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**Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic
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1. EUROUZ NEWS

EUROUZ and Nordstrom International Ltd. facilitate initial contracts between DI – Dansk Industri and Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Republic of Uzbekistan

UZ CCI Chairman Adham Ikramov and the Director of the Confederation of Danish Industry Jens Holst-Nielsen have exchanged views and agreed to follow up on further enhancement of cooperation. The meeting was attended by EUROUZ Secretary-General Oybek Shaykhov, Director of Nordstrom International Ltd. Sofie Nordstrom, Aybek Shakhavdinov for Uzbekistan's MFA and H.E. Dilyor Hakimov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the BeNeLux countries & responsible for economic cooperation with Denmark.

2. SPECIAL UPDATE – COVID-19

No coronavirus patients left in Samarkand

The center specialized in treating COVID-19 patients has terminated its work.

<https://kun.uz/en/32602598>

Uzbekistan officially approves Sputnik V vaccine

In accordance with a relevant decision of the Special Republican Commission, Uzbekistan has approved the use of the Sputnik V vaccine.

<https://sputnikvaccine.com/newsroom/pressreleases/sputnik-v-certified-in-uzbekistan/>

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has given instructions to start vaccinating people against coronavirus

Mass vaccinations in Uzbekistan will begin in March, and 20% of the population will be vaccinated by the end of the year.

<https://kun.uz/en/57182059>

Uzbekistan to vaccinate more than 4 million people on a priority basis

Senior citizens, medical worker, school and kindergarten personnel, armed forces, law enforcement officers, and citizens with chronic diseases will be vaccinated on a priority basis.

https://tihe.uz/en/mediacentre/novosti.php?ELEMENT_ID=52076

3. NOTABLE STATEMENTS

Fitch Ratings: Uzbekistan's rating resilient to pandemic

“The Republic of Uzbekistan has demonstrated resilience to the coronavirus pandemic, supported by its robust external and fiscal buffers, access to external financing and diversified economy. It was among the few sovereigns to avoid an economic contraction in 2020, as timely support from official creditors underpinned anti-crisis measures.”

<https://www.fitchratings.com/research/sovereigns/uzbekistan-rating-resilient-to-pandemic-challenges-ahead-24-02-2021>

Uzbekistan rose to 67th position in the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Index

In the World Bank's 'Statistical Capacity Index', which assesses the level of development of national statistical systems of countries, with 67.8 points, Uzbekistan took 67th place out of 154 countries.

<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/statistical-capacity-indicators>

Freedom House: Uzbekistan is “not free” earning 11 points out of 100

In 2019, Uzbekistan scored 10 points on a 100-point scale and was among the “not free” countries. In 2020, political rights are rated at 2 out of 40, and civil liberties – at 9 out of 60, totaling 11 points. In terms of Internet freedom, Uzbekistan scored 27 points.

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege>

Uzbekistan up by 6 positions in the Index of Economic Freedom

The Heritage Foundation has released the 2021 Index of Economic Freedom report. It ranks Uzbekistan 108th out of 186 countries with 58.3 points. According to the latest report, the country's rating has improved by 1.1 points, rising by 6 positions.

<https://kun.uz/en/46936615>

4. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

4.1 LOCAL LEVEL

Fitch Solutions forecast the real GDP of Uzbekistan to grow by 5.1% in 2021

The easing of confinement measures and strengthening demand to drive a recovery from the COVID-19 downturn.

<https://www.fitchsolutions.com/country-risk-sovereigns/economics/uzbekistans-resilient-economy-well-placed-recovery-2021-03-02-2021>

State shares in 33 companies put up for online auction

Companies such as Univer Grand Food, Niyat-tram LLC and FC Sementchi are listed amongst the others for privatization.

<https://kun.uz/en/24313112>

Central Bank forecasts inflation at around 9-10% by the end of 2021

One of the main factors of inflation in 2021 is the postponement of the increase in energy prices as part of reforms to liberalize the market in the coming years, as well as maintaining unchanged regulated tariffs for goods (services), especially for utilities.

