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NAZARBAYEV HAS RESIGNED



Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced his resignation. Nazarbayev had been Kazakhstan's president since April 24, 1990. Nazarbayev signed the decree on March 19. Nazarbayev announced that he had decided to end his powers as president and that people gave him the opportunity to become the first President of independent Kazakhstan. He continued: "I did everything I could. We worked for Kazakhstan's economy and policy. Recognizing that it is impossible for us to build a weak economy and democratic institutions with poor citizens, we tried to highlight economic development; "Nazarbayev's resignation points to a controlled transition period rather than a complete withdrawal from politics. Nazarbayev will leave the post of Head of State and continue to chair the Kazakhstan Security Council. Security Council consists of law enforcement agencies that coordinate the activities of central and local executive bodies and control the budget. In May 2018, an amendment was proposed in order to strengthen the Security Council, and it was agreed in the Parliament that the Security Council resolutions were

binding on Kazakhstan's state institutions. Nazarbayev will also head the parliamentary political party, Nur Otan.

In 2000 Nursultan Nazarbayev said: "I will serve the people of Kazakhstan until the end. I consider it to be my duty to continue the transformations in the country and raise a new generation." Along with certain titles awarded to him, he has the life-long authority to contribute to the development of state, domestic and foreign policy, and national security. It is estimated that Nazarbayev will follow the development of the country as an experienced leader, as the Singapore Founder President Lee Kuan Yew did after resigning from his post. Thus, when a new Head of State takes office in Central Asia, it is considered that he wants to avoid hard changes. Nazarbayev, who will be 79 years old this year, has been the President of Kazakhstan since 1990. In the early elections held in 2015, he was re-elected as President for the fifth time, with 97.75% of votes. On March 20, the President of the Senate, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, replaced the President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Tokayev will continue this duty until the presidential elections in 2020.

Born in 1953, Tokayev has a long and successful career that started in the USSR. After graduating from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1975, he worked in Singapore for a long time and until 1991 in the US Embassy in Beijing. Tokayev, who has assumed the position of Foreign Ministry in the years following the independence of Kazakhstan, has been among Nazarbayev's close colleagues for many years. Tokayev served as Prime Minister from 1999 to 2002. He is an experienced statesman who served as President of the Senate from 2007 to 2011 and as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva from 2011-2013. Lastly, he was the President of the Senate since October 16, 2013. In addition to his native Kazakh language, Tokayev speaks Russian, English, French and Chinese. The presidency of Senate, led by Tokayev, was replaced by Nursultan Nazarbayev's eldest daughter, Dariga Nazarbayeva, who has been in politics for a long time.

KAZAKHSTAN'S NEW PRESIDENT HELD FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT



The new President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev made his first official visit to Turkestan City on March 23, 2019, after his oath-taking ceremony, on March 20. According to the Ru.sputniknews news website, Tokayev visited the industrial and social facilities and met with the local people. In addition, Tokayev visited the History and Culture Museum, archaeological and architectural monuments of Azret-Sultan and the Tomb of Hodja Ahmed Yesevi. During his visits, he was informed about restoration works and landscaping in cultural areas. In addition, the Head of State was informed about the construction of regional administrative buildings, offices, Congress Hall, Media Center, "Great Steppe Country" Center, School Palace, Tourism College, Astana Square, Music Fountain, Public Service Center and other socio-cultural facilities. The city of Turkestan was acknowledged as the administrative center of the former South Kazakhstan Region, which was also renamed as Turkestan Region, as of June 19, 2018. The former center of South Kazakhstan was the city of Shymkent. Turkestan became the third metropolis of Kazakhstan after Nur-Sultan and Almaty.

THE CAPITAL OF KAZAKHSTAN HAS BEEN RENAMED



On Wednesday, March 20, the capital of Kazakhstan, was named as "Nur-Sultan" in honor of the first President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The members of the Assembly and the lower and upper wings of parliament have amended the Constitution to change the name of the capital, Astana. At the joint meeting by the lower and upper wings, Parliament Speaker Nurlan Nigmatulin said: "According to the constitution, the government has proposed to organize a referendum to change the name of Astana to the name of the President of Kazakhstan. The [incumbent] President [Tokayev] decided to send the proposal to parliament and the Constitutional Council approved this proposal."

