



REPORT SUMMARY

Despite the ongoing Omicron wave, Uzbekistan has managed to keep the pandemic situation in the country under control through implementing appropriate quarantine restrictions for working, traveling, and ill citizens. Through experience and foreign support, Uzbekistan has built up a considerable amount of strength to fight against the Covid-19 virus. However, local vaccine productions, approved vaccine certifications, and effective anti-covid drug productions have proven to be insufficient in containing the new Omicron strain of the virus. Afghanistan, on the other hand, seems to be highly concerned with getting its military and human assets back and keeping energy supplies stable. Fortunately, the Taliban do not feel indifferent about the ongoing construction of the new railway. As for Uzbekistan's northern neighbor, Kazakhstan, the uprising in early January has caused the CSTO to take action. While some politicians feared for the violence to spill over to Uzbekistan and the rest of Central Asia, such events did not take place. Contrary to their claims, the unexpected riot was quick to settle down with the deployment of the CSTO forces. While the West media outlets published headlines about the "Russian threat", the rest of Central Asia got more concerned about foreign terrorist groups, who, as some claim, were the true initiators. Lastly, the recent power incident that impacted Central Asia's power grid has left Uzbekistan with power, water, and gas issues for nearly a week.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

"We have all the necessary potential and power to adequately respond to any threat."

**The President of Uzbekistan,
Shavkat Mirziyoyev**

"Unvaccinated employees will work remotely. There are no penalties at the legislative level. Our main task is to help maintain the peace and well-being of every citizen."

**Deputy Minister of Health,
Anvar Alimov**

"We are both a Muslim state and want to live in peace with each other. I am confident that we will resolve this [returning Afghan aircrafts] and any other issue through diplomacy"

**Taliban press secretary,
Suhail Shahin**



IMPORTANT NEWS PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Uzbekistan Sets “Fighting Against the Pandemic” as an Objective in its New Uzbekistan Development Strategy

Based on the document titled “On the strategy for developing a New Uzbekistan in 2022-2026” objective number 82 fully focuses on fighting against the pandemic. Such tasks as developing a risk identification and management system for pandemic-like threats and boosting cooperation between local and foreign medical experts.

Source: [Regulation.gov.uz](#)

The United Kingdom Starts to Recognize Vaccination Certificates Issues in Uzbekistan

Uzbek vaccination certificates for a variety of widely available vaccines are being officially recognised by the British government. However, the Uzbek-Chinese vaccine is not among the approved ones. This change will allow Uzbek citizens to travel to the UK without taking PCR tests and undergoing a mandatory 10-day self-isolation period.

Source: [Gov.uk \(1\)](#); [Gov.uk \(2\)](#)

Another Production Site for COVID-19 Vaccines to be Launched in Tashkent Region

The project is estimated at USD 20 million and is being implemented by V-Gen Biopharma company, a joint venture by Jurabek Laboratories and the Tashkent Research Institute of Vaccines and Serums. The production site is planned to be launched in 2023.

Source: [Kun.uz](#)

THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

The Taliban Demands Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Return Afghan Aircrafts

During the fall of the former Afghan government, dozens of Afghan pilots and their families escaped the Taliban's takeover by illegally flying away to neighboring countries. Based on Afghan media, out of 164 aircraft, only 81 remain in the possession of the Taliban. At a recent military ceremony Taliban's Defense Minister Mohammad Yaqoob openly demanded the return of Afghan aircraft from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, threatening to not test their patience. However, not long after, the Taliban's press secretary stated that this issue will

Omicron Strain Detected for the First Time in Uzbekistan

The new wave of the covid-19 virus has entered Uzbekistan on January 7th. With its detection came a rapid response from the government to bring back mandatory PCR tests for travellers, prohibition of mass social events, and practice of quarantine requirements. In addition, all workers and students are mandated to get vaccinated.

Source: [UzDaily](#); [Kun.uz](#)

Uzbekistan Receives its First Moderna Vaccine Shipment in 2022 and Another Batch of Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine

As part of the COVAX program, a batch of 500 400 doses of the Moderns vaccine was shipped to Uzbekistan. In addition, Uzbekistan received 310 050 doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

Source: [EEAS](#); [Newslineuz](#)

A Drug Developed by Uzbek Scientists Added to the Protocol for Covid-19 Treatment

The new drug called “Rutan” was approved by the Ministry of Health to be used in treating Covid-19 symptoms. It is suitable for people at the age of 7 and above and seems to have little or no side-effects.

Source: [UZA](#)

Korea May Temporarily Restrict Entry of Uzbek Citizens into the Country

Despite having approved vaccination certificates and PCS tests prior to departure, Uzbeks arriving in South Korea were found to have Covid-19. As a countermeasure, the South Korean government has mandated Uzbeks travelling to South Korea must undergo 3 PCR tests and, in the event of being infected by Covid-19, bear all costs.

Source: [Kun.uz](#)

Uzbekistan Temporarily Cuts Down Energy Supply to Afghanistan

From January 12th to 13th the power supply coming from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan fell to 60%. The Uzbek side claimed the cause to be linked to technical issues at the Marjan power station. Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) used this opportunity to demand its debtors to pay their electrical bills.

Source: [ArianaNews\(1\)](#); [ArianaNews\(2\)](#)

not deter Uzbekistan's and Afghanistan's friendly ties and a diplomatic approach is possible.

Source: [VoaNews](#); [Kun.uz](#)

US Persuades Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Governments to Allow military Bases

After the Afghan crisis, the US is doing all it can to re-establish its military presence in Central Asia. Efforts are being made by the US to persuade the governments of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to locate military equipment and personnel on their territories. This would allow the US army to undertake special operations against the Taliban.

