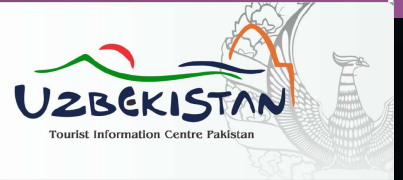


April 2023

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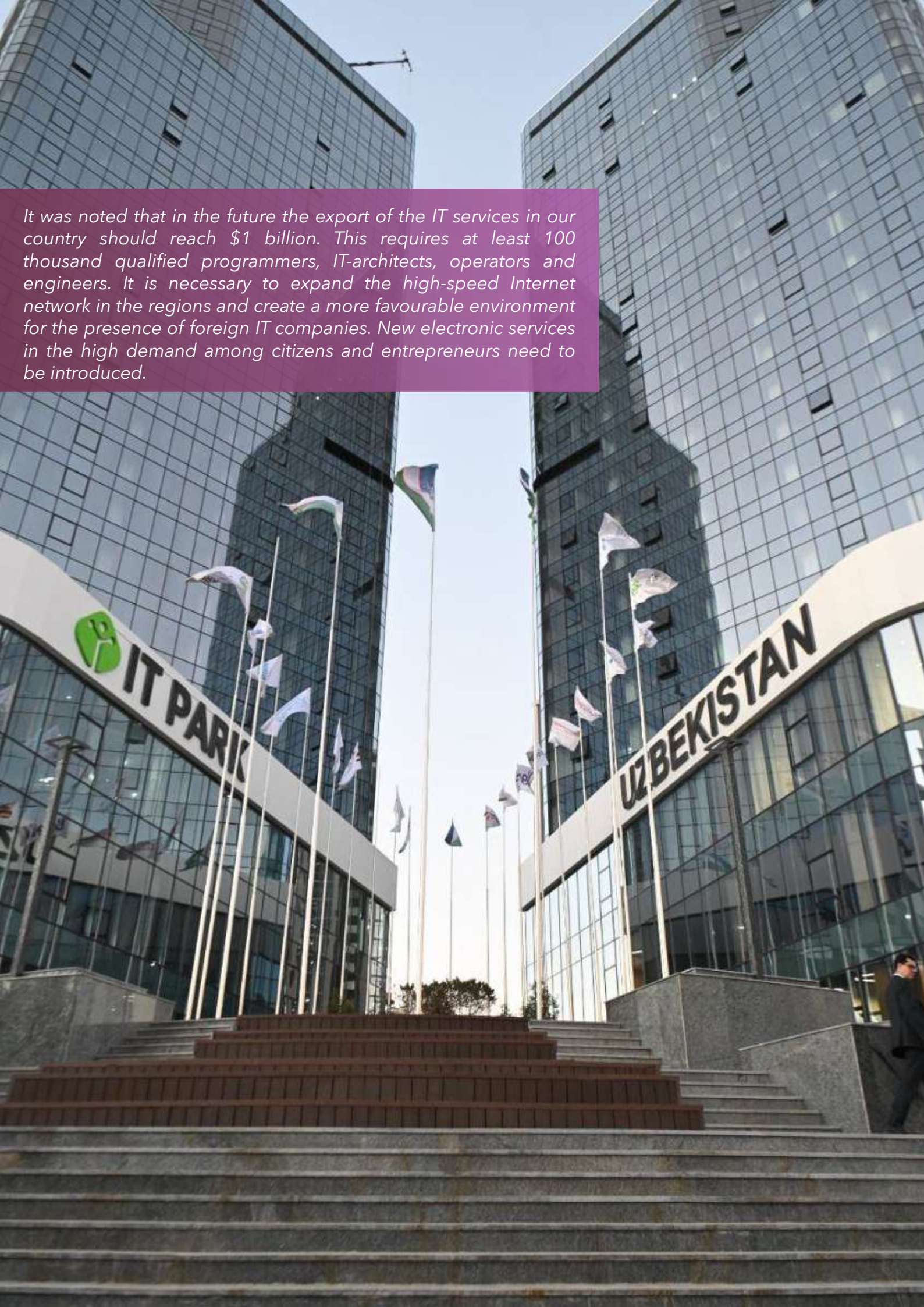
Cricket in Uzbekistan.

THE GOAL OF DIGITALISATION

To make people happy, to ensure human dignity and justice

H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev

It was noted that in the future the export of the IT services in our country should reach \$1 billion. This requires at least 100 thousand qualified programmers, IT-architects, operators and engineers. It is necessary to expand the high-speed Internet network in the regions and create a more favourable environment for the presence of foreign IT companies. New electronic services in the high demand among citizens and entrepreneurs need to be introduced.



President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Tasks in Information Technology Discussed

On February 22, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a videoconference on acceleration of the digitalization processes in the regions and regions.

The great attention paid to the field of information technology in recent years is yielding results. Last year the IT Park residents rendered services worth 5 trillion Uzbek sum and exported services for \$140 million.

370 out of 715 public services have been digitized, and 12 million people have used electronic services last year. As a result of digitalization, more than 70 types of certificates and documents were no longer required from the population.

