

**Business & Politics in the Muslim World**  
**News Monitoring**  
**Feb 12 to Feb 18,2010**  
**Weekly Report**  
**Central Asia**  
**Uzma Siraj**

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- U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William J. Burns to make a trip to Azerbaijan
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- Kazakhstan's prime minister meets Turkish foreign minister
- Russian and Kazakh heads of governments discuss bilateral cooperation
- Russian FM to visit Kazakhstan

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- Kazakhstan's 2009 economic growth slows to 1.2 pct Reuters - Monday, February 15Send IM Story Print
- Tengizchevroil halts exports via BTC pipeline - energy minister

##### **Social Front**

- Jailed Kazakh Rights Activist Launches Blog

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- Fire Damages American University Of Central Asia

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- Tajik president, Afghan minister discuss implementation of joint energy projects
- ADB completes its first power project in Tajikistan

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- ESCAP, ADB and UNDP joint report calls for strengthening social protection
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- Turkmen president to pay state visit to Tajikistan in March

#### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Turkmen geologists find new evidence of huge gas reserves in the country
- Austrian OMV interested in long-term cooperation with Turkmenistan

#### **Social Front**

#### **Uzbekistan**

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- Uzbekistan Puts Limits On Kyrgyz Citizens' Visits
- President of Uzbekistan completes visit to Seoul

#### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Uzbekistan, ADB expand cooperation
- President of Uzbekistan receives head of ADB

#### **Social Front**

- Three Uzbeks Sentenced For Murder Of Theater Director
- The convict Umida Akhmedova and her lawyer filed the petition for appeal

## **Summery**

### **Azerbaijan**

#### **Political Front**

- Alleged Islamic Insurgents On Trial In Azerbaijan

BAKU -- The trial is continuing in Baku of 31 alleged members of an Islamic insurgent group accused of terrorist activities in the North Caucasus and Azerbaijan, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports.

#### **Geo strategic Front**

- Three Azerbaijani Soldiers Killed Near Nagorno-Karabakh

BAKU -- Three Azerbaijani soldiers were killed today after exchanging fire with Armenian armed forces near the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports.

- Armenia Warns Azerbaijan Against Hampering Karabakh Settlement

YEREVAN -- Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has warned Azerbaijan against disregarding the principle of self-determination in negotiations to resolve the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.

- EU special envoy for S. Caucasus to trip to Azerbaijan

Special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby will visit Baku this month. The European diplomat will hold meetings with Azerbaijani officials, heads of nongovernmental organizations and political parties.

- U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William J. Burns to make a trip to Azerbaijan

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns will travel to Azerbaijan next week, stated Philip J. Crowley, assistant secretary on US State Department at a daily press briefing, on Feb. 12.

- Azerbaijani President receives former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev received former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on February 15. The meeting exchanged views on issues of mutual concern

#### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Azerbaijan to build new pipeline to export gas to Iran

The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) intends to build a new pipeline to export gas to Iran, Azerigas PU First Deputy Nazim Samadzade said. "Presently, the work on the project on a new Sangachal-Azadkend-Astara pipeline is underway," he said. "It is expected that construction of new pipeline will begin in 2010."

- World Bank to lend USD 1bln to Azerbaijan

As part of its new medium-term cooperation strategy for 2011-2014 financial years, the World Bank is planning to provide USD 1 billion in loans to Azerbaijan, Gregory T. Jedrzejczak, World Bank Country Manager said.

- Tax revenues from Azerbaijan's non-oil sector increased by 3.1 percent in 2009

Azerbaijani Tax Ministry has announced revenue of 4.114 billion manats in 2009, the ministry's official newspaper said.

Tax revenues to the public budget from the non-oil sector were 2.327 billion manats in 2009 compared to 2.2567 billion in 2008.

#### **Social Front**

- Azerbaijani Blogger's Lawyer Questions Judges' Objectivity

BAKU -- The attorney for arrested Azerbaijani blogger Adnan Hajizade has requested that new judges be named to preside over his client's appeal in a Baku court, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports.

- Baku hosts meeting of tourism experts in GUAM+Japan format

Meeting has been held among tourism experts in GUAM+Japan format today in Baku. GUAM Secretariat representatives, GUAM Secretary General Valeri Chechelashvili, experts of the participating countries, as well as Japan experts on tourism attended the meeting.

## **Kazakhstan Political Front**

### **Geo strategic Front**

- Kazakhstan's President develops proposals on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution

Kazakhstan's President has developed proposals on resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev has presented a package of measures to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Chairman of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry's Committee of International Information Roman Vasilenko told media.

- Kazakhstan's prime minister meets Turkish foreign minister

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Masimov met with Foreign Minister of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoglu, press service of state head reported. "The two sides discussed a wide range of issues on further development of Kazakh-Turkish trade and economic relations in the framework of the Treaty on Strategic Partnership, signed by the presidents of the two countries," the press service informed.

- Russian and Kazakh heads of governments discuss bilateral cooperation

On Friday, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Masimov and Prime Minister of Russia Vladimir Putin spoke over phone, the Kazakh government spokesman said. "During the phone conversation the sides discussed a number of issues on further development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation", press-release said.

- Russian FM to visit Kazakhstan

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Kazakhstan on February 21-22, Kazakh Foreign Ministry spokesman Ilyas Omarov told Trend News. "The purpose of the visit is discussion of political, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation with Kazakh leadership", Ilyas Omarov said.

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Kazakhstan questions energy deals after review

ASTANA, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Kazakhstan's finance ministry said on Friday it had doubts about the legality of a number of existing oil contracts following a review of production sharing agreements (PSAs) in the industry.

- Kazakhstan's 2009 economic growth slows to 1.2 pct Reuters - Monday, February 15Send IM Story Print

ALMATY, Feb 15 - Kazakhstan's gross domestic product grew 1.2 percent last year, down from 3.2 percent in 2008 but above most estimates, the state statistics agency said on Monday. The government had earlier estimated 2009 growth at 1.1 percent while most

analysts had anticipated a recession in Central Asia's largest economy after GDP shrank by 2.2 percent in January-September.

- Tengizchevroil halts exports via BTC pipeline - energy minister (SRI) - Tengizchevroil, the Chevron-led joint venture developing the giant Tengiz oil field, has stopped pumping oil through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline, Kazakhstan's Energy Minister Sauat Mynbayev said on Wednesday.

#### **Social Front**

- Jailed Kazakh Rights Activist Launches Blog

Jailed Kazakh human rights defender Yevgeny Zhovtis has begun publishing a blog on the Internet, RFE/RL's Kazakh Service reports.

#### **Kyrgyzstan**

#### **Political Front**

- Kyrgyz President's Brother Creates Elite Military Unit

BISHKEK -- The younger brother of Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiev has created an elite military unit that he will control, RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service reports. Janysh Bakiev, who heads the State Security Service, has established a military unit called Arystan (The Lion). The new force was created on the basis of President Bakiev's recommendations for amending the constitution.

#### **Geo strategic Front**

- Uzbekistan Puts Limits On Kyrgyz Citizens' Visits

TASHKENT/OSH -- Uzbek officials have introduced new regulations that limit the number of visits Kyrgyz citizens can make to Uzbekistan, RFE/RL's Uzbek and Kyrgyz services report.

- Special representative of Barack Obama administration to arrive in Kyrgyzstan

The State Foreign Affairs Ministry reports: Special Representative of the Obama administration Richard Holbrooke is due to arrive in Kyrgyzstan on 19 February, 2010. The Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev supposedly will meet the U.S. top ranking diplomat.

#### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Kyrgyzstan paid \$4.8M for Uztransgaz

Today Kyrgyzstan transferred \$ 4.8 million to the Uztransgaz (Uzbekistan Gas Company), the press-service of the company informed the news agency 24.kg. Reportedly, KyrgyzGaz paid about 90 per cent of the debt before the gas supplier. The rest sum of the debt makes up about \$0.4 million.

- Kyrgyz Investments Agency Chief suggested European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to cooperate with Development Fund

Maksim Bakiev, Chief of the Central Development, Investments and Innovations Agency suggested to European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to set partnership relations with the Development Fund.

- Kyrgyzstan reinforces environment protection measures within oil and gas facilities exploitation

As the press-service of the Ministry of Energy KR reports, Kyrgyzstan reinforces environment protection measures within oil and gas facilities exploitation.

The Supervisory Board of EU's regional project "Strengthening measures of the environment protection in the oil and gas industry in the Central Asian countries" held a session at the department.

- Fire Damages American University Of Central Asia  
BISHKEK -- A fire at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek severely damaged one of its buildings today, RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service reports. Firefighters battled the fire but not before it destroyed most of the building where the school's library and Information Technology are located.

