Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Turkey is first in Europe and among the top four nations globally in geothermal energy at the opening ceremony of multiple energy and natural resources facilities in Manisa province via video link.

The total potential of geothermal capacity in Turkey was only 18 megawatts in 2002 and today it is already 1613 megawatts. The Head of the Turkish state noted that the Turkish authorities are striving for gasification of the entire country.

According to Erdogan, the volume of investments in the country’s gas distribution system amounted to $27 billion since the ruling party came to power 18 years ago.

«Despite the pandemic, the Turkish authorities have provided gas to 39 districts and settlements of the country. In 2021, the volume of investments in the gas distribution system will increase,» Erdogan said.

The last 18 years have been the most successful in the history of the Republic of Turkey, the Turkish leader stressed.

He also noted that the Turkish authorities aim to create an energy sector that functions mainly through the sale of domestic resources.

According to the Turkish President, in 18 years the total installed capacity of the country’s power plants has tripled to 96 thousand megawatts.

Turkey is striving to become a leader in the use of renewable energy technologies, Erdogan said. Today, the share of local resources in electricity production is 63.5 percent. At the same time, renewable energy sources account for 51.7 percent, he added.
On January 14, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, Afghan leader Mohammad Ashraf Ghani along with officials of two countries attended the launch of the Akina-Andkhoy railway line, modern international fibre-optic communication lines and the Kerki-Shibergan power transmission line.

The length of the railway from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan is 30 kilometres. Azat Atamuradov, head of the Türkmendemirýollary agency, said that this steel highway is part of the Asian International Railway Transport Corridor, and will also become one of the most important links of the Lapis Lazuli Corridor.

Head of the IRA Railways Department Mohammad Yamma Shams marked that the commissioning of this railway will expand the transport and transit potential of the country.

The length of the Kerki (Turkmenistan) — Shibergan (Afghanistan) power transmission line is 153 kilometers, and its capacity is 500 kW.

It is part of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan transmission line project. The corresponding electricity will be transported from Turkmenistan to several towns in the IRA (in particular to Mazar-i-Sharif) and Pakistan.
NEW JEWELRY ENTERPRISE OPENS IN UZBEKISTAN

On January 15, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Gold Moon Tashkent jewelry factory, the newly commissioned factory at the same day.

President Mirziyoyev highlighted that the main goal is to train young people in modern technologies and design, provide jobs for at least 10 thousand young men and women, also bring the national brand of Uzbekistan to the world market. «Our country has both raw materials and skilled artisans. This industry is also an excellent ground for the revival of national traditions, strengthening self-awareness,» he said.

The new project with an annual production capacity of six tons and worth 21 million U.S. dollars, uses modern equipment from Italy, Germany and Turkey, and currently provides jobs for more than 200 jewelers. They adopt the experience and skills of Italian designers and technicians.

Thanks to the modern design and high-quality execution, the products of the jewelry factory created on the basis of the former scientific and production enterprise «Phonon» attract the attention of an increasing number of buyers and replace imports. A branded store is also located in the building. It is planned to export 15 percent of the products to Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and other countries.

On May 18, 2019, the Presidential Decree «On measures to accelerate the development of the jewelry industry in the Republic of Uzbekistan» was adopted.

Jewelry is a popular product all over the world. The global market of the industry with a turnover of more than 250 billion dollars is growing by 5-6 percent annually.
AZERBAIJANI FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH ICESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov met with Director General of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) Salim bin Mohammed al-Malik.

Bayramov stressed the high level of cooperation between Azerbaijan and ICESCO. The high assessment of ICESCO’s support for the position of Azerbaijan based on international law, and in particular the statement made by the organization during the 44-day Patriotic War, was brought to attention.

ICESCO Director General highly appreciated his visit to Azerbaijan. He stressed that the visit was fruitful not only in terms of meeting with high-ranking officials but also getting acquainted with the situation in the liberated territories.

It was noted that the scale of destruction, including the destruction of religious monuments, graves, museums, residential buildings and other structures seen during the visit to the territories liberated from occupation is a clear demonstration that such a policy has been carried out purposefully for decades.

During the meeting, the sides also exchanged views on the future prospects of cooperation between Azerbaijan and ICESCO.
World Bank analysts have recognized the Turkestan region as the best region for doing business in Kazakhstan. Every year, they research favourable conditions for entrepreneurship in 190 countries around the world. Kazakhstan is at the 25th place. Sub-rating of entrepreneurial activity is also carried out among the regions and megacities of the country.

Kazakhstan was evaluated on 10 criteria. Regions by 5 factors: business climate, infrastructure, availability of finance, human capital and transparency of decisions.

The World Bank’s «Doing Business» project makes it possible to objectively assess the legislation on business regulation and its application in countries and individual cities at the sub-national and regional levels.

The organization offers a wide range of financial products and technical assistance and helps countries share and use innovative knowledge and solve related problems.

Recall that about 150 thousand entrepreneurs are registered in the Turkestan region. Under the «Economy of Simple Things» program, 246 projects worth 24.4 billion tenge were financed in the region. 29 projects worth 5 billion tenge have been approved, 27 projects worth 6.1 billion tenge are being financed.

77.4% of the subjects are engaged in agriculture, food industry and services. Currently, 17 projects are being implemented in the field of agriculture, two in the field of tourism and three in the food industry.
On January 14, program coordinator of the Turkish Office for Cooperation and Development (TIKA) in the Kyrgyz Republic, Osman Usta, visited the Alykul Osmonov National Library of Kyrgyzstan and held talks with the Director of the Library Zhyldyz Bakashova.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the prospects for further improvement and modernization of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Center for Culture and Literature named after Chyngyz Aitmatov, who is very popular with readers of the National Library of the Kyrgyz Republic. They also outlined plans for joint events in 2021.

Opening of the center was held in 2018, it was timed to the 90th anniversary of the world-famous writer and public figure Chyngyz Aitmatov. Kyrgyz-Turkish Center for Culture and Literature named after Chyngyz Aitmatov was organized in the National Library by the Turkish Office for Cooperation and Development (TIKA) with the support of the Turkish Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic.