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KYRGYZ- TURKISH HOSPITAL OF FRIENDSHIP IS GIVEN FOR UTILITY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF KYRGYZSTAN



Turkey has transferred the Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Friendship Hospital to the use of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health to fight against the Coronavirus outbreak.

The press service of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Bishkek shared the statement in Kyrtag.kg the news site on 25 March 2020.

“Solidarity and co-operation are among the top priority issues in these days when we are fighting the COVID-19 outbreak on a global scale, “ the embassy in Kyrgyzstan stated. In this context, we would like to inform that the transfer of the hospital to the Ministry of Health of Kyrgyzstan was initiated, and we attach importance to the establishment of the Turkish-Kyrgyzstan Friendship Hospital in Bishkek for combating the COVID-19 epidemic. We wish healthy and peaceful days to the people Kyrgyzstan.” statements were included.

The work to establish the Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Friendship Hospital, which was designed and built to be the top of the existing health institutions in Central Asia, began when

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced to the Kyrgyz Republic that a modern hospital should be established under the current conditions.

All construction materials and equipment were supplied from Turkey and the construction of the hospital was completed in 15 months. The hospital takes area of approximately 12,000 square meters with a capacity of 51 beds. It is equipped to offer advanced diagnosis and treatment of Cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, general surgery, chest diseases, anesthesia, reanimation, interventional radiology and gastroenterology. Medical laboratory centers, 2 operating rooms, 3 intensive care, Angio and imaging departments were designed to be the top of the healthcare institutions in Central Asia in the field of advanced diagnosis and treatment. The construction process of the hospital was examined by the delegation sent to Kyrgyzstan, commissioned by the Turkish Ministry of Health and TIKA, mainly by the Turkish ambassador in Bishkek, Zhengik Kamil Firat.

IN KYRGYZSTAN INVESTMENTS IN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR AMOUNTED TO 161.7 BILLION SOMS IN 2019



In the construction sector, the volume of investments in fixed assets in 2019 amounted to 161 billion 790.8 million soms. This was announced today, On March 12, 2020, by Ulanbek Kalmanbetov, head of the Department of architecture and technical regulation of the state construction Agency, during a press conference in Bishkek.

According to him, the growth rate was 105.8%. He said that the volume of gross construction output amounted to 171 billion 887.8 million soms, the growth rate is 110.6%. Kalmanbetov said that in 2019, 2 billion 696 million 865.4 thousand soms were financed for the construction and overhaul of 398 objects of social and cultural purpose at the expense of the national budget.

A WASTE PROCESSING PLANT WILL BE LAUNCHED IN BISHKEK



A waste processing and sorting plant in Bishkek will be launched at the end of 2020. This was announced by Mirlan Amanturov, Vice-mayor of Bishkek, at a meeting of the parliamentary Committee on agrarian policy, water resources, ecology and regional development. According to him, on March 18, the city hall intends to

announce a tender for the construction of a garbage sorting plant with an estimated cost of 6 million euros.

“The plant should be launched in December. 22 million euros are provided for the expenditure. We will spend 9 million euros on a new landfill, where waste will be sent, that cannot be processed,” said the Vice-mayor.

AROUND 100 ELECTRIC BUSES WILL BE PURCHASED FOR BISHKEK IN 2020

As the head of the Bishkek passenger transport Agency Nursultan Koichubakov told Akipress that they are currently working on two different projects for the purchase of electric buses: investment funds (leasing) and credit tools.

“We want to buy 50-55 electric buses for leasing money. As for the second project – we are now working closely with Asian Development Bank. Recently, with an ADB mission we came to understand that they are ready to provide us with a loan of 50-70 million dollars for the purchase of electric buses. We are working on this issue. I hope we will reach the finish line with ABD and the projects will be ready by the autumn of 2020,“ he said. “We plan to announce the lease purchase in April. But we don’t know if there will be parties with interest in our these projects,” - said Nursultan Koichubakov.