However, it was noted at the meeting that taken measures are not enough. And much work remains to be done in the spheres and regions. Particularly, only 30 percent of 5 thousand functions of the ministries have been digitized. The dozens of services in the internal affairs, justice, standardization and health care, which are in a high demand among the population, have not been digitized.

The main part of the IT production and export falls on the city of Tashkent. The construction of IT parks in Karakalpakstan, Bukhara, Namangan, Surkhondaryo, Navoi and Tashkent regions is still under way.

The shortcomings in the field were analyzed and identified the tasks for the future.

It was noted that in the future the export of the IT services in our country should reach \$1 billion. This requires at least 100 thousand qualified programmers, IT-architects, operators and engineers. It is necessary to expand the high-speed Internet network in the regions and create a more favorable environment for the presence of foreign IT companies. New electronic services in the high demand among citizens and entrepreneurs need to be introduced.

The President listed growth opportunities in the area.

First of all, it has been determined that the projects tested in Tashkent will be implemented in all regions. In particular, such systems as Digital Geoportal, Digital Portal of Housing and Communal Services and People's Control System have been launched in the capital. There is a Digital Development Department in the khokimiyat of the city. It has been determined that this structure will be transferred to the Ministry of Digital Technology to operate the digitalization process in all regions of the country.



Particular attention is paid to full digitalization and integration of all business processes and essential services for the population.

For example, due to the lack of a unified student database, the number of classes in schools varied. Last September, the harmonization of the databases of schools, kindergartens, registries and internal affairs bodies resulted in the optimization of 4,000 unnecessarily created classes, which saved 350 billion Uzbek sum.

The President noted that the similar work can be done in other spheres as well. The Ministry of Economy and Finance has been instructed to allocate funds for this purpose, as well as to leave to the ministries and khokimiyat half of the savings from digitalization.

The Ministry of Digital Technology has been tasked to connect 26 information systems to

the Single Portal of State Services and increase the number of services in it to 570.

"What is the goal of digitalization? To make people happy, to ensure human dignity and justice," Shavkat Mirziyoyev said.

The President stressed the need to train young people in information technologies, create conditions for work in this sphere and create a market for products developed by them.

On April 1, the republican competition with a prize fund of \$1 million dollars in the areas "E-Government", "Business Programs", education will start. Also, the 50 best programs created by young people in the regions will be purchased from the funds of digitization funds.

Over the past two years, 215 IT training centres have been opened in our country. Financial incentives have been announced for such educational institutions and their graduates. In particular, a subsidy of up to 25 million Uzbek soums will be allocated to training centers for each graduate who employed in a company exporting their products, and for each such specialist with disabilities - up to 35 million Uzbek soums. Young people with IT certificate will be able to get a preferential loan for purchasing a computer on their personal plastic cards.

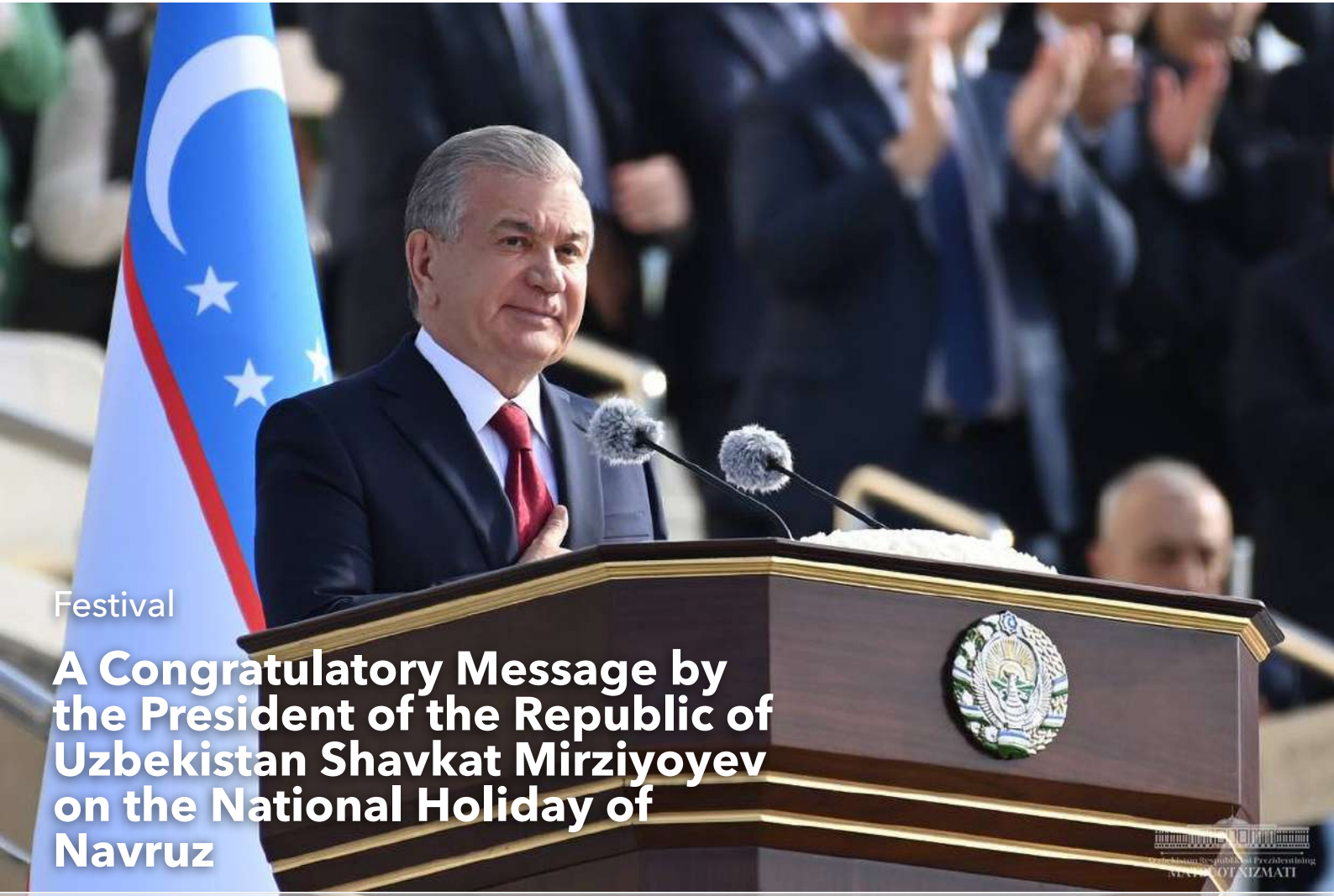
The project "One Million Uzbek Coders" has also paid off. Currently, most IT park specialists are young people who have completed this program.

