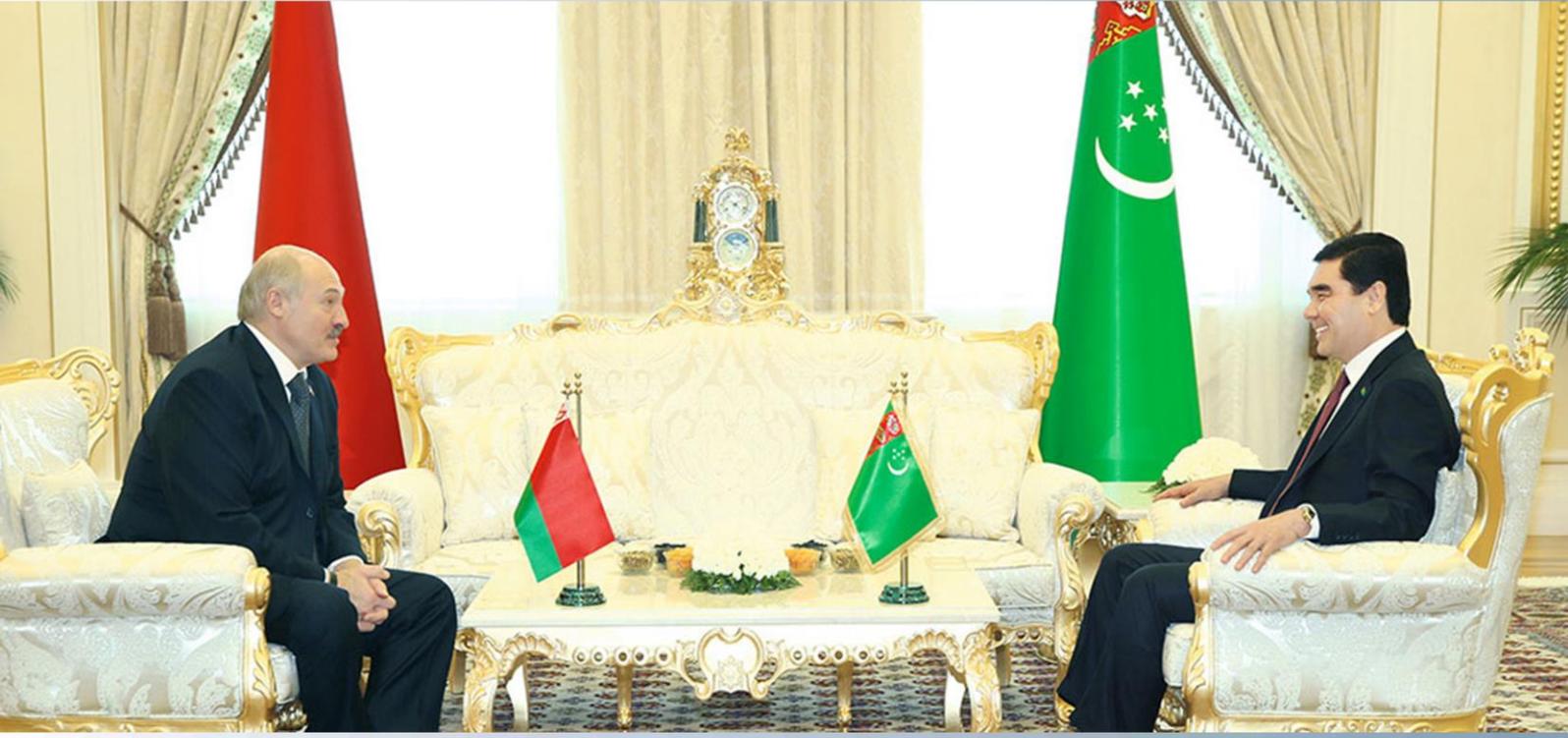


Turkic Weekly

2017/64





Turkic Weekly 2019 (64) (27 March – 2 April)

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

Turkic Weekly is a weekly information and analytical digest, published by the International Turkic Academy.



N.NAZARBAYEV'S WORKING VISIT TO THE UAE

During the reporting period, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev paid a working visit to the United Arab Emirates. One of the key was a meeting with the Vice-President, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Emir of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. During the talks, sides discussed the current state and further development of cooperation between two countries.

