Afghanistan

**Rice Processing Plant Thrives in Nangarhar**

Officials at a rice processing plant in Nangarhar province are pleased with what they say describe as a thriving business in the province. Officials at the plant say they are currently processing up to 60 metric tons of rice daily, and that if they had better facilities, their output would reach up to 120 tons per day. The factory started operating eight years ago in the Sheikh Mesri park of Nangarhar province. “Our factory is equipped...full story

**ADB Pledges $12M for Highway Reconstruction**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) pledged $12 million for reconstruction of the country’s northern and western highways, which, according to drivers, have areas that are in bad repair and cause many accidents. The fund will be spent on "feasibility studies" of the Kabul-Kandahar highway and major roads in the north of Afghanistan – the two key routes for the country’s trade and transit. “We are looking at...full story

Azerbaijan

**Cargo transportation via Azerbaijan within TRACECA slightly up**

The volume of cargo transported along the Azerbaijan section of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor (TRACECA) amounted to 52.7 million tons in 2019, Trend reports referring to Azerbaijan’s State Statistical Committee on Feb. 14. In 2019, the country's cargo turnover amounted to 11.1 million ton-kilometers, which is 0.2 percent more compared to 2018. According to the state committee, 34,600 tons or 65.6 percent of all cargo was transported by road; about 13,300 tons, or slightly...full story

**Turkey-Azerbaijan trade turnover increases**

Trade turnover between Turkey and Azerbaijan increased by $180.6 million in 2019, exceeding $2 billion compared to 2018, Turkey’s Ministry of Trade told Trend. During 2019, Turkey’s export to Azerbaijan amounted to $1.6 billion, and import from Azerbaijan to $394.7 million. In December 2019, trade turnover between Turkey and Azerbaijan increased by $74 million compared to December 2018, amounting to $235.4 million. At this time, export of Turkey to Azerbaijan amounted to $194.2...full story
Kazakhstan's GDP rises to 3.6% in Jan 2020

At today’s session of the Government, Minister of National Economy Ruslan Dalenov informed the Cabinet members of the growth of the gross domestic product, Kazinform reports. In his words, the results of January 2020 demonstrated positive dynamics in macroeconomic indicators. «In the first month of the year, GDP growth accelerated to 3.6% against 2.9% in 2019,» he said. Fixed capital investment increased to 3.1%. Annual inflation made 5.6%, while the target corridor was set at 4-6%. Positive dynamics is observed almost in all basic sectors, the Minister noted...

full story

Iran

130 companies attending intl. jewelry expo in Tehran

The 12th International Exhibition of Gold, Silver, Jewelry, Watch and Related Industries is hosting more than 130 domestic and foreign companies at Tehran Permanent International Fairground from February 12 to 15, IRNA reported. Foreign exhibitions from different countries including Turkey, Italy, Germany, Britain, and Japan are showcasing their latest products and achievements in the event. According to the Deputy Head of Iran’s Union of Gold, Silver, Jewelry and Precious Stones Esfandiar Seifi, the exhibition seeks to introduce...

full story

Iranian economy emerging from recession: central bank

The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said CBI’s major economic indicators show that the economy is emerging from a recession that began nearly two years ago when the United States imposed sanctions on Tehran. “Although some are trying to misrepresent the country’s economic situation and picture a darker economic future, but according to the Central Bank of Iran data, important macroeconomic indicators such as the growth of non-oil sector, inflation, and other variables are all pointing to the relative stability and gradual recovery of the economy from...

full story

Business climate & investment opportunities of Kazakhstan presented in Baku

Ambassador of Kazakhstan Serzhan Abdykarimov took part in a business conference organized by the Caspian European Club regional organization. The event was attended by about 60 representatives of business circles of Azerbaijan from various sectors, Director General of Baku International Sea Trade Port CJSC Taleh Ziyadov, members of the Caspian European Club, the press service of the...

full story

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full story
Azerbaijan ready to share with Kyrgyzstan experience in providing public services

Azerbaijan’s State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovation expressed readiness to share experience with Kyrgyzstan in building infrastructure, management system and development of legal acts. Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kyrgyzstan to Azerbaijan Bakyt Yusupov met with head of the Office of the State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovation under the President of Azerbaijan...

