

Obama's Trade Deal Unlikely to Pass Congress Before he Leaves Office

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama's signature Pacific trade deal seems unlikely to pass Congress before he leaves office in January, with growing opposition in both parties and the rise of anti-trade rhetoric in current presidential campaign, experts said.

While acknowledging the political difficulty in trade, Obama on Tuesday said that he isn't giving up his push for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement, a centerpiece of his second-term economic agenda.

"Right now, I'm presi-



dent and I'm for it, and I think I've got the better argument," Obama said at a White House press conference with visiting Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Obama told reporters that some past U.S. trade deals had not delivered on all the benefits that were promised and had very localized costs, but the U.S. should cut off globalization.

"The answer is, how do we make sure that globalization, technology, automation, those things work for us, not against us? And TPP is designed to ... (More on P4)...(20)

Neighbor News

P5+1 Not Fully Abiding by JCPOA: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the P5+1 group of countries is not fully carrying out its obligations under the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic.

In a live televised interview on Tuesday, Rouhani said the P5+1 has had "some shortcomings" in honoring its side of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He, however, said the JCPOA has brought about "a good climate for the country and its economy," Rouhani said.

"Had the other side performed well, we would have been in a better condition today, but there are some acts of obstructionism," Rouhani said.

He added that the Zionist regime of Israel was always against a nuclear deal and threw spanners in the works of the negotiations and some regional countries also used to "childishly oppose the JCPOA and are continuing to create ... (More on P4)...(30)

Syrian Gov't, Opposition Trade Accusation of Alleged Chemical Attacks

DAMASCUS - Syrian opposition activists and state-run media have traded accusations on Tuesday about possible, recent chemical attacks in northern Syria.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said a shelling by barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas hit the town of Saraqeb in the northwestern province of Idlib on Monday evening, causing suffocation and breathing difficulties to 20 people.

The UK-based watchdog group said the type of gas



was difficult to be identified, saying it has based its report on local testimonies.

The Syrian National Coalition opposition group

ber of those affected at 30. It urged the UN to take action, and said the alleged chemical attack took place in an area close to where a Russian helicopter was downed a day earlier.

On Monday, the rebels in Idlib countryside downed a Russian helicopter, with reports saying that all five crew members were killed.

Meanwhile, state-run SANA news agency blamed the rebels for firing a rocket containing poisonous gas on the ... (More on P4)...(21)

Russia Blames US Bomb Upgrade for Threatening Nuclear Security

MOSCOW - The upgrade of the U.S. B61-12 bomb will threaten nuclear security, as its combat characteristics increase the risk of its use, senior Russian Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday.

"It is no coincidence that some American experts rushed to call the new warheads more 'ethical' because, as they say, their application will have less dramatic humanitarian consequences," said Mikhail Ulyanov, director of the ministry's Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control. "But

this is precisely the negative aspect: characteristics of such weapons would objectively increase the temptation to use them," Ulyanov was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti news agency.

According to the diplomat, the unified nuclear warhead has been designed primarily to substitute obsolete U.S. nuclear weapons in five European countries: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey, as well as for its own storage in Washington. (Xinhua)

THAAD Deployment in S. Korea Threatens Regional Stability: Russian Military Expert

MOSCOW - The deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in South Korea poses a threat to Russia and China and undermines peace and stability in the region, a Russian military expert has said.

"By doing so, conditions are created for solving the nuclear problem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) with military means. This is very dangerous and this may have unpredictable consequences," Konstantin Sivkov, an associate member of the Russian

Academy of Rocket and Artillery Sciences, told Xinhua in a recent interview.

On July 13, Seoul and Washington announced an agreement to install one THAAD battery in the Seongju county by the end of next year, claiming that it is aimed to deter ballistic missiles from the DPRK.

Russia and China have expressed strong objections to the THAAD installation in South Korea, as it damages their security interests and breaks the strategic balance in the region. ... (More on P4)...(22)

9,000 Terrorists Take Part in 3rd Phase of Breaking Gov't Siege on Aleppo

TEHRAN - Jesh al-Fatah gathered over 9,000 terrorists to prevail over the Syrian Army positions and open a way into the militant-held districts in the Eastern parts of Aleppo city but failed and pulled its forces back after sustaining scores of casualties.

Jesh al-Fatah suffered a heavy death toll after its forces failed to break through the army strongholds in New Aleppo district.

Jesh al-Fatah also stormed government defense lines in al-Hamdaniyah and



box-making plant in the Western side of Aleppo and al-Ramousiyah Southwest of the city. At the same time, a large number

of terrorists of Ahrar al-Sham, Fatah al-Sham Front (newly formed al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group previously known as al-Nusra Front) and Abu Ammarah, trapped inside Aleppo in Ameriyeh and al-Sadkoub districts and ... (More on P4)...(23)

One Month to Go, Hangzhou Looks Forward to G20

HANGZHOU - Hangzhou resident Yang Chizhen does not speak a word of English, but has decided to spend the next month picking up some simple English phrases.

Hangzhou, in east China's Zhejiang Province, is the host city for the 2016 G20 summit on Sept. 4 and Sept. 5.

"What if I run into some of the foreign guests in street and cannot even say 'hello' to them? How shameful that will be!" Yang said. Yang, 69, is a retired government employee. "I learned some Russian back in school, but I don't know any English. It certainly will be hard for me to study a language at this age, but I will try my best anyway," she said.

She plans to grasp some greetings and learn how to give directions.

Yang is among dozens of elderly Dongshannong residents taking an English course specially organized for G20.

One of her teachers is Timothy Clancy, 31, from Australia. Clancy is studying clinical medicine in Zhejiang University and became a G20 volunteer in March. Besides teaching English, he has been working with West Lake District, making videos of the lake, a popular tourist destination in the city.

