On March 11, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov paid an official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan. The visit of the Turkmen leader was held at the invitation of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

At the negotiations, which took place in an atmosphere of high trust and mutual understanding, the parties exchanged views on contemporary international and regional issues and noted the achievement of mutual understanding on a wide range of issues.

In addition, the presidents of two fraternal countries noted the similarity of views on key issues of international politics of mutual interest, and reiterated their intention to intensify mutually beneficial cooperation on the world stage.

In particular, G. Berdimuhamedov and I. Aliyev stated that they would continue to support important transport projects that meet interests of two countries, including the Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey transport corridor project, as well as projects within the Trans-Caspian International Transport route, and also reached an understanding on a number of other pressing issues.

At the end of his visit to Azerbaijan, G. Berdimuhamedov expressed gratitude to I. Aliyev for the hospitality rendered to the Turkmen delegation, a warm and friendly welcome, and invited the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to visit Turkmenistan at a convenient time for him. The invitation was accepted with appreciation. The dates of the visit will be agreed through diplomatic channels.
PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN DISCUSSED INVESTMENT PROJECTS

On March 7, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with officials in charge of the future implementation of investment projects in Tashkent. At the meeting, a presentation of promising projects for each district of the capital was held. In 2020, 400 projects worth $4.8 billion will be implemented.

“Investment projects and exports are aimed at creating jobs and additional income. Tashkent has very large resources. Currently, they are not even used halfway”, - Sh. Mirziyoyev said.

In 2020-2022, 762 projects worth 9 billion 884 million dollars will be implemented in Tashkent. It is planned to invest 1 billion 890 million dollars in industry, and 4 billion 966 million dollars in the service sector. In addition, it is planned to invest 3 billion 328 million dollars in housing construction of 183 different facilities.

At the last meeting it was also noted that the Tashkent business center in Yakkasaray district and modern houses, entertainment and business centers in Yunusabad-city contribute to the effective development of the city.
On March 11, Deputy Akim (Head of Administration) of Turkestan Region Meirzhan Myrzaliyev met with German Consul General Christiana Markert, who arrived in the region on a working trip.

The meeting participants discussed prospects for cooperation in the trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian fields, as well as opportunities for attracting investments. In addition, the Deputy Akim of the region told the guests about economic and tourist potential of the region.

“Currently, Turkestan is experiencing a construction boom. In addition to socio-cultural facilities, the ancient city builds an international airport, the Great Silk Road National Center for Traditional Applied Arts, a congress hall, the multifunctional tourist complex “Caravanserai”, Rixos and Hilton world-class hotels and many others. Taking into account the potential of our region, as well as close relations established between Kazakhstan and the European Union, we are ready to expand areas of cooperation,” M. Myrzaliyev said.

In addition, the Deputy Akim of the region noted that 8 projects with the participation of companies from EU countries are being implemented in Turkestan region. Among them are such well-known companies as Eni, Urbasolar. In turn, Christiana Markert expressed her willingness to expand trade, economic and cultural ties between the two countries.
On March 9, in Denizli region Turkish Minister of Finance and Treasury Berat Albayrak officially announced that the Turkish authorities were taking successful steps to reduce inflation, which should drop to 8.5% by the end of the year.

According to B. Albayrak, Turkey stands firm on its feet due to a strong economy, and this is only beginning. In addition, the Government has prepared a new financial program to stimulate the textile industry.

“The new program should lead to an increase in jobs, an increase in value added and export volumes, including in the ready-made clothing sector. The program aims to support the entire economic chain - from the production of raw materials to retail sales,” B. Albayrak said.

Moreover, the Turkish Minister of Finance noted that two areas of lending in the textile industry were identified: production and investment.
THE STATE COMMODITY AND RAW MATERIAL EXCHANGE OF TURKMENISTAN GROWS ITS TURNOVER

An important recent trend became a steady increase in the turnover of the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange (SCRME) of Turkmenistan.

So, over the past week, 196 transactions were registered at the SCRMET.

Businessmen from Afghanistan bought in foreign currency the base oil produced at the Turkmenbashi complex of oil refineries, and liquefied gas (Turkmengaz Group of Companies).

In addition, cotton yarn and colorless flat glass were sold in foreign currency. Among purchasing countries were UAE and Uzbekistan. The total amount of transactions exceeded 5 million 118 thousand US dollars.

Representatives of business circles from the UAE also purchased cotton yarn worth 1 million 610 thousand manats.

Domestic entrepreneurs bought polypropylene, petroleum bitumen, high density polyethylene, handmade carpets and cotton fiber. The total amount of transactions amounted to over 59.339 million manats.
On March 10, in Kyrgyzstan, in the High Technology Park, on the initiative and coordination of the Department of Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the US Embassy, the first working meeting was held with the participation of representatives of state bodies of Kyrgyzstan - the Government Office of the Kyrgyz Republic, the State Committee for Information Technologies and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Agency for Promotion and Protection of Investments of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as representatives of diplomatic corps accredited in Kyrgyzstan.

During the meeting, participants noted that currently there is a very positive trend in the development of IT sector and the growing interest of young people in this sector in Kyrgyzstan. It is planned to hold an “IT EXPO” at the international level, with the participation of leading IT companies from the USA, Great Britain, Japan, Korea, Germany, France, India and other interested states.

It is expected that the International Exhibition will provide IT / start-up companies of Kyrgyzstan with the opportunity to establish cooperation with leading world companies in the exchange of experience and business outsourcing.

Following the results of the first working meeting, the Parties agreed to form a Working Group of Experts to develop organizational and substantive aspects with subsequent creation of the Organizing Committee for the “IT EXPO”.