## **Tajikistan**

### **Political Front**

- Tajik President's Son To Run For Dushanbe City Council  
DUSHANBE -- Tajikistan's ruling National Democratic Party has nominated Rustam Emomali, the president's eldest son, to be a candidate for Dushanbe's city council, RFE/RL's Tajik Service reports.
- OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission concern over significant deficiencies in Tajik election law  
DUSHANBE, February 12, 2010, Asia-Plus -- An election observation mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for the 28 February parliamentary elections in Tajikistan released the first interim report on February 8.
- Majlisi Milli speaker sets date for the last session of outgoing parliament's upper house  
DUSHANBE, February 17, 2010, Asia-Plus -- Chairman of the Majlisi Milli (Tajikistan's upper chamber of parliament) Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloev yesterday signed a decree setting the date for the last session of the outgoing parliament's upper house.

### **Geo strategic Front**

- Tajikistan Reinforces Riverbanks To Prevent Loss Of Land To Afghanistan  
KULOB, Tajikistan -- Officials in Tajikistan's southern Khatlon Province say they will plant apricot orchards on territory recently returned to Tajikistan by Afghanistan, RFE/RL's Tajik Service reports. Heavy floods in 2005 caused the Panj River -- which marks the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan -- to leave about 1,500 hectares of Tajik territory on Afghanistan's side of the river.
- Turkmen president to pay state visit to Tajikistan in March  
DUSHANBE, February 12, 2010, Asia-Plus -- President Emomali Rahmon yesterday afternoon had a telephone conversation with his Turkmen counterpart, President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov.
- Rahmon congratulates Yanukovych Ukraine election win  
DUSHANBE, February 13, 2010, Asia-Plus -- On Friday February 12, President Emomali Rahmon congratulated Viktor Yanukovych on winning Ukraine's presidential elections, according to Tajik presidential press service.
- Tajikistan listed among countries that should be left by Israelis immediately  
DUSHANBE, February 15, 2010, Asia-Plus -- On Saturday February 14, the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Israeli Prime Minister's Office published a list of countries that should be left by Israelis immediately, strana.co.il reported.
- CA deputy foreign ministers discuss cooperation expansion issues  
DUSHANBE, February 18, 2010, Asia-Plus -- Central Asian deputy foreign ministers have met in Almaty to discuss issues relation to expansion of the regional cooperation.

According to the Un Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), the second annual Meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers of Central Asian states took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on February 17.

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- IMF supports Tajikistan's efforts to build new hydropower plants on its territory  
DUSHANBE, February 13, 2010, Asia-Plus -- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is understanding efforts of the Government of Tajikistan to build hydropower plants on its territory that will allow tackling many problem resulting from electricity shortages, Mr. Axel Schimmelpfennig, chief of the IMF mission to Tajikistan, told reporters on February 12 in Dushanbe after his meeting with President Emomali Rahmon.
- Tajik president, Afghan minister discuss implementation of joint energy projects  
DUSHANBE, February 15, 2010, Asia-Plus - The progress of implementation of Tajik-Afghan joint energy progress was among major topics of a meeting of President Emomali Rahmon with visiting Afghan Minister of Energy and Water Resources Muhammad Ismail Khan that took place here on February 15.
- ADB completes its first power project in Tajikistan  
DUSHANBE, February 15, 2010, Asia-Plus -- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has completed its first power rehabilitation project in Tajikistan, according to the ADB Tajikistan Representative Mission (TJRM). ADB helped finance the repair and upgrading of power transmission and distribution facilities in Dushanbe and Khatlon Region.

### **Social Front**

- Kazakhstan provides humanitarian aid to Tajikistan  
DUSHANBE, February 13, 2010, Asia-Plus -- A bulk of Kazakhstan's humanitarian aid to Tajikistan was handed over to Tajik officials in Dushanbe on February 12, according to the Tajik MFA information department.
- ESCAP, ADB and UNDP joint report calls for strengthening social protection  
DUSHANBE, February 18, 2010, Asia-Plus -- A joint report by the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warns that the global economic crisis could trap an additional 21 million people in the Asia-Pacific region in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 a day, press release issued by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) yesterday said.
- Oxfam releases report on climate changes and poverty in Tajikistan  
DUSHANBE, February 18, 2010, Asia-Plus -- The people of Tajikistan are experiencing the impacts of climate change; more frequent droughts and heightened extreme weather conditions are hitting poor communities, eroding their resilience and the country's glaciers are melting, bringing the danger, in the future, of greater water shortages and potential disputes in the wider region, the Oxfam report, Reaching Tipping Point? Climate Change and Poverty in Tajikistan, notes.

### **Turkmenistan**

#### **Political Front**

#### **Geo strategic Front**

- Turkmen president to pay state visit to Tajikistan in March  
DUSHANBE, February 12, 2010, Asia-Plus -- President Emomali Rahmon yesterday afternoon had a telephone conversation with his Turkmen counterpart, President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov.



### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Turkmen geologists find new evidence of huge gas reserves in the country  
The powerful flow of natural gas was obtained during testing of well N 1 at Minara field located in Yoloten district of Mary province.

- Austrian OMV interested in long-term cooperation with Turkmenistan  
President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received the Director General of the Austrian company OMV, Wolfgang Ruttensdorfer, and the Vice-president of OMV Exploration & Production in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the Caspian region, Peter Saytingerom, in Mary province on February 15.

### **Social Front**

#### **Uzbekistan**

### **Political Front**

### **Geo strategic Front**

- Uzbekistan Puts Limits On Kyrgyz Citizens' Visits  
TASHKENT/OSH -- Uzbek officials have introduced new regulations that limit the number of visits Kyrgyz citizens can make to Uzbekistan, RFE/RL's Uzbek and Kyrgyz services report.

- President of Uzbekistan completes visit to Seoul  
President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov paid a state visit to South Korea on 10-12 February. On the last day of his visit, Islam Karimov received the chairman of the Korean Air company Cho Yang-Ho.

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Uzbekistan, ADB expand cooperation  
Uzbekistan became the member of the Asian Development Bank in August 1995. The ADB is one of the reliable and active partners of Uzbekistan in the process of implementation of economic reforms. The bank is continuously implementing its strategy and program of cooperation with Uzbekistan.

- President of Uzbekistan receives head of ADB  
President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov received President of the Asian Development Bank Haruhiko Kuroda at Oqsaroy residence in Tashkent on 16 February. Welcoming the head of ADB, President Karimov said that Uzbekistan was actively cooperating with many international financial institutions, and that ties with ADB were especially important for the country.

### **Social Front**

- Three Uzbeks Sentenced For Murder Of Theater Director  
TASHKENT -- Three men were sentenced in Tashkent on February 17 for the murder of Mark Vail, the director of Uzbekistan's prominent Ilhom Theater, RFE/RL's Uzbek Service reports.

- The convict Umida Akhmedova and her lawyer filed the petition for appeal  
On February 17, 2010 the famous photographer and film maker Umida Akhmedova and her lawyer filed the petition for appeal to the higher authority. The first session of the Tashkent criminal court is scheduled to March 12, 2010. It will be held at 10am in the building of the Yunus-Abad district court.

**Detailed report**  
**Azerbaijan**  
**Political Front**

- Alleged Islamic Insurgents On Trial In Azerbaijan

BAKU -- The trial is continuing in Baku of 31 alleged members of an Islamic insurgent group accused of terrorist activities in the North Caucasus and Azerbaijan, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports. The suspects, who are accused of being a branch of the so-called Forest Brothers insurgent group, are also charged with forming a radical religious group and illegal possession of weapons and drugs. They were arrested last year in Baku.

Sixteen members of the group were convicted and sentenced to jail terms in 2009.

Prosecutors said the Forest Brothers are responsible for an attempt to blow up an Azerbaijani oil pipeline last year and the 2008 bombing at the Abu Bakr Mosque in Baku that killed two people. The group is accused of attending training camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Emin Cami, one of the alleged leaders of the group, testified in court that he agreed to fight against Russian forces in the North Caucasus "without any hesitation, since Russia is occupying Muslim lands and every Muslim should join the struggle against Russian aggression." But others testified that they had not taken part in any activities with the group and said they had been tortured while questioned in detention during the investigation.

One defendant told the court he works as a doctor in Baku and had never been part of any illegal armed group. He said he had only been arrested because of an alleged link to a member of the group. The Forest Brothers group is purported to have been active in Daghestan, Chechnya, and other parts of Russia's North Caucasus for the past few years and Azerbaijan's National Security Ministry said in 2008 that the group had ties to a militant group based in northern Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani media reported that the leader of the group, Azer Misirkhanov, was killed fighting in Afghanistan in September.

