Chinese Destroyer Visits Iranian Port

TEHRAN (Dispatches) — A Chinese destroyer has docked in a southern Iranian port in the first such visit to the country by the Chinese navy, national television reported on Sunday.

Adm. Hussein Azad, naval base chief in the southern port of Bandar Abbas, said the four-day visit that began Saturday saw the two navies sharing expertise in the field of marine rescue. "On the last day of their visit while leaving Iran, the Chinese warships will stage a joint drill in line with mutual collaboration, and exchange of marine and technical information particularly in the field of aid and rescue," said Azad.



Ministry Ordered to Block Viber

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's judiciary has ordered the ministry of communications to block social networking services such as Viber, Tango and WhatsApp over dissemination of derogatory content.

Prosecutor General Gholam-Hussein Mohseni-Eje'i denanded that the ministry, in line with an order issued by Iranian Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani, take immediate action to block the messaging services. He made the request in a letter sent to Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mahmoud Vaezi on Saturday.

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Viewpoint By: Kayhan Intíl Staff Writer **ISIL: Made in USA**

Russia Warns West Over 'Foolish' **Sanctions**



Bombing Kills 3 at Checkpoint in Lebanon



Syrian Army **Forces Score Major Gains**



Report: Iran Being Offered New Proposal

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- The United States is floating a new idea in order to achieve a breakthrough in renewed negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

According to The New York Times, under the proposed deal Iran would be allowed to keep the 19,000 centrifuges but the pipes leading to the machines would be cut off, preventing the uranium from reaching them.

"That way, the Iranians could claim they have not given in to Western demands that they eliminate all but a token number of their 19,000 machines, in which Iran has invested billions of dollars and tremendous national pride," according

Talks between Iran and the six world powers resumed Friday in New York. It was the first meeting between Iran and P5+1 -- Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany -- since July, when they decided to extend the deadline for a deal to November 24.

Negotiators said in advance that there are major hurdles to overcome, but that holding the talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly would allow for some high-powered diplomacy to come into play.

A ministerial-level meeting of the P5+1 with Iran is expected next week and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif.

The talks, which are to continue until the end of the week and the pressure is on both sides to find ways to narrow the gaps.

One major hurdle to the face-saving proposal over the centrifuges emerged Friday with a letter from 31 Republicans senators to Kerry.

The GOP senators want Kerry to say definitively whether he would accept disconnecting centrifuges and whether he would agree to other concessions, like allowing the Arak heavy water reactor to continue functioning or signing a deal that expires in only a few years.

Meanwhile, western media claimed Iran was ready to work with the United States and its allies to stop ISIL militants, but would

like to see more flexibility on Iran's uranium enrichment program.

Iran wields influence in the Syrian war and on the Iraqi government, which is fighting the advance of ISIL extremists.

But Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who has the ultimate say on all state matters, said recently that he vetoed a U.S. overture to the Islamic Republic to work together on defeating ISIL.

"Iran is a very influential country in the region and can help in the fight against the ISIL terrorists ... but it is a two-way street. You give something, you take something,' Reuters quoted a senior Iranian official on condition of anonymity.

"ISIL is a threat to world security, not our (nuclear) program, which is a peaceful program," the official added.

Another Iranian official echoed the remarks, Reuters said. Both officials said they would like the United States and its Western allies to show flexibility on the number of atomic centrifuges Tehran could keep under any long-term deal that would lift sanctions in exchange for curbs on Tehran's nuclear program.

"Both sides can show flexibility that will lead to an acceptable number for everyone," another Iranian official said.

Western officials said that Iran has not raised this idea in nuclear negotiations with the P5+1. Diplomats close to the talks say they are unlikely to settle in New York on a long-term accord that would lift sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iranian nuclear work.

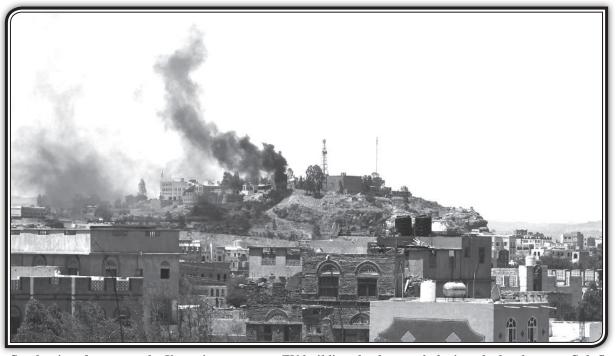
The New York talks among senior foreign ministry officials from the six powers and Iran are taking place on the sidelines of this week's annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly.

U.S. officials have made clear for months that the number of centrifuges they are willing to tolerate operating in Iran over the medium term would be in the low thousands.

Iran says such draconian limitations would be a violation of its right to enrich. Ayatollah Khamenei has called that issue a "red line" for Tehran.

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Prime Minister Steps Down: Yemen Revolutionaries Seize Regime HQ



Smoke rises from near the Yemeni government TV building, background, during clashes between Salafi militias and revolutionaries in Sanaa.

SANAA (Dispatches) – Revolutionaries led by Houthis seized the Yemeni government headquarters Sunday and the premier resigned as violence raged despite a UN announcement of a power-sharing deal to end days of fighting, officials said.

