Barack Obama Leaves Oval Office for Last Time

NBS Chief Expects Stronger China-U.S. Economic Cooperation

BEIJING - A senior Chinese official on Friday said that China and the United States face the biggest challenge of the century as the two countries need to work closely to prevent the “cold war” from breaking out.

“China and the United States have the world’s largest economies and trade and investment and cooperation with each other is of crucial importance,” said Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature.

China’s economic sustainability will continue to be the key to stabilizing global growth rate after the new U.S. administration takes the reins. China’s economic growth should remain between the 6.5 percent and seven percent a year. The annual growth rate of 6.9 percent in 2017 came in at 6.8 percent in the first quarter while the 6.7 percent in the second quarter was the annual growth rate for the last 29 years.

Zardari Witnesses Pre-Inauguration Oath Ceremony of Trump

ISLAMABAD - Former Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday attended the pre-inauguration oath ceremony of US President-elect Donald Trump.

The ceremony was held at the West Wing of the White House.

The event was attended by Pakistani officials, envoys, Pakistani expatriates in the US as well as diplomats from other nations.

Iran summons Danish Ambassador over Embassy Attack in Copenhagen

TEHRAN - Iran summonsed Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard on Wednesday over an assault on Iran’s embassy in the Danish capital.

“I want to sincerely express our sympathy over the assault on Iran’s embassy in Copenhagen by a group of Danish young men,” said Deputy Foreign Minister for European and International Affairs Abbas Araghchi.

Chinese Ministry of Commerce - Economic Forum in Davos

DAVOS - The Ministry of Commerce attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday.

Speaking at the plenary session on the global economic outlook for 2017, 2018 and 2019, the Chinese commerce ministry official said that China has a clear message for the world to prioritize openness and cooperation.

Uzbekistan’s FM, EU Special Representative for Central Asia Discuss Cooperation

TASHKENT - Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov received the European Union’s special representative for Central Asia on Tuesday.

“I personally believe that today the European Union and the United States have the opportunity to increase the impact of cooperation in the region as a whole,” he said.

Russian military drills in the eastern Mediterranean aim at the long-lasting cooperation between the two major powers and this cooperation is very important,” said Kamilov.

“I have hopes for that.”

The drills involved warships and aircraft to practice a joint military exercise. The drills are aimed to ensure the security and peace in the region.

RFE/RL’s North Caucasus Service has learned of a “Peace Spring” operation launched by forces of Dagestan’s Islamic State and a “peace initiative” in the region.

The Islamic State group has stepped up its attacks on security forces in the region. It has also launched a large-scale offensive against the forces of the Dagestan Special Forces Corps.

That could appear to be efforts to reduce support for the Islamic State and the “peace initiative” in the region.

Against this backdrop, the Islamic State group has been conducting a large-scale operation in the region.

The operation is aimed at eliminating the Islamic State group in the region and to show that the Islamic State group is not effective in the region.

The operation is supported by the local authorities in the region.

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