

# Tough Issues Still Need to Be Resolved in Ongoing Iran Nuclear Talks: Kerry

VIENNA - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said difficult issues on the Iranian nuclear talks still need to be resolved after meeting with Iran's foreign minister on Saturday. "Still have difficult issues to resolve," Kerry said on his twitter.

Earlier on Saturday, Kerry met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. As tough issues remain on the negotiation table, the deadline has been extended to next



Monday, the third time extension.

But Iranian media reported the talks have no deadline.

On Friday, a source told Xinhua that big progress was made in certain issues of the nuclear talks, while works are still needed in a few remaining issues. Iran and the five UN Security Council permanent members plus Germany have been negotiating over the past 18 months to reach a long-term deal over Tehran's controversial atomic plan. (Xinhua)

## Warring Parties Breach UN-Brokered Truce in Yemen

SANAA - Fighting rages in Yemen after a United Nations-brokered humanitarian truce came into effect early Saturday as the warring parties were accused of breaching the ceasefire, officials and witnesses said.

Warplanes of the Saudi-led coalition forces struck several military targets in Yemen's capital Sanaa and other major cities early on Saturday, two hours

after the truce came into effect, while the Shiite Houthi group fired mortar shells against pro-government fighters in Mansoura neighborhood in the southern port city of Aden, witnesses told Xinhua. The ceasefire, which was announced Thursday by the U.N. between Yemen's exiled government in Saudi Arabia and the Shiite Houthi group controlling the capital of Sanaa,

started on 23:59 (2059 GMT) on Friday and will last through the end of Muslim holy month of Ramadan on July 17. It aimed at facilitating aid deliveries to more than 21 million people in Yemen who have been suffered severe shortage in food, water and medicine supplies after more than three months of airstrikes and ground fighting. The U.N. statement said

Thursday that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had received assurances from Houthis, the General People's Congress, the former ruling party led by ex-President Ali Abdullash Saleh who supported the Houthis, and other parties that "the pause will be fully respected and that there will be no violations from any combatants under their control." (Xinhua)

## Bombing and Heavy Fighting Break Yemen Truce: Residents

SANAA/ADEN - Saudi-led air strikes and heavy shelling between warring factions shook several cities in Yemen on Saturday, residents said, violating a United Nations humanitarian truce which took effect just before midnight. The U.N.-brokered pause in the fighting was meant to last a week to allow aid deliveries to the country's 21 million people who

have endured more than three months of bombing and civil war.

A coalition of Arab states has been bombing the Iranian-allied Houthi rebel movement - Yemen's dominant force - since late March in a bid to restore to power President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who has fled to Riyadh. That coalition said on Saturday that the Yem ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Kerry Does not See Russia as Existential Threat: U.S. State Dept.

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry does not agree with the assessment that Russia is an existential threat to the U.S., nor China, a U.S. State Department spokesman said Friday. "Certainly we have disagreements with Russia and its activities along or within the region (Eastern Ukraine), but we don't view it as an existential threat," Mark Toner, spokesman of the State Department told a

news briefing. Toner called Russia and China "major powers with whom we engage and cooperate on a number of issues, despite any disagreements we may have with them... You know, I would just say what the secretary does consider an existential threat is the rapid growth of extremist groups like ISIL, particularly in ungoverned spaces," Toner added. U.S. Marine General Joseph Dunford told sena-

tors on Thursday at his confirmation hearing, "If you want to talk about a nation that could pose an existential threat to the United States, I'd have to point to Russia. And if you look at their behavior, it's nothing short of alarming." According to Toner, "General Dunford is expected to provide his views, his assessment on which nations or entities pose a threat to the United States, and that's his job." (Xinhua)