<https://kun.uz/en/05453338>

Inflation in Uzbekistan in February amounted to 0.6%

Over the month, food products and non-food products rose in price by 0.6%, services – by 0.8%. The inflation rate in February 2020 was 0.8%.

<https://kun.uz/en/37602357>

Uzbekistan's foreign debt exceeds 40% of GDP

As of January 1, 2021, the public debt of Uzbekistan amounted to \$23.3 billion.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/finances/6506-uzbekistan-s-public-debt-surpasses-40-percent-to-gdp>

A new Free Economic Zone “Karakalpak-agro” was created

Uzbekistan has established a new Free Economic Zone in its western Karakalpakstan region with a focus on providing favorable conditions for the agricultural industry & further stipulating its export potential.

<http://invest.gov.uz/mediacenter/news/a-new-sez-karakalpak-agro-was-created/>

4.2 REGIONAL, BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan inked a roadmap for a landmark rail link aimed at bolstering trade ties between Central and South Asia

The proposed 573 km railway track is set to connect Tashkent via Kabul with Peshawar. The three countries signed a joint request last month seeking a \$4.8 billion loan from international financial institutions for the Trans-Afghan railway project.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/afghanistan-uzbekistan-pakistan-ink-map-for-rail-link/2131605>

Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with San Marino

San Marino will become the 136th country with which Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations.

<http://www.esteri.sm/on-line/en/home/news/articolo1015176.html>

Shavkat Mirziyoyev holds a conversation with Ashraf Ghani

The sides considered the possibility of expanding multifaceted Uzbek-Afghan relations, including in the oil and gas sector, education and training of qualified Afghan personnel in technical specialties.

<https://kun.uz/en/74140143>

Uzbekistan and South Korea establish a working group on peaceful uses of outer space

The staff of the Embassy of Uzbekistan in South Korea met with representatives of the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) and the company SI Imaging Services to discuss further intensifying cooperation in the field of exploring space for peaceful purposes.

<https://kun.uz/en/news/2021/02/15/uzbekistan-south-korea-establish-a-working-group-on-peaceful-uses-of-outer-space>

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to accelerate the project on building international trade center

The process of establishing the center will be carried out in several stages: the preparatory stage – 2019, the investment stage – 2020-2023, including the development of infrastructure (2020-2023) and its prospective development (2023-2025).

<https://review.uz/en/post/uzbekistan-i-kazaxstan-uskoryat-sozdanie-centra-torgovo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva-centralnaya-aziya>

Uzbekistan and FAO sign \$17 million cooperation program

FAO and Uzbekistan signed the Country Programme Framework for 2021-2025. FAO's activities under the CPF will support the Government in its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in order to help Uzbekistan achieve a sustainable food system.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/national/6432-uzbekistan-fao-sign-cooperation-program-for-2021-2025>

Uzbekistan plans to attract Chinese companies to its mineral deposits

The Chinese Chamber of Commerce is ready to actively involve Chinese companies in the implementation of large and substantial investment projects on the basis of new and existing facilities of gold, tungsten, iron, copper and other mineral resources.

<https://kun.uz/en/35069705>

Intergovernmental agreement between Uzbekistan and Belarus on interregional cooperation comes into force

The agreement contributes to the expansion and development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the regions of the two countries in the trade-economic and cultural-humanitarian spheres, as well as in the fields of agriculture, health care and environmental protection.

<https://kun.uz/en/22229319>

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan aim to boost bilateral trade

Sides agreed to pay priority attention to expanding trade and economic cooperation. Favorable conditions will be created for enhancing business contacts, new cooperation projects in the field of trade, industry, agriculture, transport and infrastructure worth over \$900 million.

<https://kun.uz/en/11136982>

5. MARKET DEVELOPMENT BY SECTORS

5.1 BANKING SECTOR

Deutsche Bank supports Uzbek banks' global loan markets debut

Deutsche Bank provided \$90 million to JSC Asakabank (ASBU) and acted as Initial Mandated Lead Arranger for Xalq Bank's inaugural \$102.5 million syndicated loan facility.