KYRGYZ- TURKISH BUSINESS FORUM WILL BE HELD IN ISSYK-KUL IN SUMMER 2020



On March 6, 2020, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Republic of Turkey Kubanychbek Omuraliev met with the newly elected head of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Business

Council (KTBC) under the council for foreign economic relations of Turkey (DEIC) Aydin Mystachoglu. This was reported by the press service of the KYRGYZ foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the Council introduced the members of the Board of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Business Council under the DEIC and informed about their mutual activities.

The parties discussed the development of trade and economic cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. Ambassador Omuraliev called on members of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Business Council under the DEIC, who are businessmen, to invest in the economy of Kyrgyzstan and assist in strengthening ties between business circles and entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Omuraliev also invited Turkish businessmen to take part in the Kyrgyz-Turkish business forum, which will be held in the summer of 2020 in the Issyk-Kul region of the Kyrgyz REPUBLIC.

IMF APPROVED THE ALLOCATION OF \$120.9 MILLION TO KYRGYZSTAN TO FIGHT CORONAVIRUS

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund approved the allocation of \$120.9 million to Kyrgyzstan to fight the COVID-19 pandemic according to the report of the IMF.

The IMF allocated \$80.6 million to Kyrgyzstan with the rapid financing facility (RFI) and \$40.3 million with the rapid crediting facility.

This is the first emergency IMF loan in the world since the beginning of the pandemic.

The first request for emergency financial assistance has been approved to help fund member countries to solve problems related to COVID-19. The money will allow the KR authorities to meet urgent needs in balance of payments arising from the coronavirus outbreak. It's also used as a donor support and provides free resources for health system expenditures. The outbreak of the pandemic has weakened Kyrgyzstan's macroeconomic prospects and created a gap in the balance of payments, which reaches about \$400 million.

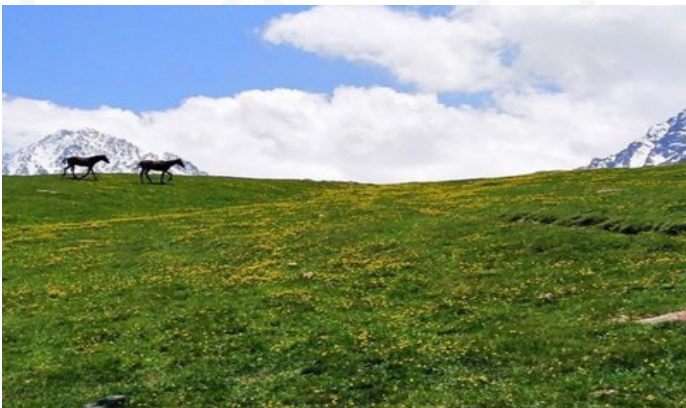
"The IMF's assistance will provide support to increase buffers and strengthen confidence in the Kyrgyz economy. This will also help to stimulate donor support and preserve financial space for basic health expenditures related to COVID-19," the IMF notes. Managing Director of the IMF Kristalina Georgieva also added that the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the economy of Kyrgyzstan very hard.



All sectors are under extreme pressure as measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the virus.

"It is necessary to weaken the macroeconomic and financial policy to overcome the crisis. It is also important to take into account the temporary increase in general inflation due to the weakening of the exchange rate. Monetary policy should gradually bring inflation back within the target range in 2021. The exchange rate flexibility must be maintained to restore the external balance," Kristalina Georgieva underlined.

FOREIGN TOURISTS BEGAN TO VISIT MORE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS OF KYRGYZSTAN



In 2019, the number of tourists visiting specially protected areas of Kyrgyzstan increased. This was stated by Deputy Director of the State Agency for environmental protection and forestry Nadyrbek Kozubaev at a press conference in Bishkek on March 5.

During this period, the number of foreign and local tourists visiting these places increased by 5 thousand 796 people compared to 2018. According to the report, the territory of specially protected natural areas has also increased. Currently, the total area of these sites is 1 million 476.1 thousand hectares or 7.38% of the total territory of Kyrgyzstan.

PRIME MINISTER OF KAZAKHSTAN ASKAR MAMIN: “WE MUST REVIVE THE FISHING INDUSTRY ...”