**Geo strategic Front**

- Three Azerbaijani Soldiers Killed Near Nagorno-Karabakh

BAKU -- Three Azerbaijani soldiers were killed today after exchanging fire with Armenian armed forces near the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry confirmed the deaths and said another soldier was wounded as a result of the shooting, which is a violation of a ceasefire agreement between the two forces. The ministry did not say exactly where the fighting between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces took place. A ministry spokesman said the Armenian side also suffered casualties.

News agencies reported earlier today that Armenian forces shelled Azerbaijani positions in the Agdam, Terter, and Goranboy districts. Najmeddin Sadikhov, the chief of Staff of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces, told the ANS TV station that Azerbaijan's army responded to the shelling. Armenia and Azerbaijan fought a six-year war over Nagorno-Karabakh that ended in 1994 with Armenian forces in control of the disputed territory and seven other Azerbaijani districts.

- Armenia Warns Azerbaijan Against Hampering Karabakh Settlement

YEREVAN -- Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has warned Azerbaijan against disregarding the principle of self-determination in negotiations to resolve the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports.

Nalbandian's remarks on February 16 came in response to Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mamadyarov's statement the previous day stressing that "Baku sees Nagorno-Karabakh's future status within Azerbaijan and the main issue is the solution to the problem of occupied territories and the return of

Azerbaijani refugees to their former homes." Nalbandian said in a statement that "what is important is not who sees what, but who decides. And this [issue] is up to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to decide. This is also expressly stated in some provisions of the Madrid document that were published [during last year's G8 summit in L'Aquila] immediately after the statement by the presidents of Russia, the United States, and France." He continued that "if Azerbaijan is against this basic principle, then it in fact obstructs the settlement process. It also obstructs the settlement by opposing Nagorno-Karabakh's participation in the negotiations, because it is impossible to achieve progress in the settlement without Nagorno-Karabakh's direct participation."

- EU special envoy for S. Caucasus to trip to Azerbaijan

Special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby will visit Baku this month. The European diplomat will hold meetings with Azerbaijani officials, heads of nongovernmental organizations and political parties.

Various aspects of EU-Azerbaijan cooperation, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be discussed during the meetings.

- U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William J. Burns to make a trip to Azerbaijan

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns will travel to Azerbaijan next week, stated Philip J. Crowley, assistant secretary on US State Department at a daily press briefing, on Feb. 12.

Mr. Burns will also travel to Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, during Feb. 16-19. After that, on Feb. 19, Under Secretary will arrival to Baku, capital of Azerbaijan.

- Azerbaijani President receives former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev received former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on February 15. The meeting exchanged views on issues of mutual concern.

Note that Ehud Olmert visited Baku, while leaving Kazakhstan for his country.

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Azerbaijan to build new pipeline to export gas to Iran

The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) intends to build a new pipeline to export gas to Iran, Azerigas PU First Deputy Nazim Samadzade said. "Presently, the work on the project on a new Sangachal-Azadkend-Astara pipeline is underway," he said. "It is expected that construction of new pipeline will begin in 2010."

According to him, the designed capacity of a new pipeline length 200 kilometer will be 18 million cubic meters of gas (6.57 billion cubic meters per year). The decision to build a new pipeline was made because the existing gas pipeline connecting Azerbaijan and Iran, designed to transport gas under low pressure, which makes it impossible to increase gas exports to the South. It is expected to complete the construction in 2012. It will be constructed at the expense of SOCAR's funds. Currently, daily volume of Azerbaijani gas transported to Iran, is 1.2-1.3 million cubic meters.

These entire amounts are supplied under the swap operations to meet the needs of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. In late February, it is planned to begin commercial export of the Azerbaijani gas to Iran under the previously signed contract. Volume, which will be put under commercial export, will be daily 1.2-1.5 million cubic meters of gas.

Along with the gas intended for Nakhchivan, total transfers to Iran will amount to 2.6-2.7 million cubic meters of gas per day. The State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and NIGEC signed a short-term contract on Azerbaijani gas supplies to Iran in January. The contract covers supplying Azerbaijani gas to Iran until March-April of 2010, totaling about 100 million cubic meters (1.2 million cubic meters of gas per day). Supplies will be delivered in the northern Iranian regions, which are removed from the main gas fields. Azerbaijan and Iran are connected with the Gazi-Magomed-Astara-Bind-Biand gas pipeline length 1,474.5 kilometers, including 296.5 kilometers in the territory of Azerbaijan. Its design capacity was 10 billion cubic meters a year, now it is lower. This route is a branch of the Gazakh-Astara-Iran pipeline commissioned in 1971. Three compressor stations, including in Gazi-Magomed, Aghdash and Gazakh, were built on its route. The transmission system is designed to pressure 55 atmospheres. The pipe's diameter is 1200 mm.

- World Bank to lend USD 1bln to Azerbaijan

As part of its new medium-term cooperation strategy for 2011-2014 financial years, the World Bank is planning to provide USD 1 billion in loans to Azerbaijan, Gregory T. Jedrzejczak, World Bank Country Manager said.

The World Bank asked the government of Azerbaijan to present a list of top priority projects, which can be financed during the first two years of the new strategy.

- Tax revenues from Azerbaijan's non-oil sector increased by 3.1 percent in 2009

Azerbaijani Tax Ministry has announced revenue of 4.114 billion manats in 2009, the ministry's official newspaper said.

Tax revenues to the public budget from the non-oil sector were 2.327 billion manats in 2009 compared to 2.2567 billion in 2008. The amount has increased with 70.2 million manats or with 3.1 percent compared to 2008. "Growth observed in the non-oil sector had an influence on the structure of tax revenues. The growth of tax revenues was reached through activities to promote development of the non-oil sector and by increasing the private sector's role," the statement said. Deducting tax payments done by the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, tax payments to the state budget done by subcontractors, the public sector and private enterprises were 1.2342 billion manats, which is 0.2 percent or 2.8 million manats more than in 2008. About 28.3 percent of total tax revenues from the non-oil sector in 2009 came from the industrial sector; 9.7 percent from communications, 13.9 percent from construction, 4.2 percent from transport, 0.5 percent from agriculture, 26.2 percent from trade and services, 5.4 percent from banking and insurance and 11.8 percent from other areas.

### **Social Front**

- Azerbaijani Blogger's Lawyer Questions Judges' Objectivity

BAKU -- The attorney for arrested Azerbaijani blogger Adnan Hajizade has requested that new judges be named to preside over his client's appeal in a Baku court, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports.

Lawyer Isakhan Ashurov said in court on February 17 that he is "suspicious about the fairness of the judges," because the same judges "rejected our appeal about violence

against the bloggers at the police station on the day of their arrest." Hajizade was arrested with fellow blogger Emin Milli on July 8 after a scuffle at a restaurant in the center of Baku. They were charged with hooliganism, found guilty, and sentenced to two and 2 1/2 years in prison, respectively. Rights groups say the charges against the two bloggers are politically motivated and aimed at stifling opposition voices in Azerbaijan. In the Baku appeals court, judges ordered the hearing for Hajizade and Milli to be postponed until March 3 to give the court chairman time to consider Ashurov's request. Consideration of the appeal has already been postponed four times due to the absence of either lawyers or witnesses, or heavy snowfall.

- Baku hosts meeting of tourism experts in GUAM+Japan format

Meeting has been held among tourism experts in GUAM+Japan format today in Baku. GUAM Secretariat representatives, GUAM Secretary General Valeri Chechelashvili, experts of the participating countries, as well as Japan experts on tourism attended the meeting. They spoke about cooperation perspectives in tourism sphere between GUAM and Japan. A joint protocol was signed at the end of the meeting. Next meeting in this format is expected to be held at the level of ministers.

Azerbaijan is a coordinator of GUAM for tourism.

### **Kazakhstan Political Front**

#### **Geo strategic Front**

- Kazakhstan's President develops proposals on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution  
Kazakhstan's President has developed proposals on resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev has presented a package of measures to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Chairman of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry's Committee of International Information Roman Vasilenko told media. He said OSCE-Chairman-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev passed on the proposals to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev while on a official visit to Azerbaijan. Vasilenko declined to specify details of the proposal. "Kazakhstan is an honest broker and an impartial mediator. We support the OSCE peacemaking efforts and the OSCE Minsk Group mediators," he said. "Our task is to keep emerging positive dynamics in the negotiation process," the Kazakh official said.

- Kazakhstan's prime minister meets Turkish foreign minister

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Masimov met with Foreign Minister of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoglu, press service of state head reported. "The two sides discussed a wide range of issues on further development of Kazakh-Turkish trade and economic relations in the framework of the Treaty on Strategic Partnership, signed by the presidents of the two countries," the press service informed. The sides exchanged views on the need to increase mutual trade and investment in Kazakhstan's economy and expand cooperation in transport and energy sectors. "At the meeting, the sides also expressed mutual interest in further development of economic cooperation," the same source reported.

