



September 2017

Economics

In an effort to [strengthen](#) trade relations between India and Uzbekistan, Uztrade JSC established a Trading House in Delhi.

Uzbekistan and India [signed](#) 22 contracts worth over USD\$80 million and 20 investment agreements worth over USD\$70 million to expand relations in the fields of trade, economics and investment.

Kyrgyzstan attracted USD\$202.6 million of foreign direct investment in the first quarter of 2017, a 35 percent [increase](#) from the same period last year.

Kazakhstan is set to [host](#) a meeting with leaders from member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Economics and social and political issues are on the meeting's agenda.

Defense Ministers from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan signed a military cooperation plan in [response](#) to security threats in the region.

Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates [agreed](#) to expand economic and trade cooperation.

Turkmenistan is set to commission several major gas and oil [projects](#) in 2018.

Turkmenistan has [commenced](#) its construction of a new sea port in the Caspian city of Turkmenbashi.

Turkmenistan and India [intend](#) to expand cooperation in the fields of trade, economics, transportation and energy.

Turkmenistan's Prime Minister met with Turkey's Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges. They [discussed](#) expanding trade relations, implementing new joint projects and the role of Turkish businesses in the implementation of reform programs and infrastructure projects inside Turkmenistan.

Politics

A court in Almaty, Kazakhstan, [sentenced](#) former opposition leader Olesya Khalabuzar to two years of restricted freedom for inciting ethnic hatred.

Kazakhstan's National Security Committee [announced](#) they had arrested six Syrian nationals for using fake Bulgarian passports.

A Tajik doctor has been sentenced to 13 years in prison for treating Gulmurod Halimov. Halimov [defected](#) from the Takij police force to join the Islamic State in Syria in 2015.

Tajikistan [accused](#) Iran of involvement in the Tajik 1992 – 97 civil war.

KYRGYZSTAN'S UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Kyrgyzstan is set to hold its Presidential election on October 10, 2017. Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbai Jeenbekov [resigned](#) from his position in order to run in the election. Sapar Isakov was then [appointed](#) Kyrgyzstan's new Prime Minister. 59 people have [registered](#) to become presidential candidates. Three opposition parties in Kyrgyzstan [announced](#) their decision to merge and introduce a single candidate for the upcoming election. Meanwhile, in the weeks leading up to the election, several Kyrgyz political opposition figures were arrested and charged. [Leading](#) opposition leader Omurbek Tekebayev was sentenced to eight years prison on charges of corruption. Five opposition politicians face lengthy prison sentences after being [charged](#) with plotting to overthrow the government. Japarov Sadyr, a former Kyrgyz lawmaker and advisor to former President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, was [sentenced](#) to 11 and a half years in prison for hostage – taking.



In an effort to secularise society, Tajik lawmakers [approved](#) a bill that obligates individuals to wear cultural and national clothing.

For the first time in eight years, leaders of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan met to discuss [unsettled](#) border issues. The Moscow City Court [halted](#) the deportation of Uzbek journalist Ali Feruz to Uzbekistan. Human rights groups fear he could face torture, imprisonment or death by Uzbek authorities.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi stated that President Donald Trump's militarised strategy for Afghanistan is set to fail. Abbasi [called](#) for a political settlement in the war-torn country.

Security

President Trump [announced](#) a new US strategy for Afghanistan that involves an increase of US troops to the country. The US President also warned Pakistan over its alleged support for extremist groups in the region. Trump's [strategy](#) was welcomed by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and allies of the United States.

The Taliban sent an open letter to President Trump urging the United States to leave Afghanistan. The group's statement was [issued](#) in response to Trump's recent decision to increase US troops in the region.

At least 33 people have been killed and over 60 injured in a suicide bomb [attack](#) in a Shi'ite mosque in Afghanistan's western city of Herat.

A Taliban suicide bomber killed at least seven people and injured over 40 in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand. The attacker [targeted](#) Afghan policemen and soldiers collecting their salaries.

After allegedly massacring over fifty mostly Shi'ite civilians, the Taliban released 235 [hostages](#) from a remote village in northern Afghanistan.

Afghan officials announced that an attack carried out in Afghanistan's northern province Sari Pul may have been jointly [conducted](#) by Taliban and Islamic State fighters. The attack, which claimed the lives of dozens, marks a development in the nature of insurgent tactics.

Two suicide bomb attacks were [carried](#) out at the Imam Zaman Mosque in Kabul's Qala-e Najara district. 28 people were killed and over 50 people were injured.

NATO announced that a NATO soldier and two Afghan civilians were killed after a Taliban suicide bomber [attacked](#) a NATO convoy in Kabul Province.

The United States [announced](#) that a senior member of the Islamic State in Afghanistan, alongside several group commanders, have been killed by a US airstrike.

In response to regional threats arising from the war in Afghanistan, Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu announced that his country will conduct [joint](#) military drills with Central Asian countries.

Kazakh human rights activist Ramazan Esergepov has fled the country over fears of his own [safety](#).