Prime Minister Muhammad Basindawa stepped aside, accusing President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi of being "autocratic", senior offi-

State news agency Saba reported Basindawa's resignation, but without giving the reason.

Muhammad Abdulsalam, spokesman for the Ansarullah, also known as Houthis, confirmed on his Facebook page that the seat of government had been taken.

Earlier, shelling and gunfire in the north of Sanaa was heard across the city, as extremist Salafi militiamen a deal would be signed, although he and troops battled the revolutionar- said preparations were under way ies, prompting an exodus of terri- for the signing.

fied residents.

A week of fighting has left dozen of people dead on both sides and forced the suspension of all flights into and out of Sanaa airport, which is in the battle zone. There was no let-up in the fight-

ing on Saturday night despite Hadi ordering an after-dark curfew. The clashes centered on the cam-

pus of Al-Iman University, a bastion of Salafists that the revolutionaries have been trying to capture, witnesses said.

The violence came despite UN envoy Jamal Benomar announcing late on Saturday that a deal had been reached after "intense consultations with all the political parties, including Ansarullah".

Benomar did not specifically mention a ceasefire, nor did he say when

But he did say the accord will be a "national document that will advance the path of peaceful change, and will lay the foundations for national partnership and for security and stability in the country".

Forces allied to the government have been battling to halt the revolutionaries, who swept into Sanaa from their mountain stronghold in the far north last month and set up armed protest camps across the capital to press their demands.

Hadi has denounced the offensive as a "coup attempt", but agreed to involve the Houthis in the formation of a new government to replace the unpopular administration that imposed austerity measures, including a fuel price hike, earlier this year.

He has also agreed to partly reverse the price hike. But the revolutionaries have also demanded posts in key state institutions as part of a push for greater political clout.

April Longley Alley, a Yemen specialist with the International Crisis Group, told AFP before the latest developments that the Houthis were demanding a bigger role in Yemeni politics.

"The Houthis want to be powerful decision makers at the national level with a share equal to, or possibly more than, their main political rivals Islah," she said of the powerful Salafi party whose supporters are fighting alongside the army. "The upper limits of what they

(Houthis) think they can obtain has likely increased as they have won on the battlefield," she told AFP. The fighting in northern Sanaa has raged continuously since Thursday

when nearly 40 people were killed in a single day. Residents of northern districts

have begun to flee their homes, an AFP correspondent reported earlier on Sunday. The city's streets were largely

deserted as shops remained closed and the education ministry ordered schools to suspend lessons indefinitely.

Sanaa University told students to stay away until mid-October after its campus was hit by shellfire.

One of Sanaa's main markets, the Ali Mohsen Souk, has been closed for three days, which residents said had started to cause problems in obtaining fresh produce.

Yemen has been swept by political turmoil since longtime strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced from the presidency in early 2012.

Al-Qaeda loyalists have taken advantage of the political turmoil in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula state to launch persistent attacks on the security forces.

Separatist protests have also rocked the formerly independent

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FM: West Has Strengthened Extremists

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said applying double standards and wrong policies has strengthened extremist groups in the Middle East.

'Wrong policies of the past years have emboldened terrorist and extremist groups," Zarif said at a meeting with his Australian counterpart Julie Bishop in New York

"Today, confronting this inhumane phenomenon requires adoption of a unified strategy and setting out comprehensive and new guidelines," IRNA quoted Zarif as saying.

In order to find a solution to extremism and terrorism, the "existing realities must be taken into consideration seriously", he noted.

Zarif also stated that Iran has been serious in helping neighboring Iraq boost security and stability.

The two foreign ministers also made comments about the issue of immigration and problems about a number of Iranians who have immigrated to Australia.

Zarif also discussed the issue of Takfiri terror in Iraq with the UN special representative for the Arab country. He met with Nickolay Mladenov, who is the special representative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for Iraq, on the sidelines a UN meeting in

Iraq has witnessed savage activities, including beheadings and mass executions, by the ISIL Takfiri terrorists over the past few months.

"Iran as well as all Iraq's neighbors can contribute to stability of Iraq," the UN official told Press TV after the meeting with the Iranian foreign minister.

Mladenov went on to say that the new government in Baghdad has an "important agenda" to bring Iraq together to "restore security to the country, to implement reforms that address the concerns of all Iraqis". The UN official added that security can be restored with the help of "all Iraq's neighbors" and their cooperation with the Iraqi government.

Iran's foreign minister, for his part, reiterated that the challenges Iraq and the region face will not be resolved by military intervention of foreign Zarif added that it is up to the Iraqi government to provide stability to the people of Iraq. He said Iran and other regional countries should provide assistance to Iraq without undermining its sovereignty.

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White House Security **Breach Sparks Panic** WASHINGTON (AP) — The Secret Service is boosting security outside

the White House following an embarrassing security breach in which an intruder with a knife scaled the White House fence, dashed across the lawn and made it all the way inside before agents managed to stop him. Increased surveillance and more officer patrols are among the measures

that Secret Service Director Julia Pierson has ordered as the elite agency strives to ensure such an incident can't happen again. Pierson has also launched a full investigation into what went wrong.

Word that a fence-jumper managed to get inside the White House drew reactions of alarm and disbelief about how one of the most heavily secured buildings in the world had been compromised. With questions mounting, President Barack Obama sought to allay concerns about whether the Secret Service is still up to the task of protecting him and his family.

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