Youth education will be expanded, including through the Coursera platform. The most talented, qualified, will be trained for the international IT market on the basis of a separate program.

The issue of increasing exports in the industry was also discussed at the meeting. The goal for this year is to reach \$300 million.

Our President stressed the need to create additional conditions for attracting orders from abroad. In this regard, a task has been set to create a Digital Financial Technology Center for foreign companies in the IT park.

Information and proposals from executives have been heard on the issues discussed at the meeting.



Festival

A Congratulatory Message by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the National Holiday of Navruz

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS!

On this wonderful day, standing with you in the magnificent «New Uzbekistan» Park, I sincerely congratulate you and our multinational people on the great Navruz holiday.

MAY NAVRUZ BRING HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING!

Today, everywhere in our country, in oases and valleys, cities and towns, parks and squares, the folk festivals – «sayils» are taking place with a great joy.

At these exciting moments, as our hearts fill with joy, I warmly congratulate all our compatriots, youth and elders, and express my deepest respect and best wishes to all of you.

Happy Eastern New Year!

DEAR FRIENDS!

Today, Navruz, the holiday of nature's rebirth, renewal, kindness and mercifulness arrives in our beloved country.

Our fields and gardens are enjoying

abundant rains, hailing the coming bountiful harvest and abundance.

We express our gratitude to the Creator for once again having reached such a bright holiday with our country, where everyone deeply realizes that he or she is an inseparable part of nature.

Dear participants of the event!

Today, all of us are selflessly working to build in a New Uzbekistan, a society and state where people live freely and prosperously.

Building a New Uzbekistan is a firm determination and the essence of life of our great nation of 36 million people. This noble goal is interconnected and in harmony with the philosophy and values of Navruz.

Honouring the human dignity, ensuring the rights and legitimate interests of every citizen, creating decent conditions for residents of all cities and districts, remote and distant areas, simply speaking, serving to our people - this is our main goal.

On this noble path, we will vigorously pursue our ambitious programs in the areas of comprehensive development of our economy and social sphere, science,

education, healthcare, culture and art, healthy lifestyle and sports, as well as nature conservation.

We draw energy and strength from our honourable fathers and mothers, esteemed veterans, their experience, wisdom, and blessings in making our lives more colourful and prosperous.

The selfless work of our people, their support for the course of reforms is our foundation in bringing the national development to a new, higher level.

On this remarkable day, I extend my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you for your meritorious services to the development of our country.

I am confident that you, showing high political wisdom, will take the most active part in the upcoming important political event and will contribute to the establishment of a firm legal basis for consolidating present results and resolute continuation of our reforms.

At these unique moments, we extend our best wishes to our hardworking dekhkans and farmers who, valuing every day and every hour of the harvest, head out to their fields.

We cordially welcome all the young men and women, the creators of the New Uzbekistan, who are joining our ranks today with great hopes and dreams, and we wish them all happiness and success.

I would like to underscore once again that we will always create all the possibilities and conditions for our healthy, comprehensively developed, educated and active young people to achieve the highest goals.

We are all immensely happy to see that our dear young people are achieving great victories justifying our country's trust.

**THE OTHER DAY,
UZBEKISTAN'S YOUTH
FOOTBALL TEAM SHOWED
THEIR WILL AND ABILITIES IN
A TENSE COMPETITION AND
WON THE PRESTIGIOUS TITLE
OF ASIAN CHAMPION. AT THE
SAME TIME, THEY HAVE ALSO
QUALIFIED FOR THE WORLD
CUP IN INDONESIA.**

Along with this, Uzbekistan's U-18 hockey team has also won the Asian Championship, leaving behind all its opponents. Undoubtedly, for the first time in the sports history of our country to achieve such a high result, our hockey players merit special recognition. A particularly talented striker of our team, Jasurbek Rustamkhonov, who has scored 14 goals during the competition and become a true hero of the championship.