Source: [BusinessStandard](#)

THE RIOTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Uzbekistan Decided to not Engage in the CSTO's Military Support for Kazakhstan

While not being a member of the CSTO and not making use of its troops, Uzbekistan has expressed faith in the Kazakh government's ability to restore peace and readiness to assist. Throughout the riot, Uzbekistan's embassy in Kazakhstan stayed open to help its compatriots.

Source: [Kun.uz](#); [UzDaily](#)

CSTO Deploys Collective Peacekeeping Forces in Kazakhstan

Based on the decision of the CSTO Collective Security Council, on January 6th troops from the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Tajikistan were deployed in Kazakhstan temporarily. These Collective Peacekeeping Forces have been tasked to bring stability back to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Source: [Collective Security Treaty Organisation](#)

China Shows Support for the Actions of CSTO Amidst Backlash from Western media

The military support from the CSTO was perceived by the west as a "Russian threat". China, on the other hand, believes it was a legitimate act of political assistance, which was initiated after the Kazakh government's Appeal for Assistance. The Chinese side has also emphasized the necessity of CSTO's involvement to avoid a spillover of violence into neighbouring countries, highlighting the possible involvement of terrorist groups in the Kazakh riot.

Source: [Global Times](#)

Pentagon Stated that the Military aircraft in Tajikistan & Uzbekistan may not Return to Afghanistan

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby during a press conference informed that there is no official decision as to what will happen to the Afghan aircraft. However, he made it clear that they will not be returned to the Taliban.

Source: [RepublicWorld](#)

Afghanistan Confirms the Route of the New Trans-Afghan Railway

Afghanistan's interim government has informed that the route of the railway will be Mazar-i-Sharif-Baghlan-Bamiyan. The Taliban has joined the project last December.

Source: [Kun.uz](#)

Uzbek, Russian, and Kazakh Presidents Discuss the Riots in Kazakhstan Over Phone

Amidst the gradual withdrawal of CSTO forces from Kazakhstan and the steady return of stability in the country, the Kazakh leader expressed gratitude to Russia's assistance. While the Uzbek military was not involved in bringing peace to Kazakhstan, Russia offered Uzbekistan to consider further strengthening its strategic partnership.

Source: [Anadolu Agency](#)

Uzbekistan Airways Temporarily Stops Flights to Kazakhstan due to the Security Concerns

Incoming and outgoing flights from January 5th to January 13th were canceled. The tickets were fully refunded or re-booked for free to a later date. From January 15th flights to Aktobe, Almaty, and Aktau were restored.

Source: [Kun.uz](#); [Uzbekistan Airways](#)

Uzbekistan is the Next Victim of Public unrest, says President Lukashenko

Belarus's president has warned Uzbekistan and other Central Asian republics that the Kazakh violence may repeat itself, claiming that he has sufficient intelligence to state so and calling for the issue to be solved in the union. In response, the President of Uzbekistan assured that the country is closely monitoring the events in Kazakhstan and is ready to face any threats. Kremlin, on the other hand, decided to stay out of this conversation.

Source: [TASS\(1\)](#); [TASS\(2\)](#); [Kun.uz](#)

The Organization of Turkic States (OTS) Held an Online Meeting to Address the Situation in Kazakhstan

The Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Hungary, and Turkmenistan were present at the meeting. A joint statement was made

New Restrictions Imposed at the Border Between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Due to the recent events that have taken place in Kazakhstan and Omicron wave, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a press release indicating who can and cannot cross the Uzbek-Kazakh border. The rules took effect from the 15th of January with no apparent end date.

Source: [Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

which focuses on supporting the Kazakh government in recovering from the riots, increasing collaboration between the states, and putting more emphasis on anti-terrorist activities.

Source: [Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

MAJOR BLACKOUTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Central Asia Blackout Leaves Millions Without Power

The power shortage left south of Kazakhstan, north of Kyrgyzstan, and the whole of Uzbekistan without power for a whole day. On the 25th of January major power supply issues in the region have left millions without electricity, and soon after without mobile service, water, and gas. Private businesses and public entities, like supermarkets, hospitals, and airports, had to resort to diesel generators. It is important to note that while many citizens got stuck in subways, elevators, and the cable cars in Amirsoy during the blackout, no one got hurt. Electricity gradually came back by the evening of the same day, but the consequences of the power crisis lasted throughout the week.

Source: [BBC](#); [MenaFN](#); [Kun.uz](#)

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Point Fingers at Each Other After the Unexpected Blackouts

Both nations have been trying to investigate the reasons for the sudden power shortage in the area. Based on Kazakhstan the blackout has been caused by a large surge of energy coming from the Uzbek and Kyrgyz sides. Uzbekistan, on the other hand, claimed that the incident took place because of power failures in Kazakhstan's grid.

Source: [TASS](#); [Kun.uz](#)

Central Asian Countries Relying on Their Domestic Power Supply After Major Blackouts

In response to the power outages in the region Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan have decided to rely on their local power sources. Before the incident, the nations were interconnected through the soviet power network. While Turkmenistan and Tajikistan have long left the network, the other Central Asia nations kept relying on this vintage infrastructure.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

SHOLARLY AND MARKET PUBLICATIONS

Uzbekistan Reacts to the Crisis in Kazakhstan

[The Diplomat](#)

Why Uzbekistan Does Not Fear a "Kazakh Winter"

[Eurasianet](#)



EUROUZ or Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic Cooperation is a new platform of cooperation between Europe & Uzbekistan, which has been created to assist the European business community in establishing and strengthening business, investment, and trade cooperation ties with Uzbekistan.

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