The head of government held a meeting on development of fishing industry in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan was informed about the current state and perspective of this industry by Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources Magzum Mirzagaliyev and executive director of the Fishery Association - BD Nurzhan Zhumagaliuly. Representatives of the fishing business in Atyrau, East Kazakhstan, Kyzylorda, Turkestan regions touched the problematic issues of fisheries in the regions, Russian professor Alexander Litvinenko and deputy of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Sarsenbay Ensegenov spoke about the development of fish farming.

The total market of fish and fish products in Kazakhstan is about 66 thousand tons, 45 thousand tons of which are fishery, 7.4 thousand tons are fish farming. At the same time, 30 thousand tons are exported, 43.5 thousand tons of products are imported.

In the medium term, there is a potential to increase the domestic market to 120 thousand tons, which will reduce imports due to the cultivation of trout and Atlantic salmon,

while increasing export volumes to world markets, particularly China, Russia and the EU.

Commercial fishing in the Republic of Kazakhstan is carried out by more than a thousand fishing entities, 1646 fishery reservoirs and their sections are assigned to them. The industry employs more than 11 thousand people.

Fishing is carried out mainly in the Caspian and Aral seas, in Balkhash and Zaysan lakes, in Bukhtarma, Kapshagai and Shardara reservoirs, in the Alakol system of lakes, in the Zhaiyk and Kigash rivers. The main fishing regions are Atyrau - 13.1 thousand tons, which gives almost a third of the total volume throughout the country, East-Kazakhstan - 8.2 thousand tons (more than 18%), Kyzylorda - 7.4 thousand tons (16.4%), Almaty - 6.6 thousand tons (14.6%), Mangystau - 2.3 thousand tons (5.2%) and Turkestan regions - 2 thousand tons (4.5%).

Fish farming is developing dynamically in Kazakhstan. Over the past 7 years, the volume of framed fish has increased 9 times - from 800 tons to more than 7000 tons. 180 fish farms are engaged in fish farming in the country, where more than a thousand of people are employed.

IN KAZAKHSTAN \$10 BILLION IS ALLOCATED BY THE STATE TO FIGHT THE CRISIS

Kazakhstan will allocate about 10 billion dollars to fight the crisis. This was stated by the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at a meeting of the State Commission on the state of emergency, reports Kazpravda.kz.

“The severe global crisis and falling prices for natural resources have led to the fact that in the first quarter of this year, it is expected that the national budget will not receive 350 billion tenge. Despite this, the state allocates 4.4 trillion tenge or about 10 billion dollars from the budget to fight the crisis, not counting tax benefits. This money is allocated without attracting funds from the National Fund,” Minister of information and social development of Kazakhstan Dauren Abayev said at a briefing in the Central communications Service under the President of Kazakhstan.

He noted that given the volume of Kazakhstan’s economy and population, this is a solid amount. Recall that at the meeting of the State Commission on emergency situations, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said that the total package of anti-crisis measures, not counting tax



preferences and support at the local level, will amount to 4.4 trillion tenge or 10 billion dollars. “If we use these funds correctly, we will undoubtedly emerge victorious in the fight against the crisis,” the Head of state said.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE EBRD’S PRESIDENT DISCUSSED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT PROJECTS IN KAZAKHSTAN



Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin received Suma Chakrabarti, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as Kazinform reports with the reference to primeminister.kz.

“Over the past 27 years, the EBRD’s investment in Kazakhstan has exceeded \$9 billion in 271 projects in

sectors such as, finance, infrastructure, energy, agriculture, IT and utilities. Also it supported small and medium — sized businesses,” Askar Mamin said.

In 2019, agreements were signed on the implementation of 29 projects worth more than \$ 750 million in the industrial, transport, energy, agricultural, financial and other areas of Kazakhstan.

The parties discussed the upcoming participation of the EBRD in the implementation of a Comprehensive Program for the modernization of health infrastructure in Kazakhstan. In particular, the EBRD plans to participate in financing the construction of new multi-specialty hospitals in the cities of Kyzylorda, Kostanay, Taraz, Atyrau, Kokshetau, Pavlodar, and Almaty.

Mamin and S. Chakrabarti discussed the implementation of the largest project in the field of public-private partnership in Kazakhstan, which is the construction of the Great Almaty ring road (BAKAD).

