

August 2017

Economics

Foreign Ministers from Turkey, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan [agreed](#) to develop a Road Map for Future Cooperation for the 2017-2020 period.

Kyrgyzstan and a Czech renewable energy company [signed](#) a deal to commence construction of a hydropower project. The project is set to facilitate the exportation of electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Romania plans to [extend](#) cooperation with Turkmenistan in the fields of transport and energy.

Turkmenistan held talks with an Israeli delegation in its capital city, Ashgabat. Both sides [discussed](#) enhancing cooperation across political, diplomatic, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian fields.

A business session between Turkmenistan and the United States was [held](#) in Washington. Representatives discussed enhancing bilateral relations in the fields of business and economics.

Pakistan intends to [provide](#) transit services for goods supplied to Central Asia and Afghanistan.

Swiss President Doris Leuthard announced that Switzerland plans to [develop](#) economic ties with Turkmenistan across several fields, with a specific focus on sustainable management of water resources.

Tajikistan and Azerbaijan [reached](#) an agreement to ban imports and sales of goods that are produced in the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

The Government of Uzbekistan is set to [receive](#) two loans from the World Bank worth a total of USD\$294.9 million.

India plans to re-consider [negotiating](#) bilateral cooperation treaties with Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Chinese officials announced that a new freight train was [launched](#) between China's eastern Jiangxi Province and Uzbekistan.

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev [signed](#) a decree that aims to extensively reform the state's tax services.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan [discussed](#) plans to organise Uzbek cargo transportation through Kazakh's port of Kuryk.

Politics

The head of Kazakhstan's Journalists in Trouble foundation, Ramazan Esergepov, went on hunger strike in [solidarity](#) with Kazakh activist Maks Boqaev.

Uzbekistan is set to host Central Asia's 19th regional media conference titled "Open Journalism in Central Asia" to [discuss](#) challenges to media freedom in Central Asia.

Kyrgyz authorities [denied](#) entry to prominent Russian human rights activist Vitaly Ponomaryov from neighbouring Kazakhstan.

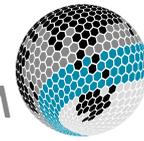


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Kazakhstan's Anticorruption Bureau announced that four senior health officials were arrested on [charges](#) of bribe taking.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev [signed](#) a controversial bill into law that will allow authorities to void citizenship of those convicted of crimes related to terrorism and state security.

President Nazarbaev signed a bill into law that will [restrict](#) the field of those running for presidency.

The trial of Nartai Dutbaev, the former chairman of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan, [commenced](#) behind closed doors in Astana.

In a move [aimed](#) to strengthen secular principles, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon urged Tajik Muslims to not grow beards or wear hijabs.

Uzbekistan is set to hold high level talks with the European Union in Brussels. Issues [regarding](#) human rights in Uzbekistan are on the agenda.

After having their visa applications rejected [twice](#), six Afghan girls were granted approval to travel to the United States for a robotics competition.

Amid factional strife in Kyrgyzstan's ruling party, Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev [announced](#) that he will remain in politics to lead a reorganisation of his party.

Ex – Kyrgyz President Askar Akaev's former son-in-law Adil Toighanbaev has been [sentenced](#) to twenty years prison by a court in Kyrgyzstan.

Security

In Afghanistan, 13 pro-government fighters were killed [during](#) a Taliban assault on a local militia group.

Afghan police [arrested](#) members of a human trafficking ring. During the arrest, 25 children allegedly kidnapped to be trained as Taliban suicide bombers were rescued.

The Taliban [gained](#) control of two districts in northern and central Afghanistan.

Afghan troops [recaptured](#) a southern district from the Taliban in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

The Pentagon [announced](#) that the leader of the Islamic State's Afghan branch was killed by an U.S. airstrike in Afghanistan's north-eastern province of Kunar.

The Pentagon [confirmed](#) that a U.S. airstrike accidentally killed 16 Afghan National Police personnel and injured two others in Helmand Province.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier travelled to Afghanistan to meet with Afghan president Ashraf Ghani and [visit](#) his troops stationed near the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif.

Russia, Turkey and Iran [convened](#) in Astana, Kazakhstan, to discuss the Syrian conflict. They failed to reach a final agreement on details regarding "de-escalation zones" in war affected parts of Syria.

In October, Uzbekistan and Russia plan to hold their first [joint](#) military exercise since 2005.

Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for National Security announced that four men accused of planning terrorist attacks have been [detained](#).

A court in Kyrgyzstan sentenced three men to long term imprisonment. The men were charged over their [involvement](#) in an attack against the Chinese Embassy in Bishkek last year.

Four close relatives of former police commander Gulmurod Halimov, who joined Islamic State in 2015, were reportedly killed during [clashes](#) with security officials in Tajikistan.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov [announced](#) that despite a change in government, Uzbekistan will not re-join a Russian-led security bloc.