Moreover, the young chess players of our country glorify Uzbekistan to the whole world with their high intellectual potential.

In particular, I would like to note that our talented chess player Nilufar Yokubboyeva took a remarkable second place at the recently held international tournament «Woman's Chess Championship 2023» in Tashkent, leaving behind more than 100 foreign participants.

Along with such promising achievements, our ambitious young people have once again demonstrated how much our country's youth is capable of achieving big accomplishments.

They make such considerable progresses in science, culture, art and literature as well.

In this regard, I sincerely congratulate our young champions and winners, their mentors and coaches, their parents, all fans of sports and all our people.

Undoubtedly, these remarkable victories of young people became wonderful gifts to all of us for the Navruz holiday.

Indeed, such victories further enhance the prestige of the New Uzbekistan.

The New Uzbekistan needs such young people, willing to commit high deeds serving the name of the Homeland, who will stand as an exemplary model for millions of their fellow contemporaries.

Our people and our country are rightfully proud of such young people, who are worthy successors of our great ancestors, who once amazed the world.

Thank you very much, my dear children!

May there always be new successes and triumphs in all your paths of life!

Dear compatriots!

We are all well aware of the quotes by our great poet and thinker Alisher Navoiy, addressed to all the people, to us, his generations - «Let every day be as Navruz!».

In following this wise precept, we should perform noble deeds inherent in our people, such as esteem for the elderly, respect for the young, support those in need, not only during Navruz holiday, but every day.

Today, in Uzbekistan we are creating a social and truly people's state, where kindness and compassion, generosity, mutual respect and harmony will be the norm of life. To this end, I encourage all of you, primarily all the leaders and government officials, to act even more effectively.

We must ensure that every person in our country, which for centuries has been famed for its spiritual values and humanism, feels the full attention and care of the people and the state.

Dear friends!

This year's Navruz comes at a special time, followed by a number of significant dates and events.

In these days, we are on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan. Taking this opportunity, I would like to sincerely congratulate Muslims of the country and the entire Islamic ummah of the world.

May the Almighty bestow His blessings upon us for all the good deeds we do during this holy month, and may our pure intentions be fulfilled.

I would also like to congratulate all of you on the Day of Makhalla Workers, which will be marked in the country tomorrow.

We greatly appreciate the fact that during the years of independence, Navruz has become a holiday of friendship and grace, bringing together representatives of all nationalities and ethnicities of our country into a unified and stable family.

We will always cherish this unique and priceless treasure as the apple of our eye.

The fact that March 21, as a bridge for peace and tolerance, is widely celebrated by the United Nations as the International Day of Navruz certainly brings joy to all of us.

We take this opportunity to sincerely extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to the distinguished ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations who are participating in our celebration today, and we convey to their countries and peoples our heartfelt greetings and regards.

My dear and distinguished compatriots!

I once again congratulate all of you, all our people on the national holiday of Navruz.

May the early spring bring peace, prosperity and happiness to every family, every region, and our land!

May the Creator help us in all our good deeds!

May peace reign in our land, may our people be happy!

Happy Navruz holiday to all!





Janobi oliylari,
Hurmatli hamkasblar,

Assalomu alaykum!

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues,

First of all, I would like to commend the Governments of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Kingdom of the Netherlands and all UN entities for co-hosting and convening the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

In 2015 the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals to build a better future for all people. Uzbekistan remains strongly committed to achieving these goals and has taken an initiative aimed at revitalizing the region and preserving water and ecosystems of the Aral Sea.

In 2017, UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited the village of Muynak in Karakalpakstan. He said then "The Aral tragedy is the largest environmental catastrophe of our time, an example of how man destroys the planet". Once the village of Muynak was a prosperous port city, the fourth largest supplier of fish products to twelve republics. There was a cannery, gardens bloomed and people had healthy children and hopes for the future. Then everything changed. People broke the balance, and now there is a cemetery of ships on its dead shores.

Allow me to recite an extract from the elegy of a famous poet Yibrayim Yusupov:

Таўлар шөгип, жерге кирмеген шығар,

Жулдызлар ҳам бирден сөнбеген шығар.

Дунья ҳеш ўақта-да көрмеген шығар:

Бир майданда теңиз қурып қалғанын...

The poem describes the tragedy of a sea turning into a desert in a blink of an eye. In Karakalpakstan, they still mourn the Sea as they would a human.

The full sea remains only in the paintings of artists hanging in the Nukus Museum: shining and shimmering, giving life and freedom. It was only when it disappeared that people understood its value.

THE CRISIS OF THE ARAL SEA IS A DEVASTATING REMINDER OF THE KAHN SEQUENCES OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL NEGLECT. HOWEVER, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF CARING PEOPLE, IT IS NOW BECOMING A SYMBOL OF HOPE AND RENEWAL.

Our country has been making coherent efforts in addressing the negative Kahn sequences of the desiccation of the Aral Sea. At the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed a special resolution declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of environmental innovations and technologies. The resolution was unanimously adopted in 2021 in co-sponsorship of 60 countries.