Much attention is also paid to public-private partnership projects in the areas of housing and utilities, transport infrastructure, renewable energy sources, etc.

KAZAKHSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN STARTED CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTER FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION



Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are starting construction of the international center for trade and economic cooperation “Central Asia” (ICTES) on the Kazakh-Uzbek border, informed Minister of trade and integration of Kazakhstan Bakhyt Sultanov, KazTAG reports.

“One of these days, we will start implementing the most important trade project in the southern direction – the construction of the international center for trade and economic cooperation “Central Asia” on the border with Uzbekistan. This

was agreed at the level of heads of state two years ago. We discussed specific measures with our colleague, Minister of investment and foreign trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov”, said Sultanov on his Facebook page on Tuesday.

The Minister noted that ICTES is an important element of trade cooperation in the Central Asian region.

“Central Asia today is a dynamic region with a population of more than 71 million people. In Central Asia, there are huge opportunities for intraregional division of labor – the countries of the region represent ideal markets for each other. And, most importantly, all our countries are already actively cooperating with each other. Our mutual trade turnover with Central Asian countries alone amounted to \$5.1 billion by the end of 2019. The largest trading partner in the region is Uzbekistan, which accounts for more than 60% of Kazakhstan’s mutual trade with the region. The outpacing growth rate of mutual trade and service provision has continued since 2017, averaging 30.7%. And as previously mentioned, mutual trade, having passed the four-billion mark in the past year, is easily approaching five, which already allows us to set more ambitious goals of doubling the total volume of exchanged goods, works and services,” the Minister shared information.

KAZAKHSTAN INTENDS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF MILK, POULTRY MEAT, APPLES AND SUGAR

“In 2020, 25 industrial dairy farms will be built with the use of modern digital technologies, three meat processing plants, eight poultry farms, it is also planned to lay gardens on 2 thousand hectares, the construction of a sugar factory in Zhambyl region has begun. Preparatory work has been carried out on all these projects over the past year.

The investors have agreed and the issue of financing is currently being resolved”, - said the Minister of agriculture of Kazakhstan Saparkhan Omarov during the government meeting on Monday “on measures taken to saturate the national market of the country with domestic agricultural products”.

According to him, despite the fact that the country produces about 5.8 million tons of milk, the load of dairy companies is now about 65%.

“In this regard, it is proposed to switch the production of milk to an intensive format by entering 25 industrial dairy farms annually. This will allow to produce up to 120 thousand tons of milk every year and create 1.25 thousand job places. For this purpose, preferential financing terms will be used. Due to the implementation of these measures, it is planned to ensure full loading of dairies for five years, “ the Minister said.

Additional poultry farms were introduced with a total capacity of 200 thousand tones for the import of apples by 2024, there will be additional gardens on the area of 12.5 hectares for



the production of 105 thousand tons of apples (today the security of the domestic Apple production is 63%), two new sugar plants in Zhambyl and Pavlodar regions with a total production capacity of 216 thousand will be modernized and commissioned, there are three meat processing enterprises with a of capacity 45 thousand tons, which will increase the supply of sausage products to 100% by 2024 (today, the supply of domestic sausage products is 62%), five fish farming and fish processing enterprises are at the stage of implementation and modernization with an increase in capacity by 10 thousand tons (today, the supply of domestic fish products is 61%).

THE AMU-DARYA PROJECT IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO CHINA'S DEVELOPING GREEN CONCEPT



Several raw material sources are used from Turkmenistan for natural gas supplies to the Central Asia-China gas pipeline. “Bagtyyarlyk” territory includes fields, which are established by CNPC International (Turkmenistan) under the terms of the production agreement.

Over the 10 years since the launch of this energy highway, a large amount of exploration and drilling work has been

performed related to the research, assessment of reserves and industrial development of hydrocarbon deposits on the right bank of the Amu-Darya. Two gas processing plants with a total capacity of 14 billion cubic meters of commercial gas per year have been built at the Samandepe and Khojambaz fields, which are also other production, logistics and social infrastructure facilities.

