UN Envoy on Syria Warns That May Talks Will Not Negotiations

WASHINGON - A new series of talks on the Syrian war that began next month in Geneva should not be seen as an opportunity to drop the U.S. special envoy on Syria issue to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, while an American diplomat indicated that his country would push for progress.

De Miehe intends to meet separately with a range of parties to see if they are ready to talk to find an agreement on the conflict, which is in its eighth year. He regrets that he was not authorized to report his findings.

Nepal Quake: Hundreds Dead, History Crumbles

Easter Shaken

KATHMANDU - A powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal Saturday, killing at least 98 people and injuring more than 1800. At least 87,000 people were displaced, according to the police. Another 30 were killed in India, as well as 2 or 3 in Bangladesh. Two Chinese citizens died in the Nepal-China border. The death toll is almost certain to rise, said Aval Ashar, an earthquake expert.

Car Bombs Drive Foreigners in Iraq-Jordan Border Post

BAGHDAD - Three suicide bombers, a woman and two men, were killed by foreign border guards in a mortar attack on the border post that separates the two countries.

TARIQ - 78-year-old war veteran from Jordan worked in the Jordanian Defense Ministry. He was killed in the mortar attack on the border post that separates the two countries.

Due to the ongoing political and security situation in the region, the call for peace talks in the country.

US Aircraft Carrier Heading away from Yemen: Officials

WASHINGTON - A U.S. aircraft carrier and a guided-missile cruiser are leaving the waters off Yemen, the Navy said on Friday. The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier was heading toward the Gulf, but that the United States has not yet decided on its next course of action.

US Seeks Access to Philippine Bases as Part of Asia Pacific

MANILA - The United States has asked for access to Philippine military bases in order to project power to the South China Sea. The "Asia pivot" plan has already seen U.S.-Navy rotations through the Australian tropical city of Darwin, the country’s closest base in Asia, for training at least eight times this year. The Philippines has been identified as one of several U.S. bases to play a role in the East Asia-Pacific region, where the U.S. military is expected to increase its presence. The plan is part of a larger strategy to counter China’s growing influence in the region. The Philippines has been a key ally of the United States in the region, hosting U.S. military facilities that provide a strategic foothold in the South China Sea. The pivot aims to bolster the U.S. military’s ability to respond to challenges in the region, particularly those related to China’s assertiveness in the South China Sea. The pivot is also intended to deter Chinese aggression and promote regional stability.