

# Multilateral Syria Talks End, No Agreement Reached

LAUSANNE - Talks between foreign ministers from the United States, Russia, Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq came to a close Saturday evening without any of the delegations suggesting that a breakthrough had been reached on how to tackle the Syrian crisis.

Together with high-level diplomats from key regional partners, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov convened in the Swiss city of Lausanne for more than four hours in a bid to resolve the long-standing civil war



which has been raging since 2011. A number of bilateral meetings between officials reportedly took place before discussions, which also included the UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, kicked off in mid-afternoon. This multilateral framework is seen as a different approach to solving the war pitching forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad against rebel factions seeking to oust him. The U.S. mission to UN at Geneva said that the purpose for Kerry's Swiss trip this time was to meet with foreign ministers from key regional... (More on P4)... (17)

## Turkey-Backed Syrian Rebels Strip IS of Religious Stronghold

DAMASCUS - The Turkey-backed Syrian rebels have taken full control over a northern town of religious significance for the Islamic State (IS) group, a monitor group reported on Sunday. Backed by Turkish warplanes and tanks, the rebel fighters captured the town of Dabeq in fewer than 24 hours since the attack began, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The UK-based watchdog said the rebels have also

controlled several areas around Dabeq, a town in the northern countryside of Aleppo province. During the battle, the IS had brought in 1,200 fighters to defend the town due to its religious importance. The Ankara-backed rebels recently launched a wide-scale offensive against the IS positions in northern Syria, aiming to capture the areas in the hands of the group earlier than the Kurdish troops. ... (More on P4)... (18)

## UN Meeting to Set Global Goals in Sustainable Urban Development for 2 Decades

QUITO - The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to be held in Quito on Oct. 17-20, will set global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development for the next 20 years. The meeting, also known as Habitat III, will attract 45,000 participants from around the world, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, according to Ecuador's Minister of Security Cesar Navas. Habitat III is expected to see the signing of the Quito

Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All, and the adoption of a new Urban Agenda. "The Conference is a unique opportunity for ... governments ... to integrate all facets of sustainable development to promote equity, welfare and shared prosperity," said Dr. Joan Clos, the executive director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat). DECADES OF MOVEMENTS FOR BETTER



URBAN LIFE through the 1960s and 1970s. Inequality between rural to urban areas after World War II rapidly accelerated ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Putin Says Russia does not Seek Confrontation with US

MOSCOW - Russia does not seek confrontation with the United States (US) and is not trying to influence the upcoming presidential election, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in Goa on Sunday. Putin said he would work with any US leader willing to work with Russia. 'Syrians must decide own future' Russia's Foreign Ministry said all participants in talks in Lausanne had agreed Syrians should decide their own future through inclusive dialogue and that the

country should remain whole and secular, after the meeting ended without a breakthrough. Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that in order for a US-Russian ceasefire agreement to succeed and to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries, Syria's moderate opposition must separate from Jabhat Fatah al Sham, previously known as the Nusra Front, and other "terrorist groups" affiliated with it. "At the same time, it should be understood that ... (More on P4)... (20)

## Russian Flagship Aircraft Carrier Departs for Syria Coast

MOSCOW - Russia's flagship aircraft carrier set off Saturday for the Mediterranean Sea where Moscow's naval forces are supporting its bombing campaign in Syria, the defence ministry said. The deployment of the Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier comes weeks after Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the ship would be sent to the eastern Mediterranean to boost the country's naval forces in the area. The Admiral Kuznetsov is travelling with the Pyotr Veliky battlecruiser, the

Vice-Admiral Kulakov destroyer and large anti-submarine ships, the ministry said. In addition to safeguarding maritime navigation, the ships are meant to "respond to new types of modern threats like piracy and international terrorism," the ministry said. Russia has been flying a bombing campaign in Syria for the past year in sup-



port of President Bashar al-Assad and has deployed a naval contingent to back up its operation. This is the first time that the Soviet-era Kuznetsov - Russia's only aircraft carrier ... (More on P4)... (21)