<https://www.db.com/news/detail/20210209-deutsche-bank-supports-uzbek-banks-global-loan-markets-debut>

Payme reports revenue and profit growth

TBC Bank, the main owner of the company, indicated that the application is the second largest provider of payment services in Uzbekistan. Net profit of Payme increased by 89% in 2020.

<https://kun.uz/en/82105202>

JSCB Kapitalbank Uzbekistan signs Profinch Solutions as a strategic partner

Kapitalbank, a private commercial bank of Uzbekistan, has partnered with Profinch Solutions for implementing Oracle Banking Digital Experience for corporate digital banking.

<https://ibsintelligence.com/ibsi-news/jscb-kapitalbank-uzbekistan-signs-profinch-solutions-as-a-strategic-partner/>

5.2 INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

Airfield construction begins in Sokh district

An area of 4.5 hectares was allocated for the airfield on the territory of the “Novobod” mahalla. The project will cost 12 billion soums.

<https://kun.uz/en/41093783>

Tashkent khokimiyat presents new projects for improving the city

Tashkent plans to renovate more than 500 mahallas, build parks and alleys, and lay 42 km of bicycle pathway.

<https://kun.uz/en/16309601>

South Korean Hanshin Engineering & Construction plans to build a gold complex in Samarkand

The project is estimated at \$800 million. It is expected to cover an area of 270 hectares.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/business/6395-south-korean-company-plans-to-implement-three-projects-in-uzbekistan>

IKEA may build furniture factory in Tashkent region

The total cost of the project is around \$52 million. It is planned to be built in Chirchik.

<https://kun.uz/en/02131038>

5.3 AUTOMOBILE AND TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

Aero completes overhauled L-39 deliveries to Uzbekistan

Aero Vodochody has completed deliveries of six refurbished L-39C Albatros jet trainer aircraft to Uzbekistan, concluding an overhaul effort that was launched in 2018.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/aero-completes-overhauled-l-39-deliveries-to-uzbekistan>

Makro plans to build network of electric vehicle charging stations in Uzbekistan

Makro has now signed a contract for the supply of 30 AC, CCS and CHAdeMO charging stations – 20 in the first phase, 10 in the second. All of them will be located at the chain's supermarkets not only in Tashkent but also in other cities.

<https://kun.uz/en/13779675>

Foreign investor plans to open an airline in Uzbekistan

It is expected that this will give impetus to the development of the aviation and tourism sectors of the country. In the first stage, it is planned to serve the countries of the CIS and the European Union. Murari Lal Jalan will be the majority shareholder of both the airport and the airline.

<https://kun.uz/en/45146954>

The first privately owned airline in Uzbekistan, Qanot Sharq will receive its first two planes in March 2021

Air Lease Corporation announced a long-term lease placements for two used Airbus A320-200 aircraft with Qanot Sharq Airlines, scheduled to deliver this March. This will be the first two aircraft in the fleet of the Uzbek startup airline.

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210216006101/en/Air-Lease-Corporation-Announces-Lease-Placement-of-Two-Airbus-A320-200-Aircraft-with-Qanot-Sharq-Airlines-Uzbekistan>

Volume of Uzbekistan's cargo transportation turnover exceeds 40 billion tons

By 2030, the volume of cargo handling in Uzbekistan is expected to reach 2.1 billion tons, and investment in the sector will reach \$1.9 billion.

<https://kun.uz/en/88890556>

5.4 HEALTHCARE

Rebel advises on landmark healthcare PPP in Uzbekistan

The government of Uzbekistan and NephroPlus are set to deliver affordable kidney care and dialysis across the country via a new public-private partnership agreement.