- Russian and Kazakh heads of governments discuss bilateral cooperation

On Friday, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Masimov and Prime Minister of Russia Vladimir Putin spoke over phone, the Kazakh government spokesman said. "During the phone conversation the sides discussed a number of issues on further development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation", press-release said. During the conversation

they also exchanged views on prospects for developing bilateral relations within the Customs Union and other integration associations, the report said.

- Russian FM to visit Kazakhstan

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will visit Kazakhstan on February 21-22, Kazakh Foreign Ministry spokesman Ilyas Omarov told Trend News. "The purpose of the visit is discussion of political, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation with Kazakh leadership", Ilyas Omarov said. He said the urgency of the visit is stipulated by the necessity of deepening the achieved level of the Kazakh-Russian cooperation and further development of multifaceted ties between our countries. "In particular, we are talking about expansion of opportunities in resolving the challenges of political stability on the continent, the maximum full potential of the two countries in all directions", Omarov said.

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Kazakhstan questions energy deals after review

ASTANA, Feb 12 (Reuters) - Kazakhstan's finance ministry said on Friday it had doubts about the legality of a number of existing oil contracts following a review of production sharing agreements (PSAs) in the industry.

The move follows an order by President Nursultan Nazarbayev to strip foreign oil companies in Kazakhstan of immunity from tax changes and rewrite their original contracts signed in the 1990s. "We have analysed PSAs signed earlier and there are some questions... regarding the legality of some contracts," the finance ministry's tax committee chairman, Daulet Yergozhin, told reporters. He said the review would be completed by April 1 but did not name the targeted contracts. The government's plan means oil companies working under PSAs in projects such as Kashagan, the world's largest oil discovery in the last 40 years, and Karachaganak, Kazakhstan's top gas condensate field, will pay at least two additional taxes. Western-led consortiums in Kazakhstan have not commented on the government's plan. Analysts say the list of affected companies could include Chevron (CVX.N: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)), ExxonMobil (XOM.N: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)), Eni (ENI.MI: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)), BG (BG.L: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)), Shell (RDSA.L: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)), Total (TOTF.PA: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)) and others. (Reporting by Raushan Nurshayeva; Writing by Olzhas Auyezov; Editing by Michael Urquhart)

Kazakhs Probe Ablyazov's Claim of 'Illegal' Share Sale to CNPC Share Business

Feb. 12 (Bloomberg) -- Kazakhstan's financial police are investigating allegations made by former BTA Bank chief Mukhtar Ablyazov that the state sold its stake in an oil company to China National Petroleum Corp. below market value.

"Mukhtar Ablyazov's statement about the illegality of deals related to assets of AO CNPC-AktobeMunaiGaz and KazMunaiGaz National Co. has been received and is being checked in accordance with criminal-procedural laws," Murat Zhumanbai, a spokesman for the Kazakh economic crimes agency, said by telephone from Astana yesterday.

Ablyazov said last month that a group led by President Nursultan Nazarbayev's son-in-law, Timur Kulibayev, who was first vice president of KazMunaiGaz from February 2002 to October 2005, sold the state's 25.12 percent state in CNPC- AktobeMunaiGaz to the Chinese energy company for a price "far below" market value.

In May 2003, the Kazakh government sold the shares for less than half of its asking price, according to a statement on the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange Web site. The sale netted the

equivalent of \$150.2 million. CNPC-AktobeMunaiGaz reported 2003 profit of 36 billion tenge (\$244 million), according to the exchange.

CNPC-AktobeMunaiGaz produced 6.1 million metric tons of oil last year, according to the company's Web site. Two CNPC units - - CNPC Exploration and Development Company Ltd. and CNPC International (Caspian) Ltd. -- own 60.33 and 25.12 percent of the company's shares respectively, according to the exchange.

#### Arrest Warrant

Kulibayev is now deputy chief executive officer of Kazakhstan's National Wellbeing Fund Samruk-Kazyna, which owns 100 percent of state energy company KazMunaiGaz. Kazakh prosecutors issued an arrest warrant for Ablyazov last March on suspicion of embezzling money from BTA and laundering it through loans to fictitious companies. Ablyazov, who now resides outside Kazakhstan, has denied the charges.

Gaziz Kulakhmetov, a spokesman for Kulibayev, declined to comment when reached by mobile telephone on Feb. 9, saying Kulibayev might make a statement on Feb. 12. Kulakhmetov couldn't be reached by telephone today, nor did he send a statement to Bloomberg News.

Margarita Bryzgalova, deputy head of the administrative department at CNPC's Kazakh office in Almaty, declined to comment on Ablyazov's letter when contacted by Bloomberg News. Ainagul Shakirova, a spokeswoman for Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Masimov, also declined to comment.

- Kazakhstan's 2009 economic growth slows to 1.2 pct Reuters - Monday, February 15Send IM Story Print

ALMATY, Feb 15 - Kazakhstan's gross domestic product grew 1.2 percent last year, down from 3.2 percent in 2008 but above most estimates, the state statistics agency said on Monday. The government had earlier estimated 2009 growth at 1.1 percent while most analysts had anticipated a recession in Central Asia's largest economy after GDP shrank by 2.2 percent in January-September.

"If confirmed, the government's full-year figure would therefore represent a remarkable bounce in the fourth quarter," JPMorgan said in a note last week.

"It is hard to see where the growth will have come from, even taking into account the 10 percent growth in oil output that was likely recorded last quarter."

The statistics agency said the agricultural sector had grown by 13.8 percent in 2009 while industry had expanded by 1.8 percent, contributing to overall growth. Kazakhstan harvested a record 21 million tones.

- Tengizchevroil halts exports via BTC pipeline - energy minister (SRI) - Tengizchevroil, the Chevron-led joint venture developing the giant Tengiz oil field, has stopped pumping oil through the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline, Kazakhstan's Energy Minister Sauat Mynbayev said on Wednesday.

Mynbayev said the move could be linked to disagreement over transit fees charged by BTC but gave no details. "If Chevron does not like the fees, it is up to Chevron to use the routes it likes better," Mynbayev told reporters. "Which is precisely what they have done." According to Mynbayev, Tengizchevroil is BTC's only Kazakh supplier and shipped "insignificant" volumes through the pipeline. In 2009, Tengizchevroil shipped 1.951 million tons of crude oil via the BTC pipeline, according to the Azeri State Statistics Agency. The company ships most of its crude using the Caspian Pipeline

Consortium (CPC) pipeline, the Atyrau-Samara pipeline, and a rail link to the Black Sea port of Batumi. Tengizchevroil produced 22.53 million tons of crude oil in 2009.

Kazakhstan plans to significantly increase its exports via the BTC pipeline as its largest oil field, Kashagan, comes online in 2013.

### **Social Front**

- **Jailed Kazakh Rights Activist Launches Blog**

Jailed Kazakh human rights defender Yevgeny Zhovtis has begun publishing a blog on the Internet, RFE/RL's Kazakh Service reports.

Zhovtis was the director of the Almaty-based Kazakh Bureau for Human Rights. He is serving a four-year jail term in a labor camp in East Kazakhstan Oblast for his involvement in a deadly traffic accident last year. His supporters and human rights organizations have criticized his sentence, which they say Kazakh authorities ordered in retaliation for Zhovtis's human rights activities. His blog is blocked in Kazakhstan and only available via a proxy server.

### **Kyrgyzstan**

#### **Political Front**

- **Kyrgyz President's Brother Creates Elite Military Unit**

BISHKEK -- The younger brother of Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiev has created an elite military unit that he will control, RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service reports. Janysh Bakiev, who heads the State Security Service, has established a military unit called Arystan (The Lion). The new force was created on the basis of President Bakiev's recommendations for amending the constitution. One recommendation was to dissolve the 2,000-strong National Guard and transfer its responsibilities to the State Security Service, which reports directly to the president. Bishkek-based analyst Tabyldy Akerov told RFE/RL that special military units should only be subordinated to such state bodies as the National Security Service, the Defense Ministry, and the Interior Ministry. He said the president's decision to establish a military unit controlled solely by himself and his brother is intended to prevent any revolt similar to the so-called Tulip Revolution that toppled President Askar Akaev and brought Bakiev to power in 2005.

Kyrgyz Parliament deputy Beishenbek Abdrasakov, a member of the ruling Ak-Jol (Bright Path) Party, told RFE/RL that the creation of Arystan to protect the country's leadership is an "important and timely" move.

