

# Turkic Weekly

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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 Turkic Academy**.



## MUSLIM WORLD CELEBRATES EID-AL-ADHA

Muslims from various parts of the planet celebrate Eid-Al-Adha, Islamic holiday dedicated to the end of a pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj). Turkic world is also celebrating this holiday. According to the law “On holidays in the Republic of Azerbaijan” adopted by Milli Majlis on October 27, 1992, Eid-Al-Adha is celebrated on the national level. In his congratulatory statements the President of Azerbaijan Ilkham Aliyev said that he is confident that current holiday will also celebrate national and spiritual harmony, mercy and compassion in our society.

In Kazakhstan, citizens began their celebration with morning prayers. They also sacrificed domestic animals such as sheep, lamb, cow or camel, as a symbol of Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his only son. Various activities were held across the country during the holiday. The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev in his congratulatory remarks said that since Kazakhstan gained independence, “Kurban Ait” (Eid-Al-Adha) became truly meaningful holiday that contributes to the unity of the people and strengthens inter-religious harmony.

On the occasion of this holiday, the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a phone conversation with the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. During the conversation leaders of two Turkic-speaking states exchanged congratulations and discussed regional and international issues.

In Kyrgyz Republic, “Kurman ait” expresses the strengthening of moral foundations and social cohesion of Kyrgyz people. To celebrate Eid-Al-Adha, the President of Kyrgyz Republic Almazbek Atambayev participated in Ait-namaz in one of the mosques located in the Arashan village of Chu district.

Eid-Al-Adha was also celebrated in Turkey, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, several regions of Russia, China, India, etc.



## NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV COMMEMORATES ISLAM KARIMOV

The President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev paid a working visit to Uzbekistan and to lay flowers at the grave of the Uzbek leader. Mr. Nazarbayev met with the family of the first President of Uzbekistan and expressed his condolences to them. Addressing the gathering, President Nazarbayev noted that long years of strong friendship, mutual understanding and sincere support linked him and Islam Karimov.

He continued by saying that “Kazakh and Uzbek people has always been helping each other in difficult times. We with Islam Karimov signed the agreements on eternal friendship at the Khoja Akhmet Yassawi mausoleum in 1998 and our relations were based in this historic agreement. Kazakhstan has always been and will be near Uzbek people, we share your joys and sorrows and will support you in difficult time”.

During the visit Nursultan Nazarbayev held a meeting with the Acting President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyeyev. The parties exchanged views on further cooperation opportunities between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in various spheres. Mr. Mirziyeyev expressed his gratitude to Nursultan Nazarbayev for his visit to Uzbekistan to commemorate Islam Karimov.

He emphasized that Kazakhstan’s President visit paid during Eid-Al-Adha, the holiday, which signifies solidarity and kindness, shows how close relations between Uzbek and Kazakh Presidents were.



## KAZAKHSTAN GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

Significant cabinet reshuffle took place in Kazakhstan during last week. Following the appointment of the Prime-Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev, the President of Kazakhstan made a government reshuffle by signing decree, which approved new cabinet members.

Defense minister Imanghali Tasmagambetov was appointed as Deputy Prime-Minister. His Deputy Saken Zhasuzaqov was promoted to the post of Minister of Defense. Berik Imashev left his minister post in Ministry of Justice to head the Central Election Commission. He was replaced by Marat Beketayev, who previously worked as the Deputy Chief of President's Office.

Moreover, to increase interactions with religious organizations and to ensure rights of citizens to freely practice their religion and enhance cooperation between civil society and the state, Kazakh President decided to establish new Ministry for Religious Affairs and Civil Society.

Commenting on recent appointments, Nursultan Nazarbayev said that "...during the recent extended meeting of the Government held together with the governors of regions, mayors of Astana and Almaty cities, we discussed the measures of shifting from fight with the crisis to an economic stimulation program.

This, in turn, provides for creation of additional job places and increasing population's income, in particular, in agriculture, housing construction and other sectors. In this view, the new Cabinet has been set certain tasks. The changes in the Government prove that a new generation of leaders has come, including the Bolashak program alumni," said N.Nazarbayev.



## CIS 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT WAS HELD IN BISHKEK

On September 16, leaders of Commonwealth of Independent States gathered in Bishkek to discuss multilateral cooperation and pressing economic and political issues.

CIS states this year celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> of anniversary of the organization. Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Tajikistan had attended the event. Moldova was represented by the Prime-Minister. Deputy Prime-Minister of Turkmenistan also was among participants of the Summit. Ukraine sent its' Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan. Acting President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyeyev hadn't participated in the CIS Summit.

In the context of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Heads of CIS states evaluated results of inter-governmental work conducted within CIS framework and exchanged views on key spheres of their cooperation. The meeting resulted in signing number of multilateral agreements, including the statement on fight against terrorism and drug trafficking.



## UZBEKISTAN WILL HOLD PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN DECEMBER

The Central Election Committee of Uzbekistan announced that forthcoming presidential elections will take place on December 4, 2016. The election campaign of candidates started on September 9. The registration of presidential candidates will be held from September 30 till October 20.

Under the Constitution, people of Uzbekistan should elect new President within three months. President of Uzbekistan is elected for five years. It is worth recalling that last presidential elections were held in March 2015.

Meanwhile, new appointments were made during the last week. The Acting President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyeyev appointed Abdullah Aripov as the Deputy Prime Minister. He will coordinate efforts of the government agencies in the spheres of youth policy, culture, information systems and telecommunications.

Shavkat Mirziyeyev also promoted Rustam Kassimov to the post of Minister of Higher and Secondary Special Education. Mr. Kassimov's new deputies were also appointed.



## TERROR ATTACK IN TURKISH CITY OF VAN

According to Van's governor's office statement, 53 civilians and four police officers were injured after a bomb-laden car was blown up by members of PKK terror organization near the regional headquarters of governing Justice and Development Party (AK Parti). Various building near the AK Parti office were damaged.

As Anadolu News Agency reports, car bomb was powered by a remote control device. Local authorities say that due to Eid-Al-Adha holiday most of the offices were closed and residents of the area were having rest in their homes, so it reduced number of victims of terror attack.

President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan strongly condemned the attack and argued that organizers of this attack, sooner or later, will be severely punished.

Van is a city about 100 km east of the border with Iran and has a mixed Kurdish and Turkish population on the shores of the lake of the same name. It has generally been spared the worst of attacks such as those seen in the nearby city of Diyarbakir.



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