<https://www.consultancy.asia/news/3920/rebel-advises-on-landmark-healthcare-ppp-in-uzbekistan>

Eximbank provides \$160 million to build a hospital and a R&D center in Uzbekistan

Of the total loan, \$120 million will be allocated to the construction of a general hospital in Tashkent, while \$40 million will be used to support the establishment of a chemical R&D center.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210129000668>

Rafarma Secures Joint Venture Agreement with the Pharmaceutical Industry Development Agency of Uzbekistan

The venture will entail the acquisition of real property (10 hectares in the established Innovative Scientific Production Pharmaceutical Cluster known as “Tashkent Pharma Park”) and construction of a physical plant on the premises. Projected costs are currently at \$82 million.

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2021/01/29/2166722/0/en/Rafarma-Secures-Joint-Venture-Agreement-with-the-Pharmaceutical-Industry-Development-Agency-of-Uzbekistan.html>

5.5 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Germany to invest €8 million in economic development of the Aral Sea region

The concept of the new project is in line with the key priorities of the 2030 Agriculture Development Strategy, it also reflects the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://kun.uz/en/51220377>

5.6 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

ICD and JSCB signed a \$25 million Line of Financing Agreement

The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Uzbek Industrial and Construction Bank (JSCB), signed a \$25 million Shari’ah-compliant Line of Financing Agreement which will be utilized by JSCB to finance local private sector businesses, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

<https://icd-ps.org/en/news/signing-of-a-usd-25-million-line-of-financing-agreement-between-icd-and-jscb>

5.7 INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Versalis licenses LDPE-EVA technology for gas-to-chemicals project in Uzbekistan

Enter Engineering Pte. Ltd., one of the largest construction companies in the region, will act as licensee on behalf of the Uzbek Company Jizzakh Petroleum JV LLC, who will own and operate the LDPE/EVA unit and the entire Gas to Chemical Complex once built and made ready for operation.

<https://www.chemengonline.com/versalis-licenses-ldpe-eva-technology-for-gas-to-chemicals-project-in-uzbekistan/?printmode=1>

Uzbekistan plans to construct 11 HPPs in 2021

In 2021, 16 projects worth \$1.4 billion are planned. In particular, 11 new hydroelectric power plants will be built, the existing stations will be upgraded and their capabilities will be expanded.

<https://kun.uz/en/74312801>

5.8 IT SECTOR

Artificial Intelligence Development Alliance to appear in Uzbekistan

The President approved the proposal of the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, the Ministry of Innovative Development, government agencies, commercial banks and large industrial enterprises to create a Joint Alliance for Development of Artificial Intelligence.

<https://kun.uz/en/43897102>

UNDP and the Government of Japan provide technical assistance to assist in digitalization of Uzbekistan's mahalla system

UNDP, with the financial support from the Government of Japan, has provided technical assistance to the Ministry for Support of Mahallas and Families in establishing the digital infrastructure and services necessary to support socially-vulnerable population groups

<https://www.uz.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/02/assisting-the-digitalization-of-uzbekistans-mahalla-system.html>

Japanese entrepreneurs to open IT Center in Navoi

A 60-seat IT-center is registered in the building of the general education school No.5 of Navoi. Japanese businessmen promised to make it a center of modern technology.

<https://kun.uz/en/27012097>

5.9 BUSINESS

Spotify now available in Uzbekistan

Along with entering the Uzbek market, Spotify is launched in 84 more countries.

<https://newsroom.spotify.com/2021-02-22/spotify-expands-international-footprint-bringing-audio-to-80-new-markets/>

Russian Megafon enters the Uzbek market

USM Telecom and MegaFon together with partners from Uzbekistan are creating a joint venture – Digital Holding, which is intended to become the technological leader of the largest telecommunications market in Central Asia.

<https://kun.uz/en/45382355>

Uzbekistan to start producing shoes under Nike and Adidas brands

The production facility will start its work in the IV quarter of 2021 and operate at a full capacity in the III quarter of 2022. The plant is expected to produce a total of 3 million pairs of sports shoes a year. The cost of the project is around \$12 million. Currently, the foreign investor has invested \$6 million.