## Egyptian President Defends Foreign Policy over Syrian Crisis

CAIRO - "Egypt's vote went to both the French-Spanish resolution and the Russian resolution (over Syrian crisis) last week, and this was not a contradictory stance," official MENA news agency quoted the Egyptian president as saying on Sunday. Egypt has recently voted for a Russian draft resolution at the UN Security Council over Syria, which is believed to have disturbed Egypt's biggest Gulf ally Saudi Arabia although Egypt voted for a rival Western draft resolution. Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said his country's foreign policy is moderate, balanced, open and independent. Sisi's remarks came in an interview with the editors-in-chief of three daily state-owned newspapers, MENA said. "Egypt's foreign policy does not interfere in other countries' affairs, and that is what makes the country's relations with the world strong," Sisi said during the interview. As for the Syrian crisis, Sisi said, Egypt's stance was clear at the United Nations Security Council. Egypt said it voted for both ... (More on P4)... (22)

## UN Chief Hails Crucial World Agreement to Cut Greenhouse Gases

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday welcomed the adoption by governments at a meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, of a critically important amendment to cut the production and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in order to safe the Ozone Layer. The amendment was agreed upon to the Montreal Protocol phasing-



down production and use of HFCs, which are a powerful, short-lived greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, the UN chief said in a statement. At the Kigali meeting, nearly 200 nations on Saturday approved a timetable to stop use of the gases whose elimination could ... (More on P4)... (23)

## DPRK's Test-Launch of Mid-Range Ballistic Missile Ends in Failure

SEOUL - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had test-launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile, but it ended in a failure, Seoul's military said Sunday. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a statement that the DPRK fired what is believed to be a Musudan missile at about 12:33 p.m. local time on Saturday (0333 GMT) near an airport in the DPRK's northwestern North Pyongan province. The test-launch, the JCS said, failed as the missile exploded soon after its liftoff. The failed launch came on the day that the United States and South Korea wrapped up their joint naval exercises that kicked

off on Monday in all of the three seas around South Korea. The U.S. military mobilized its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan to participate in the week-long drill, which also involved seven U.S. warships and some 40 South Korean battleships as well as fighter jets, maritime patrol airplanes and helicopters. The missile launch was the latest in a series of provocations by the DPRK following its fifth nuclear test last month. Pyongyang said on Sept. 9 that it successfully tested a nuclear warhead that can be mounted on ballistic missiles. The DPRK has ... (More on P4)... (24)

## US Concerned About Use of Force in Libya's Capital

BENHAZI, Libya - The United States says it is concerned about reports of the use of force to seize the offices of Libya's U.N.-backed National Accord government in the capital, Tripoli. A statement by the U.S. State Department issued late Saturday also called on all parties to work together for a "safe, prosperous and free Libya." Gunmen seized the offices of the U.N.-backed gov-

ernment on Friday night, announcing their support for the Islamist-orientated administration that ruled in the Libyan capital before the National Accord government was installed in March. The takeover is the latest development in the chaos and violence prevailing in Libya since the 2011 ouster and death of dictator Muammar Gadhafi in a popular uprising that morphed into a civil war. (AP)

## Syria Rebels Capture Emblematic IS Stronghold Dabiq

BEIRUT - Turkish-backed rebels captured the emblematic northern Syrian town of Dabiq from the Islamic State group on Sunday, dealing a major symbolic blow to the jihadists. The defeat for IS came as US Secretary of State John Kerry was due to meet European allies in London as part of a new diplomatic push to end Syria's conflict, which has left more than 300,000 people dead since 2011. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Turkish state media and a rebel faction said opposition forces backed by Turkish war-

planes and artillery had seized control of Dabiq on Sunday. The town, in Syria's northern province of Aleppo, is of little strategic value. But Dabiq holds crucial ideological importance for IS and its followers because of a Sunni prophecy that states it will be the site of an apocalyptic battle between Christian forces and Muslims. The Observatory, a Britain-based monitoring group, said rebel forces "captured Dabiq after IS members withdrew from the area". The Fastaqim Union, an ... (More on P4)... (25)