Open and honest dialogue between business & gov't is key to success

“An open and honest dialogue between business and government is the key to economic success,” Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev said at the meeting of the Business Development and Investment Council, the Government's press service said on Friday. The prime minister, noting the implementation of several key initiatives raised by business in 2019, focused on some figures. "Last year we managed to outpace the country's gross domestic product growth rate..."
**Tajikistan**

**Tajik Women’s Committee Intends to Organize Free HIV & Cancer Tests**

This year the Committee for Women and Family Affairs under the government of Tajikistan intends to organize free HIV and cancer tests for some women in several cities and districts. This information was confirmed yesterday by the committee’s Chairman Hilolby Kurbonzoda. “These measures will be taken to prevent infectious and oncological diseases among Tajik women,” Kurbonzoda said. According to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, the total number of people suffering from HIV is currently 1,320, including 548 women. [full story](#)

**Emomali Rahmon Attends 20th Session of Consultative Council on Improvement of Investment Climate**

The Founder of Peace and National Unity, Leader of the Nation, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon took part in the 20th Session of the Consultative Council on Improvement of the Investment Climate. The main point of the session related to the implementation of decisions of 19th session, results of the analysis of cluster development in the agro-industrial complex and issues of draft agenda for the next session of the Consultative Council. President Emomali Rahmon raised a number of issues related to the improvement of the country’s... [full story](#)

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**Turkey**

**Turkey: Services exports hit historic high in 2019**

Turkey's services exports reached $53.7 billion in 2019, a new record high, the Turkish trade minister said on Friday. The services balance posted a $31.5 billion surplus in the same period and contributed to the country's current account balance, Ruhsar Pekcan wrote on Twitter. She stressed: “Thanks to the efforts of our service exporters and our services reaching all over the world, we have full belief that many more records will be broken.” The ministry will continue to support... [full story](#)

**Turkish residential property sales surge in January**

Residential property sales in Turkey surged 55.8% year-on-year in January, the country's statistical authority reported Friday. A total of 113,615 houses changed hands last month, up from 72,937 the previous year, the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) said. Housing sales to foreign buyers also rose significantly during the same period, up 23.3% to 3,907 units. Istanbul, the country's largest city by population, enjoyed the lion's share of sales to foreign buyers, with 48% (or 1,875 units). The Mediterranean holiday resort city of Antalya followed with 762 properties, while... [full story](#)
Representatives of Caspian states discuss scientific cooperation in Caspian Sea

The second meeting of authorized representatives of the Caspian states finished in Ashgabat. The meeting discussed a draft intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of scientific research in the Caspian Sea. The meeting of representatives of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the Institute of the Caspian Sea of Turkmenistan. The Ashgabat-initiated draft agreement aims to establish a legal framework for cooperation of the regional countries in the field of scientific research.  

Export of Turkish steel, cement to Turkmenistan increases

Turkey exported steel and cement worth $104.3 million to Turkmenistan in 2019, a source in the Turkish Ministry of Trade told Trend. "Export of steel from Turkey to Turkmenistan increased by 84 percent in 2019 compared to 2018 and amounted to $92.1 million," the ministry said. "Export of cement from Turkey to Turkmenistan increased by 49.1 percent in 2019 compared to 2018 and reached $12.2 million," the ministry said. Export of the Turkish steel to Turkmenistan increased by 70.9 percent in December 2019 compared to December 2018 and reached $4.9 million.

Uzbekistan

8,600 enterprises and organizations were created in Uzbekistan in January

In January 2020, 8,600 enterprises and organizations were created in Uzbekistan, according to the State Statistics Committee. Of these, 5,7 thousand units are limited liability companies, 1.4 thousand units are private enterprises, 1.2 thousand units are family enterprises, 0.1 thousand units are establishments and 0.2 thousand units are others. As of 1 February 2020, the number of industrial enterprises and organizations amounted to 71.5 thousand units and the increase, compared to the same period last year, rose by 21.2%.

The economic & investment potential of Uzbekistan presented in Almaty

Atamaken Almaty Chamber of Entrepreneurs hosted a round table on the economic and investment potential of Uzbekistan, as well as the upcoming Tashkent International Investment Forum, Dunyo reports. The event, organized by the Consulate General of Uzbekistan, was attended by representatives of business circles, various state and commercial structures and the media of Kazakhstan. In his speech, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to Kazakhstan S. Niyazkhodjaev told the participants about the main points of the economic part of the Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev Oliy Majlis.