<https://kun.uz/en/16934275>

Uzbekistan's business sentiment index improved

The index of business sentiment in January 2021 amounted to 65, increasing by 4.9 units from December 2020.

<https://kun.uz/en/31130808>

5.10 ENERGY SECTOR

IKS Holding to conduct digital transformation of Uzbekistan's energy sector

The services contract between IKS Holding and the Uzbekistan Ministry of Energy was signed on December 15, 2020 at the Uzbek Embassy in Moscow. The project is being implemented jointly with the off-budget intersectoral energy saving fund under the Ministry of Energy.

<http://tashkenttimes.uz/national/6405-alisher-usmanov-s-company-to-conduct-digital-transformation-of-uzbekistan-s-energy-sector>

ACWA Power of Saudi Arabia expands into Uzbekistan

Projects include 1500MW CCGT plant and two wind power facilities. The project will provide cleaner, more efficient and cost-competitive gas power that can be utilized across industries in Uzbekistan and will comprise 8% of the country's installed power capacity. Construction cost is US\$1.2 billion.

<https://www.theasset.com/asia-connect/42885/acwa-power-of-saudi-arabia-expands-into-uzbekistan>

Uzbekistan to establish a regulator of energy market

It is planned to establish an energy market regulator in the country, which will control the electricity and natural gas market, perform licensing and other relevant functions. The NGO will be accountable to the President and the Oliy Majlis only.

<https://kun.uz/en/24530890>

Cengiz Enerji will build a thermal power plant in Tashkent region

The construction of the TPP would ensure the attraction of direct Turkish investments up to \$150 million for, the creation of 500 new jobs during the construction period and 100 jobs during the operation of the power station.

<https://invest.gov.uz/mediacenter/news/cengiz-enerji-will-build-a-thermal-power-plant-in-tashkent-region/>

5.11 TOURISM

Uzbekistan to allocate 200 billion soms (\$19 million) to develop tourism in Kashkadarya

Kashkadarya region khokimiyat will establish an off-budgetary fund to develop tourism in the region. The fund will be allocated from the Fund for Reconstruction and Development.

<https://kun.uz/en/14532969>

Tourist resort to be built near Tuyabuguz Reservoir

It is planned to build a recreation area for local and foreign tourists on the 7-hectare area of the Tuyabuguz Reservoir (known as the Tashkent Sea), which is located in the territory of the Urta Chirchik district.

<https://kun.uz/en/02789241>

5.12 MINERALS

Uzbekistan's gold and foreign exchange reserves declining

After a sharp increase at the end of 2020, the reserves have begun to decline again. As of February 1, the country's gold and foreign exchange reserves decreased by \$584.2 million to \$34 billion 319.8 million.

<https://kun.uz/en/57126781>

Uzbekistan's mining and quarrying sector produced 3.2 trillion soms (\$304.1 million) worth of mineral resources in January

According to the State Statistics Committee, this accounted for 12.0 % of the total volume of industrial production.

<https://www.ice.it/it/news/notizie-dal-mondo/170622>

5.13 TRADE

Uzbekistan exports fruits and vegetables for \$1 billion

According to the State Statistics Committee, Uzbekistan has exported 1,500 tons of fruits and vegetables worth \$1 billion.

[https://m.akipress.com/news:654591:Uzbekistan_exports_fruits_and_vegetables_for_\\$1_billion/](https://m.akipress.com/news:654591:Uzbekistan_exports_fruits_and_vegetables_for_$1_billion/)

Italian company granted right to export Uzbek leather products to Europe

Antonio Cuture has been granted the right to export leather products manufactured by Angren Charm Invest to all European markets. The Italian company will promote Uzbek products in Europe.

<https://kun.uz/en/14466218>

Uzbekistan increases textile exports

In January 2021, Uzbekistan exported textile products for \$193.2 million, which is 27.8% of the total export volume. Textile exports increased by 24.9%, compared to January 2020.

