

# Obama to Trump: Trends Toward Clean Energy “Irreversible”

WASHINGTON - Outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama on Monday warned President-elect Donald Trump against walking away from a global climate deal, saying that trends toward clean energy are “irreversible” and will help drive economic growth.

In an article published in the highly regarded research journal *Science*, Obama wrote that “a massive scientific record” shows that climate change is “real and cannot be ignored” and that left unchecked, the continued growth of greenhouse gas emissions could cause



global average temperatures to increase by another four degrees Celsius or more by 2100.

That rise would cost the world economy about four percent of gross domestic product (GDP), which could lead to lost U.S. federal revenue of roughly 340 billion to 690 billion U.S. dollars every year, Obama said.

“Although our understanding of the impacts of climate change is increasingly and disturbingly clear, there is still debate about the proper course for U.S. policy – a debate that is very much on ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Kremlin Deplores US Blacklist Additions

MOSCOW - Russia on Tuesday criticised Washington's blacklisting of a high-ranking official and the suspects in the murder of ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko as a move by the outgoing administration to further sour ties.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters the US decision to blacklist Investigative Committee chief Alexander Bastrykin and Litvinenko's alleged assassins, lawmaker Andrei Lugovoi and Dmitri Kovtun, represented “further steps in the artificially created degradation of our relations”. “We deeply

regret the fact that a lingering period of unprecedented degradation in our bilateral ties occurred during (US President Barack) Obama's second presidential term,” Peskov said.

“We are convinced that this does not coincide with our interests or those of Washington.”

The US Treasury on Monday added Bastrykin, Lugovoi and Kovtun to the Magnitsky Act sanctions list in the latest spike of diplomatic tensions between Moscow and Washington. State ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Trump Lifts Son-in-Law to Senior White House Position

WASHINGTON - U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on Monday named his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, as senior advisor to the president.

“Jared has been a tremendous asset and trusted advisor throughout the campaign and transition and I am proud to have him in a key leadership role in my administration,” Trump said in a statement.

Kushner said, “I am energized by the shared passion of the president-elect and the American people and I am humbled by the

opportunity to join this very talented team.”

Kushner, who is about to turn 36, is married to Ivanka Trump. He has played a considerable role during Donald Trump's election campaign and the assembling of his administration team.

Kushner is said to be close to Stephen Bannon, Trump's top strategist and senior counselor, as the two men had similar political views.

The appointment may run counter to an anti-nepotism law banning officials



from appointing their relatives to public offices.

Former President Bill Clinton once tasked his wife Hillary Clinton to head up health reform efforts,

which suggested that the law may not cover the White House staffing.

Kushner will need to divest his assets to avoid a ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Indian PM Meets Several Foreign Leaders Ahead of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday held talks with several world leaders in his home state of Gujarat ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, according to the Indian External Affairs Ministry. A number heads of state and ministers arrived in the western state's capital Gandhinagar to attend the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, a global biennial business meet launched by Modi in 2003 when he was the state's chief minister.

Indian External Affairs

Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup tweeted that the prime minister held bilateral delegation-level talks respectively with leaders of Rwanda, Serbia, Japan and Denmark, with some pacts sealed.

Swarup tweeted that Modi's first meeting was with Rwandan President Paul Kagame. The meeting was followed by bilateral talks with Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, Japan's Economy Minister



Seko Hiroshige and Denmark's Energy Minister Lars Lilleholt.

Other foreign leaders who are attending the global summit include Russian

Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Olegovich Rogozin, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa. (Xinhua)

## Iraqi Forces Recapture 3 Neighborhoods from IS in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi security forces on Monday retook control of three neighborhoods in the city of Mosul, as fierce clashes to drive out the Islamic State (IS) militants continued, the Iraqi military said. In the eastern front, the elite forces of Iraq's Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) completely freed the neighborhood of Baladiyat and made a significant progress in the adjacent neighborhood of Sukkar, amid fierce clashes with the extremist militants, a statement by the Iraqi Joint Operations Command

said. The battles in the two neighborhoods left some 25 militants killed and a booby-trapped car destroyed, the statement said.

