant). It can engage missiles traveling at 4,500 meters per second, with a range of 2,500 km (1,500 miles), according to the company that makes it, Almaz-Antey.

The S-300 missiles have a 125-mile range and Russia has stoked tensions ... (More on P4)... (25)

China Vows to Step up Bribery Blacklist

BEIJING - The Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) has vowed to improve the national online database of people convicted of bribery to better combat corruption.

Song Hansong, director of the SPP's job-related crime department, said the top procuratorate will promote the use of the blacklist system at the central level this year and launch a job-related criminal record archive.

The SPP also plans to improve the bribery database to support batch queries and online reservations for inquiries in a bid to make public inquiries more convenient,

Song said.

Launched in February 2012, the database makes names of convicted bribers available across the country for public inquiry.

Anyone discovered to be on the list will likely be disqualified for bidding on government projects and companies may even be forbidden from operating. Procuratorates at various levels had accepted 4.34 million inquiries as of November last year. More than 2,000 companies and 2,400 individuals on the blacklist have been punished since February 2012, according to SPP figures. (Xinhua)

Egypt Dissolves 169 MB NGOs

CAIRO - Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity on Monday ordered the dissolution of 169 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) affiliated with the blacklisted Muslim Brotherhood (MB), state-run Ahram Online reported.

The move comes in line with a previous ruling issued by the Court of Urgent Matters banning the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood and ordering the seizure of all the

group's assets, the ministry said in a statement.

In December 2013, the Egyptian government termed the Muslim Brotherhood, the power base of ousted president Mohamed Morsi, as a terrorist organization, following a number of deadly attacks across the country.

The government attributed the attacks to members of the group.

In February 2014, an ... (More on P4)... (26)

US, Allies Stage 25 Air Strikes on IS

WASHINGTON - The United States and its allies staged 25 air strikes on Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria, focusing on the Syrian cities of Kobani and Hasakah, the Combined Joint Task Force said on Monday.

In attacks from Sunday morning through Monday morning, the coalition staged 11 strikes near Hasakah that hit 10 tactical units and six raids near Kobani that struck five tactical units and five fighting positions, the task force said in a ... (More on P4)... (27)

Global Arms Firms Eye Bigger Share in Mideast Defense Market

ABU DHABI - Defense companies at the International Defense and Security Exhibition (IDEX) in Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said Monday that they are optimistic to gain a growing market share in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Alberto Gutierrez, CEO of Eurofighter, presented the press an upgraded missile system called phase 3 for the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft. The 200 million euros (about 226 million U.S. dollars) worth upgrade will equip the Eurofighter with advanced multiple precision-guided air-to-surface weapons.

Gutierrez expressed optimism that there is a bigger market for the aircraft in the MENA region in the near future.

Germany's Krauss-Maffei Wegmann is displaying at the IDEX its flagship main battle tank Leopard 2 model, which it recently upgraded to the A7 version, of which 20 pieces went to the German army in December 2014.

Qatar is one of several foreign countries having ordered the "Leo" 2 A6 tank.

Competition is fierce among global arms producers on the MENA market, which has a rising appetite for advanced weapons systems. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, countries in the region are expected to spend 920 billion dollars between 2014 and 2020 on arms acquisition.

Earlier in the day, South Africa's Paramount Group and Jordan's state-owned defense company, King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau, signed a contract for the production of the 6x6 Mbombe infantry combat vehicle.

The two sides did not reveal the exact value of the deal, which they said was a multi-million contract. A total of 1,200 global and regional firms from 55 countries and regions participate in this year's five-day IDEX, which started on Sunday. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

IS a Serious Threat to Pakistan, Foreign Secretary Admits

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani foreign office broke its silence on Monday regarding the Islamic State's (IS) activities inside Pakistan, admitting that the radical Islamist group posed a "serious threat" to the country.

Speaking to the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee at Parliament House, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Azaz Ahmed Chaudhry acknowledged IS was indeed a real

concern, while simultaneously assuring those present that the government would talk all steps necessary to counter the threat.

"Under UN resolutions, Pakistan is firmly against extremist organisations like ISIL [IS] and is taking all actions to counter them", Chaudhry told the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chaudhry disclosed that after ... (More on P4)... (28)

India Has Significantly Expanded Relations with China: President

NEW DELHI - Indian President Pranab Mukherjee said on Monday that with the visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to India last September, India has significantly expanded its relations with China.

While addressing the Indian Parliament on the first day of its budget session, Mukherjee said

India and its largest neighbor China are now seeking to strengthen their strategic partnership. The president said India is also seeking closer ties with the member countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Russia, the United States and Japan as priorities of its foreign policy. (Xinhua)

Iran Gaining Great Defense Achievements under Sanctions: Torkan

TEHRAN - Senior Presidential Advisor Akbar Torkan hailed the Iranian engineers and experts for their great achievements in the defense industry despite the US-led western sanctions.

"We have gained many achievements in the defense industry under the sanctions during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war

and after that," Torkan said, addressing the National Engineering Day Conference in Tehran on Monday.

He pointed to the western sanctions imposed against Iran, and said, "Those who had imposed sanctions on Iran thought that we cannot utilize the state-of-the-art fighter ... (More on P4)... (29)

Tajikistan Ups Electricity Generation

DUSHANBE - An increase in the water flow in the Vakhsh river has led to increasing electricity generation in Tajikistan, Avesta news agency reported citing the country's Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

The water level in the Nurek reservoir is currently at 882.2 meters, five meters higher than in the same period last year.

The increased water flow in Vakhsh and the high water level in the Nurek reservoir have allowed increasing hydro power generation.

Tajikistan currently produces 48.1 million kWh of electricity per day, 47 million of which goes for domestic consumption, the ministry said.

According to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, in January 2015 Tajikistan produced almost 1.5 billion kWh of electricity, 4.6 percent more than in

December 2014 and 5.1 percent more than in January 2014.

In the meantime, Tajik consumers still experience the electricity consumption limit introduced last October. From February 16, rural population in Tajikistan has electricity for 13 hours per day - from 5 am until 11 am and from 2 pm until 11 pm.

In January 2015 Tajikistan exported almost \$2 million worth of electricity, a 10.8-percent increase on-year.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, in 2014 Tajikistan exported more than 1.3 billion kWh of electricity. Most of this power went to Afghanistan.

Around a billion kWh of this volume was exported during the summer season, when Tajikistan's electricity production greatly exceeds domestic consumption. (Agencies)



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
وزارت اقتصاد
دفتر خدمات بازرگانی و انکشافی افغانستان

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

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

ARDS

Invitation for Prequalification (IFP)

Procurement Entities	ARDS on behalf of Da Afghanistan Bank
Funded By	Da Afghanistan Bank
Item Description	Printing and Supply of 285 Million Currency Notes of Six denomination
Reference No.	DAB- 1983
Bid Security Afghani or an equivalent	Not applicable
Prequalification meeting	Nil
Deadline for submission of Prequalification application	14 March 2015, 14 hours (Kabul Local Time)
Address for Prequalification application Submission	Director-ARDS, Procurement Unit, Ministry of Economy 4 th Floor, Malik Asghar Square, Kabul - Afghanistan. Telephone: - 07520557446, 0773488224 Email: ards.procurement@ards.org.af Copied to nezam.bakhshi@ards.org.af & massoud.qasime@ards.org.af , skumar@ards.org.af
Document available at	www.ards.gov.af (interested bidder may download the bidding document from ARDS website. In case of any difficulty in downloading from website, interested bidders may contact at e-mail address ards.procurement@ards.org.af).