<https://kun.uz/en/98975920>

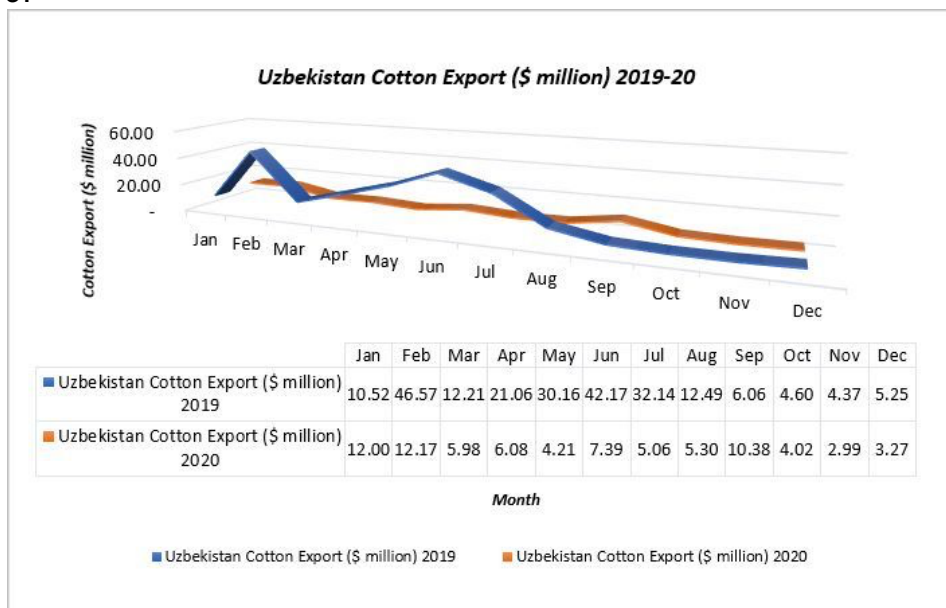
Uzbekistan's FTT dropped by \$5.5 billion in 2020

In 2020, Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover amounted to \$36.3 billion with a negative trade balance of \$6.04 billion (in 2019, \$41.8 billion and \$6.8 billion, respectively), follows from the Central Bank's monetary policy review.

<https://kun.uz/en/93385478>

Uzbekistan cotton export shows sharp decline in 2020

Uzbekistan cotton exports plunged 65.35% to \$78.87 million in 2020 compared to \$227.61 million in 2019.



<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/uzbekistan-cotton-export-shows-sharp-decline-in-2020-272270-newsdetails.htm>

Car imports dropped sharply in January

In the first month of 2021, foreign-made cars worth \$5.8 million were delivered to Uzbekistan, which is almost 80% less compared to January 2020.

<https://www.ice.it/it/news/notizie-dal-mondo/170285>

6. EDUCATION

27 American teachers arrive in Uzbekistan to teach at local schools and universities

The majority of the teachers will join local teachers and provide direct classroom education to students.

<https://kun.uz/en/93129978>

Tashkent region to establish a new university

The Cabinet of Ministers has announced the draft resolution on establishing the International School of Finance and Technology (ISFT) in Tashkent region.

<https://kun.uz/en/04097491>

Russia to contribute \$1 million to teach Russian language in Uzbekistan

The Russia Ministry of Education in 2021 will contribute 75 million rubles (over \$1 million) for the “Class” project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency in Uzbekistan.

<http://tashkenttimes.uz/world/6401-russia-to-contribute-us-1-million-for-project-to-teach-russian-language-in-uzbekistan>

Indian Sambhram Institute of Technology to open a branch in Jizzakh

6 faculties will open in the Jizzakh branch of the Sambhram Institute of Technology. Construction works will begin soon and the courses are expected to start from the next academic year.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/national/6417-branch-of-sambhram-institute-of-technology-to-open-in-jizzakh>

7. REGULATORY CHANGES

The President has signed the law moving Election Day from December to October

On February 8, 2021, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the law “On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of Uzbekistan in connection with the improvement of electoral legislation”. The presidential election will be held on October 24 this year.