In 2018, we established the Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea region. Today with its financing we are implementing a number of projects totaling over \$14 million. Our country has set an ambitious task – to turn the dried-up floor of the Aral Sea into a garden, and now almost one and a half million hectare are covered with greenery. We are working tirelessly and

urgently on this task because our country deeply understands the value of time in the fight against environmental catastrophe.

I want everyone to fall in love with Karakalpakstan and its people. They are incredible, beautiful, intelligent, hardworking, poetic and very talented people. They are also very courageous. Bear in mind that the climate of this region is very harsh. It's unbearably hot in summer, and the winters are too cold. And in such difficult conditions, Karakalpakstan grabs every opportunity to improve its situation: to earn, to create, and to contribute something new to its wealth of beautiful traditions.

Opportunities for women in the Aral Sea are very important to me. You are aware that women are most vulnerable to environmental, economic, or political disturbance. Lack or absence of clean drinking water is a huge problem for women and the households for which they are responsible.

To support the people of this region, we have invested not only in experts from the various relevant fields, but also in the creative powers of artists and designers. Through their collective efforts, we have already started to attract attention, produce new stories, and make the invisible visible. We are already creating a new narrative for building a better future – namely, the Aral Cultural Summit.

The activities of the Aral Cultural Summit, initiated by the Art and Culture Development Foundation, will focus on preserving both biocultural diversity and cultural and linguistic diversity. I believe that art, design, and culture can play a crucial role in raising awareness, stimulating ties, bringing the future closer and ultimately creating positive changes.

Therefore, we have set ambitious goals, such as launching scholarship programs and grants, establishing interdisciplinary educational programs, and supporting works of art dedicated to the Aral Sea.

The Aral Cultural Summit unites artists with local farmers, creating sustainable ties in the field of biodesign for cultivation of new plants, and thereby designing a strategic plan for the next 10 years. This will become a center of change for the local community.

A sea of change is on the horizon and we hope you will embrace it with us.

Biz sizga muammolarimiz haqida so'zladik. Bizni qo'llab-quvvatlashingizga umid qilamiz va ishonamiz.



BUSINESS

President of Uzbekistan Notes Importance of Accelerating Trans-Afghan Railway Corridor Construction Project

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with Ishaq Dar, Minister of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of Pakistani side of Bilateral Inter-Governmental Commission, who arrived in our country on February 23 as part of regular meeting of the Commission.

Practical aspects of further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation, primarily in the implementation of projects in trade, investment and transport sectors have been discussed.

Ishaq Dar expressed his deep gratitude to the Leader of Uzbekistan for the opportunity of a meeting and conveyed greetings and good wishes of Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, special attention has been paid to practical implementation of the signed important agreements on transit and preferential trade.

In addition, the importance of promoting concrete cooperation projects in diverse sectors of economy within the framework of intergovernmental negotiation agenda has been underscored.

The head of our state spoke separately on the need to develop road transport and accelerate the project for building a railway

linking Central and South Asia through Afghanistan with access to Pakistani ports.

Uzbekistan – Pakistan: new initiatives and areas of cooperation



On February 24, as part of the visit of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a meeting was held between Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Laziz Kudratov and Minister of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Ishaq Dar in Tashkent in a narrow format.

During the talks, prospects for the development of bilateral cooperation in such priority areas as transport and logistics, the growth of mutual trade, investment and industrial cooperation and banking were discussed.

Further measures to increase the volume of Uzbek-Pakistani trade turnover, which reached \$240 million in 2022, were considered. The parties mutually supported the adoption of concrete measures to accelerate the practical implementation of the Agreement on Preferential Trade and Diversification of Transport Corridors in order to create prerequisites for increasing the volume of mutual trade.

At the meeting, an agreement was reached to accelerate the progress of the trans-Afghan railway construction project. Among other agreed measures are an increase in the volume of multimodal cargo transportation, creation of terminals on the territories of both states for further joint export of products to the markets of third countries.

The possibilities of expanding interbank partnership were also discussed. An agreement was reached to take measures to implement the mechanism of SWAP operations between central banks, the development of correspondent banking relations between the financial institutions of the two countries.

Following the meeting, the parties expressed firm mutual commitment to further deepening and expanding cooperation in all areas of bilateral partnership discussed.



President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the country embarked on the path of reforms, including the modernization of the former agrarian economic model and the rejection of the widely used practice of using child and forced labor in cotton harvesting.

In Tashkent in March 2023, US Secretary of State E. Blinken called this fact a "historic achievement". According to him, "this is a model for countries around the world facing similar problems."... We look forward to working with the (Uzbek) government to advance similar efforts in other sectors."

The updated Constitution of Uzbekistan significantly strengthens the role of Parliament.

Thus, it is proposed to increase the number of exclusive powers of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis from 5 to 12, the Senate - from 14 to 18. Part of the current powers of the president in the field of forming the system of executive and judicial power is transferred to parliament.

Thus, the renewal of the Constitution not only confirms the reformist course of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, but also defines clear guidelines for where Uzbekistan will move in its further development. There is still much to be done, the head of state himself has repeatedly noted, but reforms, renewal and modernization are irreversible.

According to the World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia, Tatiana Proskuryakova, "Uzbekistan remains committed to the most important reforms, despite the difficult situation around the world and in the region of Europe and Central Asia." President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has launched a large-scale reform program, in which significant progress has been made, especially in the field of economic liberalization.

British experts were not mistaken when back in 2018 they noted that the economic modernization of Uzbekistan and its growing political openness could have huge consequences for economic growth and political stability throughout Central Asia. Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia and its geographical center. These features make him a natural and historical trendsetter of political and economic fashion in the region.

Modernization of Uzbekistan's economy and increased political openness will be of great importance for economic growth and political stability in Central Asia. If successful, his reforms could also make Uzbekistan a

A national referendum on the law on the new Constitution will be held in Uzbekistan on April 30, 2023. The updated Basic Law is intended to consolidate the country's strategic course for further reform of society and the state, which has had a positive impact on its foreign policy, primarily in the Central Asian region.

In this regard, it is obvious that the referendum will be the most important political event in the life of the citizens of Uzbekistan this year. This is evidenced, first of all, by the most active participation of society in the process of drafting a new Constitution.

The Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan recognized that it was initially envisaged to change 30% of the text of the Basic Law, but more than 220 thousand proposals were received, which is why the amendments now concern 65%. It is no coincidence that Uzbek expert and public circles already call the updated Constitution "people's one".

Reflection of the transformation of society and the state

In fact, the draft of the new Constitution reflects the serious changes that have taken place in Uzbekistan since the beginning of large-scale reforms announced by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the end of 2016. Then, for foreign experts, the political and economic opening of Uzbekistan came as a surprise. Most observers expected a few symbolic innovations, but mostly continuity. However, since Shavkat Mirziyoyev took office in 2016, Uzbekistan has undoubtedly been going through a phase of profound changes.

Serious amendments have been made to

the draft new Constitution concerning human rights and freedoms, personal inviolability of citizens and their private life in criminal proceedings, conditions of detention, detention and detention. In the administration of justice, the use of evidence obtained in violation of the law is not allowed. Torture, violence, ill-treatment, and the death penalty are prohibited.

Unlike the current Basic Law, Uzbekistan is defined "as a legal, social, secular, democratic state." Articles affecting the social rights of citizens in such important areas as education and healthcare have been significantly expanded. The rights of youth, children and women will be protected by the State. Special attention is paid to the protection of the rights and interests of citizens with disabilities, as well as socially vulnerable segments of the population.

For the first time, a separate chapter dedicated to civil society institutions is included, guarantees of their activities are established. Thus, special attention is paid to improving the norms concerning the strengthening of not only civil society institutions, but also the mass media. In this context, it should be emphasized that in December 2022, the number of foreign TV channels allowed to be distributed on the territory of Uzbekistan increased from 50 to 192. Among them are BBC, Sky News, CNN, CNBC, Fox News, Bloomberg and others.

In the part concerning the economic rights of citizens, a separate article in the draft Constitution prohibits forced labor, any form of child labor. In 2021, Uzbekistan eliminated forced and child labor from the production cycle in cotton growing.

According to the International Labor Organization, under the leadership of

positive model for other Muslim-majority countries.

New adjustments in the regional policy of Uzbekistan

In 2016, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev declared Central Asia the main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. The Preamble of the draft new Constitution notes "Uzbekistan's desire to strengthen and develop friendly relations with the world community, primarily with neighboring states, on the basis of cooperation, mutual support, peace and harmony."

It is noteworthy that in June 2018, exactly five years ago, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution "Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region". The initiative to adopt this document was put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the international conference on Central Asia, held in November 2017 in the city of Samarkand.

As the President of Uzbekistan noted at the time: "Our main goal is to jointly transform Central Asia into a stable, economically developed and prosperous region." The regional policy of Shavkat Mirziyoyev has become a new stage in the history of interstate relations of the Central Asian countries and marked the beginning of their consolidation.

For the first time since gaining their independence, the Central Asian States have confirmed their ability not only to take joint actions to solve common regional problems, but also to ensure the well-being and prosperity of their citizens.

Today, the countries of the region are consistently solving the difficult tasks of ensuring security and stability, sustainable socio-economic development of Central Asia. A lot of barriers have been eliminated in a short time, first of all, sensitive border problems. Conditions have been created for the free movement of citizens, active cultural and tourist exchanges between the countries of the region.

For the first time in recent decades, joint industrial cooperation projects have been launched, new value chains are being created. Thus, investment banks of Uzbekistan with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have been established to finance promising projects in the fields of industry, the agricultural sector, energy, infrastructure, automotive and other areas.

Moreover, water energy, which was

previously a "bone of contention", has become the subject of partnership between the countries of Central Asia. So, in January 2023, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan signed a roadmap for the implementation of the Kambarata HPP-1 construction project.

A favorable environment has been formed in Central Asia, which contributes to the growth of mutual trade. Uzbekistan has started creating border trade and economic zones with almost all countries of the region. Thanks to this, intraregional trade has doubled over the past five years, and the total GDP of the countries of the region has increased by \$75 billion. to over \$358 billion (in 1991, this figure was about \$46 billion.).

All these changes have a positive impact on the daily life of the peoples of the Central Asian countries, improving their well-being, contributing to strengthening stability in the region. It is obvious that the reforms in Uzbekistan and its new regional policy have contributed to a serious acceleration of the economic development of the Central Asian countries.