Also in the day, the CTS commandos carried out operation to clear the neighborhoods of Furqan and Atibaa in eastern side of the city, after the troops recaptured them from IS militants in the past few days after heavy clashes, the source said.

During the clearing operation, dozens of IS militants attacked the troops in ... (More on P4)...(26)

## New Anti-Russian Sanctions Show Outgoing US Administration's Inadequacy: Russian Deputy FM

MOSCOW - New sanctions against Russia by Washington reflect the “inadequacy” of outgoing President Barack Obama, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Tuesday.

“The inadequacy of Washington's leaders, who have fallen into a sanctions mania, is obvious to all,” Ryabkov told RIA Novosti news agency.

On Monday, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions against five Russian nationals for



alleged violations of the 2012 Magnitsky Act, freezing their assets and barring them from travelling in the United States.

According to Ryabkov,

the White House showed “unworthy vengeance” with the sanctions, and the Obama administration in the remaining 10 days in ... (More on P4)...(27)

## Turkey, Iraq Normalizes Ties after Ankara Changes Perspective

ANKARA - Normalization of Turkish-Iraqi ties comes after a change of perspective of Ankara in a bid to restore its bilateral relations in the region, local experts said.

The dynamic of the normalization was interrupted when Turkey sent troops to Bashiqa military camp in northern Iraq and deployed additional troops along Turkish-Iraqi border, Bilgay Duman, Middle East expert at Center For Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM), told Xinhua.

At the weekend, the visiting Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim and his Iraqi counterpart Haider al-Abadi co-chaired the third meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council in Baghdad with the participation of a number of ministers ... (More on P4)...(28)

## Greece under Test to Aid Refugees Amid Cold Weather

ATHENS - Greek authorities are struggling to aid thousands of homeless refugees as the country remained on Tuesday in the grip of cold wave.

The Acropolis hill in Athens was closed to visitors on Tuesday morning. Several schools in Attica region remained closed and motorists were advised to avoid accidents due to the sleet.

With the temperature plunging as low as minus 22 degrees in the city of Florina in northern Greece and around zero in most of the mainland and the islands, many villages in mountainous regions and suburbs of Athens have been cut off due to heavy snowfall, according to meteorological authorities.

Among the regions hit the hardest were the Greek islands of Skopelos and Alo-nissos in the western Aegean, where a state of emergency was declared.

Authorities have taken emergency measures to help the most vulnerable to weather through the cold front. Across Greece, shelters were opened for 25,000 homeless and some of the refugees.

In the greater Athens area the problems caused by the heavy snowfall throughout the night were under control on Tuesday, Ioanna Tsoupra, head of the civil protection committee of the Regional Government of Attica, told Xinhua.

“There was no street which was not covered in snow ... However, our response mechanism was on alert so we managed to have a limited number of problems to clear all streets soon and all main avenues are open,” she said.

Regarding the homeless in the years of the debt crisis, she ... (More on P4)...(29)

## Nieghbor News

### China seeks better mechanism to prevent, manage natural disasters

BEIJING - Chinese authorities plan to improve the country's capacity to cope with calamitous events.

In a guideline published on Tuesday, the CPC Central Committee and State Council warned of a “complicated and severe” situation with regard to natural disasters. Insufficient information sharing, lack of prevention planning and poor public awareness are among the fields that need improvement, the document pointed out. A shift in priority from relief to prevention is required to improve disaster management, from divided efforts to comprehensive preparation, and from mitigating damage to addressing risk.

Resource coordination must be improved, and

responsibilities between central and local authorities further clarified. Regular education can help increase public awareness.

Social and private organizations will be encouraged to participate in disaster management. Cooperation with international communities and increased financial support will further reduce risks.

China has suffered some of the world's worst natural disasters, which come in many varieties from extreme weather to geological events and cause huge losses of life and property.

From 2011 to 2015, an average of 310 million people were hit by disasters each year, according to the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction. (Xinhua)

### Iran Ready to Export Gas to Iraq

TEHRAN - Iran is ready to proceed with a much-awaited project to export natural gas to Iraq as soon as Baghdad takes measures to make the related payments.

Iran's Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs and Trading Amir-Hossein Zamani-Nia was quoted by Press TV as saying that a pipeline that has been established between Iran and Iraq was already filled with natural gas.