"The G20 summit is a great opportunity for Hangzhou to be better known to the world. I am honored to be part of this event," he said in fluent Chinese. (Xinhua)

Partnership with China "Multi-Dimensional": Pakistani PM



ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told a conference of the country's envoys on Wednesday that the relationship with China has transformed into a multi-dimensional partnership.

"We are determined to take Sino-Pakistani relationship to new heights as China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan. Relations with China have strengthened with the passage of time," Nawaz Sharif said.

Pakistani envoys from important capitals of the world as well as multilateral organizations were invited to the conference, starting Aug. 3, to brief the government about the developments in the countries of their work.

The prime minister was the chief guest at the concluding session at the Foreign Ministry to listen to the suggestions by the envoys and to share his vision about the foreign policy.

"We are thankful to the government and people of China on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's project. It is not only an economic prosperity project but a game changer as with CPEC we are introducing a new vision of mutual relations in the region," he said.

He described CPEC as the project of common economic interests and said there are also opportunities for Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia. (Xinhua)

HK Seeks to Boost Ties with Japan: Principal Representative

TOKYO - A new principal Hong Kong economic and trade representative in Tokyo pledged here Wednesday to promote closer and deeper ties between Hong Kong and Japan in hopes to see more exchanges between the two places in future.

"Hong Kong and Japan have enjoyed a mature and stable relationship for many years," said Shirley Yung, Principal Representative of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)'s Economic and Trade Office in Tokyo, at a media luncheon here on Wednesday.

"Japan is, as always, one of the top destinations for Hong Kong people," said Yung, who assumed office in late March this year. Some 1.5 million ... (More on P4)...(24)

Abe Not Considering 3rd Term as Party President

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Wednesday that he is not considering remaining in his position as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) beyond his second term which will see his tenure end in September 2018.

Abe made the remarks following a cabinet reshuffle and shaking up the ruling party's executive lineup earlier in the day.

"I'm not considering it at all," the prime minister was quoted as saying at a press briefing following the announcement of his newly rejigged cabinet and party executives.

LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai who took up the portfolio Wednesday in the reshuffle had been pushing for the ruling party to amend ... (More on P4)...(27)

UN Calls for End to Destruction of Hospitals in Syria

UNITED NATIONS - "The United Nations is deeply disturbed by the ongoing destruction of civilian infrastructure, particularly medical facilities" across Syria, and the world body called for an end to the destructive action and save the hospitals from war damage in the country, a UN spokesman said here Tuesday.

"Over recent days, the UN has received reports of five hospitals hit by airstrikes, including three in Aleppo governorate and one each in Dara'a and Idlib," UN



spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here.

Dozens of casualties and injuries resulting from these strikes have been reported, including pregnant women and children.

Prior to the reported strikes, these medical facilities provided life-saving healthcare to tens of ... (More on P4)...(25)

Under the new system, any qualified Canadian lawyer or judge who is functionally bilingual and representative of the diversity of Canada can nominate themselves for the top court's job.

The application period will end on Aug. 24 this year ... (More on P4)...(26)

Canada Announces New Selection Process for Supreme Court Justices

OTTAWA - Canada will change the way it selects Supreme Court justices, allowing qualified lawyers or judges to apply for the openings on the top court themselves, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday.

In Canada, the prime minister picks Supreme Court justices and the choice is not subject to parliamentary approval.

"Gone are the days of governments -- Liberal and Conservative alike -- nominating Supreme Court justices through a secretive backroom process," Trudeau said.

Under the new system, any qualified Canadian lawyer or judge who is functionally bilingual and representative of the diversity of Canada can nominate themselves for the top court's job.

The application period will end on Aug. 24 this year ... (More on P4)...(26)

DPRK's New Missile Launch Highlights THAAD's Damage to Regional Stability

BEIJING - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) reportedly fired a ballistic missile Wednesday morning. The launch, if proven to be true, would be a new violation against UN resolutions, but it also deserves deeper thinking at a time when regional security is in peril.

The launch, already the third missile fired by the DPRK after Washington and Seoul announced their decision on July 8 to deploy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense

(THAAD) missile shield in South Korea, could easily be interpreted as a protest against the planned installation of the system.

It also serves a reminder to policymakers in Seoul that by allowing THAAD deployment, South Korea is putting the cart before the horse in their pursuit of national security, as the key to security lies in good neighborly and friendly relations with its neighbors, rather than a bunch of U.S.-made missiles. ... (More on P4)...(28)

Myanmar Transforms its Strategies to Lure Investment

YANGON - Myanmar's new investment law has been drafted offering such tax breaks which are different from the former government.

"Despite offering a five-year income tax exemption for any type of investments under former government, we have adjusted just to offer the investments in the country's promoted sectors under new government," said U Aung Naing Oo, secretary of

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and director general of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). According to the current draft of Myanmar Investment Law, there are three types of tax breaks depending on their business. The investments which are operated in the country's undeveloped regions and states can receive a seven-year ... (More on P4)...(29)

Turkmenistan, Pakistan to Hold Interparliamentary Talks

ASHGABAT - A delegation led by Turkmen parliament's Chairman Akja Nurberdiyeva will be in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on Aug. 3-4, the Turkmen government said on Wednesday. The working visit is aimed at further development of the Turkmenistan-Pakistan interparliamentary relations.

Both countries noted the presence of potential for cooperation in various

spheres of the economy, including in the fuel and energy sector, transport and communications.

Construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and the creation of international transportation and communication corridors, formation of a multi-modal transportation system were particularly highlighted. (Trend)