<https://kun.uz/en/41228875>

Government to introduce tourist tax for local tourists from March 1

According to the document, from March 1 of this year for citizens of Uzbekistan and stateless persons permanently residing in the republic, a tourist (hotel) tax is introduced for each day of their stay in accommodation facilities.

<https://kun.uz/en/90820555>

Uzbekistan extends privileges for tourism service providers until December 31

In accordance with the presidential decree, the following privileges and preferences have been extended until December 31, 2021:

- reduction of the rate of profits tax for tour operators, travel agents, as well as accommodation facilities by 50%;
- partial subsidization of tour operators' air and rail ticket expenses by 30% of the ticket price for foreign tourist groups of at least 10 people, provided that they stay at least five nights;

<https://kun.uz/en/31009100>

Uzbekistan to cancel excise tax on mobile services

From 2023, the excise tax on mobile services will be canceled. In 2022, the rate is expected to be reduced to 10%. In 2021, it was reduced from 20% to 15%.

<https://kun.uz/en/09621257>

Uzbekistan facilitates privatization of state assets

The State Commission on Tendering State Property is granted the power to decide on the publication of announcements on the realization of state assets without the announcement of the starting price, as well as selling state assets on the basis of the best of at least two offers (regardless of the price recommended in the evaluation report and determined in the expert opinion).

<https://kun.uz/en/98775389>

Uzbekistan announces conscription for urgent military service

Citizens of Uzbekistan, who are of age and who do not have the right to deferment of military service, will be conscripted in March-April 2021.

<https://kun.uz/en/79867256>

Tax Committee establishes working groups to assist taxpayers on legal matters

Starting Feb 18, working groups consisting of specialists responsible for answering all questions in accordance with the "Tax Assistant" principle have been formed in all state tax administrations and the State Tax Committee (STC).

<https://kun.uz/en/news/2021/02/18/tax-committee-establishes-working-groups-to-assist-taxpayers-on-legal-matters>

Each regional khokimiyat obliged to pay tuition fees of 100 women

The People's Bank will allot 2 trillion soums in loans this year to attract about 70,000 women to entrepreneurship. To date, the bank has provided loans to 4,000 women who have completed entrepreneurship courses.

<https://kun.uz/en/78679654>

1.1 billion soms (\$105 000) to be allocated for the development of public funds that support NGOs

The President has signed the resolution "On Additional Measures for State Support of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, Ensuring Freedom of Their Activities, Protection of Rights and Legitimate Interests".

<http://uzdaily.com/en/post/63970>

President Mirziyoyev grants new privileges to electrical and household product producers

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has signed a decree on additional measures for further development of the electro-technical industry and increasing the competitiveness of domestic products.

<https://kun.uz/en/91414522>

8. SENIOR OFFICIALS CHANGES/APPOINTMENTS

- **Khokim of the Kuva District**
Appointed – Khalimjon Umarov.
Previously served as Deputy Khokim of Fergana region for agriculture and water resources
- **Khokim of the Yazyavan District**
Appointed – Dilshod Jalilov.
Previously served as the Director-General of the Fergana Regional Electric Network Enterprise
- **Board Chairman of Governors of IDB Group**
Appointed – Sardor Umurzakov.
Currently serves as Deputy Prime minister of Uzbekistan, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade

- **Deputy Advisor to the President for Civil Service and Interaction with Representative Bodies of Government**
Appointed – Abdulmannop Tulaganov.

