

July 2016

Economics

The Canadian firm Centerra Gold [reported](#) that Kyrgyz authorities had launched new legal proceedings against its subsidiary company, Kumtor Gold Company.

Afghanistan and India [inaugurated](#) the multi-million dollar Afghan-India Friendship Dam in western Afghanistan. The new dam will provide power and irrigation to a large number of Afghans.

Members of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Turkey, [announced](#) that they would sign protocols to apply common customs procedures and standards.

Kazakhstan's energy ministry [announced](#) that it had finally agreed on production-sharing details with the other shareholders of the Kashagan oil field. The agreement was many years in the making.

Officials from Kazakhstan and China [met](#) on the sidelines of the SCO summit to discuss further economic, investment, fuel and energy, transit and transportation cooperation.

A London-based anti-corruption group [warned](#) that the illegal mining of the rare lapis lazuli stone was fuelling the rise of the Taliban in the Afghan province of Badakhshan.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) [agreed](#) to jointly invest US\$55 million to upgrade an important section of the Dushanbe-Uzbekistan motorway.

The Afghan government was [accused](#) of indirectly funding the Taliban by buying marble from companies in Helmand province that pay taxes and extraction fees to the group.

Kazakh lawmakers [vetoed](#) the controversial land law that had caused nationwide protests in recent months.

Politics

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) leaders [met](#) for a two-day summit in Tashkent to discuss regional security, including the situation in Afghanistan.

Tajik cabinet members must now [swear](#) an oath of allegiance to the country's president Emomali Rahmon before taking office.

Amnesty International [warned](#) that allegations of torture and ill treatment by Kazakh prison authorities go "largely unchecked and unpunished."

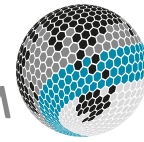
The Presidents of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan [met](#) on the sidelines of the SCO summit to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation.

Kazakhstan's former sports minister Talghat Ermegyaev [was found](#) guilty of taking bribes during his tenure as chairman of the Astana Expo-2017 Joint Stock Company. He was sentenced to 14-years in jail.

A Kazakh court [sentenced](#) Murat Taqaumov to nine months' jail for being a member of the banned Tablighi Jamaat group.



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Kyrgyz lawmakers [approved](#) a bill that bans foreign entities from owning or establishing media outlets. Civil rights activists protested the bill in front of the parliament.

A Kyrgyz opposition politician [accused](#) of sedition was transferred from house arrest to a detention centre.

Afghan lawmakers [approved](#) President Ashraf Ghani's nominees for the country's Defence and Intelligence portfolios. Abdullah Habibi will take up the position as Defence Minister, while Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai will become the chief of Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security.

Security

The Tajik President [met](#) with the commander of United States Central Command General Joseph Votel in Dushanbe to discuss security cooperation along the Tajik-Afghan border.

The Kyrgyz State Committee for National Security [arrested](#) two nationals accused of attempting to join ISIS.

A court in Kyrgyzstan [sentenced](#) Alibek Tilek-Uulu to life in prison for stabbing a well-known Kyrgyz theologian last November.

Kyrgyz police [reported](#) that 4,000 residents have been identified as "adherents of extremists views."

German authorities [arrested](#) a Tajik man accused of joining ISIS in Syria.

A Tajik court [sentenced](#) six men to jail after finding them guilty of practicing Salafism.

A Tajik court [found](#) several associates of the late Deputy Defense Minister Abduhalim Nazarzoda guilty of attempting to seize power.

The Kazakh Ministry of Defence [announced](#) that it had signed contracts with German, Turkish and Spanish firms in order to expand its naval presence in the Caspian Sea.

Militants [attacked](#) a military facility and two gun stores in the Kazakh city of Aqtobe on June 5. Kazakh authorities [declared](#) that the attack was organised by Islamists from abroad.

Kyrgyz Authorities [arrested](#) a Kyrgyz national accused of fighting alongside ISIS in Syria. The man stands accused of returning to Kyrgyzstan with the intention of conducting terrorist attacks.

Two former leaders of the banned Islamic Renaissance Party were [sentenced](#) to life in prison by a Tajik court.

Afghan officials [reported](#) heavy casualties in the eastern province of Nangarhar after a battle between government security forces and ISIS militants on June 26.

The Taliban [freed](#) 23 hostages in Helmand province following negotiations with a tribal elder.

14 Nepalese security employees of the Canadian embassy in Kabul were [killed](#) during a Taliban suicide attack.

The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai [declared](#) that the US's decision to kill the Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansur had undermined the Afghan government-Taliban peace process.

US journalist David Gilkey and his Afghan translator Zabihullah Tamanna were [killed](#) in an attack in southern Afghanistan.

The Taliban [killed](#) 12 members of the Afghan security forces who had been captured in ambushes in Ghazni province in the country's east.

At least one Afghan soldier was [killed](#) and six were wounded in border clashes between Afghan and Pakistani soldiers in the Khyber Pass on June 13.

President Obama [granted](#) further authority to US commanders supporting Afghan troops in the fight against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

