

April 2017

Economics

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev met with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. They [agreed](#) to enhance economic and trade relations.

Iran [requested](#) to buy 950 tons of uranium ore from Kazakhstan to develop its civil reactor program.

China has [postponed](#) indefinitely its Central Asia gas pipeline expansion plan.

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan agreed to [enhance](#) cooperation in the fields of security, energy and transportation.

Tajikistan [cut](#) the state's media budget by 20 percent.

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are set to [launch](#) a tourism project with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The Japanese government [granted](#) Uzbekistan US\$551,100 to implement eight social projects. Japan is one of the biggest foreign investors in the Uzbek economy.

Uzbek National News Agency reported that Uzbekistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) [signed](#) a loan agreement worth US\$573 million to modernize Uzbekistan's economic sectors and infrastructure.

Sukhrob Kholmuradov was [appointed](#) chairman of the Board of Uzbekistan's National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity.

The construction of a railway bridge in Turkmenistan was [completed](#) by Ukraine's Altcom Financial Industrial Group.

Turkmenistan's government [drafted](#) a plan to create free economic zones.

Turkmenistan is scheduled to [host](#) the 8th international meeting of Turkmenistan Gas Congress in May 2017.

Kazakhstan's oil production [increased](#) by 4.4 percent in January-February 2017 compared to the same period in 2016.

Politics

On a Central Asian diplomatic tour, Russian President Vladimir Putin met with leaders of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to [reiterate](#) Russia's commitment to region.

Omurbek Tekebaev, party leader of Kyrgyzstan's opposition group Ata-Meken, was held in custody on [allegations](#) of corruption and fraud.

In detention Tekebaev [issued](#) a statement online via his lawyers that linked Kyrgyzstan President Almazbek Atambayev to the January cargo crash that killed 4 crew members and 35 civilians.

The Ata-Meken opposition party [elected](#) Tekebaev as their party candidate for Kyrgyzstan's upcoming presidential elections in November 2017.

Reporters Without Borders [launched](#) a centre to protect women journalists in Afghanistan.

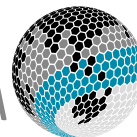


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UNIVERSITY



Kazakh President Nazarbayev [withdrew](#) his proposed constitutional amendment to extend the right to private property ownership to non-citizens.

Kazakh President Nazarbayev signed constitutional amendments to [redistribute](#) some presidential power to government ministers and lawmakers.

Former mayor of Tajikistan Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloev was questioned over [allegations](#) of corruption.

Uzbek President Mirziyoyev scheduled his first [official](#) trip to Turkmenistan since attaining presidency in 2016.

Two major media outlets in Kyrgyzstan have been [sued](#) for insulting the president.

Zhanar Akayev, an active member of Kyrgyzstan's parliament, was [expelled](#) from the ruling Social-Democratic Party (SDPK).

Security

Over 30 people were killed and 50 wounded by gunmen disguised as medics at an Afghan military hospital. The [assault](#) was later claimed by the Islamic State.

One person was killed in a [blast](#) near Tajikistan's military court.

Russian President Putin and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon agreed to [strengthen](#) security along the Tajik-Afghan border.

Around 20,000 Afghans and Pakistanis [crossed](#) into Afghanistan as Pakistan authorities [temporarily](#) reopened two main border crossings.

The Taliban captured the [strategic](#) Sangin district in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province after Afghan security forces withdrew from the district.

The prison sentence of Tajik human rights lawyer Buzurgmehr Yorov was [extended](#) by two years.

At [least](#) 31 Taliban militants, including one local commander, were killed by Afghan security forces in southern Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan is preparing for another round of Syrian peace [negotiations](#) in Astana despite calls from Syrian rebel groups to postpone the talks.

Three American soldiers were shot by an Afghan soldier at a military [base](#) in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

Qari Yasin, an Al-Qaeda leader [responsible](#) for several high-profile attacks, was killed by US airstrikes in Afghanistan.

Demonstrations in Kyrgyzstan

Over the past month, an unprecedented number of demonstrations have erupted onto the streets of Kyrgyzstan's capital city Bishkek. Residents of a village devastated by a plane crash in January held demonstrations to [demand](#) relocation by the state. The following week, hundreds of people demonstrated in [support](#) of free speech. Meanwhile, ahead of Kyrgyzstan's November presidential elections the state has cracked down on prominent opposition political figures which has sparked protests. Supporters of detained Ata-Meken opposition party leader, Omurbek Tekebaev, [claimed](#) that his arrest was politically motivated and protested to demand his release. Kyrgyzstan authorities [banned](#) Ata-Meken party member and lawmaker Aida Salyanova from leaving the country over allegations of corruption. Furthermore, demonstrations broke out after Sadyr Japarov, a member of the nationalist Ata-Jurt party, was [detained](#) by security forces after returning from exile. Kyrgyzstan's state security forces have responded with tough measures to quell the demonstrations and as a result hundreds of Kyrgyz protesters have been arrested and detained.