The parties particularly focused on issues of interaction in the trade, economic, financial and investment spheres.

Also, as part of the working visit to the United Arab Emirates, a meeting with the leadership of the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) was held, during which N.Nazarbayev emphasized the importance of exchanging experience with the UAE in the creation and effective management of the financial center, as well as the need to establish close ties between DIFC and the Astana International Financial Center. According to Akorda website messages, on Tuesday, during the talks, N.Nazarbayev got acquainted with activities of DIFC and was informed about further prospects of the center's development. In particular, the President of Kazakhstan was provided with information on the contribution of DIFC to the GDP of Dubai, which grew by 8% since the creation of this structure. There are also a significant increase in companies registered in DIFC and a considerable development of its infrastructure.

"The Head of State stressed that Kazakhstan was studying and applying the experience of the UAE in the work of Astana International Financial Center, noting that a number of necessary steps and measures for the effective work of this organization were already implemented," Akorda noted.

In his turn, Emir of Dubai confirmed readiness for full cooperation in this direction. The President of Kazakhstan thanked Sheikh for his special contribution to the development and introduction of Islamic financing.



RESULTS OF H. ROUHANI'S VISIT TO RUSSIA

Russian-Iranian talks within the framework of Hassan Rouhani's visit to Russia became one of the significant events of the past week. During the meeting, two Heads of State discussed issues of Russian-Iranian cooperation. Particular attention was paid to the prospects of expanding trade, economic and investment ties, including the implementation of major joint projects in the energy sector and transport infrastructure.

Within the visit to the Russian Federation, H. Rouhani held talks with V.Putin, D.Medvedev, and representatives of the business community. In general, as the experts note, Russian-Iranian relations are developing at a rapid pace. Signed documents and agreements once again confirm this. In particular, an agreement on strategic cooperation on the electrification of railways, as well as a contract for the electrification of the Garmsar-Inche Burun railway section and the supply of Russian equipment and locomotives were signed.

Other agreements dealt with cooperation in the field of communications and information technologies; in the field of nuclear material transportation; construction and housing and communal services; physical culture and sports; trade and electricity.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Lavrov and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif signed an agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Iran on visa-free travel of Russian citizens to Iran and Iranian citizens to Russia. The sides also stressed the importance of cooperation in the field of nuclear energy. The meeting of presidents of two countries included negotiations on expanding cooperation in engineering and civil aviation.

Russia and Iran have expressed interest in a joint fight against international terrorism. Speaking at a press conference, V.Putin said: "Russia and Iran coordinate their steps in the liquidation of ISIS and al-Nusra, and contribute to the settlement of the situation in Syria."

As H.Rouhani noted, parties also discussed the issue of transit on the North-South route and the connection of Moscow with Bender-Abbas, as well as the privileges and preferences that exist along the way for the trade of two countries. He stressed the importance of the trilateral meeting of Russia, Iran and Turkey on the settlement of the Syrian crisis held in Astana. As it's known, President of Islamic Republic of Iran since 2013, H.Rouhani has already paid official visits to the Russian capital three times.



TURKMEN-BELARUSIAN RELATIONS

On March 30, Ashgabat hosted talks of Alexander Lukashenko with Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow within the framework of the official visit of the Belarusian leader to Turkmenistan.

According to the Turkmen media, Heads of State held talks in one-on-one format, as well as in enlarged format with the participation of representatives of delegations. As a result, a number of international documents were signed and a joint statement was adopted. The leaders of countries confirmed readiness to deepen bilateral relations in the political, trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian, and other fields.

Promising directions for the development of cooperation were also discussed at the talks. For example, Belarus is ready to provide Turkmenistan with logistics centers for organizing the supply of products to Europe. A. Lukashenko said: "Many countries saw a kind of springboard in Turkmenistan, where you can trade with large regions, supplying goods to Iran, Pakistan, India and Arab countries. We need to decide and choose a corridor, according to which our goods should move here and especially from here."

According to experts, Belarusian machine-building products are still in demand in Turkmenistan. In turn, Berdimuhamedow stressed that interaction between states is developing very actively. On March 31, Presidents of two countries visited Garlyk Ore Mining and Processing Plant, the construction of which was recently completed by the Belarusian side.