According to the CNPC press center, 23 gas fields have been found on the territory of “Bagtyyarlyk” until now, and there are 125 production wells. In 2019, 14.1 billion cubic meters of natural gas were produced and 13.1 billion cubic meters of gas were sent to China.

By the end of December of 2019, the Amu Darya Gas company of the China National Oil and Gas Corporation (CNPC) exported 92.9 billion cubic meters of gas and produced 1.58 million tons of condensate. The Amu Darya project is being implemented on the contractual territory of “Bagtyyarlyk” since 2007. It is one of the largest foreign projects of the Corporation. It has become a model of productive Turkmen-Chinese cooperation in the gas sector and an important contribution to the promotion of the “developing green” concept in China.

DANISH COMPANY HALDOR TOPSOE HOPES TO EXPAND COOPERATION WITH TURKMENISTAN

In Dubai, from 24 to 25 February the Hyatt Regency Dubai Creek Heights hotel hosted the road show “Oil and gas of Turkmenistan 2020”. It aimed at attracting investment in the country’s energy industry.

The forum was attended by foreign companies from more than forty countries, including stable partners in the Turkmen oil and gas market, such as Haldor Topsoe (Denmark).

Haldor Topsoe, which is the largest licensor in the field of natural gas conversion and monetization of natural gas into various types of products, has been on the market of Turkmenistan for 10 years. The results of cooperation are shown by 2 major projects, one of them is the production of mineral fertilizers at Garabogaz. There is a large-scale equipment for the production of ammonia, from which carbamide is obtained.

The second project – the plant to produce eco-friendly ECO-95 gasoline from natural gas – is the company’s pride in the uniqueness of production.

Vadim Shiriev, a representative of Haldor Topsoe, notes that the company has been operating in Turkmenistan for ten years and feels comfortable in the Turkmen market, emphasizing that the country’s oil and gas structures are solvent and can guarantee a return on investment.

Haldor Topsoe hopes to continue participating in the natural



resource diversification program and expand cooperation with Turkmenistan.

The Danish company regularly participates in international forums organized by the oil and gas sector of Turkmenistan, and often sponsors events. Haldor Topsoe regards its participation in the road show as a unique opportunity to share new products and learn from the experience of other companies, as well as to meet with its regular partners with whom it cooperates in Turkmenistan.

PRIME MINISTERS OF TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN AGREE ON PRICES FOR ENERGY AND GAZ

Regular meeting of the intergovernmental Commission on trade and economic cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be held on Tuesday in the second half of April in the Tajik city of Guliston and co-chaired by Kohir Rasulzoda and Abdullah Aripov- the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

The government of Tajikistan informed the Asia-Plus newspaper that the meeting of the Commission, which was supposed to take place at the end of last year, was postponed due to the fact that there had been no unresolved issues between Tashkent and Dushanbe, and the relations between the two States in all directions and spheres had been developing dynamically.

The upcoming meeting will mainly discuss the development of trade- economic, humanitarian, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Question about the volume of electricity supplies from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan, natural gas from Uzbekistan to Tajikistan and their prices for the current year will be agreed on this meeting.

Last year, 1 billion 425.1 million kWh was delivered to Uzbekistan at the price of 2 US cents per kilowatt. Total



amount of electricity exports from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan amounted to \$28.5 million.

In 2019, Tajikistan purchased 140 million cubic meters of natural gas from Uzbekistan for \$ 17.7 million.

TAJIKISTAN'S FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER INCREASED BY ALMOST 15%



Tajikistan's foreign trade turnover continues to be negative, and the Republic spent about 557 million US dollars on imports of goods in the first two months of this year, the Avesta news Agency reports.

The Republic's foreign trade turnover for this period

amounted to 700.5 million dollars, which is 14.8%, or 90.1 million dollars more than in January-February 2019.

According to the Ministry of economic development and trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, the trade balance was negative and amounted to 413.3 million US dollars.

Exports of goods in January-February 2020 amounted to 143.6 million dollars, and imported goods to the country for this period in the amount of 556.9 million dollars. Import figures are more than 3.8 times higher than the amount of goods exported.