- **Head of the Department for Emergency Situations**
Appointed – Ravshan Khaydarov.
Previously served as the Head of the Institute for Civil Protection under the MES

- **Rector of the Academy of Public Administration**
Appointed – Adkham Bekmuradov.
Previously served as Deputy Presidential Advisor for Civil Service and Interaction with Representative Bodies of Government

- **First Deputy Khokim of Andijan Region for Finance, Economy and Poverty Reduction**
Appointed – Otabek Tursunov.
Previously served as Head of the Andijan region State Tax Committee

- **First Deputy Khokim of Andijan Region – Head of the Office for Mahalla and Family Affairs**
Appointed – Muhammad Nishonov.
Previously served as Deputy Head of the Regional Department of Internal Affairs

- **Khokim of the Bektemir District**
Appointed – Saidjamol Sultonov.
Previously served as Head of the Tashkent City Territorial Administration of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan

- **Khokim of Bukhara**
Appointed – Utkir Jumayev.
Previously served as Deputy Khokim of Bukhara City on the Issues of Industry Development, Capital Construction, Communications and Utilities

- **Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs for ICT**
Appointed – Najmiddin Turakhojaev.
Previously served as Director of the State Personalization Center under the Cabinet of Ministers

- **Khokim of Dustlik District of Jizzakh Region**
Appointed – Shavkat Darvishev.
Previously served as Head of the Jizzakh Region Finance Department

- **Deputy Khokim of Tashkent Region**
Appointed – Barhayot Meliyev.
Previously served as First Deputy Head of the Housing and Communal Service Department at the Tashkent City Khomiyat
- **Khokim of Namangan Region**
Appointed – Shavkat Abdurazzakov.
Previously served as Chairman of the State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection
- **First Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee**
Appointed – Ilhom Mukhtorov.
Previously served as the Head of the Risk Monitoring and Assessment Department of the State Customs Committee
- **Deputy Minister of Agriculture**
Appointed – Alisher Turayev.
Previously served as Professor at the Tashkent State Agrarian University
- **Head of Uzbekistan Airways**
Appointed – Ilhom Mahkamov.
Previously served as Minister of Transport
- **Head of Uzbekistan Airports**
Appointed – Rano Jurayeva.
Previously served at Roscosmos and S7 Space
- **Khokim of Uychi District**
Appointed – Muhammadzokir Mamatkhonov.
Previously served as Head of the Agency for External Labor Migration
- **Prosecutor of Fergana region**
Appointed – Bakhtiyor Ismoilov.
Previously served as First Deputy Prosecutor of Namangan Region
- **Deputy Minister of Housing and Communal Services**
Appointed – Kurban Tursunov.
Previously served as Head of the Bukhara Regional Department of Housing and Communal Services

9. IMPORTANT TENDERS

JSC Navoi TPP invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the design, execution and completion of “Construction of a CCGT with a capacity of more than 600 MW, a 500/220kV substation and a power transmission line at Navoi TPP”.

International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Bidding Procedure. This would be the second extension of the Navoi Combined Cycle Thermal Power Plant in Uzbekistan.

<http://minenergy.uz/en/news/view/1146>

10. USEFUL PUBLICATIONS AND LINKS

International Monetary Fund: Uzbekistan Staff Concluding Statement of the 2021 Article IV Mission

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/02/17/mcs-021721-uzbekistan-staff-concluding-statement-of-the-2021-article-iv-mission?cid=em-COM-123-42663>

The Diplomat: A Closer Look at Uzbekistan’s Privatization Push

<https://thediplomat.com/2021/02/a-closer-look-at-uzbekistans-privatization-push/>

Uzbekistan rising as Central Asian integration catalyst

<https://eurasianet.org/perspectives-uzbekistan-rising-as-central-asian-integration-catalyst>

Uncovering emerging real estate markets in Central Asia: Uzbekistan

<https://www.cbre.co.uk/services/business-lines/valuation-and-advisory/valued-insights/articles/uncovering-emerging-real-estate-markets-in-central-asia-uzbekistan>

Uzbekistan’s PPP Law updated to deliver the multi-billion-dollar PPP Pipeline

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/uzbekistans-ppp-law-updated-deliver-mulbillion-dollar-uddin/>

How Uzbekistan’s cotton industry cleaned up its act

<https://emerging-europe.com/business/how-uzbekistans-cotton-industry-cleaned-up-its-act/>



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