

October 2017

Economics

Uzbekistan announced that it would [liberalise](#) its currency regulations by removing restrictions on the amount of foreign currencies individuals and companies can buy and no longer fixing the Som to the US dollar.

Kyrgyzstan and its largest foreign commercial investor, Centerra Gold, [signed](#) a deal set to significantly increase Centerra's annual environmental contributions in exchange for the government dropping a US\$100 million lawsuit.

Uzbekistan is set to import 1.2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity from Kyrgyzstan in 2017 to [enhance](#) its agricultural industry.

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan intend to [increase](#) bilateral trade turnover up to US\$500 million per year in an effort to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

Kazakhstan expects an increase in the production of gasoline and aviation fuel [following](#) the modernization of three of its oil and gasoline plants.

Kazakhstan and Russia signed an agreement to enhance [cooperation](#) in scientific research and nuclear energy.

Uzbekistan intends to [improve](#) its power sector by modernizing existing facilities.

The Uzbek government announced it would allocate [additional](#) funds to public health institutions for the purchase of medicine.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan [signed](#) an agreement to enhance relations in the field of military technology cooperation.

A consortium of China Coal Technology & Engineering has [commenced](#) a project set to modernize Uzbekistan's Shargunkumir JSC's coal production.

Politics

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev and U.S. President Donald Trump held a phone conversation to [discuss](#) regional security concerns stemming from the Taliban in Afghanistan.

In Kyrgyzstan, pre-election campaigning commenced for the upcoming presidential elections [scheduled](#) for October 15, 2017.

In Kyrgyzstan, the coalition grouping of three political parties [collapsed](#) in the lead up to the upcoming presidential elections.

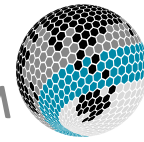
Kyrgyzstan has accused Kazakhstan of [interfering](#) in its upcoming elections. The accusations follow a meeting held between Kazakh President Nazarbaev and a Kyrgyz oppositional presidential candidate.

For the first time in 17 years, the presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan [met](#) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Under the leadership of former Uzbek President Karimov, Uzbekistan had been at odds with its Central Asian neighbours over several issues including border disputes and economic disagreements.



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In line with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan's efforts to [improve](#) relations, a major checkpoint along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border was reopened.

Kazakhstan's former Prime Minister Serik Akhmetov, convicted in 2015 over corruption charges, is set to be [released](#) early from prison later this month.

A military court in Kazakhstan [sentenced](#) former Kazakh National Security Committee (KNB) chief Nartai Dutbaev to 7.5 years imprisonment on espionage charges.

Kazakh authorities [ordered](#) the expulsion of 61 Indian workers from the country following clashes at a construction site in Kazakhstan's capital city of Astana.

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. They [agreed](#) to establish exchanges of security intelligence in order to bolster counter-terrorism efforts and enhance diplomatic relations.

A Kyrgyz court sentenced Kyrgyz Journalist Zulpukar Sapanov to four years imprisonment over [charges](#) of inciting religious hatred.

Former top official of Tajikistan's Anticorruption Agency Firuz Holmurodzoda has been [sentenced](#) to 15 years imprisonment over charges of fraud and bribery.

In western Kazakhstan, several girls have been [banned](#) from attending classes on the premise that their Islamic dress attire violates educational rules.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani addressed the 72nd United Nations General Assembly. President Ghani [asserted](#) that the United States' new strategy in Afghanistan was more likely to succeed than strategies previously implemented by the U.S. in his country.

Security

The Afghan Air Force has [received](#) its first American made UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to replace its aging fleet of Russian made helicopters.

The Taliban carried out a suicide bomb attack near Bagram airfield causing civilian casualties. They claimed the attack was in [retaliation](#) to U.S. propaganda leaflets, which depict the Taliban as dogs.

Unknown gunmen shot and killed at least two people, [including](#) a religious council chief, in Afghanistan's north-eastern province of Kapisa.

A wheelchair-bound patient shot and killed a Spanish physiotherapist working for the Red Cross in northern Afghanistan. The [motive](#) behind the attack remains unclear.

In Afghanistan, a suicide bomber blew himself up while [entering](#) a cricket stadium in Kabul, killing at least three people. No-one has since claimed responsibility for the attack.

Officials in Pakistan announced they have [reopened](#) the Torkham border crossing with Afghanistan. The border opened one day after a grenade attack injured over a dozen people at the border.

At least three civilians were wounded following a suicide car bomb attack against a Danish military convoy [travelling](#) from the NATO-led international mission in Kabul.

At a marketplace in the eastern Afghan province of Khost, at least four people have been killed and 14 others injured in an explosion. Afghan authorities stated that the explosion was [caused](#) by a remote controlled bomb.

Syrian peace talks were held in Astana, Kazakhstan. At the talks, representatives from Iran, Turkey and Russia [reached](#) an agreement regarding the borders of the "de-escalation zone" in Syria's northern Idlib province.

Due to concerns of a possible terrorist attack, Kyrgyz authorities [cancelled](#) a soccer match in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, against the Burmese team amid ongoing violence in Burma.

