

June 2017

## Economics

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Uzbekistan. They [discussed](#) enhancing relations in the fields of tourism and the economy.

Kazakhstan's state pensions fund lost hundreds of millions in an Azerbaijani [investment](#) causing outrage among Kazakh citizens.

Foreign Ministers from Japan and Central Asian countries [convened](#) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. They signed a joint statement to expand trade and investment.

Kyrgyzstan's Manas International Airport and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development signed several loan and grant agreements to [modernize](#) airport facilities.

Kazakhstan's national oil transportation company KazTransOil plans to [increase](#) its oil transportation through Azerbaijan.

At a business forum in Ashgabat participants from Turkmenistan and Belarus discussed [expanding](#) cooperation across transportation, agriculture and food and textile manufacturing.

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov [announced](#) that Turkmenistan will expand partnerships in the energy sector with various countries from Europe and Asia.

Uzbek President Mirziyaev [renamed](#) Tashkent International airport after Uzbekistan's first president, Islam Karimov.

A meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil exporters will be held in Vienna. Representatives from Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are [scheduled](#) to attend to discuss increasing oil prices on the world market.

Uzbekistan is set to develop [several](#) gas and oil projects worth a total cost of USD\$30.4 billion by 2021.

## Politics

In Kazakhstan, a [controversial](#) citizenship bill was granted preliminary approval by Kazakh lawmakers. If the bill is passed, authorities will be able to strip "terrorists" of their citizenship.

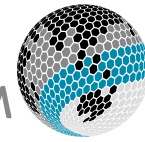
Jehovah's Witness Teimur Akhmedov was [sentenced](#) to five years in prison by a court in Kazakhstan.

Under the cover of fighting radicalism, the Kazakh parliament will [deliberate](#) a ban on certain clothing associated with devout Muslims. Beards could also be targeted.

Labor union [leader](#) Amin Eleusinov was sentenced to two years in prison by a Kazakh court after being convicted of embezzlement.

Due to security concerns, authorities in Tajikistan [cancelled](#) the Immortal Regiment march which celebrates the anniversary of the World War II victory over Nazi Germany.





Tajikistan's Foreign Minister [defended](#) the Roghun hydro-energy project against growing criticism from Uzbekistan and international human rights agencies. Tajikistan hopes the project will generate a stable energy supply.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev met with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in Riyadh to discuss [enhancing](#) bilateral cooperation.

Turkmenistan's prosecutor-general, alongside 10 employees of the prosecutor's office, have been [dismissed](#) over corruption charges.

In southern Tajikistan two separate attacks were carried out [against](#) law enforcement officials. The attackers remain unknown, however there is speculation that they were politically motivated.

Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Sooronbai Jeenbekov was [nominated](#) for presidency by the ruling Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan complained that their initiatives to [support](#) the country's development have been impeded by bureaucracy.

The 49th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group for development of a convention on the Caspian Sea's legal status will be held in June in Turkmenistan. Foreign Ministers of the coastal countries will [discuss](#) enhancing regional security and cooperation.

At the 'Afghan Women: Messengers of Peace' conference Afghan President Ashraf Ghani expressed his [support](#) for enhancing women's access to education in the war-torn country.

Uzbek President Mirziyoyev [attended](#) the Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh.

Prominent human rights lawyer Fayziniiso Vohidova was [banned](#) from leaving the country by Tajik border guards on the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border.

## Security

At least 24 people were killed in southern Kyrgyzstan after a landslide [swept](#) through a village. Authorities held a national day of mourning for the victims.

Kazakh journalist and activist Ramazan Yesergepov was stabbed and hospitalized. The attack occurred shortly before he [planned](#) to meet European officials to discuss media freedoms.

U.S. National Intelligence Director Dan Coats stated that the security situation in Afghanistan will [deteriorate](#) over the next 18 months.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar leader of Hezb-e Islami [declared](#) that his group would not hand over their weapons as agreed under a negotiated peace deal.

Gunmen in police uniforms [attacked](#) a bank in the south-eastern province of Paktia, Afghanistan. Two police officers were killed and 39 people injured.

A series of attacks [carried](#) out by the Taliban in the Afghan province of Kandahar have left at least 15 soldiers dead and several others wounded.

The Afghan military [regained](#) control of a district in the northern Kunduz province. The district was captured by the Taliban earlier this month, forcing thousands of civilians to flee the region.

The Afghan air force [targeted](#) Islamic State militants in the country's eastern province of Nangarhar. At least 34 Islamic State fighters were killed.

A suicide attack on a [convoy](#) of NATO armoured personnel vehicles killed at least 8 civilians in Kabul. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.

The main Chaman border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan was [reopened](#) by Pakistan authorities. The border was closed earlier this month after deadly clashes resulted in the death of 15 people.