The decision to change the name of the capital to Nur-Sultan was approved by vote of 43 members of the Senate and 102 members of the Parliament.

There are 47 members in the Senate, 107 members in the Parliament.

As it is known, on March 19, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev resigned and said that he would continue to serve as "a person who loves his country".

The city of Nur-Sultan was founded as Akmoly/Akmolinsk in 1830. In 1962, it became the center of Khrushchov's enthusiastic plan of Virgin Lands Campaign and renamed as Tselinograd. After the independence of Kazakhstan, the city was again renamed as Akmola. When President Nazarbayev decided to remove Kazakhstan's capital to the center of the country from Almaty to the north, Akmola was chosen as the new capital in 1994. The capital was moved in 1997, and in 1998, it was renamed as Astana, which means "capital city" in Kazakh.

The population of the city, which was 281,252 in 1989 rose to 1,029,556 million in 2017. The city is famous for its modern, monumental buildings.

PRESIDENT OF KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: “IN 2019 LOCAL BUDGETS WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 2.1 BILLION SOMS”



President of Kyrgyz Republic, Sooronbay Jeenbekov, “This year, local budgets will be renewed with 2.1 billion som, as the share of income tax has been increased from 50x50% to 70x30%. Speaking at the regional development conference, which began in the country and lasted until February 28, Jeenbekov stated that in a separate article that 2 billion som [\$28,630,000] was provided for the development of regions in the republican budget.” These funds should primarily support export orientations. We are setting ambitious targets when implementing the irrigation program. The demands are high. We must

implement this program because it solves the problems in a comprehensive way, and will create jobs that will help to reduce internal migration. According to the irrigation program, more than 65 thousand hectares of new irrigated areas will be developed by 2026, new settlements and farms will emerge, more than 240 thousand new jobs will be created.” This year between February 27-28, a conference was held on “National Dialogue on Regional Development” with the participation of representatives of three government branches, representatives of civil society and donor organizations.

KYRGYZSTAN SUGGESTED OPENING AN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR IN THE FERGANA VALLEY



First Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Kubatbek Boronov proposed to invest in the economic corridor between the regions of Central Asia, particularly in Almaty

- Bishkek economic corridor, during the first Central Asian Economic Forum.

Economic corridors in the Ferghana Valley between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are being considered to be created.

Boronov said that this step would contribute to the growth of trade circulation and increase tourist flow.

“In order to improve the transit potential of Central Asian countries, we propose to support the international transport corridor initiative between Russia - Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan - Tajikistan,” he said.

Kyrgyz delegation pointed out the need to renew the Bishkek - Shimkent - Tashkent - Khujand - Andijan - Jalal Abad railway network.

It was underlined that this route, which passes through the four countries’ territories, would not only assist the citizens Central Asian countries but also foreign tourists traveling in the region.

A DELEGATION OF TURKISH BUSINESSMEN ARRIVED IN ISSYK-KUL



A delegation of Turkish businessmen headed by the Honorable Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic in Turkey Mustafa Kurt met with the leadership of the Issyk-Kul Region. The meeting was attended by the plenipotentiary

representative of the government in the region, Akim of the Issyk-Kul Region, the Mayor of the city of Karakol. During the meeting, the sides discussed issues of development of the tourism industry in the region and provision of advisory support to entrepreneurs of the Issyk-Kul Region. The Consul noted the willingness of the Turkish side to purchase environmentally friendly products from farmers in the region, since the products are the safest in the biosphere territory. Mustafa Kurt said: "We intend to cooperate with businessmen in the region in the field of tourism industry. In particular, it is a service, delivery of high-quality video, photo and other electronic equipment that meets the requirements of today and meets international standards. This equipment is necessary for the Issyk-Kul Region, since tourism is developing well here, it should keep up with time. We are ready to cooperate in this direction." In addition, issues of bilateral cooperation in the field of export of environmentally friendly products from the Issyk-Kul Region to Turkey were discussed.

