



November 2017

Economics

Amid tensions between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz government is set to formally reject a US\$100 million aid package offered by the Kazakh government.

Tajikistan's Anticorruption Agency announced that Askar Nuralizoda from the Economic Development Ministry's department for investments has been caught taking a US\$490,000 bribe.

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan signed contracts worth US\$200 million at a business forum held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

According to Kazakhstan's Ministry of Economics, Kazakhstan's economic trade with countries from the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has increased by 31.6 percent compared to same period in 2016.

Several Uzbek and Turkish businesses signed agreements worth US\$3.5 billion to implement projects in Istanbul, Turkey, in the fields of energy, road infrastructure, electrical equipment, production of textile products and construction materials.

Turkmenistan and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are set to sign a memorandum of cooperation to enhance development, trade, finance and investment relations.

Turkmenistan plans to construct the country's largest gasoline production plant in the Ahal province of Turkmenistan.

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov met with Russia's Chairman of the Union of Oil and Gas Producers Yuri Shafranik. Russia is ready to actively engage in new Turkmen gas and oil projects.

Kazakhstan launched its new gas export pipeline to China. Kazakhstan's Energy Ministry announced that the revenues of the joint project will amount to over US\$900 million.

Politics

Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Temir Jumakadyrov was killed in a car accident.

Former Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev signed a law which defines 85 percent of the 1,280 km border between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, border issues have served as a point of contention between the two states.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov have signed a strategic partnership agreement to boost cooperation between the two countries.

Leader of Russia's North Caucasus region of Chechnya Ramzan Kadyrov met with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoev. They discussed ways to enhance trade, economic and cultural relations.

KYRGYZSTAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbai Jeenbekov from the ruling Social Democratic Party won Kyrgyzstan's October presidential election. In the lead up to the elections, former Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev accused Kazakhstan of interfering in his country's internal affairs and supporting opposition presidential candidate Omurbek Babanov. To avoid speculation, Kazakhstan's election commission did not send an observer to Kyrgyzstan's October election. Amid rising tensions, President Almazbek cancelled his trip to Russia, where he was set to attend a regional conference hosted by Russian President Putin, due to concerns there would be election day riots in Kyrgyzstan 'supported by financing from abroad'. Meanwhile, Omurbek Babanov accused election officials of hindering his campaign. In the aftermath of Jeenbekov's victory, Babanov alleged that the electoral voting had been rigged. However, he added that he would not challenge the official result.

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Kazakh Prime Minister Baqytzhan Saghyntaev and former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Isakov agreed to ease border security and reduce border traffic between the two countries.

After almost 20 years, the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Turkey convened to discuss ways to improve bilateral relations. Since the 1990s, relations between the two states had been hostile.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani met with Pakistan's army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa in Kabul, Afghanistan. They discussed bilateral relations and trade, regional security and the fight against terrorism.

Security

In Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the ninth Human Rights Dialogue was held between Tajik officials and a European Union (EU) delegation. The delegation expressed concerns over enduring human rights violations carried out by the Tajik government.

Upon the request of Interpol, leading member of Tajikistan's outlawed Islamic Renaissance Party (IRPT) Shohnaimi Karim was detained by Greek authorities.

According to Afghan intelligence officials, suspected U.S. drone strikes hit a militant compound in the Kurram region nearby the Pakistan-Afghan border. 20 extremists were killed in the attack.

In Afghanistan's southeastern province of Paktia, two separate suicide and gun attacks were carried out against a police compound. 41 people were killed and over 200 injured. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Afghanistan's Defense Ministry stated that the Taliban attacked an army base in the southern province of Kandahar, which resulted in the death of 43 soldiers and 9 wounded.

Officials from Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States met in Oman to formulate solutions to revive peace talks with the Afghan Taliban.

Two suicide attacks at a Shia mosque in Kabul and a Sunni mosque in Afghanistan's central province of Ghor, killed at least 89 people and injured 56. No-one has since claimed responsibility for the attack.

An Afghan official stated that the Taliban stormed a security post in the western province of Farah, which resulted in the death of 13 soldiers.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson met with Afghan leaders in Afghanistan. They discussed the United States' new militarized strategy in the country and resolution strategies to end the 16 year war.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani expressed his confidence that the majority of foreign troops will be able to leave Afghanistan within four years.

The United Nations stated that overall civilian casualties in Afghanistan declined 6 percent during the first nine months of 2017.