#### **Geo strategic Front**

- **Uzbekistan Puts Limits On Kyrgyz Citizens' Visits**

TASHKENT/OSH -- Uzbek officials have introduced new regulations that limit the number of visits Kyrgyz citizens can make to Uzbekistan, RFE/RL's Uzbek and Kyrgyz services report. The new rule restricts citizens of neighboring Kyrgyzstan to only one visit to Uzbekistan per month. No explanation was given by Uzbek officials for the new regulation. The regulation will mainly affect the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Uzbeks with Kyrgyz passports who reside in southern Kyrgyzstan, particularly in the Osh region. Many of them have relatives on the other side of the border and travel to Uzbekistan on a regular basis. Kyrgyz border guards at the Dostuk (Friendship) checkpoint along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border confirmed the new regulation adopted by Uzbekistan.

Ethnic Uzbeks make up an estimated 15 percent of Kyrgyzstan's 5.5 million people.

- **Special representative of Barack Obama administration to arrive in Kyrgyzstan**



The State Foreign Affairs Ministry reports: Special Representative of the Obama administration Richard Holbrooke is due to arrive in Kyrgyzstan on 19 February, 2010. The Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev supposedly will meet the U.S. top ranking diplomat. Richard Holbrooke worked in Bill Clinton's administration and served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Since 2009, he was appointed the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Previously he was the vice-president of the Investment Fund Perseus LLC.

Biography: Richard Charles Albert Holbrooke was born in Jewish emigrant family on 24, 1941 in New-York City. Holbrooke's father was a doctor born of Russian Jewish parents in Warsaw, his mother, whose Jewish family fled Hamburg, took him to Scarsdale High School. After Scarsdale High School Holbrooke he received his A.B. from Brown University. He refused to become a physicist. 1962 –graduates from Brown University where he was editor-in-chief of the Brown Daily Herald; enters the U.S. Foreign Service. Before the graduation he send a letter to The New York Times, but got no response, thus decided to enter a public service

#### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Kyrgyzstan paid \$4.8M for Uztransgaz

Today Kyrgyzstan transferred \$ 4.8 million to the Uztransgaz (Uzbekistan Gas Company), the press-service of the company informed the news agency 24.kg. Reportedly, KyrgyzGaz paid about 90 per cent of the debt before the gas supplier. The rest sum of the debt makes up about \$0.4 million. Uztransgaz will provide gas supply to the South of Kyrgyzstan starting from 13 February, 2010. The company urges all the consumers to clear their gas bills timely.

- Kyrgyz Investments Agency Chief suggested European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to cooperate with Development Fund

Maksim Bakiev, Chief of the Central Development, Investments and Innovations Agency suggested to European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to set partnership relations with the Development Fund.

Maxim Bakiev appreciated an active investment activity of EBRD in Kyrgyzstan. He underlined that the perspectives of cooperation work between the republic and International Financial Institution depends on investment strategy of EBRD.

He also expressed a hope that EBRD will direct investment flow for the companies with national capital. Maxim Bakiev said that the most important is to cooperate in realization of common projects and co-financing possibilities with the Development Fund.

EBRD representative expressed deep concern about newly established micro credit company as it has lower interest rates than market average rates. In turn, this may cause problems to other microcredit organizations.

- Kyrgyzstan reinforces environment protection measures within oil and gas facilities exploitation

As the press-service of the Ministry of Energy KR reports, Kyrgyzstan reinforces environment protection measures within oil and gas facilities exploitation.

The Supervisory Board of EU's regional project "Strengthening measures of the environment protection in the oil and gas industry in the Central Asian countries" held a session at the department. The project is aimed at supporting changes in environment protection at legislative and programs levels. The press-service reports that it is planned

to examine issues concerning purchasing equipment necessary for pure development mechanism. Moreover, they will carry out a comparative analysis of the European and Central Asian legislation of the environment protection.

### **Social Front**

- Fire Damages American University Of Central Asia

BISHKEK -- A fire at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek severely damaged one of its buildings today, RFE/RL's Kyrgyz Service reports. Firefighters battled the fire but not before it destroyed most of the building where the school's library and Information Technology are located. The Fire Department said the blaze may have been started by a cigarette or by wiring problems in the building's electrical system. AUCA, which was founded by billionaire philanthropist George Soros, is considered one of the top universities in Central Asia.

### **Tajikistan**

#### **Political Front**

- Tajik President's Son To Run For Dushanbe City Council

DUSHANBE -- Tajikistan's ruling National Democratic Party has nominated Rustam Emomali, the president's eldest son, to be a candidate for Dushanbe's city council, RFE/RL's Tajik Service reports. Abdulaziz Odinaev, a ruling party official in Dushanbe, told RFE/RL that Emomali will be a city council candidate for the capital's Somoni district. Emomali's challengers in that constituency are Khudoiqul Hamroqul of the Islamic Renaissance Party (IRPT) and an independent candidate. IRPT spokesman Hikmatullo Saifullozoda said he hopes authorities will not interfere in the election campaign even if President Emomali Rahmon's son loses the election. Rahmatullo Zoirov, the head of the opposition Social-Democratic Party, told RFE/RL that a seat on the city council might be the beginning of Rustam Emomali's political career. Zoirov added that a city council mandate would give Rustam Emomali the right to become a deputy in the Majlisi Milli, Tajikistan's upper chamber of parliament, to which deputies are not directly elected. Rustam Emomali, 22, graduated from Tajik State University and is an adviser at the State Committee on Investments and State Property. He was elected last year as a deputy in the Union of Tajik Youth and, at the end of 2009, also elected to the ruling party's central committee. Emomali also plays soccer for Tajikistan's Istiklol club, of which he is a sponsor. Last year the president appointed his daughter, Ozoda Rahmonova, to be a deputy foreign minister.

- OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission concern over significant deficiencies in Tajik election law

DUSHANBE, February 12, 2010, Asia-Plus -- An election observation mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) for the 28 February parliamentary elections in Tajikistan released the first interim report on February 8. The report notes that amendments to the election law in 2004 improved the legal framework, but significant deficiencies remain. Shortcomings noted in the OSCE/ODIHR Final Report following the 2005 parliamentary elections include the lack of guarantees for an inclusive and pluralistic composition of election commissions, lack of provision for domestic non-partisan observation, insufficient complaints procedures, and vague procedures on essential aspects of the election process, including on voter registration, voting, counting and tabulation. The recommendations made by the OSCE/ODIHR to address these shortcomings have not yet been implemented. The

election law also lacks sufficient detail to ensure a uniform and consistent conduct of the electoral process.

Broadcast media are the main source of information, also on the election process. However, only state-owned TV channels and radio broadcast nationwide. While there are a relatively high number of print media, most have a small circulation and are published only once or twice a week. Their reach outside urban centers is limited. The lack of diverse viewpoints in the media raises concern over voters' access to a broad range of information.

The election law is the legal centerpiece for conducting the election campaign in the media. However, certain articles of the Constitution as well as other laws are also relevant. Article 30 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of press and right to use mass media. State censorship and prosecution for criticism is prohibited. During election campaigns, media have no right to publish information discrediting the honor, dignity and business reputation of candidates. At the same time, the criminal code still contains provisions on libel and defamation despite a number of attempts by media and civil society representatives to remove them.

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM commenced its qualitative and quantitative media monitoring of three TV channels on January 19, three radio stations, nine newspapers and broadcast media in Khujand and Qurghon Teppa. The mission will evaluate whether media provide impartial and balanced coverage of the contestants and other political entities, according to domestic law and international good practice. In addition, the mission will assess how much attention media pay to voter awareness programs and media compliance with legal requirements for allocation of free airtime and space.

According to the report, the complaints and appeals process, regulated by a number of legal instruments including the election law and civil procedure code, generally lacks sufficient clarity. There is dual jurisdiction for consideration of complaints against decisions and actions of election commissions, whereby political parties, candidates, proxies, observers and voters can submit complaints to either higher election commissions or courts, with the Supreme Court as the final instance in all cases. A lack of clear separation in the respective roles and mandates of the courts and electoral bodies is a concern.

On the participation of women, the report says the legal framework provides the basis for equal participation of women and men in the electoral process. The Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities for their Implementation (gender equality law) adopted in 2005 contains specific provisions on equal opportunities for men and women. A total of 15 women out of 73 candidates have been registered on political party lists, although most of them are low in the lists and stand little chance of being elected.

The election law allows political parties and self-nominated candidates to appoint election observers, who have the right to be present at polling premises, to observe the work of election commissions, and to familiarize themselves with the voting results. Observers, however, are not entitled to receive copies of results protocols nor is there any provision for domestic non-partisan election observation.

There are currently eight registered political parties in Tajikistan. Three of these are represented in the outgoing parliament. The People's Democratic Party (PDPT), which

in 2005 won 52 out of 63 parliament seats, remains the predominant political force in the country. Of the remaining 11 seats, 4 seats were won by the Communist Party (CPT) and 2 by the Islamic Revival Party (IRPT).

- Majlisi Milli speaker sets date for the last session of outgoing parliament's upper house

DUSHANBE, February 17, 2010, Asia-Plus -- Chairman of the Majlisi Milli (Tajikistan's upper chamber of parliament) Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloyev yesterday signed a decree setting the date for the last session of the outgoing parliament's upper house.

