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Turkic Weekly aims to keep you regularly informed on the latest news of the Turkic World. **Turkic Weekly** provides you with reliable information and timely analysis on key political, socio-economic and scientific events across Turkic-speaking states.

This Newsletter is diligently prepared by the **International Union of Turkic Academy**.



XIII OIC SUMMIT IN ISTANBUL

The 13th Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) took place in the Turkish city of Istanbul on 14-15 of April, this year. The theme of the summit was “Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace”.

The summit was attended by representatives of 56 states. According to Ibrahim Kalyn, the official representative of the Turkish President, 24 countries are represented at the level of the Heads of the States. With this summit the chairmanship in the OIC goes to Turkey, which will lead the organization next 2 years.

The main topic of discussion on the summit became the 2025 Programme of Action, which was previously developed by the OIC. 2025 Programme of Action includes more than one hundred articles, most of which concerns the Middle East settlement, the situation in Palestine and Jerusalem. Special attention was paid to the situation in Syria and Iraq in the context of the joint fight against Daesh. Discussions regarding the refugees problem were lively as well. The OIC member countries expressed their concern about the increase of Islamophobia in Europe and the world in general.

During the summit, the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Turkey Nursultan Nazarbayev and Recep Tayyip Erdogan adopted the Joint Declaration on Islamic Reconciliation. In the document, the Heads of the States reiterated their commitment to the principles of international peace and security and development of friendly relations between the countries.

Moreover, during the summit the Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, put forward the idea to create a permanent contact group on Nagorno-Karabakh within the framework of the OIC. As a result of the summit Istanbul Declaration was adopted.

Recall that the OIC was established in September 1969 to ensure Islamic solidarity in social, economic and political spheres. It was known as the Organization of the Islamic Conference until 2011. OIC comprises 57 countries.



NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV'S VISIT TO TURKEY

The working visit of President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to the Republic of Turkey was on 13-14 of April. In the course of the visit the Kazakh Leader held talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, met with Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, and also participated in the summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

N.Nazarbayev and Erdogan compared notes on topical issues of the international agenda, as well as efforts in the fight against terrorism and extremism. In addition, the Kazakh leader paid attention to the importance of exchanging experiences between Kazakhstan and Turkey in the context of hosting the exhibitions EXPO-2016 in Antalya and EXPO-2017 in Astana.

Kazakhstan and Turkey have agreed to increase the bilateral trade five times, reaching \$ 10 billion. As Nursultan Nazarbayev said: “Now our country has more than a thousand companies with Turkish capital. The trade turnover between the countries exceeds \$ 2 billion, we need to increase this figure to 10 billion”.

During the visit, President of Kazakhstan met with the heads of holdings and companies of Turkey. The event was attended by the heads of around 25 Turkish companies including Ulker Group, Turkuaz Group, Yildirim Group, Yildiz Holding, Akfel Holding, Aselsan Electronic, Acibadem.

The President of Kazakhstan noted that at the present time more than 1,600 companies with Turkish capital operate and about 15 thousand Turkish citizens live in our country.

Moreover, on April, 13 Nursultan Nazarbayev held a meeting with the 11th President of the Republic of Turkey Abdullah Gul. During the meeting they discussed the key areas of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Turkey, as well as the most pressing issues on the international agenda.



MEETINGS OF ILHAM ALIYEV IN TURKEY

One of the honored guests on the OIC Summit in Istanbul was the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. During his visit to the Republic of Turkey he had talks with its President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on April 13.

According to AZERTAC the news agency, at the meeting successful development of friendly and brotherly relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey in all fields was emphasized with pleasure. They expressed confidence in further expansion of strategic cooperation in all spheres. The sides also discussed the latest developments and the current situation on the front line in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ilham Aliyev also met with Prime Minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu. The meeting was marked by the high level of the Azerbaijani-Turkish bilateral relations; there was expressed satisfaction with the friendly, fraternal and partnership relations between two countries. The sides exchanged views on the recent events in the front zone of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In addition, within the framework of the OIC Summit Ilham Aliyev met with Hassan Rouhani. During the meeting, they thoroughly compared notes on the events that took place in early April on the contact line between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops. President Ilham Aliyev noted as follows “We do not want war. However, we had to respond to the provocative actions of the military forces of Armenia.”



NEW PRIME MINISTER IN KYRGYZSTAN

On April 13, President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev in accordance with Part 5 of Article 84 of the Constitution of Kyrgyz Republic signed a Decree on appointment of Jeenbekov Sooronbay Sharipovich as the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan. Thereby, on the same day a Decree was signed, according to which Temir Sariyev Argembaevich relieved of the previously assigned the Prime Minister duties.

On April 14, President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev met with the newly appointed Prime Minister.

The President noted the importance of ensuring the stable operation of the executive authorities in the central and local levels, including the implementation of anti-crisis measures, the creation of all necessary conditions to farmers and rural workers, so they could complete the spring sowing at the proper level. The President also emphasized the need to improve actions in terms of development and implementation of major projects in the field of road construction.

Thus, there was another dismissal of the Prime Minister in Kyrgyzstan and on April 13 Parliament almost unanimously (with 115 votes) approved the new government, which in fact has not changed except three members of the cabinet.



STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN KAZAKHSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN

Official visit of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to Uzbekistan was held on 14-15 of April. The Heads of States discussed the main directions of bilateral cooperation in the spheres of trade-economic, water and energy, transport and logistics, cultural and humanitarian.

Moreover, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Islam Karimov discussed the topical issues of the international agenda, regional security, as well as the SCO summit which is planned to be hosted in Tashkent.

The President of Kazakhstan, said: “Over the years of independence we have not only maintained these connections, but brought together our states. In this context our practice of meetings without unnecessary formalities, as neighbors, is essential. I am proud of my friendship with you and the friendship of the Kazakh and Uzbek people. The goal is to strengthen these relations, mutual trust and transmit them to future generations.”

In his turn, President Islam Karimov noted sincere friendship, mutual respect and support between two states. “These qualities are necessary in the difficult times in which we live. The visit of Nursultan Nazarbayev is a essential for an exchange of views on the joint search for the right solutions in the current situation. Crisis continues in the global economy, there is no country in the world without difficulties. We wish to go the right way and “synchronize our watches” all the time.” - said the President of Uzbekistan.



VISIT TO IRAN

The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev had an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran on April 11. During the visit N. Nazarbayev met the President H. Rouhani, the Spiritual Leader A. Khamenei, as well as representatives of Irani holdings.

The sides noted the importance of strengthening cooperation in the sector of transport and logistics, environmental protection, development of tourism and navigation in the Caspian Sea and signing of documents on its legal status.

The need to fight against extremism and terrorism and to ensure stability in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, ending conflicts in Yemen on the basis of political decisions were discussed on a special focus.

The President of Kazakhstan congratulated H.Rouhani and all the Iranian people with successful resolving the nuclear issue and lifting of sanctions, which opens up great opportunities for the country. Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that our country, despite the circumstances, all the time maintained relations with Iran at a high level.

66 bilateral documents, totaling more than \$ 2 billion in the metallurgical, mining, agricultural, transport and logistics, tourism, science and education, medical fields were signed during the visit.

Nursultan Nazarbayev emphasized that the construction of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway was realized with the direct participation of H. Rouhani.

Iranian President stressed that Kazakhstan has been a friendly neighbor since gaining their independence. “Kazakhstan has always been with us, helping to hold two rounds of nuclear talks between Iran and the G5+1 and now provides assistance in the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Action Plan,” - said H. Rouhani.



MOSCOW HOSTED THE EEC MEETING

The meeting of the EAEU Heads of Governments was moved from Yerevan and was hosted in Moscow on April 13. The Session of Eurasian Interstate Council was held in Moscow on 13 of April, it was attended by representatives of five countries: Armenia, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The Heads of Governments discussed a number of the most pressing issues and development prospects of the Eurasian Economic Union. Speaking at the press conference following the meeting, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov noted the need to build constructive relations with all interested partners.

“On the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, the President of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev, 2016 was declared the “Year of deepening the Union's economic relations with third countries and key integration organizations”, - said Karim Massimov.

According to Tigran Sargsyan the Chairman of the Board of EEC, a clear framework of EAEU cooperation with the European Union and China was identified in the course of the meeting.

The negotiations resulted in signing of a number of documents. In particular, decisions on the concept of Eurasian machine tool engineering center creation, approving the Regulation on the Establishment and Functioning of the Eurasian technology platforms, on the Concept of formation of common markets of the EAEU oil and petroleum products and other decisions were made.



PREPARATION FOR THE SCO SUMMIT

The eleventh meeting of Secretaries of Security Councils of the SCO member states was held under the chairmanship of the Uzbek side in Tashkent on 13-14 of April, 2016.

In preparation for the upcoming meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO member states in Tashkent on June 23-24, 2016 there were exchanged views on the situation in the sphere of security and stability in the space of the Organization, discussed the issues of further development of cooperation and improvement mechanisms for cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, separatism and extremism, illegal trafficking of weapons and drugs, other modern challenges and threats.

There was emphasized the importance of expanding the SCO RAS ties in fighting terrorism, separatism and extremism with UN agencies and other relevant international organizations, as well as with the competent authorities of the observer states and dialogue partners of the SCO.



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