On January 19, under the chairmanship of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a video conference was held on the issues of spiritual and educational strengthening, also improvement of state and public organizations interaction in this process.

The current challenges have already been outlined by Sh.Mirziyoyev in his Address to the Oliy Majlis, at the first Youth Forum of Uzbekistan and an extended meeting of the Security Council.

Speaking at the meeting, the President of Uzbekistan defined the main ideology of the country.

- The ideology of the new Uzbekistan that we are creating will be kindness, humanity, and humanism. When we talk about ideology, we mean, first of all, strengthening spirituality based on the rich spiritual heritage of our ancestors and national values,« Mirziyoyev said.

It was emphasized that globalization brings humanity not only unprecedented new opportunities but also unforeseen problems, increasing the number of challenges to national identity and spiritual values.

As the President of Uzbekistan pointed out, the biggest threat is indifference and carelessness. There is not enough participation of the older generation and public control in minimizing today’s social problems, the head of the Uzbek state believes.
On January 21, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin inspected the construction of infrastructure facilities in Turkestan as part of a working trip.

Kazakh PM learnt about investment projects such as multifunctional tourist complex «Karavan-Saray», a general hospital with 570 beds according to the international standard of JCI (planned to be commissioned in the summer of 2022), Kazakh drama theatre, regional scientific universal library, First President’s Park, arboretum and Botanical garden.

A.Mamin also visited the newly launched Hampton Hotel and the International University of Tourism. He held a meeting on the socio-economic development of the region and preparations for the summit of The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States which is scheduled to be held in Turkestan this spring.

In the presence of the PM, an agreement on cooperation was signed between the local government, the Uzbek company «Artel Electronics» and «Orbis Kazakhstan» LLP. The document secures the construction of a plant that produces kitchen stoves and electric water heaters in the region. The capacity is 1 million units of equipment per year. The planned investment is 36 billion tenge, it will also create 2,100 new jobs.
During his visit to Turkmenistan on January 21, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov met with Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov.

The sides exchanged views on a wide range of issues, including further strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries in political, economic, energy, transport and logistics, cultural and humanitarian and other fields.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the governments on joint exploration and exploitation of hydrogen resources was noted as a clear example of expanding cooperation between the two countries in the Caspian region, as well as strengthening energy security. It was noted that the agreement also strengthened the Caspian Sea as a sea of peace, good neighborliness and friendship and contributed to strengthening the atmosphere of cooperation and mutual trust in the Caspian Sea.
KYRGYZ FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH EU AMBASSADOR

On 21 January, 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Ruslan Kazakbayev received the Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Kyrgyz Republic Eduard Auer to discuss plans for the current year, as well as upcoming events within the framework of cooperation.

The parties discussed plans for the current year and upcoming events within the framework of cooperation.

During the conversation, R.Kazakbayev informed E.Auer about the current internal political situation in the Kyrgyz Republic. He noted that the Kyrgyz Republic, as a country firmly committed to the democratic path of development, a tough fight against corruption, and the protection of human rights and freedom is interested in further strengthening and developing cooperation with the European Union in all areas of interaction. It was also noted that the acceleration of the further process of signing and ratifying the Agreement on Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Union will play a special role.

R.Kazakbayev stressed that Kyrgyzstan is determined that democratic principles, including obligations under bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements will be strictly observed to prevent a political crisis in the country.

Ambassador Auer noted that the EU welcomes the well-organized presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic on January 10, 2021. He noted that the European Union remains committed to supporting the Kyrgyz Republic in promoting socio-economic development, the rule of law and the fight against corruption.

The sides also discussed issues of bilateral cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the EU, as well as upcoming events at the bilateral and multilateral levels.
TURKEY LAUNCHED INDIGENOUS FRIGATE

The first I-class vessel produced in Turkey’s MILGEM project to build indigenous war ships launched on January 23.

The project is supervised by the Turkish Defense Industry under the administration of the president. The major supplier of the construction is domestic company STM.

Earlier STM handed over to the Turkish Navy four Ada-class corvettes built under MILGEM projects, but the Istanbul frigate is the first in its class. The company signed a contract with the Turkish Defense Industry Authority in 2019.

By the contract, STM is required to design military vessels, equipment with electronic systems and weapons. The main partners of STM in the framework of the project are again domestic companies ASELSAN and HAVELSAN.

The project involves about 80 contractors working on more than 150 different systems of military vessels.

Turkish I-Class frigates, among others, are equipped with a domestic electronic warfare system (EW). Two-thirds of the subcontractors supplying various systems and components for the frigate «Istanbul» are local companies. Three-quarters of the ship’s systems are Turkish-made.

The frigate is 113 meters long and 14.4 meters wide. The displacement of the fifth military vessel of the Turkish Navy is about three thousand tons.

Unlike the Ada corvettes, the Istanbul frigate is equipped with a surface-to-air missile launch system.
TURKMENISTAN IS IN TOP 10 STATES WITH THE CHEAPEST GASOLINE

According to the results of 2020, Turkmenistan entered the TOP 10 countries with the cheapest gasoline. One litre of A-95 gasoline costs 1.5 manats ($0.43) in the country.

Turkmenistan ranks first in the Commonwealth of Independent States and eighth in the world, according to GlobalPetrolPrices.com.

The average price of gasoline worldwide is $1.12 per litre. The cheapest gasoline in the world in Venezuela is $0.001 per litre, and the most expensive is in Hong Kong. There, a litre of gasoline costs $2.32, the portal notes.