RUSSIAN-KYRGYZ DEVELOPMENT FUND PLANS TO MAKE LOAN AGREEMENT



The Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund plans to make a loan agreement worth 100 million dollars in 2019. Oleg Kudyakov, Vice President of the Russian-Kyrgyz Development Fund, stated in the briefing held in Bishkek, that they made such predictions based on their speed of work and their applications. He said: "This figure involves lending large projects and financing small and medium sized enterprises through our joint banks." In 2018, the Russian-Kyrgyz Development Foundation reached 42.4 million dollars in lending. This is probably the smallest amount in the history of the foundation. Erkin Asrandiyev, Chairman of the Board, explains this with the fact that there was a low level of business activity in 2018. It lasted until September and a total of 55 projects were approved. Asrandiyev stated that there is an expected increase in the amount of funds to 100 million dollars. He added: "This is the result of our work in 2018. 60-70% of the received projects can already be implemented. Applications will also be received throughout the year." He stressed that traditionally the emphasis should be given to the production area. The President of the Foundation informed that a large investment project will be launched at the end of April.

THE MINING OF NON-FERROUS METALS REACHED AT 107 BILLION TENGE IN JANUARY

In January 2019, the output of non-ferrous metals reached 107 billion tenge (\$281,156,000), by increasing for 25.2% over the same period last year. This is the maximum rate in recent years. In 2018, the production was 85.5 billion tenge, with an annual growth of 33.2%. The main consumers of Kazakhstani copper are the countries of Asia and the CIS. The total exports of refined copper and unprocessed copper alloys amounted to \$2.4 billion in 2018.

The largest share in terms of exports is China 55.4%. In the second place is the United Arab Emirates (16.1%) and the United Kingdom is in the third place (15.4%). Copper scrap and scrap exports amounted to \$ 58.4 million. The main importers are Russia (98.2%) and Belarus (1.8%). One of the companies focused on the extraction and processing of copper in the country is KAZ Minerals PLC.

The copper production reached 294.7 thousand tons in 2018, which is 14% more than a year earlier. In general, for the first 9 months of 2018, the foreign direct investment in the production of metal ores in the country amounted to \$368.2 million (an increase of 95.4% per year). China for the same period invested \$1.2 billion in the economy of Kazakhstan (an increase of 40.6% per year).



TAX FREE SYSTEM WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN KAZAKHSTAN IN 2022

In the airports of Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Shymkent in 2022 Tax Free system to refund value-added tax on purchases (VAT) for foreigners is planned to be implemented. The Minister of Culture and Sports Arystanbek Muhamediuly said that they will implement Tax Free in Kazakhstan according to the experience of the countries of the European Union, Australia, Thailand, Singapore and some CIS countries such as Russia, Belarus and Georgia. "Due to this measure, many developed countries have not only increased their trade, but also shopping by tourists. Reimbursement will be carried out from the government budget only at major airports (Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Shymkent) with the involvement of operators such as PremierTaxFree, GlobalBlue, InnovaTaxfree," said the Head of Department.

Tax Free System is one of the measures that are envisaged in the state program of development of the tourism industry for 2019-2025.

Tourist tax (Bed Tax) is also planned to be introduced for foreign citizens to increase the state revenues from tourism. The fee is expected to be \$2-4 per night.

This measure will be operated throughout Kazakhstan with the adoption of the state program.



KAZAKHSTAN INCREASED GAS SUPPLIES ABROAD



Over the 10 months of the last year, about 22 billion cubic meters of gas were exported. This volume is higher for 14.5% than last year.

Export growth was due to an increase in supplies to Russia and China. The northern neighbor bought more than 7.5 billion cubic meters of gas, the eastern one increased deliveries by 7 times as much. And according to the latest data from the Ministry of Energy, in 2018 5 billion 800 million cubic meters of gas were sold to China.

Expansion of markets has also affected export growth. Deliveries in small volumes have been made to Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. Exports to Switzerland, Ukraine and Uzbekistan decreased.

In general, for the current period, Kazakhstan sold gas for \$1 billion 700 million. In total, at the beginning of the year, 9 million people had access to gas in Kazakhstan, that is, almost half of the country's population. The authorities intend to increase this figure.

UZBEKISTAN AIMS TO JOIN TOP 20 COUNTRIES IN DOING BUSINESS

Uzbekistan is expected to be among the top 20 countries in the World Bank "Ease of Doing Business Global Ranking Report" by 2022. The government foresees to improve the country's position by setting the new "roadmap" and "Ease of Doing Business-2022" targets.

According to the presidential decree signed by the President of Uzbekistan on improving Uzbekistan's position in the Annual Report on "Ease of Doing Business Global Ranking" of World Bank and International Financial Institution, Uzbekistan will join top 20 countries by 2022.

According to the decree, as a result of the research conducted in the last 5 years in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report, Uzbekistan improved its conditions and rose from 146th to 76th place, but there are still excessive bureaucratic procedures regarding construction permits, property registration and foreign trade operations. The decree and the World Bank's Doing Business annual report approved a new roadmap to further improve the situation in Uzbekistan, and the Doing Business 2022 goals were defined, which include the work that the country will carry out within this framework.

According to this, starting from March 1 of this year, the registration of companies, opening of bank accounts, construction permits, connection of enterprises to power



grids, registration of property and foreign trade operations will be further simplified.

The National Agency for Project Management under the President will work on the implementation of these goals set by the government and will create the in Uzbekistan a website for "Doing Business".

REGULAR BUS SERVICE TASHKENT - NUR-SULTAN - TASHKENT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

LLC “Uz autotrans Service” and the enterprise “KazAvtoTrans” jointly launched regular international bus connections between Tashkent and Nur-Sultan.

According to local media, the distance from this route is 1646 km, duration 27 hours 30 minutes, and it cost 312 thousand so‘ms (\$37).

Starting from March 10 daily bus trip is planned to be carried out. Increase of the number of trips to 4 times per day is also intended. In the media, it is particularly noted that this bus service on this route was launched according to the decree of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed on March 5 last year “on measures to ensure the safety of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan during their travel on transport outside the Republic for temporary work”.



LUKOIL WILL INCREASE GAS PRODUCTION IN UZBEKISTAN



The Russian oil company Lukoil has increased natural gas production in Uzbekistan by 66.7% on an annual basis to 13.42 billion cubic meters.

In a statement, Lukoil said that the company engaged in the exploration and production of natural gas in Uzbekistan. In 2017, 8.05 billion cubic meters of natural gas was produced in the country.

The increase in natural gas production is associated with the introduction of new gas processing plants in the country. According to a statement made earlier by the management of the company, it was stated that by 2020 Lukoil in Uzbekistan will have increased natural gas production to

16 billion cubic meters.

Last year a gas processing plant began operating with a capacity of 8 billion cubic meters, which is Lukoil's largest investment in Uzbekistan.

Lukoil produces natural gas in the Kandim, Hisar and Khauzak quarries under a production sharing agreement with the government of Uzbekistan until 2046.

Uzbekistan, which is among the top ten countries in the world in natural gas production, has natural gas reserves of 1.1 trillion cubic meters.

By 2021, the government of Uzbekistan plans to invest \$30.4 billion in 78 projects in the oil and gas industry.

RUSSIAN PRODUCERS INTEND TO EXPORT SUGAR TO UZBEKISTAN

The Ministry of Economics and Industry of Uzbekistan reported on the results of the working group on cooperation between Russia and Uzbekistan in agriculture.

The Russian side asked for a quota for the import of 200 thousand tons of sugar “taking into account the historical relations and the potential for further cooperation.”