The volume of imported goods increased by 15.6%, or \$ 75 million, and export growth was 11.7%, or \$ 15.1 millions more compared to the same period last year.

During the reporting period, Tajikistan had trade relations with 86 countries of the world.

The main trading partners of the Republic are Russia – 172.7 million dollars, Kazakhstan-163.6 million dollars, China-107.4 million dollars.

According to statistics, the country's foreign trade turnover has been in a negative balance for several years.

THE TUNNEL FOR THE CA-CHINA GAS PIPELINE PROJECT IN THE TAJIK REGION OF RUDAKI IS ALMOST READY



The construction of the first tunnel of the 45 envisaged within project of the Central Asia-China gas pipeline from Turkmenistan to China, the so-called “thread D”, is at the final stage, Avesta news Agency reports. According to information from the Ministry of energy and water resources of Tajikistan, construction work in the first tunnel

located in the Rudaki district has been completed by more than 98% of the total volume.

In 2014 Shamsiddinzoda noted that: “The interest of the government of Tajikistan in the project is to receive taxes, create jobs, etc. For example, the revenue of a joint company over 32 years will be \$ 15 billion. Of this amount, Tajikistan will receive \$ 1.2 billion from the single tax (excluding social tax) and another \$ 2.5 billion from dividends from shares”.

Shamsiddinzoda also said at the time that the cost of the Tajik section of the project will be 3.2 billion dollars. The project provides for the construction of 45 tunnels, with a total length of 75 km, and other infrastructure. During the project implementation, more than 3 thousand citizens of Tajikistan will be provided with jobs.

The length of this gas pipeline across the territory of Tajikistan will be more than 400 km.

It is expected that 25-30 billion cubic meters of natural gas will be delivered annually from Turkmenistan to China via this pipeline. The implementation of this project will attract more than \$ 3 billion of direct Chinese investments in the economy of Tajikistan.

TAJIKISTAN, AS A REGIONAL MEMBER OF THE ADB, CAN COUNT ON A SHARE OF \$6.5 BILLION IN AID TO FIGHT CORONAVIRUS

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced yesterday an initial aid package of \$6.5 billion to meet the urgent needs of developing member countries, including Tajikistan in response to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Tajik Telegraph Agency (Tajikta) reported on Thursday.

“ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa stressed that “ADB is ready to provide further financial assistance and policy advice when the situation requires it, in addition to the \$6.5 billion package, “ reports the ADB representative office in Tajikistan. The initial package includes about \$3.6 billion in sovereign operations for a range of responses to the effects of the pandemic on health and the economy, and \$1.6 billion in non-sovereign operations for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, domestic and regional trade, and firms that are directly affected. The ADB will also raise about \$1 billion in concessional resources by reallocating funds from ongoing projects and unforeseen expenses. ADB will provide \$40 million in technical assistance and quick disbursement grants. In order to provide the support package to countries as quickly and flexibly as possible, ADB will adjust its financing tools and business processes. Subject to approval by the ADB Board of Directors, this will include faster access to emergency budget support for countries facing severe financial constraints, streamlined policy-based lending procedures, and universal procurement with flexible and fast processes.



Since its first aid delivery at COVID-19 on February 7, 2020, The Asian development Bank has been cooperating with Tajikistan since 1998. ADB has established close coordination with the government of Tajikistan and multilateral and bilateral development partners within the framework of the Joint partnership strategy with the country and the development coordinating Council. ADB participates in the development of regional energy policies and projects on regional energy trade; in the rehabilitation of regional transport corridors and trade development under the Central Asian regional economic cooperation (CAREC) Program.

A NEW POULTRY FARM IN TAJIKISTAN WILL PRODUCE 1000 TONS OF MEAT PER YEAR

A large poultry farm LLC “Murgi alosifat” was launched on March 22 in the city of Gulistan, Sughd region of the Republic of Tajikistan. This farm will produce up to 1000 tons of poultry per year. The country’s leader Emomali Rahmon took part in the opening of the facility. This was reported by CentralAsia.news in the press service of the President of Tajikistan.

The company with limited liability was established as part of the implementation of the 4th national strategy for accelerating industrialization in the country. The construction of the enterprise was launched on errand of the leader of Tajikistan.