“Iran is ready to start gas export to Iraq and Iraq is also ready to receive the gas,” Zamani-Nia said.

“However, the related letter of credit (L/C) for

the project is yet to be opened,” he said adding that Iran would turn on the taps once the payment was made by Baghdad.

This, the official further underlined, could take place during an upcoming visit to Tehran by an Iraqi delegation.

Iran announced last summer that it was ready to export gas to Iraq. However, the project had been suspended over security risks resulting from insecurity in Iraq. The two countries signed a basic agreement for the export of natural gas from Iran's South Pars Gas ... (More on P4)...(32)

### Sharif Announces Rs180bn Incentive Package for Export Sector

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has announced incentives worth Rs180 billion in a bid to boost Pakistan's sagging exports. He made the announcement at a ceremony attended by members of the domestic business community in Islamabad Tuesday afternoon.

The package includes the removal of customs duty and sales tax on the import of cotton. Customs duty on man-made fibres other than polyester and sales tax levied on the import of textile machinery has also been scrapped.

Under the package, the new duty drawback

rates for textile garments will be 7%; textile made-ups 6%; processed fabric 5%; yarn and grey fabric 4%; while sports goods, leather and footwear will be taxed at 7%.

The PM expressed confidence that the package will help achieve the government's objective of export-led growth.

Increase in power generation. During his address, PM Sharif noted that dozens of power plants were being installed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, while yet more were being financed by the government. (Monitoring Desk)

### Turkmenistan Identifies Priorities of Energy Charter Presidency

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan has determined its priorities in connection with the country's chairmanship in the Energy Charter Conference in 2017, the Turkmen government said in a message on Tuesday.

The next session of the Energy Charter Conference is planned to be held in Ashgabat.

Particular attention will be paid to the following areas: processing of raw hydrocarbon materials to produce finished products and to export them; use of renewable energy sources; safe transit of energy resources; increasing energy efficiency and energy saving, as well as reducing impacts of energy

use on environment. Moreover, the agenda will also include issues on stimulating investments in order to meet the increasing global demand for energy and improving investment climate in member countries of the Energy Charter; on attracting new countries to the Charter membership.

Turkmenistan is one of the rich countries for its natural gas resources. According to BP, the country's recoverable reserves are estimated at 17.5 trillion cubic meters of gas or nine percent of total global reserves, which puts Turkmenistan on the fourth position in this field after Iran, Russia and Qatar. (Trend)

### Belgrade Migrants Line up for Food in Blizzard

WARSAW, Poland - The Latest on the cold spell gripping Europe (all times local): A blizzard blasting wind and snow against their faces, hundreds of migrants have lined up to receive a warm meal from aid groups outside a vmake-shift shelter in Belgrade, the Serbian capital. Migrant men and boys, mostly from Afghanistan and Pakistan, have occupied an abandoned customs warehouse by the Belgrade bus station as they seek ways to move on toward Western Europe. Aid groups have warned that migrants are at risk of exposure as extremely low temperatures and heavy ... (More on P4)...(30)

### Conservatives Vow to Battle Eurosceptics in European Parliament

BRUSSELS - The centre-right European People's Party (EPP) on Tuesday vowed to battle a growing threat from eurosceptics as it pushed its bid to take over the leadership of the European Parliament. The EPP in December nominated Italian Antonio Tajani, a former EU industry commissioner, to replace German Socialist Martin Schulz who won a second 2-1/2 year term as assembly president under an agreement with the conservatives in 2014. EPP head Manfred Weber told a press conference the agreement had been broken, with the Socialists and the Liberals, who also signed the 2014 accord, ready to do deals “behind closed door” with eu-

rosceptic and populist groups to win next week's election for parliament president. “The EPP is one of the few groups in the European Parliament that is firmly resolved to reject any cooperation with eurosceptic groups,” Weber said.

“We will continue to fight against such groups,” he said, insisting that Tajani was the best person for the job as a committed pro-European who would serve parliament as a whole, not as a creature of his party. As the biggest party in parliament, the EPP could reasonably expect to win the vote but with party stalwarts Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker already at the helm of the ... (More on P4)...(31)