Agrarius reports that at the same time, Russia proposed to exclude the excise duties on the import of confectionery products to Uzbekistan.

For the 2017-2018 season, 216 thousand tons of sugar was exported from Russia to Uzbekistan, it became the leader of the local market. However, in December 2018, the Uzbek authorities stopped supplying sugar from Russia due to the launch of their sugar factories and an increase in supplies from Iran, Pakistan, Ukraine and Belarus. As the newspaper notes, now experts call the price of Russian



sugar uncompetitive, so its return to Uzbekistan is only possible with the introduction of some preferences, such as exemption of a certain amount from VAT and / or non-tariff restrictions. It is reported that in May a meeting is scheduled at the level of the heads of government of Russia and Uzbekistan, at which this issue will be discussed.

UZBEKISTAN PROVIDED TAJIKISTAN WITH HUMANITARIAN AID WORTH OF \$160,000 IN 2 MONTHS



Asia Plus reported that for the first two months of this year, Uzbekistan has become one of the five countries to have provided Tajikistan with the most humanitarian aid. In January-February of this year, the volume of aid provided by Uzbekistan to Tajikistan amounted to \$160,000.

According to the Statistics Agency under the President of Tajikistan, the share of Uzbekistan of the total humanitarian aid received during this period was 1.2%.

During this period, Tajikistan received a total of \$13,430,000. In terms of humanitarian aid shares, the following are the leading donor countries:

Russia (18.2%), China (3.6%), India (1.7%) and the United Arab Emirates (1.6%). In total, between January and February of this year, 34 countries provided humanitarian aid to Tajikistan. Compared to the same period last year the amount of aid increased by \$2.7 million.

UZBEKISTAN EXPORTED THE FIRST BATCH OF GM CARS TO KAZAKHSTAN



On March 16, the GM Uzbekistan company exported the first batch of cars to Kazakhstan, according to the automaker's website.

The company exported Nexia R3 for a large-unit assembly at the Sararka AvtoProm plant in Kostanai, Kazakhstan, as well as the finished R4 model at Ravon Motors Kazakhstan. As reported since the beginning of this year, the company has exported cars to the republics of Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

GM Uzbekistan produces ten brands of cars: four sedans - Nexia, Cobalt, Gentra and Malibu, two subcompacts - Matiz and Spark, Captiva SUV, Orlando minivan, Damas minibus and Labo mikrovan.

US STARTS GAS PRODUCTION IN UZBEKISTAN



Epsilon Development LLC, a US company, began gas production at the Talimarjan field in Kashkadarya region. It is reported that the expected daily debit of blue fuel will be 250 thousand cubic meters per day. According to local media, the American company began developing the Talimarjan gas field in February of this year. Gas will be sold in the domestic market of Uzbekistan.

Epsilon Development is expected to invest \$5.2 billion in gas production in Uzbekistan.

Earlier, the American company announced that it will produce gas at fields that are difficult to develop and which require significant costs in the Surkhandarya and Fergana regions. In the next two years, the United States wants to invest \$2 billion in the development of gas fields in these regions. According to the State Investment Committee of Uzbekistan, in recent years \$11.8 billion have been invested in the country. 73% of this amount was invested in the oil and gas sector.

UZBEKISTAN WILL BUILD A PHOTOVOLTAIC STATION



The first project in Uzbekistan on financing, construction and operation of a photovoltaic station, organized on a competitive basis, aroused global interest. The World Bank office in Uzbekistan reported that 23 companies from all over the world responded to it. IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, provides consulting assistance to the government of Uzbekistan in setting up a photovoltaic station with a capacity of up to 100 MW in the Navoi Region.