## UN Envoy Holds Meetings with Libyan Parties

RABAT - UN envoy to Libya held meetings with participants in the Libyan political dialogue and representatives of several municipal councils on late Friday, with the absence of the General National Congress (GNC), the Tripoli-based parliament. The GNC decided not to go back to Morocco unless the UN facilitation agrees to reopen negotiations on its proposed amendments on the po-

litical draft agreement. The UN envoy Bernardino Leon convened a number of meetings with a group of participants in the Libyan Political Dialogue and representatives of the municipal councils, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said in a statement late Friday. Leon called on all parties to leave the constraints of the past and look forward to formulating a common future

that promotes collaboration, reconciliation and national unity, it added. The statement said also the participants stressed their full support to the dialogue and their readiness to support its implementation. Libya, a major oil producer in North Africa, has been witnessing a frayed political process after former leader Muammar Gaddafi was toppled during the 2011 political turmoil. (Xinhua)

## Aerial Bombardment Kills 28 in Syria's Aleppo: Monitor

DAMASCUS - A total of 28 people were killed and tens others wounded early Saturday as a result of Syrian aerial bombardment on an Islamic State (IS)-held city in Syria's northern province of Aleppo, an activists' group reported. A total of 19 of the slain people were civilians who were killed by the Syrian aerial bombardment on areas in the city of al-Bab, which is controlled by the IS in the northeastern countryside of Aleppo, according to the Syrian

Observatory for Human Rights. Nine other bodies were unidentified, the UK-based watchdog group said, adding that the death toll could likely rise due to the number of critically injured people. Al-Bab, around 38 km from the central city of Aleppo, is an important city and one of the oldest and biggest cities in Aleppo province. In January 2014, the IS stormed the city and dislodged rival rebel groups, after killing 70 of them. (Xinhua)

## 28 Killed in Clashes, Air Strikes against IS Militants in Iraq



BAGHDAD - Up to 28 people were killed and 20 others wounded on Saturday in clashes and air strikes by Iraqi forces on Islamic State (IS) militants across Iraq, security sources said.

In Iraq's western province of Anbar, security forces and allied militias, known as Hashd Shaabi, or popular mobilization, retook control of the village of Abu Fleis near the town of Habbaniyah,

some 80 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, after heavy clashes with IS militants which killed 14 IS fighters in the battleground before the militants withdrew from the scene, a provincial security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The battle came one day after the IS militants seized Abu Fleis village in an attack on the positions of the security forces, the source said. (Xinhua)

## EU Envoy Lauds China's Role in Boosting Africa's Development

LUSAKA - A senior European Union (EU) official has hailed China's role in boosting Africa's infrastructure development while calling for closer collaboration between the EU and China to tackle challenges such as terrorism and illegal drug dealing. Gilles Hervio, EU's representative to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), has welcomed China's involvement in Africa,

adding that the continent requires a lot of support from cooperating partners and that the increased number of partners involving in Africa's development agenda was good. Meanwhile, the official has called for closer collaboration between the EU and China in dealing with the world's new challenges such as climate change, terrorism, illegal drug dealing as well as the problem of migrants. (Xinhua)

## Venezuela to Ask UN Chief to Mediate in Border Dispute with Guyana

CARACAS - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said Friday he will speak with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to activate in the coming hours the Good Officers Process in relation to a century-old border dispute with Guyana. "I will speak today with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to request him to initiate the Good Officers Process as soon as possible after this political maneuver by the Guyanese government to hurt our people," said Maduro in a televised broadcast. The head of State added that Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez

traveled earlier in the day to New York to meet with the UN chief and deliver a letter from him regarding this issue that has flared political tensions between both neighbors in recent days. Maduro said Guyanese President David Granger "insulted and offended Venezuela" after a speech in Parliament Thursday when he said Caracas was a "threat" to the region. He also accused local opposition politicians of backing Guyana's claims, saying they do so because they're upcoming electoral campaigns are financed by U. S. oil giant Exxon-Mobil. (Xinhua)

## Attack on Serbia PM Mars Srebrenica Massacre Anniversary



SREBRENICA (Bosnia-Herzegovina) - An angry crowd disrupted a commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre of some 8,000 Muslims in Bosnia,

hurling stones at Serbia's premier and forcing him to flee the event marking Europe's worst atrocity since World War II. Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Neighbour News