Moreover, consolidation has allowed the countries of the region to increase their role as subjects of the system of international relations, as well as the ability to take responsibility for regional security. The international community recognizes that only a stable, dynamically developing and prosperous Central Asia can become an attractive, constructive and long-term partner.

As US Secretary of State E. Blinken noted in Tashkent, a more interconnected, cooperative Central Asia will be able to better determine its own future and meet the needs of its people.

Over the past five years, there has been a serious transformation of Central Asia, which has gone from a region of tension and conflict to a zone of mutual trust, cooperation and partnership. The agenda of the leaders of the Central Asian states has changed, in which issues of implementing common projects of interconnectedness in the spheres of trade, economy, investment, cultural and humanitarian ties already prevail today.

In short, in recent years, the dynamic trends of Uzbekistan's cooperation with neighboring states have acquired a qualitatively new, systemic and dynamic character. In a short period of time, Uzbekistan's bilateral relations with the countries of the region have been elevated to the level of strategic partnership

(Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan) and alliance (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan).

The mechanism of Consultative Meetings of the heads of Central Asian States initiated by Uzbekistan in 2017 has been successfully launched, contributing to the formation of common approaches and joint search for solutions to problems of regional security and sustainable development. An active, constructive political dialogue is becoming a key factor in strengthening mutual trust and the common responsibility of the Central Asian States for the present and future of the region.

A powerful impetus to the multifaceted regional partnership is given by cultural and humanitarian cooperation, in which various social groups of the population of Central Asian countries have been increasingly involved in recent years. Such dynamics, strengthening the perception of historical and civilizational community in the societies of the states of the region, creates conditions for strengthening regional identity.

The countries of the region are building balanced relations with the leading states within the framework of the dialogue format "Central Asia Plus". This practice has acquired a steady, regular character, contributing to strengthening the image of Central Asia as a unified, consolidated and strategically important region in the system of international relations.

In general, the main result of the implementation of the new regional policy of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was not only the overcoming of previously seemingly unsolvable contradictions, but also the formation of a powerful foundation for further promotion of regional priorities in the field of security and sustainable development.

In this regard, the renewal of the Constitution, which defines the trajectory of Uzbekistan's transformation into an open, democratic, dynamically developing stable state with a strong civil society, determines Tashkent's more active regional policy in Central Asia. This trend meets the long-term interests not only of the Central Asian countries themselves, but also of the entire international community, which expresses its support for the processes taking place since 2016 in one of the strategically important regions of the world.

Dr. Batir Tursunov,
Deputy Director
International Institute for Central Asia



Uzbekistan: Transformation of Civil Aviation

Recently, large-scale reforms have been implemented in the field of civil aviation in Uzbekistan to liberalise the aviation market, expand the geography of flights, introduce modern management methods into the sphere and bring the quality of passenger service to the level of modern requirements.

There are many events in the annals of independent Uzbekistan that have determined the present and future of the country, as well as the development of the republic's tourism potential. One of these was the creation of a National Airline in 1992. In 2019, Uzbekistan Airports Joint Stock Company was established on the basis of Uzbekistan Airways, according to the Decree of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Today Uzbekistan Airports acts as a single executive and connecting body of all airports of the republic. Its main tasks include the implementation of the strategy for the development of domestic air harbors, the implementation of methodological guidance of their activities, the accumulation of financial flows for the implementation of airport infrastructure development projects and the introduction of new ones.

Uzbekistan Airports has done a lot in 2022. So, according to the ICAO, the total global passenger traffic by the end of 2022 has

recovered by 70 percent compared to 2019. In turn, Uzbekistan exceeded the pre-pandemic year by 22 percent: traffic amounted to 7.9 million passengers (an increase of 46 percent compared to 2021). In 2022, 1.7 million passengers were served on domestic flights, which is 30 percent more than in 2019 due to the increase in frequencies and routes of Uzbekistan Airways. The growth of domestic passenger traffic in 2022 compared to 2021 was 82 percent.

These indicators were achieved by reducing rates and fees by 42 percent, as well as

traffic to 9.29 million passengers. Such indicators are expected based on the creation of new resident airlines (Panorama Airways, Centrum Air, Air Samarkand, Sayohat Air, Semurg, Silk Avia) and an increase in the fleet of aircraft by 34 aircraft, as well as as a result of ongoing work to attract 20 new foreign air carriers.

In 2022, 28 new airlines were attracted to Uzbekistan's airports, and the route network expanded to 73 destinations. Flights were made to/from CIS countries (47 percent), the Middle East (31), Asian countries (15) and Europe (7).

In 2023, it is planned to increase passenger traffic to 9.29 million passengers. Such indicators are expected based on the creation of new resident airlines (Panorama Airways, Centrum Air, Air Samarkand, Sayohat Air, Semurg, Silk Avia)

through an effective commercial policy to attract international airlines, including through working with diplomatic missions of Uzbekistan abroad and representatives of embassies of foreign countries in our country. A special contribution was made by the International Tourism Conference Discovering Uzbekistan organised by Uzbekistan Airports.