By his decree the last 24th session of the Majlisi Milli of the third convocation will take place in Dushanbe on March 4 this year. The session is expected to consider amendments to the laws on general census of the population and the agency for state financial control and combating corruption as well as a number of other laws adopted by the Majlisi Namoyandagon (Tajikistan's lower chamber of parliament). We will recall that elections to the Majlisi Milli will take place on March 25, 2010. Three-fourths of the total number of deputies of the Majlisi Milli shall be elected at joint meetings of people's deputies of the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region and its towns and districts, regions and their towns and districts, Dushanbe city and its districts, towns and districts subordinate to the center, on the basis of indirect elections by means of secret ballot. The Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region, regions, Dushanbe City, towns and districts subordinate to the centre have an equal number of representatives in the Majlisi Milli.

One-fourths of the members of the Majlisi Milli are appointed by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. Citizens who reached 35 years of age and have higher education are eligible to be elected to the Majlisi Milli. Each former President of the Republic of Tajikistan shall be the life member of the Majlisi Milli, if he doesn't refuse to use this right.

### **Geo strategic Front**

- Tajikistan Reinforces Riverbanks To Prevent Loss Of Land To Afghanistan

KULOB, Tajikistan -- Officials in Tajikistan's southern Khatlon Province say they will plant apricot orchards on territory recently returned to Tajikistan by Afghanistan, RFE/RL's Tajik Service reports. Heavy floods in 2005 caused the Panj River -- which marks the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan -- to leave about 1,500 hectares of Tajik territory on Afghanistan's side of the river. Khujamurod Fazliddinov, the head of Khatlon's Hamadoni district, told RFE/RL the government invested 93 million somoni (\$19.4 million) into fortifying the river banks and for planting apricot orchards on 475 hectares of the land that was returned to Tajikistan. Officials hope the work will keep the Panj River from changing its course in the future. Last year, Tajik border guards regained control of some 35,000 hectares of land in the Shurabad district bordering Afghanistan.

Tajik-Afghan border disputes recently gained importance after reports of Afghan poachers and drug smugglers illegally entering Tajikistan.

Some of the mountainous areas close to the Tajik-Afghan border in the Shurobod district still contain Soviet-era land mines.

- Turkmen president to pay state visit to Tajikistan in March

DUSHANBE, February 12, 2010, Asia-Plus -- President Emomali Rahmon yesterday afternoon had a telephone conversation with his Turkmen counterpart, President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov.

According to presidential press service, the two exchanged views on state and prospects of further expansion of bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation between Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and agreed to order their governments to develop and implement measures on expansion of bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

Rahmon invited Berdymukhamedov to pay a state visit to Tajikistan. The invitation was accepted and the sides reached an agreement on scheduling the visit for March 18-19, 2010.

- Rahmon congratulates Yanukovych Ukraine election win

DUSHANBE, February 13, 2010, Asia-Plus -- On Friday February 12, President Emomali Rahmon congratulated Viktor Yanukovych on winning Ukraine's presidential elections, according to Tajik presidential press service.

In his telegram of congratulations, Tajik leader highly appraised close partnering relations between the two countries that meet national interests of Tajikistan. Rahmon also expressed confidence that many-sided relations between Tajikistan and Ukraine would develop in future as well.

President Rahmon expressed to undertake efforts jointly with Viktor Yanukovych to promote further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation between Tajikistan and Ukraine.

- Tajikistan listed among countries that should be left by Israelis immediately

DUSHANBE, February 15, 2010, Asia-Plus -- On Saturday February 14, the Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Israeli Prime Minister's Office published a list of countries that should be left by Israelis immediately, strana.co.il reported.

Among these countries are Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Suda, Somali, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Togo. In these countries, Hezbollah may allegedly try to attack Israeli nationals and the Bureau urged citizens to leave these countries. Travel warning also notes that Israeli businessmen cooperation with Arab and North African countries may become the main target for terrorists. The Bureau also urges Israelis to exercise caution when traveling to Colombia, Kenya, Chechnay, Indian Kashmir and Mindanao in the Philippines. The Counter-Terrorism Bureau also recommends Israelis to cancel travel to Sinai during the Passover because the Bureau has information about a series of expected abductions, strana.co.il said. Trrorist allegedly plant to take Israelis hostage and transport them to Gaza. The warning says terrorists may attack Israelis supposedly as revenge for the assassination of Imad Mughniyeh in Damascus. The Bureau issues such travel warnings regularly before Rosh Hashanah and Passover every year.

- CA deputy foreign ministers discuss cooperation expansion issues

DUSHANBE, February 18, 2010, Asia-Plus -- Central Asian deputy foreign ministers have met in Almaty to discuss issues relation to expansion of the regional cooperation.

According to the Un Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), the second annual Meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers of Central Asian states took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan on February 17. Tajikistan was represented by the First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mahmoudjon Sobirov

Organized by UNRCCA, the vent was aimed at advancing regional cooperation and discussing ways in which UNRCCA could assist the countries of Central Asia in addressing threats to stability and sustainable development. The participants discussed

initiatives related to the fight against trans-boundary criminality, the situation in Afghanistan, the management of water and energy resources, environmental security and outlined the main priorities for cooperation in 2010. They also reviewed the activities implemented by UNRCCA with the countries of Central Asia in 2009.

The importance of securing enhanced regional security through dialogue, preventive diplomacy initiatives, and continued cooperation with the United Nations and regional organizations was confirmed

Support was expressed for the efforts of the Regional Centre to create conditions conducive for achieving durable solutions to regional challenges, on the basis of mutual benefit for the Central Asian countries and principles

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- IMF supports Tajikistan's efforts to build new hydropower plants on its territory  
DUSHANBE, February 13, 2010, Asia-Plus -- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is understanding efforts of the Government of Tajikistan to build hydropower plants on its territory that will allow tackling many problem resulting from electricity shortages, Mr. Axel Schimmelpfennig, chief of the IMF mission to Tajikistan, told reporters on February 12 in Dushanbe after his meeting with President Emomali Rahmon.

He also pointed to the necessity of training of highly skilled specialists for Tajikistan's energy sector.

- Tajik president, Afghan minister discuss implementation of joint energy projects  
DUSHANBE, February 15, 2010, Asia-Plus - The progress of implementation of Tajik-Afghan joint energy progress was among major topics of a meeting of President Emomali Rahmon with visiting Afghan Minister of Energy and Water Resources Muhammad Ismail Khan that took place here on February 15.

Speaking to reporters after a two-hour meeting with President Rahmon, Muhammad Ismail Khan noted that construction of a 220 kV Tajikistan-Afghanistan power transmission line started on the territory of Afghanistan on February 14. According to him, the line will supply electrical power from the Sangtuda-1 HPP to the center and the east of Afghanistan.

"The line will be constructed in 10 months and it will provide the supply of 300 MW-hour of Tajik electricity to Afghanistan per year," the Afghan energy minister said, noting that the government of Afghanistan and international donors allocated 27.7 million dollars for construction of this power transmission line. "Work on the construction of the line in Takhor, Kunduz and Baghlan provinces is progressing," Ismail Khan said.

We will recall that according to Tajik energy authorities, a total cost of the Tajikistan-Afghanistan 220 kV interconnection project is 55 million U.S. dollars and it is scheduled to be completed in November this year. On the territory of Tajikistan, the line starts in the Sanguda-1 hydroelectric plant and ends on the Tajik-Afghan border. The 220 kV Tajikistan-Afghanistan power transition line is 274 kilometers long, and 118 kilometers of it lies on Tajik territory and 156 kilometers on Afghan territory.

In the meantime, touching upon implementation of the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), which will provide the supply of surplus electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Muhammad Ismail Khan noted that Afghan Ministry of Energy and Water Resources had

set up a commission for implementation of that project. The commission members include representatives from all interested sides, including Tajikistan.

“At first, it is planned to supply 1,000 MW-hour of electricity via this power transmission line per year and upon completion of the construction of the Roghun HPP, this index for Tajikistan will increase to 4,000 MW-hour,” the Afghan energy minister stressed.

- ADB completes its first power project in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE, February 15, 2010, Asia-Plus -- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has completed its first power rehabilitation project in Tajikistan, according to the ADB Tajikistan Representative Mission (TJRM). ADB helped finance the repair and upgrading of power transmission and distribution facilities in Dushanbe and Khatlon Region. It also helped rehabilitate two hydropower plants in the country. The project repaired five medium-voltage substations and a central hydropower plant in the Khatlon Region, improved the tailrace channel and implemented dam safety monitor programs at Nurek Hydropower Plant, replaced 100 distribution transformers, and upgraded 141 kilometers (km) of medium-voltage and 317 km of low-voltage distribution networks serving 55 villages in the Khatlon Region.