The company consists of 4 poultry houses, where up to 70,000 chickens can be kept at the same time. The building has all the necessary modern equipment. The capacity of the factory is 1000 tons of meat per year. The company will grow 5 types of birds. The administration staff noted that within 40 days the weight of broiler chickens will be grown up to 2-2.5 kg.

At the moment, according to representatives of LLC “Murgi alosifat”, 50 people are employed there. By the beginning



of autumn, it is planned to increase the staff members to 120 people.

The president spoke positively about the work of the poultry farm. He also instructed the management to effectively use the available opportunities to increase the volume of dietary meat.

UZBEKISTAN AND KAZAKHSTAN LAUNCH REGULAR BUS ROUTES, “FERGANA-ALMATY”



Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are launching regular bus services on the route “Fergana-Almaty” in order to create additional amenities for passengers traveling from the Fergana valley to Kazakhstan. This was reported by the

press service of the Ministry of transport of Uzbekistan.

This route will be launched from March 4. The total length of the route is 1202 km, and the journey time is 22 hours and 20 minutes. Buses will start their journey at 11: 00 from the Fergana bus station. It is reported that tickets can be purchased at the Fergana bus station and the Sairan bus station in Almaty. This flight will be served by Uz autotrans Service and Tulpar-Baikonur.

There was no bus service between the countries since the mid-90s of the last century. However, in early January of 2018, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan re-launched a direct international bus service on the Tashkent-Shymkent route, and in April – on the Tashkent-Almaty route.

In March 2019, the regular bus service Tashkent-Astana-Tashkent was launched. Last April, a bus service was opened between Turkestan and Samarkand. And since July 22, 2019, Avtotranservice LLC has opened a regular bus service from Tashkent to the city of Kyzylorda in Kazakhstan.

UZBEKISTAN'S FOREIGN TRADE TURNOVER REACHED \$2.9 BILLION IN JANUARY



Uzbekistan has trade relations with more than 129 countries around the world. The largest volume of its foreign trade turnover was recorded with China (17.5%), the Russian Federation (16.0%), Kazakhstan (7.4%), the Republic of Korea (6.5%), Turkey (5.7%), Afghanistan (1.7) and Germany (1.6%).

In recent years, Uzbekistan had significant changes in the WTO with its neighboring states, particularly with Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Over the past three years, the WTO with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has doubled.

China, Russia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, and Turkey account for the largest volume of WTO with other countries (except neighboring countries). Among the main partner countries, Uzbekistan carries out an active foreign trade balance only with Turkey.

Among the 20 major partners in foreign economic deals, Uzbekistan has also an active foreign trade balance with six countries, in particular with such countries as Afghanistan (\$48.3 million), Turkey (\$26.9 million), Tajikistan (\$18.6 million), Kyrgyzstan (\$14.3 million), the UAE (\$4.3 million) and Iran (\$2.3 million).

The main exported products of Uzbekistan for 82.2% are the following ones, precious metals (38.1%), textiles (12.1%), energy and petroleum products (11.9%), food products (5.1%) (mainly fruit and vegetable products (3.0%)), non-ferrous metals and products made of them (5.5%), as well as chemical products (3.5%).

VOLKSWAGEN OPENS CAR PRODUCTION IN JIZZAKH REGION

Volkswagen opens production of cars in the Jizzakh region. The first model to enter the Uzbek market in 2020 will be the Volkswagen Caddy in two versions, reports Podrobno.uz.

The agreement on cooperation in the production and sales of light commercial vehicles in Uzbekistan was signed by Uzavtosanoat and Volkswagen Group Rus. Production will be launched in the FEZ "Jizak" based on the Jizak automobile plant.

Production of cars will be carried out on a full industrial cycle using technologies of the Volkswagen group. It is planned that the capacity of the plant will be up to 20,000 cars per year.

Volkswagen Group Rus will provide new modern production technologies and processes, as well as train employees of the plant. Volkswagen concern's standards in the field of production, quality management, procurement, supply and sales systems will be applied at the production site.

