On December 24, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev congratulated President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on his birthday by telephone.

During the telephone conversation K. Tokayev noted the outstanding contribution of I. Aliyev to the successful socio-economic development of friendly Azerbaijan, as well as the protection of the territorial integrity of the state in accordance with the UN Charter and decisions of the UN Security Council.

The heads of the two Turkic states discussed joint tasks for further development of bilateral cooperation, as well as interaction on the international arena.

In particular, I. Aliyev invited Kazakhstani companies to take part in the restoration of Nagorno-Karabakh.
On December 25, President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan in his video address to the participants of the 8th Innovation Week of Turkey noted that the Turkish economy after decrease because of the coronavirus pandemic in the second quarter of 2020 demonstrated a powerful breakthrough of 6.7% in the third quarter. Thus, Turkey topped the list of countries with the fastest recovering economies.

R.T. Erdogan also noticed that Turkey’s success in the pandemic period was achieved largely due to the powerful economic base formed during the 18 years of the Justice and Development Party.

“Even the most developed countries of the world were not ready for the pandemic and the difficulties of the underdeveloped and developing countries increased. Along with the pandemic, protectionist tendencies have intensified in the world, new customs barriers are being erected, and countries are trying to close themselves off from the outside world,” the Turkish leader emphasized.

R.T. Erdogan said that despite all challenges and problems faced by Turkish residents in connection with the spread of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), the pandemic has also opened up new opportunities for business.

“During the pandemic, Turkish companies favorably stood out from foreign competitors with product quality and competitive prices, and of course, reliability,” R.T. Erdogan said.

The Turkish leader stressed that Turkey will emerge from the pandemic stronger, including in terms of exports, tourism, manufacturing and the defense industry.
On December 21, a telephone conversation between President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took place.

After warm greetings, the heads of two brotherly states exchanged views on the state and prospects of interstate cooperation meeting the fundamental interests of Turkmen and Uzbek peoples, and also discussed a number of issues of international and regional politics.

Taking the opportunity, the Turkmen leader congratulated his Uzbek counterpart on the successful holding of the meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State and stressed the successful chairmanship of Uzbekistan in this structure in 2020.

G. Berdimuhamedov has emphasized that Turkmenistan highly appreciates bilateral relations with the fraternal Republic of Uzbekistan and attaches great importance to the development of comprehensive cooperation with the close neighbor and reliable partner.

In turn, Sh. Mirziyoyev expressed gratitude for the kind words and noted that the outgoing year had marked the 25th anniversary of the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, which served to strengthen the foundations of its independence and its role on the political map of the world.

Confirming their mutual interest in further strengthening the Turkmen-Uzbek ties in the trade, economic, humanitarian and cultural fields, the parties expressed their firm conviction that cooperation based on centuries-old bonds of friendship and good-neighborliness would successfully develop and strengthen for the benefit of the two brotherly Turkic peoples.
On December 25, the head of the press service of the State Agency for Roads of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Anar Najafli said that the first stage of construction of two highways in the territories of Azerbaijan liberated from occupation was close to completion.

According to A. Najafli, these are the Tartar-Sugovushan and Sugovushan-Talish roads: “The length of the Tartar-Sugovushan road is 21 km, Sugovushan-Talish - 8 km. Construction work on both roads is progressing at an accelerated pace. The first stage of work will be completed in the coming days. At the moment, the laying of the concrete pavement is being completed.”

A. Najafli added that the second stage of construction will start at the beginning of next year: “If weather conditions permit, the second stage will start at the beginning of next year, and both roads will be built in a short time,” said the head of the State Agency.
TIKA WILL BUILD AND REPAIR POLYCLINICS IN KYRGYZSTAN REGIONS

On December 21, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Ruslan Kazakbayev received the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Kyrgyz Republic Cengiz Firat.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the results of R. Kazakbayev’s visit to Turkey on November 9-11, 2020.

The Minister noted that the past visit made it possible to make a kind of “reset” on many issues of the Kyrgyz-Turkish strategic cooperation, to outline the priority areas of effective interaction in the near, medium and long terms.

The Ambassador confirmed the deep interest of the Turkish side to further develop active cooperation in the political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. He also noted Turkey’s determination to provide all-round assistance in further socio-economic development of Kyrgyzstan.

An exchange of views on issues of interaction in combating the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic also took place. In this context, the Kyrgyz side expressed gratitude to the Turkish side for assistance in countering the consequences of the epidemic. Moreover, the Turkish side confirmed its readiness to continue cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in the field of health and to provide the brotherly Kyrgyz people with necessary assistance in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

In particular, C. Firat informed that the Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination (TIKA) intended to implement a project on opening, repairing and technical equipment of polyclinics in the regions of Kyrgyzstan.

C. Firat also said that with the end of the coronavirus infection pandemic the Minister of Health of Turkey will visit the Kyrgyz Republic to officially open the Bishkek State Hospital of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Friendship.
SOUTH KOREA TO ALLOCATE $1 MILLION FOR THE ARAL REGION IN UZBEKISTAN

South Korea will contribute 1 million USD to the UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region in Uzbekistan. At the moment, a corresponding agreement has already been signed.

The funds will be used to help the population of the Aral Sea region improve socio-economic conditions and health.

The Korean government also plans to provide a grant of $5.56 million for the Aral Sea region within the framework of the multilateral development project of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The trust fund was established under the UN auspices at the end of 2018. It is a platform for cooperation at the national and international levels to address the environmental and socio-economic needs of the Aral Sea population.