The Jangal and Novaya substations serving Dushanbe were also upgraded, improving the metering system at the main substations. “The energy sector is vital for Tajikistan. It is also a priority area for ADB, and we will continue to assist the country's energy sector in the future,” said Makoto Ojiro, ADB’s Country Director for Tajikistan. “Our support will focus on enhancing the country’s institutional and physical capacity —first, to help meet domestic energy needs, including narrowing the winter energy deficit; and secondly, to expand Tajikistan's hydropower export potential in the regional energy market.”

ADB provided a \$40 million loan for the project. The Islamic Development Bank contributed \$17 million, Swiss Government - \$8.7 million, and Barqi Tojik - \$9.6 million – for the project. Barqi Tojik was the Executing Agency for this project, which was approved in 2000. ADB has been supporting the development and rehabilitation of Tajikistan's energy sector since it started operations in the country in 1998. ADB has since approved over \$130 million in assistance for Tajikistan's energy sector.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in the Asia and Pacific region through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region.

### **Social Front**

- Kazakhstan provides humanitarian aid to Tajikistan

DUSHANBE, February 13, 2010, Asia-Plus -- A bulk of Kazakhstan’s humanitarian aid to Tajikistan was handed over to Tajik officials in Dushanbe on February 12, according to the Tajik MFA information department. The aid-handover ceremony was attended by Kazakh Ambassador to Tajikistan Abutalip Akhmetov and representatives from Tajikistan’s State Material Reserves Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We will recall that the Government of Kazakhstan made decision on providing humanitarian aid to Tajikistan on January 29, 2010. The assistance included 1,000 tons of rice and 1,500 tons vegetable oil.

- ESCAP, ADB and UNDP joint report calls for strengthening social protection

DUSHANBE, February 18, 2010, Asia-Plus -- A joint report by the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) warns that the global economic crisis could trap an additional 21 million people in the Asia-Pacific region in extreme poverty, living on less

than \$1.25 a day, press release issued by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) yesterday said.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in an Era of Global Uncertainty: Asia-Pacific Regional Report 2009/10, launched in Manila on February 17, examines the toll that the global economic crisis has taken on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Asia-Pacific region.

Produced by ESCAP, ADB and UNDP, the report identifies opportunities for action – showing how countries of Asia and the Pacific can better protect themselves from this and future crises. The report notes that long-term social protection can actually strengthen Asia's resilience against future shocks. Yet the report finds that across the region, only 20 per cent of the unemployed and underemployed have access to labor market programs such as unemployment benefits, and only 30 per cent of older people receive pensions.

If fiscal stimulus packages have a strong component of social expenditures, notes the report, this is likely to produce a double dividend – not only boosting growth more rapidly but also accelerating progress towards the MDGs. Prior to the economic crisis, the region as a whole had been making notable gains, including being on track to achieve three important targets: gender parity in secondary education, ensuring universal access of children to primary school, and halving the proportion of people living below the \$1.25-a-day poverty line. However, the economic crisis undermined the momentum.

Asia and the Pacific is still the home to the largest number – more than 50 per cent – of people, both rural and urban, without basic sanitation, of under-5 children who are underweight, of people infected with TB, of people living on less than \$1.25 a day, and of rural people without access to clean water, according to the report.

It notes that in 2009 the crisis trapped up to an additional 17 million people in extreme poverty, and in 2010, another 4 million, giving a total of 21 million or roughly the equivalent to the population of Australia. The most adversely affected segment of the population is women, who constitute the majority of Asia's low-skilled, low-salaried, and temporary workforce that can easily be laid off during economic downturns. Moreover the crisis has reduced the demand for migrant labor – and women form nearly two-thirds of the total Asian migrant population.

The report points to opportunities for the region to protect itself and the MDG progress from future crisis through regional cooperation. Regional cooperation would also be particularly valuable for the trade in food, and could include grain banks that are maintained in each country but readily accessible to others, notes the report.

Expanding Asian monetary and financial coordination would be particularly useful to reduce external shocks such as with the global financial crisis. While fiscal stimulus is the most practical way of filling the gap left by declining exports, in the medium and long term, countries will need to generate domestic demand in a more sustainable way.

Countries can consider diversifying their export markets to become less dependent on demand in the West, suggests the report. They can boost trade within the region by liberalizing trade regimes and improving transport links, simplifying customs and inspection procedures.

By lowering trade barriers and creating more opportunity for the Asia-Pacific region to invest within itself, there can be a greater insulation against such crisis in the future.

- Oxfam releases report on climate changes and poverty in Tajikistan



DUSHANBE, February 18, 2010, Asia-Plus -- The people of Tajikistan are experiencing the impacts of climate change; more frequent droughts and heightened extreme weather conditions are hitting poor communities, eroding their resilience and the country's glaciers are melting, bringing the danger, in the future, of greater water shortages and potential disputes in the wider region, the Oxfam report, *Reaching Tipping Point? Climate Change and Poverty in Tajikistan*, notes.

Last summer's unusually good rains and consequent harvest brought some relief to rural communities across Tajikistan but the long-term trends are clear – and ominous.

This report is based on interviews undertaken in communities in Spitamen and Ghonchi in the north and Vose, Farkhor, and Temurmalik in the south in October 2009. It gives an insight into how poor men and women are experiencing climate change, and what challenges they are currently facing – and will continue to face in the future. It makes recommendations on what needs to happen to help them cope better with climate change. Tajikistan's plight highlights the international injustice of climate change. Tajikistan is one of the countries least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change, the report said. It ranks around 109th in the world for all greenhouse gas emissions and 129th in emissions per capita; its people emit less than 1 ton of carbon dioxide per head, compared to nearly 20 tons by citizens of North America.

According to the report, the government of Tajikistan recognizes the fact and importance of climate change and its impacts, but it faces serious challenges in terms of funding and lack of capacity to cope with such a potentially overwhelming phenomenon. Increased funding for research on the impacts of climate change is urgently needed. Planning in high-risk environments requires investments that are beyond the financing capacities of most governments acting alone.

### **Turkmenistan Political Front**

#### **Geo strategic Front**

- Turkmen president to pay state visit to Tajikistan in March

DUSHANBE, February 12, 2010, Asia-Plus -- President Emomali Rahmon yesterday afternoon had a telephone conversation with his Turkmen counterpart, President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov.

According to presidential press service, the two exchanged views on state and prospects of further expansion of bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation between Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and agreed to order their governments to develop and implement measures on expansion of bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

Rahmon invited Berdymukhamedov to pay a state visit to Tajikistan. The invitation was accepted and the sides reached an agreement on scheduling the visit for March 18-19, 2010.

Republic of Tatarstan opens representative office in Ashgabat  
The Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation opened a representative office in the capital of Turkmenistan. The office is headed by Camille Galiev, who was appointed to this post by the decree of the President of Tatarstan, Mintimer Shaimiev. Camille Galiev has already assumed his duties.

As the Turkmenistan.ru correspondent reports from Ashgabat, Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaimiev informed the Turkmen leader about his decision in a letter. The letter

says that in recent years "cooperation of the Republic of Tatarstan and Turkmenistan in the framework of the Russian-Turkmen partnership has demonstrated positive dynamics." It should be recalled that the delegation of Tatarstan headed by Minister of Industry and Trade of the Republic Ravil Zaripov visited Ashgabat yesterday. The delegation included representatives of ministries and organizations, scientific and industrial enterprises of the republic. Representatives of Tatarstan presented their proposals to build cooperation in the field of high technologies, education, energy, health, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as engineering and shipbuilding.

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Turkmen geologists find new evidence of huge gas reserves in the country  
The powerful flow of natural gas was obtained during testing of well N 1 at Minara field located in Yoloten district of Mary province.

According to the State News Agency of Turkmenistan (TDH) with reference to Turkmengeologiya state corporation, testing of well N 1 was a regular stage of complex work being carried out to determine its productivity and to prepare it for industrial use. A daily flow rate obtained there accounted to more than 1 million cubic meters of gas. According to experts, it greatly surpasses the flow rate of gas from existing fields.

The first success at Minara field was achieved in the middle of last year, when a well squeezed out a powerful gas flow with absolutely free debit of 4.3 million cubic meters per day from the depth of more than 4 thousand meters. According to geologists, the last year's results and present results together indicate that gas reservoirs discovered at the field are high-capacity and highly promising.

As TDH notes, given the proximity of Minara field to the recently discovered largest field of Southern Yoloten-Osman, Turkmen and foreign specialists suggest the presence here of a single unique zone of oil-and-gas accumulation in the Murgab basin. Huge deposits of natural gas discovered at Minara field are convincing proof of the most optimistic assessments of gas stock at Southern Yoloten-Osman field.

