On December 9, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov received Japanese Ambassador Yoshinori Fujiyama in the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent.

During the meeting, topical issues of Uzbek-Japanese agenda were discussed. In particular, issues on preparations for the upcoming visit of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Japan, as well as on other bilateral meetings. The visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Japan is scheduled for the end of 2019.

The first president of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, visited Japan three times in 1994, 2002 and 2011. Return visits by Prime Ministers of Japan Mr.J. Koizumi took place in August 2006 and S. Abe in October 2015.

Over the past years, Uzbekistan established ten joint ventures, including one with 100% of Japanese capital. In addition, 13 representative offices of Japanese companies are accredited.

There is every reason to hope that the Uzbek-Japanese cooperation will actively develop in the future. In general, development of relations between Central Asian countries and Japan is in the interests of both parties.
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF KYRGYZSTAN AND MONGOLIA MET

On December 6, within the framework of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava, a bilateral meeting between Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Chingiz Aidarbekov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Damdin Tsogtbaatar took place. According to the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, the head of the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry also met with the Head of the Swiss delegation, State Secretary of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pascale Baeriswyl.

During the meeting with the Foreign Minister of Mongolia, the ministers exchanged views on the implementation of agreements reached during the official visit of the President of Mongolia Kh. Battulga to the Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek, June 12-13, 2019), as well as the 3rd meeting of the Kyrgyz-Mongolian Intergovernmental Commission on trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural-humanitarian cooperation (Bishkek, October 30, 2019). The parties discussed plans to further increase bilateral cooperation and a schedule of contacts in 2020.

During the meeting of Ch. Aidarbekov with the State Secretary of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the parties noted high level of bilateral cooperation and expressed their willingness to further strengthening of them within the framework of agreements reached following the official visit of President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov to the Swiss Confederation in July 2019.

In addition, issues of technical cooperation within the framework of the Strategy of cooperation between Switzerland and the Kyrgyz Republic for 2017-2020, strengthening the legal framework, as well as development of inter-parliamentary cooperation were discussed.
APPRECIATION OF TURKISH LIRA IS EXPECTED

According to emerging market analyst at Deutsche Bank, Christian Vitoska, the Turkish bond rally is likely to continue in 2020, and the Turkish lira will rise to the level last observed in August. In particular, the expert recommends investors to buy the lira against the dollar, aiming for a move to 5.55 USD from current 5.79.

Now the lira can catch up, this is facilitated by positive real rates and an almost balanced current account of the balance of payments. By the end of 2020, the Central bank is expected to cut rates by at least another 400 bp, compared to 250 bp expected in the market.

In addition, JPMorgan recently published its forecast, according to which the reduction in the base rate will amount 100 points in Turkey next year. We also noted the lira's recent volatility decreasing, despite the geopolitical risk.
On December 12, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev attended the closing ceremony of the Year of Youth and the opening of the Year of Volunteer in Kazakhstan.

The ceremony took place in the capital of Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, in one of the EXPO pavilions. The event was attended by about 500 youth representatives from all regions of the country.

The venue of the ceremony was not chosen by chance. It is noted that the Center for Support of Creative Initiatives – the ArtHUB is created in the specified pavilion. It will become a kind of heritage of the Year of Youth.

It is expected that the creation of the ArtHUB next to large-scale projects will form an additional center for attraction of young talents, where the intellectual bank of Kazakhstan’s youth will operate on a permanent basis.
On December 12, Turkmenistan celebrated International Day of Neutrality. Twenty-four years ago, on December 12, 1995, Turkmenistan acquired the legal status of permanent neutrality.

“During this short period by historical standards, our state has accumulated valuable experience in building friendly relations with countries of the planet, authoritative organizations in the name of ensuring peace, security, sustainable development, and the formation of effective vectors of international cooperation,” states the congratulatory address of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

As noted in the message, the election of Ashgabat as the location of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia has increased the credibility of Turkmenistan as a country actively implementing the UN initiatives and programs for maintenance of world peace.

It should be noted that in 2015 at the 69th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the Resolution “On the Legal Status of Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan” was re-adopted.
On December 11, the presentation of the three-volume research novel titled “Heydar Aliyev. Personality and the era” of the famous writer and publicist, deputy of the Milli Majlis, people's writer, honored journalist Elmira Akhundova.

The three-volume edition, published with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation at the Canon Plus Publishing House, contains interesting facts about different periods of life and activity of the National Leader of Azerbaijan, his interviews, and archival materials. The book includes earlier unknown facts about Heydar Aliyev. The novel is written on the basis of archival and official documents, hundreds of taped conversations with friends, relatives and associates of the National Leader of Azerbaijani people.

In her speech at the event, the author of the book, Elmira Akhundova, spoke about the formation of Heydar Aliyev’s personality, characteristic features that determine the phenomenon of a nationwide leader.

Vice-President of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, chairman of the Milli Majlis committee, academician Isa Gabibbeyli noted that the book is one of the best biographical novels-epics dedicated to outstanding statesman Heydar Aliyev.