### Iran, Six Powers Struggle to Overcome Deadlock in Nuclear Talks

VIENNA - Iran, the United States and other major powers struggled on Saturday to break a deadlock in nuclear talks that has held up a historic deal that would bring sanctions relief for Tehran in exchange for curbs on its atomic program. Tehran and the six powers have given themselves until Monday to reach a nuclear agreement, their third extension in two weeks, as the Iranian delegation accused the West of throwing up new stumbling blocks to a deal. Among the biggest sticking points at the moment is Iran's insistence that a United Nations Security Council arms embargo

and ban on its ballistic missile program dating from 2006 be lifted immediately if an agreement is reached. Russia, which sells weapons to Iran, has been publicly supporting Tehran on this issue. However, a senior Western diplomat said earlier in the week the six powers - the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Russia and China - remained united over the issue, despite Moscow's and Beijing's well-known dislike of the embargos. Western powers have long suspected Iran of aiming to build nuclear bombs and using its civilian atomic energy program to cloak its intention - an accusation Iran strongly denies. (Reuters)

### China Reiterates all out Support for Economic Corridor

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong reiterated China's support to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and said that the project will be completed at every cost. A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Islamabad said that the ambassador made these remarks during his visit to Multan on Saturday. The ambassador extended China's support in infrastructural development, capacity building and cooperation in construction and production related to the economic corridor project. Ambassador Weidong was visiting power plants constructed by Chinese contractor in

Multan. During his visit, he encouraged the Chinese companies to participate in the construction of power projects in Pakistan. The Fatima 2x60MW Bagasse Power Plant constructed by Chinese contractor is applying advanced and environment-friendly technology, which will become a high-efficiency biomass power plant and will add electricity to the Pakistani grid once completed in 2016, it has been learnt. The Chinese ambassador visited a Chinese cotton ginning company and Multan cotton research station. The Chinese Company aims to build a cotton industrial chain in Multan. (Agencies)

### Army to Back Balochistan's Quest for Peace, Progress

QUETTA - The Pakistani Chief of Army Staff, Gen Raheel Sharif, has assured the government and people of Balochistan of his support in their quest for durable peace, development and prosperity. He commended law-enforcement agencies for bringing noticeable improvement to the law and order situation in the province. The army chief said this during a briefing given to him on overall security and law and order situation in the province during his visit to the headquarters of Southern Command here on Friday. Commander Southern

Command Lt Gen Muhammad Naseer Khan Janjua was present at the briefing. The forum was apprised that law and order situation in Balochistan had improved and crime rate declined significantly due to successful operations against terrorists, criminals and those involved in sectarian violence. The COAS said that potential of Balochistan as a regional hub for energy and trade would only be realised with a collective civil-military approach for its security and development. (Agencies)

## Hezbollah Reiterates Call for Political Solution in Syria



BEIRUT - The Lebanese Shiite militant party Hezbollah said on Friday that only "a political solution will end the crisis in Syria," calling on all countries to stop fuelling the crisis. "All Syrians want a solution to end the crisis in their country because they are all convinced that only a political so-

lution can end it, but there are whom are preventing them by pushing the idea of a regime fall," said Hezbollah Chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in a televised address commemorating "The Quds (Jerusalem) Day." As for his party's military intervention along ... (More on P4)...(24)

### Tajik and Russian Presidents Discuss Cooperation in Ufa

BISHKEK - President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed prospects of cooperation between their countries in Ufa on Wednesday, reported the press service of the Tajik President. Vladimir Putin gave a high assessment to the cooperation of two countries. Despite the economic crisis in Europe and the world, the trade turnover of Russia increased by 2.5%, he noted. He also highly as-

sessed the Tajik chairmanship in Collective Security Treaty Organization, in particular, holding the joint drills on the territory of Tajikistan. The Presidents discussed cooperation on politics, security, defense, economy and trade, investments, science and technology, and culture. The Tajik President said that Russia is the main trade partner of Tajikistan. Russia makes 50% of the total investments in Tajikistan, he said. (AKIpress)