Early presidential elections and a referendum to determine the form of government ended in Kyrgyzstan on January 10.

According to preliminary results, after processing data from automatically reading ballot boxes, Sadyr Zhaparov is in the lead in the presidential race. According to preliminary data, he has 84.9% of the vote.

Since one of the candidates has already passed the 50% barrier, there will be no second round.

It is already known that Kyrgyz voters supported the transition to a presidential form of government: more than 80% of those who voted in the referendum also voted in its favor. Kyrgyz people associate the presidential rule with the hope for stability and successful development of the country, its economy and political system in the future.

President-elect of the Kyrgyz Republic S. Zhaparov is currently receiving official congratulations from the heads of states and international organizations.

The Central Election Commission will announce the final results of the presidential campaign by January 24.
On January 10, Kazakhstan held elections of deputies of the Mazhilis for the Parliament and maslikhats.

Candidates from five political parties took part in the parliamentary elections: Nur Otan, Ak Zhol, People’s Party of Kazakhstan (former KNPC – Communist People’s Party of Kazakhstan), Adal and Auyl.

Parties should get at least 7% of the total number of votes to get a seat at the Mazhilis. A total of 10,060 polling stations were operated, including 66 polling stations in 53 countries at the country’s representative offices in foreign countries.

After midnight, Nur-Sultan time, the results of exit polls were announced.

- Nur Otan — 71.97 percent;
- Ak Zhol — 10.18 percent;
- People’s Party of Kazakhstan — 9.03 percent;
- Auyl — 5.75 percent;
- Adal — 3.07 percent.

According to Kazakhstan’s legislation, parties that have crossed the threshold of seven percent of the vote get a seat at the Parliament. So the parties Nur Otan, Ak Zhol and the People’s Party of Kazakhstan will be represented in the lower house of Kazakh parliament.
TURKEY IS READY TO BECOME ONE OF THE LEADERS IN SPACE EXPLORATION

On January 8, President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Turkey is determined to become one of the world leaders in the field of space and satellite technologies during the launch of the fifth-generation telecommunications satellite Türksat 5A into Earth orbit.

According to R.T. Erdogan, thanks to the Türksat 5A satellite, Turkey has guaranteed its rights in the eastern longitude of the Earth’s orbit for another 30 years.

«Turkey’s goal is to launch the first telecommunications satellite of domestic production Türksat 6A into Earth orbit in 2022. We also hope that next year we will be able to launch the first domestic satellite for remote sensing of the Earth Imece,» Erdogan stated.

He also noted that the National Space Program of Turkey for the period 2021-2030 will be published soon.

Türksat 5A will operate in the Ku range from a point of 31 degrees east longitude. The geostationary communications satellite will broadcast to Turkey, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, central and west Africa, South Africa, the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea.

Turkey is among the 30 countries in the world that have their own satellites in Earth orbit.
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev declared the city of Shusha the cultural capital of Azerbaijan during the reception of newly appointed Minister of Culture Anar Kerimov on January 5.

«I declare the city of Shusha the cultural capital of Azerbaijan. The city of Shusha is worthy of this. I believe that Shusha can be considered the cultural capital not only of Azerbaijan but also of the region», said I. Aliyev.

Noting that the restoration of Shusha has already started, the head of the Azerbaijani state said: «We should carry out an audit of the housing stock, historical monuments, the damage caused and we should begin the restoration of the city of Shusha. The original and historical appearance of Shusha must be restored without wasting time, but at the same time without haste.»

The President noted that the mosques located in Shusha should also be overhauled and restored.

During the city occupation, numerous acts of vandalism took place, but now the liberated city is returning to its original appearance.
KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN AND THE US CREATED AN INVESTMENT “TRIO”

On January 7, the governments of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and the United States announced their decision to organize a trilateral investment partnership in Central Asia «The Central Asia Investment Partnership». A joint statement was issued on this occasion.

Through this initiative, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will make all possible efforts to raise at least $1 billion over five years. This initiative will support projects that advance private-sector led growth and increase economic connectivity within Central Asia and the broader region.

Preference will be given to innovative entrepreneurial ideas. The creators of the investment «trio» aim to use all possible approaches for the growth of trade relations and the development of cooperation in other promising areas between the involved states of Central Asian region.
PAKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN DISCUSS GOODS TRANSIT THROUGH PAKISTANI PORTS

On January 9, the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atajan Movlamov met with the adviser to the Prime Minister of the country Abdul Razak Dawood in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The parties discussed trade relations and the main directions of their development.

Both sides agreed that interstate cooperation in the relevant area has great potential which has not yet been fully disclosed. In this regard, they expressed the need to take appropriate steps to increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

In addition, the parties noted that the third meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade which will be held in the near future will discuss a wide range of issues of bilateral trade.

It was also agreed that to finalise the agenda for the 3rd Meeting of the JWT, both sides would hold technical level consultations.

It was also discussed the holding of the 6th meeting of Pak-Turkmenistan Joint Governmental Commission this year and the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU). Earlier, Turkmenistan offered the Government of Pakistan to transport Turkmen goods in transit through the ports of Gwadar and Karachi by rail and by road.

In order to achieve these goals, it is planned to sign a memorandum of understanding between the ports in the cities of Turkmenbashi and Gwadar.
1.5 MILLION TOURISTS VISITED UZBEKISTAN IN 2020

Aziz Abdukhakimov, the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Head of the State Tourism Committee, spoke about tourism sector indicators in 2020 and the tasks for 2021 at a briefing at the Information and Mass Communications Agency.

He announced that 1.5 million foreign tourists visited Uzbekistan last year, who were provided with services worth 261 million US dollars.

Indicators of domestic tourism amounted to 1.8 million people. 1.7 million foreign tourists are expected to arrive in Uzbekistan this year, and the number of local tourists will be increased to 7.5 million.

«As a result of the global crisis caused by coronavirus pandemic, tourism has become one of the most affected industries. In 2020, a total of 1 million 504 thousand foreign tourists visited the country. At the same time, services worth $ 261 million were provided to those arrived,» the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan said.

He also stressed that specific plans have been developed for 2021 to attract 1.7 million tourists from abroad, and added that it is expected to export tourist services for $370 million.