As the Belarusian president noted, the implementation of the project was not an easy task, but Belarusian and Turkmen specialists successfully completed its construction. A. Lukashenko stressed that Belarus is ready to share experience with Turkmenistan in various fields. "In just five years we reached \$ 300 million in turnover of goods and services - these are great indicators. And we gradually grow in this plan. We found a solution of many issues in the trade during this difficult time," A. Lukashenko said after the meeting.



5th ROUND OF INTER-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA

After several successful meetings in Astana, the 5th round of the inter-Syrian talks was held in Geneva. The next meeting of interested parties is taking place against the backdrop of a new resumption of clashes in Syria.

At the last round of talks, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria presented to participants a 12-point document with the main principles of settlement in Syria, including preserving the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, as well as ensuring a democratic form of government.

However, as experts say, proposed principles basically repeat the requirements of the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 on Syria and do not offer solutions to specific issues of political settlement. The fact is that in this form they do not raise objections from any of the participants, primarily because everyone can interpret them in own way.

Before the beginning of talks, the parties did not express high hopes for making breakthrough decisions. So, for example, on the eve of the start of a new round, the delegation of Damascus held a meeting with the permanent representative of the Russian Federation at the United Nations Geneva branch Alexei Borodavkin. The head of the largest opposition delegation, Nasr al-Hariri said that he had no illusions about progress. "Since there is no political will of the international community to resolve the conflict," he explained his point of view.

It is noteworthy that in the next round of talks many participants drew attention to the important role played by the Astana process in the settlement of the Syrian conflict.

Meetings on Syria in Astana contributed to the search for peaceful solutions to the crisis in this country. This was noted in a statement on the results of a meeting of heads of the diplomatic departments representing the member countries of the international coalition against the terrorist group Daesh in Washington on Wednesday. "We recognize the contribution of meetings in Astana to the definition of ways to resume negotiations in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations," the document states.

In the last interview, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu stated that the talks on Syria in Astana are not an alternative to the discussions in Geneva, but have their own mission. "We organized negotiations in Astana to try to support the truce in Syria. Turkey supports both these platforms and looks forward to the next meetings in Geneva and Astana," Mr. Çavuşoğlu said.



THE BOAO FORUM: MAIN RESULTS

On March 23-26 in Boao, Hainan Province, the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2017 was held. This year, the Chinese authorities selected the topic of "Globalization and Free trade: the Asian perspectives", participants of the Forum discussed such topical issues as globalization, economic growth, reforms and a new economy.

A total of 65 events took place at the forum, in particular, the opening of the forum, the plenary session, 44 sub-forums, 17 round tables, and two themed banquets. Over 1,800 representatives of countries and regions of the world took part in its work this year.

As the Secretary General of the Boao Forum for Asia Zhou Wenzhong stated, there are four priorities of discussions at the current forum, which are summarized as: "Belt and Road", "Growth", "Reform", and "New Economy".

According to Xinhua News Agency, the event announced the Declaration on the Promotion of Economic Globalization, which calls on governments of the world and the international business community to support and promote open markets, inclusive growth and economic cooperation in order to ensure global prosperity and sustained economic growth.

According to the document, the Chinese authorities state that the current system of global governance does not correspond to changes taking place in the world economy. The adoption of protectionist measures will not be able to eliminate systemic contradictions and will only create obstacles for further growth. In this situation, Beijing proposes to adapt to economic globalization and reform the system of global governance.

The declaration also offers a proposal for reforms in organizations such as the WTO, the IMF and the World Bank, which should create more open and fair systems of international trade. In addition, another 13 states have joined the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), developed by Beijing, thus the total number of members reached 70 and exceeded the number of countries participating in the work of ADB.

It is known that at the moment the Boao Forum has become an Asian analogue of the Davos Economic Forum. China is trying to create its own alternative sites and financial and economic structures while integrating into the world economy. The Boao Forum is one of such initiatives.



Established in 2010 by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey, the International Turkic Academy is an international organization that conducts and coordinates a comprehensive study of languages, culture and history of the Turkic world from ancient times to the present day. The Turkic Academy promotes cooperation between research and development and education centers, studying Turkish world.

www.twesco.org | 57-49-86
Tauelsizdik 57, Palace of Peace and Reconciliation
Astana, 010000 | Kazakhstan

 @intturkicacadem

 <https://www.facebook.com/International-Turkic-Academy-832484896847678/>