

# Turkic Weekly

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ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ  
ТӘУЕЛСІЗДІК КҮНІ





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**TurkicWeekly** presents the weekly review of the most significant developments in the Turkic world. **TurkicWeekly** provides timely information and an objective assessment on relevant issues in the agenda of Turkic countries.

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## KAZAKHSTAN CELEBRATES THE DAY OF INDEPENDENCE

On December 16, the Republic of Kazakhstan celebrated the Independence Day. On the occasion of the holiday, solemn events took place in the capital of Kazakhstan, as well as in other cities.

On December 15, a gala reception was held at the Independence Palace in Astana, where the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev took part. In particular, N.Nazarbayev congratulated participants of the event and all the people of Kazakhstan on the national holiday - Independence Day.

"This day invariably brings feelings beyond the control of time - a special combination of pride, joy and excitement," said the President of Kazakhstan.

Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed that during the years of independence our country has not only achieved rapid growth, but also created a solid platform for sustainable development in the future. It was also noted that the Nurly Zhol program became an effective anti-crisis solution that provided a clear course of action for the future.

At the ceremonial meeting it was also noted that the population of Kazakhstan for the first time in history exceeded the level of 18 million people. This year Kazakhstan reached the fourth place in the world in terms of enrollment in primary education.

Nursultan Nazarbayev separately focused on the implementation of the program of modernization of national identity "Рухани жаңғыру" ("Rukhani zhangyru").

In conclusion, the President of Kazakhstan once again congratulated all participants on the Independence Day and noted that the main guarantee of our country's success is political stability, constant support for the course conducted for the benefit of society and the unity of the people.

On the same day, the ceremony of presenting state awards and prizes was held. So, in particular, in the current year the title of "Қазақстанның Еңбек Ері" (The Hero of Labor of Kazakhstan) was awarded to Akhmetzhan Yesimov. "Being one of my colleagues, he made a significant contribution to the formation of an independent Kazakhstan," N.Nazarbayev noted.

In addition, figures from other spheres were awarded orders "Otan", "Barys", "Yenbek Danky" (Motherland, Barys, Glory of Labor) and others.

Recall that 26 years ago, on December 16, 1991, Kazakhstan proclaimed its independence. On this day, the Constitutional Law "On State Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan" came into force.



## ISTANBUL HOSTED AN EXTRAORDINARY OIC SUMMIT

During the reporting period, an Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was held in Istanbul. The participants of the Summit, convened at the initiative of Turkey, discussed the situation in the Middle East in the light of the decision of the US President Donald Trump on recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Leaders of Islamic countries are discussing measures that need to be taken on this issue.

Representatives of 48 countries took part in the meeting. 16 countries were represented at the meeting by heads of state (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Palestine, Guinea, Iran, Qatar, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Jordan and Yemen). Djibouti, Malaysia and Pakistan were represented at the level of prime ministers, the Comoros at the level of the Secretary of State, Oman by the vice-premier, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan - at the level of parliament speakers.

Note that the Turkish side was one of the first to react to the statements of the US President.

Thus, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu stated: "We can not remain silent in this situation. We do not recognize the US decision on Jerusalem. We recognize East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. We must encourage recognition of this state by other countries within the borders of 1967 and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine."

Following the meeting, OIC countries declared East Jerusalem the capital of Palestine, and also noted that the United States is now losing its status of a mediator in the settlement of the Middle East conflict.

In the Istanbul Declaration adopted at the summit, OIC urged all countries to recognize "the state of Palestine and East Jerusalem as its occupied capital".

The resolution notes that the United States has lost the role of mediator in the Middle East. The OIC urged Washington to reverse the decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, warning that otherwise the United States will be responsible for all consequences.

The declaration also emphasizes that if the UN Security Council does not take action on the situation in Jerusalem, then the OIC countries are ready to bring the issue of gross violation of the norms of international law to the discussion of the UN General Assembly.

As it was previously reported, at the OIC summit the head of the PA Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) called on the world leaders to refuse recognition of Israel in response to the decision of the US President Donald Trump to transfer the American embassy to Jerusalem.

"We call on all countries of the world to reconsider their recognition of Israel because of its actions against the Palestinians and disregard for the decisions of the world community with the support of

the United States," Abu Mazen said. He also appealed to the world community to recognize the "independent Palestine" within the 1967 borders.

It should be noted that the Kazakh side was represented at the OIC summit by Senate Speaker Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kairat Abdrakhmanov.

It is also worth noting that a press conference on the outcome of the Summit was held in Istanbul with the participation of Turkish President R.T. Erdogan.

The historic summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul has proved to the whole world that Jerusalem has those who can stand up for it, Turkish President Recep Tayip Erdogan said at the final press conference of the OIC summit.

The President of Turkey stressed that the heads of state and government of OIC should continue to adhere to their positions. "Jerusalem is a red line for Muslims" is the position of the entire Islamic world.

From now on, from the point of view of the OIC countries, the capital of Palestine is East Jerusalem, and so it will be, stressed the Turkish leader. "The OIC will not retreat from the demand for the creation of a sovereign and independent Palestinian state within the borders of 1967 and with the capital in Jerusalem," Erdogan said..



## SOORONBAY JEENBEKOV PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN

On December 13, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov paid an official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan. During the visit, the Kyrgyz leader held talks with the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in a narrow and extended formats, following which a number of documents were signed.

In addition, meetings with the Prime Minister, and the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan were also held.

"I greet my colleague, Kyrgyzstan is the closest neighbor to Uzbekistan. We should have no boundaries, and we must only go ahead on a completely different level. I am sure that we will find common ground, and we will solve the existing problems. Especially the residents of the border regions are waiting for our decisions," President Mirziyoyev said.

During the talks, the parties agreed to work together on a project to build the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. In particular, according to Uzbek media, on December 25 of this year, working groups of the two countries will meet to discuss the implementation of this project.

In addition, presidents signed agreements on economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian cooperation until 2021, creating a simplified customs corridor. To achieve a constructive solution of issues in the water and energy sector, it was decided to establish a Joint Bilateral Water Management Commission and hold its meeting in the near future.

It was also reported that Tashkent intends to provide entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan with \$ 100 million of credit. The funds will be issued for the import of Uzbek products. "The whole credit line will pass through financial institutions, the government will not bear any state guarantee for these loans. In general, the meetings of the leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan were held in a friendly atmosphere. In his speech, S.Jeenbekov said: "If before we were friendly countries, now we have become strategic partners".

In his turn, the President of Uzbekistan stated his readiness to remove existing borders for the interaction of citizens of the two countries. "It has never been in a history of Kyrgyz-Uzbek relations. The trade turnover between our countries this year amounted to \$ 250 million. We want to bring the trade turnover up to \$500 million, Mirziyoyev said.

President of Kyrgyz Republic S.Jeenbekov noted that interstate relations between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan reached a very high strategic level. "A quarter of a century were not so productive as the past year. As the new president of the state, I want to confirm that the agreements reached are still valid. I will do my best to implement them for the benefit of our peoples," Jeenbekov promised.

In general, following the results of bilateral negotiations, the following documents were signed: Intergovernmental Program on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Humanitarian Cooperation for 2018-2021; An Agreement between Customs Agencies on the organization of a simplified procedure for the implementation of customs operations when moving goods and vehicles, in simple terms, it is a simplified customs corridor; Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic; The Plan of measures for cooperation in the prevention and liquidation of emergency situations between the Ministries of Emergency Situations of the two states; Agreement on cooperation between trade union federations; Memorandum of Understanding between government agencies for youth issues.



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