A regular meeting of the Government delegations of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic on the delimitation and demarcation of the Tajik-Kyrgyz State Border was held in Batken region on May 1. The delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic was headed by Chairman of the State Committee for National Security Kamchybek Tashiev, the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan was headed by Chairman of the State Committee for National Security Saimumin Yatimov.

During the meeting, a thorough exchange of views took place on further actions aimed at resolving the situation on the Kyrgyz-Tajik state border.

The heads of the delegations of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan expressed full mutual understanding about the need for a peaceful settlement of the conflict on the Kyrgyz-Tajik state border.

An agreement was reached to intensify further description of the passage of the project line of the Kyrgyz-Tajik state border on the remaining sections of the state border.

The situation at the border of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan escalated on April 28 near the Golovnoy water intake facility, which both sides consider their territory. On April 29, the conflict between local residents escalated into armed hostilities. According to the latest reports, 34 Kyrgyz people died and 178 injured as a result of clashes.
The heads of state discussed the situation in the region over the armed conflict on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev expressed his condolences to Sadyr Zhaparov and the Kyrgyz people on the death of citizens of the fraternal country. As Kazakhstan President stressed, such border problems should be settled only in a peaceful way, in the spirit of mutual understanding and good-neighborliness.

President Tokayev wished success at the upcoming talks in Dushanbe. He also noted Kazakhstan’s readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to Kyrgyzstan if necessary.

President Zhaparov expressed gratitude for manifesting friendship from the fraternal Kazakhstan, and stated his intention to maintain constant working contacts with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to timely solve of all issues of mutual cooperation.

Recall that the President of Kyrgyzstan S. Zhaparov signed a Decree according to which May 1-2, 2021 are declared days of national mourning in the Kyrgyz Republic.
AZERBAIJANI PRESIDENT MEETS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

On the initiative of the President of the World Economic Forum, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has met with the Forum’s President Borge Brende in the format of a video conference on April 28.

President of the World Economic Forum Borge Brende extended greetings of the Forum’s Founder and Executive Chairman, Klaus Schwab, to the head of state.

President Ilham Aliyev thanked for the greetings from Klaus Schwab and asked Borge Brende to convey his greetings to the founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum.

The long-term fruitful cooperation between Azerbaijan and the World Economic Forum and the country’s close involvement in a number of initiatives of the Forum as part of this cooperation was underlined at the meeting. The sides emphasized that Azerbaijan and the World Economic Forum were successfully cooperating in the development of the non-oil sector in the country.

President Ilham Aliyev informed Borge Brende of the infrastructure projects and the attraction of investments to liberated territories.

The sides highlighted the activities of the affiliated Azerbaijan Center of the World Economic Forum’s Network of the Fourth Industrial Revolution Centers. The head of state expressed his gratitude for the establishment of the first such center in the CIS region in Baku, underscoring the role of the center in terms of diversifying the economy and continuing reforms, as well as attracting investment.

It was mentioned that the Center had been founded in Davos in 2020 with the signing of a letter of intent by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the World Economic Forum Borge Brende.

President Ilham Aliyev invited Borge Brende to visit Azerbaijan to get acquainted with the activities of the center.
According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as a result of the consequences of the global economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the volume of direct investment in the world decreased by 42% in 2020. Despite this trend, the volume of Turkish investments in Kazakhstan at the end of last year increased by 1.3% compared to 2019 and amounted to $362.4 million.

This is stated in the report entitled «A new historical stage in investment cooperation between Kazakhstan and Turkey» prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. The document notes that this volume of investment is a historically record volume in annual terms, attracted from Turkey during the years of independence of Kazakhstan. Previously, the largest annual investment volumes from Turkey were attracted in 2007 ($347.6 million) and 2019 ($357.8 million.) years.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan noted that in general, by 2023, compared to 2016, it is planned to double the number of investment projects in Kazakhstan with the participation of Turkish investors.

In addition, the report says, according to the report of the Turkish Ministry of Commerce «On Turkish Investments Abroad», over the past four years, Kazakhstan’s position has improved by 14 places among the countries most attractive for investment by Turkish companies.
TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION

On April 29, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov met with the leader of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Ashgabat. The heads of the states discussed the prospects for cooperation in trade, investment and industrial spheres, and also visited the main mosque of the country.

Mirziyoyev expressed condolences to his colleague due to the death of his father Myalikguly Berdimuhamedov.

The Presidents stressed that in recent years, the volume of trade turnover between the countries has increased more than three times. Last year it reached 530 million dollars. In addition, the countries have established more than 150 joint ventures.

The parties emphasized the importance of strengthening interstate relations in transport, energy, machine-building, agriculture, light and food industries, water management.

Mirziyoyev underlined that Tashkent is ready to continue promoting the Ashgabat agreement on the creation of an international transport and transit corridor and to expand the load on the China-Central Asia-South Caucasus-Turkey multimodal route.

The parties also stressed the importance of holding a meeting of the intergovernmental commission on cooperation in trade, economy, science, technology, and culture in the capital of Uzbekistan soon.
KAZAKHSTAN’S CONSULATE GENERAL OPENS IN SAMARKAND

On 29 April, an opening ceremony of the Consulate General of the Republic of Kazakhstan was held in the city of Samarkand.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan Darkhan Satybaldy and the khokim of Samarkand region Erkinjon Turdimov.

Opening the event, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan noted the political importance of this event, made possible by the agreements reached by the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in 2019.

D. Satybaldy thanked the Uzbek side for the support provided and expressed confidence that the activities of the Kazakh diplomatic mission in Samarkand will make a significant contribution to the deepening of the strategic bilateral partnership.

In turn, the governor of the region reported on the expansion of Kazakhstan’s presence in the region, where the Kazakhstan «Tenge Bank» and the Hyundai Asia Auto dealership are already developing their activities for the sale of Kazakh-built cars.

The head of the region expressed confidence that the Consulate General of Kazakhstan will become an additional link that binds the fraternal ties of the two peoples.
TATARSTAN IS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH UZBEKISTAN

Tatarstan is interested in expanding cooperation with Uzbekistan. This was stated by the President of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov at a meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov. The meeting was held in the Kazan Kremlin.

A. Aripov arrived in Kazan on a working visit to participate in the meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council (April 29-30).

During the meeting, R. Minnikhanov and A. Aripov discussed the development of trade and economic relations, in particular, the increase in the volume and range of mutual supplies of goods and services, the implementation of joint economic projects.

R. Minnikhanov noted that the coronavirus pandemic and the difficulties that followed it affected the trade turnover of Tatarstan and Uzbekistan. In 2020, the volume of mutual trade decreased by almost 20% and amounted to $156 million. «To restore and increase the indicators, it is important to exchange delegations, study each other’s capabilities, and expand mutual supplies,» the President of Tatarstan said.

R. Minnikhanov stressed that the leaders of Russia and Uzbekistan pay great attention to the development of cooperation at the interregional level. «We have everything necessary for the comprehensive strengthening of our cooperation,» the President of Tatarstan said.

A. Aripov, in turn, noted that Uzbekistan highly appreciates the current level of the Uzbek-Russian strategic partnership and alliance. «The development of cooperation with the Republic of Tatarstan is of great importance in the bilateral relations. We are pleased with the achievements of Tatarstan, which is one of the key regions of Russia,» the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan said.
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