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Türkiye'nin ilk Expo'su

EXPO2016 ANTALYA





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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..



TURKEY OPENS WORLD EXPO-2016

On April 22 in the Turkish city of Antalya the International specialized exhibition “World Botanic EXPO-2016” was opened under the slogan “Children and flowers”. The opening ceremony of “Antalya EXPO”, which is held under the motto “A Green World for the Next Generation”, was attended by President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

According to the organizers, on the fairground of the exhibition many new facilities were built, such as the Expo Tower, an artificial island for children, a conference center and many others. About 8 million visitors are expected to visit the Expo 2016. Turkish media reported that the Turkish government has spent on the preparation of the event about 1.7 billion Turkish lira (\$ 600 million). 120 plant species, including 25 000 trees are planted on the fairground. 945 years-old tree was delivered to the exhibition from Izmir.

The symbol of EXPO-2016 in Antalya was chosen peony. According to history for the first time Sultan Mehmet Han VI brought this flower to Istanbul and planted it in his own garden. In Turkey, the peony is known as a medicinal plant. In other countries it is often called the “King of Flowers”.

According to forecasts of the organizers, 50 countries will participate in the exhibition, including Germany, the Netherlands, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Pakistan, Mexico and several other states.

Official events “World Botanic EXPO-2016” will be held from April 23 to 30, but the whole complex will be available to the public for 192 days. During this time, the organizers are planning to hold about 22 thousand cultural and entertainment events.



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ASTANA HOSTED THE EURASIAN MEDIA FORUM

On 22-23 of April this year the 13th Eurasian Media Forum was held in the capital of Kazakhstan. The Forum was attended by over 400 delegates from 50 countries. 30 authoritative speakers have given lectures, seminars and master classes.

The central themes of the discussion were ways to cope with the global economic crisis, global security issues, including nuclear.

The Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Forum Dariga Nazarbayeva in her opening speech noted that Astana Media Forum is a non-political and non-profit organization for the open discussion of topical issues and questions of the East and the West.

Among the speakers were high-ranking politicians and diplomats. In particular, a presentation of the Ex-President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai was interesting. Highlighting the most pressing problems of the present Karzai said that the world now is faced with two opposing trends: “The first - is extremism and radicalism. It is not only in South Asia, the Middle East and Central Asian region. Now it's in Paris, Brussels, Africa. On the other hand, it is the power of emerging economies and the interaction of the US and Europe”.

In general, during the two-day forum a wide range of topical issues were discussed.

In the end, Dariga Nazarbayeva said that the next Eurasian Media Forum will be held in 2017, on the site of the International Exhibition EXPO in Astana.



MILITARY TRAININGS IN TURKMENISTAN

According to Turkmen media, the country has carried out large-scale military trainings. In particular, a group of ships of the Navy and the State Border Service of Turkmenistan carries out tasks for the organization of military service in the area of naval exercises.

It is reported that these trainings are organized by order of the President, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow. Part of the trainings were started with the end of March this year.

“Altyn Asyr” TV channel reports that the personnel of the Navy besides trainings on the land practiced skills in rescue operations at sea, fire fighting on a military ship and preventing it from flooding. Turkmen Navy made a Marine landing for combat operations against the conditional enemy paratroopers who had landed in the coastal zone, as well as conducted a sophisticated training in shooting to destroy naval targets.

It should be noted that the Turkmen side regularly conducts military-tactical trainings in the Caspian Sea. As President of Turkmenistan G. Berdimuhamedow said, “The country needs to provide a reliable safety and security of maritime boundaries, as any state with access to the sea”.



TURKEY RULED ON ERGENEKON

Last Thursday, on 21st of April this year Turkey's Court of Cassation quashed the judgment of Silivri Court in the case of Ergenekon, of plotting to the military coup in the country, in which in August 2013 more than 250 defendants were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

According to the decision of the Court of Cassation, there are no sufficient evidences of recognition of Ergenekon the terrorist organization, its founders and leaders are not defined and the investigation and trial which were conducted with serious violations related in particular to the illegal wiretapping and searches.

Turkish media reported that in the case of Ergenekon about 400 people were considered: politicians and public figures, journalists, lawyers, university professors, retired and active military officers. Their trial continues in Istanbul since 2007.

The Court also noted that the charges against the former Chief of General Staff General Ilker Basbug should be considered in the Supreme Council.

The trial of the coup attempt Ergenekon, which is considered one of the most important legal processes in the modern history of Turkey, ended on August 5, 2013, when the 13th High Criminal Court of Istanbul issued a harsh sentence to all defendants.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF SCO

On 19-20 of April the Russian city of Sochi hosted the International Forum of the SCO “The second track. The role of civil society and public diplomacy in the further development and expansion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”. This event brings together 300 participants from 26 countries of Asia, Europe, and Africa.

The main agenda of the forum was to discuss the role of civil society in international diplomacy, the values of the Eurasian integration in the global order changes, methods of joint solutions to regional problems, as well as the issue of expansion of the SCO and the inclusion of new member states.

During the plenary and breakout sessions the issues related to the economy, business, environment, environmental conservation, education, science, the interaction of cultures and religions, world order and the fight against terrorism were reviewed.

According to the results of the Forum delegates from 26 countries adopted a resolution which declares creation of “Sochi Initiative” - a permanent public organization of international dialogue, and the meetings of its participants in the form of an international forum in Sochi will get regular. The delegates unanimously supported the initiative to hold congresses of supporters of Eurasian integration and expansion of the SCO at least once every two years or even once a year.



FOREIGN TOUR OF OBAMA

In the reporting period, the Summit “US - Persian Gulf” was held, which was attended by the Leaders of the regions and also the US President Barack Obama.

Barack Obama started his official visit to Saudi Arabia by a tour to several countries in the Arab world and Europe.

Barack Obama held talks with the Governor of Riyadh Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and other officials.

Within the visit to Saudi Arabia, the US president took part in the Summit of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Gulf Cooperation Council). Issues of regional security, intensification of the struggle against international terrorism and the current situation in the oil market were in the center of attention. Before the summit, the participants held talks with the US President.

The main topic of the talks between the US and the UK governance, where Obama has arrived on April 21 just after Saudi Arabia, was the opportunity of Britain to leave the EU. The visit began with a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle.

According to the President of the United States, Britain is able to counter terrorism more effectively in the European Union, and membership of the EU strengthens its influence on the world stage. It is noted that Obama's attitude led to criticism from the supporters of British exit from the EU, for example, the Mayor of London Boris Johnson. It is known that a referendum on the UK's membership in the European Union is scheduled for June 23.

As the media notes, after a three-day visit to the UK, the US president will fly to Germany where he will also hold a series of talks with the governance of the country.



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