This project will be the first stage of a larger government initiative to create capacities to generate up to 1 gigawatt of solar energy, which will help the country to reduce its dependence on gas and increase the share of renewable energy sources in the structure of electricity production, said the WB office in Tashkent. On February 1, 2019 Uzbekenergo, a state-owned energy company announced a request for prequalification for the project and received applications from 23 companies from Europe, Asia and the Middle East. "An exceptional interest and a large number of companies demonstrate a high interest of investors in Uzbekistan. This is the recognition of the strong commitment of the government of Uzbekistan to increase the participation of the private sector in the country through an open, competitive and transparent process that is credible to the program for infrastructure development in the country, and it will lead to an increase in investment," said Wiebke Schloemer, IFC Director for Central Asia and Europe.

Uzbekenergo will evaluate the applications of companies to determine which of them meets the criteria established by the government of Uzbekistan for the project.

UZBEKISTAN AND UAE HAVE SIGNED \$10 BILLION AGREEMENTS

According to Uzbekistan's presidential website, Uzbekistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed agreements worth of \$10 billion on cooperation in investment and finance, renewable energy, industrial and infrastructural development, agriculture and other fields. The agreements were signed in Abu Dhabi during talks between the Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, Muhammad bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, on March 25.

In 2018, the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and the UAE amounted to almost \$400 million. Mirziyoyev said that the turnover grew in comparison with the past years, but the potential for cooperation could not be considered fully involved. The intergovernmental commission for commercial and economic and scientific and technical cooperation was tasked to bring the turnover to \$1 billion a year. In particular, hopes are pinned on tourism industry. In 2018, there was an increase on the flow of tourists from the UAE to Uzbekistan. Starting from March 20, Uzbekistan offers a visa-free regime for citizens of the UAE. As expected, this will further increase the number of tourists. After the talks, the parties exchanged signed documents on cooperation in the areas of investment, finance, alternative energy, industrial and infrastructural development, agriculture and customs administration.



The value of these documents are estimated by the Press Service of the President of Uzbekistan at \$10 billion. Also Mirziyoyev and Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan agreed to expand trade ties, implement joint projects in the energy and infrastructure sectors, cooperate in the field of science and education.

In addition, the President of Uzbekistan was addressed by the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior of the UAE for cooperation in the field of security. The President also visited the Mausoleum and Mosque of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was the first head of the UAE, died in 2004.

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ON MODERNIZATION OF NUREK HPP WILL START



The implementation of the first phase of the project for the reconstruction of Nurek Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) in Tajikistan is planned to begin in the second quarter of this year. According to agencies, the project will be implemented by the assortment of German and Austrian

companies, Andritz, which won the tender last summer. In accordance with the project for the rehabilitation of the Nurek HPP, new turbines will be equipped instead of the old generating units. Autotransformers used to regulate the voltage of generated electricity and other elements of the power system will also be replaced. Earlier, the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan stated that the capacity of the Nurek hydroelectric station after its modernization will reach 3.3 thousand MW, or increase by 10%. According to the feasibility report of the project, \$700 million will be required for the complete modernization of the Nurek hydropower plant. The cost of the first phase of the project is \$350 million and these funds are allocated by international financial institutions. In particular, the International Development Association (World Bank) allocated \$225 million, \$60 million was allocated by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). About \$57 million of the total amount are grant funds. The implementation period of the first phase of the project is 5 years.

TAJKISTAN EXPORTS 12 TRACTORS TO PAKISTAN

The Tajik-Belarusian Closed Joint Stock Company Agrotechservice plans to export 12 units of Belarus-512 tractors to Pakistan.

According to Avesta, the Ministry of Industry and New Technology of Tajikistan reported that the corresponding agreement was signed with the Pakistani company PAK Foods.

According to the source, preparatory work is currently underway to export tractors to Pakistan.

The Ministry of Industry also reported that it is planned to organize the assembly of tractors Belarus-982.1 and Belarus-982.2 on the production base Agrotechservice and thus provide farms in Tajikistan with modern agricultural equipment.

The joint venture of Belarus and Tajikistan in Gissar plans to continue to supply various models of tractors to Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The construction of the Tajik-Belarusian enterprise for the assembly of tractors and other agricultural equipment started in 2016. The first stage of production was commissioned on May 16, 2018. The second line of the enterprise was launched at the end of September.



