

## Economics

A Tajik tenth-grader [posing](#) as President Rahmon's son was detained after soliciting a \$50,000 bribe.

The EU President Maros Sefcovic [announced](#) that the EU expects to receive Turkmen gas by 2019, signalling that progress had been made on the long-delayed Trans-Caspian Pipeline project.

The Kyrgyz President [signed](#) a law ratifying treaties that will enable Kyrgyzstan's accession to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) on May 21.

Questions have been [raised](#) over the accuracy of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) statement that predicted 7.5 percent GDP growth for Uzbekistan.

A Russian company, Vostok-Geoldobycha, [won](#) the \$100 million tender to develop Kyrgyzstan's second-largest gold deposit.

17 Tajiks [working](#) on a Russian military base in southern Tajikistan were purportedly sacked after protesting unpaid wages.

Ulugbek Mustafaev, the deputy chairman of Uzbekistan's Central Bank [wrote](#) to the country's Prime Minister to complain that the Uzbek economy lacks traceable funds because most citizens still use and stockpile cash.

Uzbekistan has [purportedly](#) restricted its business community's access to dollars, sparking speculation that the country is facing a liquidity crisis.

The IMF provided a [gloomy](#) economic outlook for Central Asia, citing the flow-on effects of the Russian crisis and double-digit inflation in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

## Politics

China's President Xi Jinping [attended](#) Victory Day celebrations in Russia, despite Western diplomats boycotting the event to protest Russia's involvement in Ukraine.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) [asked](#) Kyrgyz lawmakers to reject a bill that would force domestic NGOs that receive foreign funding to register as "foreign agents."

A Kyrgyz national was [shot](#) dead and another was detained by Uzbek border guards on the Kyrgyz side of Kyrgyz-Uzbek border on May 12.

Tajik lawmakers [unanimously](#) passed an agreement with China on the extradition of suspected and convicted felons.

Turkmenistan [granted](#) amnesty to 1,200 prisoners who the President said had sincerely repented for their crimes.

HRW [urged](#) the Austrian President to discuss Turkmenistan's human rights breaches during bilateral talks in Vienna on May 12.

A third Uzbek official that was [involved](#) in investigating allegations of corruption against the Uzbek President's daughter is reported to have been sacked.

The US called for Uzbekistan to [release](#) opposition journalist Muhammad Bekjanov, who has been in jail since 1999.



The Afghan President [nominated](#) the former-Afghan Communications Minister, Masoum Stanikzai, for the position of Defence Minister.

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) states [undertook](#) a joint military exercise in Tajikistan near the Afghan border on 13 May that practiced repelling a Taliban invasion.

## Security

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS) [signed](#) a controversial memorandum of understanding on cooperation against militancy on May 18.

A brother of the former-Osh Mayor has been [detained](#) for illegally collecting money from Kyrgyz citizens.

A Tajik former-Islamist militant expressed his [regret](#) for joining Islamist fighters in Syria in front of a large audience at Jami Palace in Dushanbe.

Reports have emerged that the resurgent Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) has [moved](#) from Pakistan to northern Afghanistan, sparking concerns about the group's renewed proximity to Central Asia.

A Turkish citizen was [detained](#) on May 4 by Tajik authorities after being accused of recruiting cadres for ISIS.

NATO General John F. Campbell [said](#) on May 24 that ISIS-inspired groups are actively recruiting in Afghanistan, but are not yet operational in the country.

The Taliban killed 10 [police](#) officers and wounded 16 during multiple attacks on police checkpoints in Helmand Province on May 24.

NATO and Afghanistan [agreed](#) on a framework for a future joint military-civilian presence in Afghanistan, which would come into force after the current arrangement finishes.

## 10th anniversary of the Andijan massacre

May 13 marked the tenth anniversary of the Andijan massacre, in which Uzbek troops [opened](#) fire on protesters, killing hundreds of people. However, Uzbek rights activists say that ten years later, little has changed. The Karimov regime [continues](#) to threaten witnesses to the massacre, including individuals living in exile. Many of those who were arrested during the event continue to [languish](#) in regime prisons.

Uzbek authorities claim that only 187 people were killed in the massacre, all of whom were armed Islamists. The regime has refused to allow an independent investigation into the events, but some human rights activists [believe](#) the death toll may have exceeded 1000 people. However, Uzbekistan [released](#) a film to coincide with the anniversary that re-tells the government's side of the story.

The Tajik Interior Ministry [promised](#) an amnesty for returned Tajik militants who have fought in Syria and Iraq.

The district chief of Charcheno in Uruzgan Province was [killed](#) by roadside bomb on May 23 .

Taliban militants [kidnapped](#) at least 30 people at gunpoint on May 16. Afghan authorities said that all except six civilians had since been freed.

The UN reported that 14 civilians were [killed](#) in a Taliban attack on a popular Kabul guesthouse on May 13.

Afghan officials [secured](#) the safe release of 19 Hazara child hostages.

Afghan officials said that [seven](#) militants were killed in a US drone strike near the Pakistani border.

The Taliban [stormed](#) a second guesthouse in Kabul's diplomatic quarter in late May. Four of the attackers were killed in clashes with police.