Partial localization of production with the involvement of domestic manufacturers of automotive components is provided. Today, Uzbekistan has about 30 large factories owned by Uzavtosanoat, and more than 160 medium and small enterprises.

The first model launched in 2020 will be the Volkswagen Caddy in two versions: a 7-seat passenger station wagon



and a cargo van. The model is suitable for both commercial and family use.

The car will be equipped with an economical petrol engine with a capacity of 110 horsepower and a volume of 1.6 liters. Fuel consumption in the city cycle mode is 9.3 liters per 100 kilometers, on the highway-6.1 liters per 100 kilometers.

In the future, the possibility of production and delivery of other models from the Volkswagen Group line will be considered.

MIRZIYOYEV ALLOCATED \$1 BILLION TO THE “ANTIVIRUS” FUND



President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has created an anti-crisis Fund in the amount of 10 trillion soums (\$1 billion 51 million) to counter the coronavirus pandemic in the country . It is stated in the decree on priority measures to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 and the global crisis on the economy.

“Creating reserves to compensate for possible economic losses and ensuring macroeconomic stability should be the

main task of the government,” the President said at a video conference on March 19. Uzbekistan intends to borrow \$1 billion from international financial institutions and other sources in 2020 to support the fund and the state budget. Mirziyoyev explained that the fund will primarily be used to prevent the spread of coronavirus , provide medical institutions with medicines, protection and diagnostic items, cover quarantine costs on time, and equip hospitals in the regions with rapid testings. Almost 5,5 thousand medical workers have been pushed to the fight against coronavirus, and they will be paid additional 120 percent of their salary. Support for entrepreneurs and social support will require significant expenses. Due to the epidemic, the risks of non-repayment of loans are growing, including 90 billion soums (\$9.4 million) in the hotel business, 650 billion soums (\$68 million) in the transport and logistics sector, 180 billion soums (\$18.9 million) in the catering sector, 3.6 trillion soums (\$378 million) in foreign trade enterprises. Travel agencies and hotels continue to pay a tourist fee of \$ 2-3 per day. A special part of expenditure is social protection. The number of recipients of social benefits will increase by 10% for employees of institutions closed for quarantine, citizens in quarantine, and workers taking care of them.

MIRZIYOYEV HELD TALKS WITH THE HEAD OF LUKOIL, VAGIT ALEKPEROV

Recently, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the President of the Russian company “LUKOIL” Vagit Alekperov, according to the Uzbek Telegraph Agency (Uztag).

“Welcoming the guest, the head of state highlighted the significant progress in the development of strategic partnership with LUKOIL – one of the leading energy corporations in the world and a key investor in the oil and gas complex of Uzbekistan,” the press service of the head of state noted.

To date, the company’s capital investments in joint projects amount to about \$10 billion. The Kandym gas processing complex with a processing capacity of more than 8 billion cubic meters of natural gas per year is successfully operating. Development of fields in the South-Western Hissar and Ustyurt region continues. In addition, LUKOIL actively supports social programs in our country.

During the meeting, the prospects for further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation were discussed.



Special attention is paid to the issues of attracting the company’s experience and advanced solutions in the field of corporate governance and the transition to digital technologies in the oil and gas industry.

HYUNDAI ENGINEERING COMPANY IS INTERESTED IN THE NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY OF UZBEKISTAN



On March 11, the Agency for the development of nuclear energy under the Ministry of energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzatom Agency) held a meeting with representatives of Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd. This is reported by the News of Uzbekistan.

The Korean side positively assessed the measures taken by the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including the improvement of legislation.

During the meeting, the sides discussed the bilateral agreements reached following the visit of the Uzbek delegation to Korea in October last year, as well as the establishment of partnership relations with the Korean company.

During the talks, issues of cooperation in the field of personnel training, as the basis of professional competence of specialists in the field of nuclear energy, were also discussed, including the organization of internships for Uzbek builders in projects for the construction of nuclear power plants, where Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd takes part.

Recall that the company Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd is one of the world's leading construction companies engaged in engineering and construction works covering all areas of energy and industry. In particular, this company acted as a General contractor in the construction of 65% of nuclear power plants in South Korea (15 reactors) and abroad (4 reactors in the UAE).

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