- Austrian OMV interested in long-term cooperation with Turkmenistan  
President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received the Director General of the Austrian company OMV, Wolfgang Ruttensdorfer, and the Vice-president of OMV Exploration & Production in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the Caspian region, Peter Saytingerom, in Mary province on February 15. During the meeting the guests expressed their high interest in establishing long-term cooperation with Turkmenistan. Businessmen expressed willingness to take part in the implementation of joint projects in the oil and gas sector, and made a number of proposals in this regard, the State News Agency of Turkmenistan (TDH) said.

### **Social Front**

#### **Uzbekistan Political Front**

#### **Geo strategic Front**

- Uzbekistan Puts Limits On Kyrgyz Citizens' Visits  
TASHKENT/OSH -- Uzbek officials have introduced new regulations that limit the number of visits Kyrgyz citizens can make to Uzbekistan, RFE/RL's Uzbek and Kyrgyz services report. The new rule restricts citizens of neighboring Kyrgyzstan to only one

visit to Uzbekistan per month. No explanation was given by Uzbek officials for the new regulation. The regulation will mainly affect the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Uzbeks with Kyrgyz passports who reside in southern Kyrgyzstan, particularly in the Osh region. Many of them have relatives on the other side of the border and travel to Uzbekistan on a regular basis. Kyrgyz border guards at the Dostuk (Friendship) checkpoint along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border confirmed the new regulation adopted by Uzbekistan.

Ethnic Uzbeks make up an estimated 15 percent of Kyrgyzstan's 5.5 million people.

- President of Uzbekistan completes visit to Seoul

President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov paid a state visit to South Korea on 10-12 February. On the last day of his visit, Islam Karimov received the chairman of the Korean Air company Cho Yang-Ho. Korean Air is taking an active part in the creation of the free industrial and economic zone Navoi and development of the intercontinental logistics center. In 2009, the South Korean carrier provided two cargo planes to Uzbekistan Airways national air company on a leasing basis, which are now used by the logistics center. At present, 19 projects with a total cost of USD 187 million are being implemented in Navoi free industrial zone. In the second half of 2010, 16 projects will be completed, with launch of enterprises in chemical, oil, electronics, machinery building, pharmaceuticals and other spheres. So far, a learning center, a car technical service station, firefighting depot and fuel warehouse have been built, and a railway line laid. A cargo terminal is being constructed. In future, up to 30,000 tons of cargo will be processed here annually. Air communication has been established from Navoi to Milan, Brussels, Bangkok, Delhi and Mumbai. Routes to Frankfurt, Dubai, Istanbul and Tel-Aviv will also open soon. The Korean companies are also participating in the creation of the social infrastructure in Navoi region. Together with Korean Air, a housing complex for 9,000 people is being built. It will include healthcare, educational and cultural establishments as well. At the talks in Seoul, Islam Karimov and Cho Yang-Ho discussed issues of cooperation between the air companies of the two states and further development of Navoi industrial zone.

### **Economic/Energy Front**

- Uzbekistan, ADB expand cooperation

Uzbekistan became the member of the Asian Development Bank in August 1995. The ADB is one of the reliable and active partners of Uzbekistan in the process of implementation of economic reforms. The bank is continuously implementing its strategy and program of cooperation with Uzbekistan.

Since 1995, the ADB has provided loans worth over USD 1.2 billion to Uzbekistan. These funds were used for implementation of 29 strategic projects in the fields of transport infrastructure, energy, agriculture and communal services, small business, as well as education.

Besides, the ADB provided grants worth over USD 32 million to the country as technical assistance. The bank occupies the first place among the international financial institutions in financing projects in Uzbekistan.

At present, Uzbekistan and the ADB are planning implementation of 19 priority projects in the framework of the new three-year financial cooperation program. These projects aim at improvement of the population with drinking water, improvement of lands, equipment of schools, introduction of IT in education, modernization of transport

infrastructure, and supporting small business. The bank is expected to allocate a USD 693 million credit for this purpose.

The cooperation between Uzbekistan and the ADB is also developing in the framework of multilateral relations. The bank coordinates the activities of other international financial organizations in the field of development of regional cooperation in Central Asia in priority directions like energy, trade and transport infrastructure.

On 1-4 May, the ADB will hold its 43rd Annual meeting in Tashkent, which will be the first such forum in Central Asia.

- **President of Uzbekistan receives head of ADB**

President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov received President of the Asian Development Bank Haruhiko Kuroda at Oqsaroy residence in Tashkent on 16 February. Welcoming the head of ADB, President Karimov said that Uzbekistan was actively cooperating with many international financial institutions, and that ties with ADB were especially important for the country. Being a long-time reliable partner of Uzbekistan, the ADB, jointly with Uzbek specialists, continuously develops and implements the strategy of cooperation in many sectors of the country's economy. The 43rd Annual meeting of the ADB, scheduled for 1-4 May in Tashkent, will be the first such forum in Central Asia, which demonstrates the acknowledgement of the effectiveness of the Uzbek model of reforms by the international community. Since 1995, when Uzbekistan became a full-fledged member of the ADB, the country has received credit resources worth over USD 1.2 billion, which were used for implementation of strategically important projects in transport infrastructure, energy, agriculture, education, small business and other areas.

Today, the ADB tops the list of international financial organizations cooperating with Uzbekistan in terms of the volume of the provided credits. At the negotiations at Oqsaroy residence, Haruhiko Kuroda affirmed the ADB's intent to expand the scale of cooperation with Uzbekistan in various sectors of economy. Islam Karimov and Haruhiko Kuroda discussed issues of further strengthening of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the ADB, as well as other topic representing mutual interest.

### **Social Front**

- **Three Uzbeks Sentenced For Murder Of Theater Director**

TASHKENT -- Three men were sentenced in Tashkent on February 17 for the murder of Mark Vail, the director of Uzbekistan's prominent Ilhom Theater, RFE/RL's Uzbek Service reports. Vail was stabbed to death near his home in Tashkent on September 6, 2007. The court gave Yokub Ghofurov a 19-year sentence, and Alisher Sattorov and Kahramon Pulatov 17-year jail terms after finding them guilty of premeditated murder.

Lawyers for Sattorov and Pulatov told journalists that they will ask the court to reduce their clients' prison terms to 13 years.

Police failed to apprehend a fourth suspect, Umid Ishokov, who is the alleged mastermind of the murder. Uzbek officials said Ishokov may be living in the United States. Vail was the founder of the Ilhom Theater. His "Imitations of The Koran," a performance based on a poem by Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin, had led some to accuse him of insulting Islam.

- **The convict Umida Akhmedova and her lawyer filed the petition for appeal**

On February 17, 2010 the famous photographer and film maker Umida Akhmedova and her lawyer filed the petition for appeal to the higher authority. The first session of the

Tashkent criminal court is scheduled to March 12, 2010. It will be held at 10am in the building of the Yunus-Abad district court.

It has to be mentioned that on February 10 the Mirabad district court found Umida Akhmedova guilty in the slander and insult of Uzbek people. However, she was immediately released on amnesty while the recognizance not to leave was cancelled. Nonetheless, Umida believes that the verdict is unfair and illegal.

In her petition for appeal the photographer says the court never identified people who directly suffered from the slander or insult. Umida and her lawyer state that in accordance with the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan such activities as "the production of books and films, containing hidden context, targeted at the insult of Uzbek traditions...", "the use of psychological mechanism and brainwashing of young people...", "pursuing goals, contradicting the idea of healthy lifestyle...", "dissemination of false information, affecting the moral perception" are not considered as crimes.

Umida is affirmed that, announcing the verdict, the court found her guilty in the crimes, not formulated by the preliminary investigation body. "If the court believes that the sufferers are the people of Uzbekistan then, in accordance with article 62, it should have attracted the representative of Uzbek people. According to article 10 of Uzbek Constitution people of Uzbekistan can be represented only by Olyi Mazhlis deputies and the President of the Republic. The attorney de facto took the responsibility to represent people of Uzbekistan; neither Constitution nor legislation of Uzbekistan grants him such power", is noted in the petition for appeal. In the opinion of Umida, the judge never specified the evidences of "invariance of motives" from her side. The court's position in many cases contradicts the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Umida notes that tribunal also violated article 23 of Criminal Code (presumption of innocence) according to which all doubts in guilt must play for defendant party. The court considered the comprehensive examination as major prove of Akhmedova's guilt despite the fact that all "experts", interviewed in the trial, never confirmed they were experts in arts, especially photography and documentary films.

Based on the article 46, 49, 497-1, 497-2, 497-7 of Procedural Criminal Code, Umida Akhmedova and her lawyer asked Tashkent city court to cancel the conviction of Mirabad criminal court, dated February 10, 2010 and produce verdict of not guilty.

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