Since the beginning of 2018, the company has collected 106 units of agricultural machinery, including 84 Belarus-82.1 tractors, 10 Belarus-80X tractors, and 10 Belarus-512 trailed tractors.

CHINA WILL INVEST \$300 MILLION TO COTTON PROCESSING IN TAJIKISTAN

Asia Plus reports that China State Machinery Industry Construction Group Inc will help to raise \$300 million for the development of the textile industry in Tajikistan. The delegation of Chinese businessmen under the leadership of the Trade Manager of China Machinery Industry Construction Group Inc Hu Sin met on March 5 with Nematullo Hikmatullozoda, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan. At the meeting, it was noted that the Chinese state corporation will assist the China-Tajikistan Kulyab Textile Industry Park Enterprise with attracting foreign direct investment to process cotton fiber. This enterprise is located on the territory of the newly formed Kulyab Free Economic Zone. It is expected that investment in this enterprise will be carried out in two stages. At the first stage, financing will be \$130 million, and at the second \$170 million. It is planned to create 5.5 thousand jobs at the enterprise. The annual processing of



cotton there will be 35 thousand tons. China State Machinery Industry Construction Group Inc, founded in September 1953, is the largest state-owned construction company in China.

WORLD BANK HAS ALLOCATED \$24 MILLION TO TAJIKISTAN



The Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank has approved 24 million dollars of grant to improve the electricity infrastructure in rural areas of Tajikistan, according to Asia Plus. Grant financing provided by the International Development Association will be aimed at improving the local infrastructure of villages that are located along the transmission line of the CASA-1000 (Central Asia - South Asia) project, the press service of the World Bank reports. Within the framework of this financing, it is planned to restore and modernize infrastructure and equipment in the villages to improve the reliability and quality of electricity supply services. The message says: "In addition, small

grants will be allocated to villages to finance small-scale social and economic infrastructure and facilities that are chosen by the communities themselves." According to the World Bank, this program will cover 60 villages in Sughd, Khatlon regions and districts of Republican Subordination. Due to the funds provided, it is planned to build an electrical substation and a distribution network "Isfara-1" in the same city in the north of the republic. Additional 2 million dollars for these initiatives are allocated from the funds of the CASA-1000 Multilateral Donor Trust Fund.

IMPORTANT INVESTMENT FROM PRIVATE SECTOR IN TURKMENISTAN

Recently, the share of the private sector in the country's economy has been growing in Turkmenistan. Representatives of private sector have put their signature under giant investment projects. This time, the foundation of the 2 important facilities - agricultural industrial complex and concrete products in Gokdepe district of Ahal province was laid.

A giant agricultural industrial plant of 220 hectares many facility units will be built by the Turkmen Sowuk Goz company.

One of the facilities that will take place in the complex is the production unit for 360 thousand tons of beef per year. There, highest quality beef and sheep meat will be prepared to meet the need of the domestic market and to be exported abroad.

The second important facility is for indoor cultivation and re-processing of fish. 240 tons of fish will be prepared every year.

A winery facility with a capacity to process 15 thousand tons of grapes per year will also be built. For this purpose, a land of 520 hectares will be allocated to the local company for growing grapes.

A cooling tank will be also constructed to store 38 thousand products at the same time.

There will be 4 greenhouses in the complex to be built on 170 hectares of land.

Additionally, veterinary service, laboratory, bank branch, store, parking lot for 500 vehicles will be built.

In the District of Gokdepe, the foundation of the concrete production plant belonging to domestic company Aga



Gurlyushuk is planned. This facility will have a production capacity of 500 thousand meters of concrete pipes ranging from 300 to 1200 millimeters per year.

Meanwhile, in the southern part of Ashgabat, 3 housing units were opened. Two of them with 54 apartments and one with 108 apartments. Owners moved to new 9-storey buildings. In the forthcoming period, housing with 54 and 36 apartments is expected to be initiated.

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