## Neighbor News

### President Xi Stresses Implementation of Poverty Relief Measures

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping have urged local authorities to leave no stone unturned in the solid implementation of precision poverty relief measures to lift the nation's poor out of poverty. He made the remarks in a congratulatory statement sent to a commendation meeting held on Sunday in Beijing, which honored organizations and individuals for their outstanding poverty alleviation work. Xi called for combined efforts of local officials in poverty-stricken areas and all sectors of society to battle poverty

and support the reform and innovation of poverty relief. More than 600 million Chinese were lifted out of poverty in the past three decades, about 70 percent of the world total. China became the first developing country to meet the millennium development target. For the coming years, the government has named poverty reduction one of its top priorities, vowing to help the remaining 70 million poor people, who live below the poverty line of 2,300 yuan in annual income, shake off poverty and enjoy essential social services by 2020. (Xinhua)

### Petition Seeks COAS' Elevation to Field Marshal

ISLAMABAD - A petition seeking the status of field marshal for the incumbent Pakistani chief of army staff (COAS) has been filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The petition was filed by two lawyers, Raja Samiul Haq Satti and Sardar Saleem Khan, and cites the Pakistani prime minister and the secretaries of defence and cabinet division as respondents. The petition starts with details about Gen Raheel Sharif and his family. According to the petition, the COAS turned 60 four months ago and was born on June 16, 1956 into the family of Major

Mohammad Sharif. It goes on to say that the COAS' elder brother, Major Shabbir Sharif, was killed during the 1971 war with India and was awarded the Nishan-i-Haider, which is Pakistan's highest military award and that his maternal uncle, Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, was also awarded the Nishan-i-Haider during the 1965 war between India and Pakistan. He was also awarded the Hilal-i-Imtiaz, which is the second highest civilian award and an honour that is given to both civilians and military officers of the armed forces. (Monitoring Desk)

### Zarif Holds Separate Talks on Syria with Iraq, Russia Counterparts

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has held separate talks with his Iraqi and Russian counterparts in the Swiss lakeside city of Lausanne about a solution to the crisis in Syria. Zarif held meetings with the Iraqi and Russian foreign ministers, Ibrahim al-Jaafari and Sergei Lavrov, on the sidelines of Syria talks in Lausanne on Saturday. The Syria talks opened in Lausanne with a fresh format but few new ideas. US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart are joined with foreign ministers of Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, Jordan and Egypt. UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura is also attending the talks.

There are varying degrees of hope as to whether the talks will be successful in ending the violence in Syria, even if temporarily. The talks are the latest attempt at international level to find ways of putting an end to more than five years of conflict in Syria. The Syrian government says Washington has been trying to stage such negotiations to facilitate truce deals and buy more time for anti-government militants. The United States has objected to Russia's assistance to Syria's massive operation against militants in the northwestern city of Aleppo, saying the help has undermined peace efforts for Syria. Moscow has rejected the US allegation, while it still is in close contact with Washington. (Presstv)

### Presidential Election Date Disclosed in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen parliament has scheduled the presidential election for February 12, 2017, the Turkmen Dowllet Khabarlary state news agency (TDH) reported. The corresponding decision was made at the sixteenth session of the Turkmen parliament of the fifth convocation, the report said. According to the report, three parties will attend the electoral campaign for the first time. Besides the Democratic

Party of Turkmenistan, the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and the Agrarian Party will be also involved. Turkmen incumbent President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was elected twice. Some 97.4 percent of people voted for President Berdimuhamedov in the recent election held in February 2012. According to the new edition of the constitution, the president of Turkmenistan is elected for seven years. (Trend)