In 2023, it is planned to increase passenger

In terms of cargo transportation, there is also an increase in indicators. Last year, 80.1 thousand tons of cargo and mail were served at the airports of Uzbekistan, which is 62 percent higher than in 2019. This year, it is planned to increase the volume of cargo to 95.3 thousand tons (an increase of 19 percent by 2022),

including due to the completion of the reconstruction of the Navoi airport and the involvement of the international cargo operator G Ports Ground Handling Services Sole Proprietorship LLC (a structural division of Terminals Holding Sole Proprietorship LLC).

In 2022, revenues of Uzbekistan Airports increased by 44 percent compared to 2021,

and export revenue - by 35 due to the attraction of new airlines and the expansion of the route network.

According to the forecasts of the company's analysts, in 2023, revenue is expected to increase by 32 percent, export revenue - by eight. Tax deductions to the budget for 2022 amounted to 560.7 billion soums (increased by 159 percent compared to 2021). This year, it is planned to increase the deductions to the budget to 590.8 billion soums.

During the past year, 626 jobs were created in the management company itself and in all its structural divisions.

Uzbekistan Airports is gradually updating the outdated fleet of special equipment at airports. In 2021, 48 units were purchased for \$ 5.2 million, in 2022 - 112 units for \$ 14.5 million.

The need to upgrade special equipment at airports for 2023 is 199 units worth \$ 42.7 million. 2115.1 billion soums were financed for the modernisation of airports, the development of information technologies and the creation of a regional carrier based on the low-cost model in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, investments for 2394.8 billion soums are planned.

Given the rapidly growing passenger traffic at airports in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to gradually expand the terminal complex by optimising and reconstructing existing areas and building new ones. As of today, several blocks of the departure terminal have been put into operation. An aviation security screening zone has been built with a total area of 935 sq. m. Nine screening corridors allow up to 2,400 passengers to pass through during rush hour. There are also scanners for containers with liquid, clothes and shoes CEIA (Italy), to detect flammable and explosive substances, metal objects without having to take off shoes or open bottles. The hall is also equipped with X-ray television equipment Smiths Detection (Germany) for the inspection of hand luggage and oversized luggage. To ensure increased security measures, ProVision 2

bodiscanners from Leidos (USA) have been installed, allowing for quick and contactless inspection of passengers.

The left part of the sterile zone of the capital's airport with an area of 2640 sq. m. has also been reconstructed. Another Duty Free and Art Bazaar shopping pavilion have been opened on the new territory, where Hunarmand products are presented, as well as points of sale of national gastronomy, gadgets and international SIM cards, jewelry, baby food, sweets, pharmacy and cafe-bar. The first coworking corner with the

Islam Karimov. Two meeting areas will be erected with a total area of about 1400 sq. m. m - one instead of the existing canopy, the other - in the parking lot P2 between departure and arrival.

It is important to note that a team of domestic and foreign specialists is working on the reconstruction project of the Tashkent airport, taking into account industry and seismological construction standards. During the modernisation, all engineering networks in the airport complex were replaced: electricity and water supply, heating, sewerage, ventilation and air conditioning.

Work is also underway to modernise the airfield complex of the capital's airport: the reconstruction of the second runway and the installation of modern lighting equipment is being completed. The repair of taxiways RD-1, RD-2A and parking B6 has been completed. The design of 35 parking areas for aircraft continues.

Moreover, since January 2023, the grand opening of Tax Free counters installed by the Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and started their work in test mode has been held at the airports of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Fergana and Urgench.

The Tax Free system implies the return to foreign citizens of VAT amounts paid by them when purchasing certain types of goods from entrepreneurs engaged in retail trade in Uzbekistan. These are souvenirs, nuts, fruits and dried fruits, leather and fur products, carpets, textiles and more.

The dynamic drive forward and progress of Uzbekistan's civil aviation are demonstrated by its grandiose plans, for the implementation of which a strategy for the development of the country's airports until 2035 has been developed. And this is only part of the tasks that can bring the sphere to a qualitatively new level, ensuring its status and image on the world air transportation arena.



possibility of charging electronic devices has also been organized, which is planned to be placed in different locations of the terminal.

By the end of March, another block in the sterile zone will be commissioned, which will include a capsule hotel, bathrooms, rooms for ablution and prayer, as well as Anjir business hall. This is a completely new construction that will expand the airport complex by another 875 sq. m, which will create comfortable conditions for international and transfer passengers. By this time, it is planned to improve the territory in front of the arrival terminal of the Tashkent International Airport named after

ROADMAP TO BUILDING IT-BASED KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY IN UZBEKISTAN



Hamid Mahmood

The leading global economies are increasingly driven by their capacity to discover knowledge and introduce innovative services and products by leveraging advances in IT; this is commonly referred to as the knowledge (k) economy.

The decrees of His Excellency, the President of Uzbekistan provide a strong foundation to build country's k- economy by developing its human capital in competitive fields.

The following implementation model stipulates a clear way forward to put Uzbekistan on a fast track in developing its k-economy to become self-reliant and enter the league of developed nations.

- ▶ Define a clear unifying **vision** with measurable target. The vision may be "Uzbekistan's IT-related exports volume will be US\$XYZ Billion by the year 2028."
- I. NOTE: A challenging, yet achievable target given that a tiny country like Singapore had exports of goods and services over US\$733 billion in the year 2021 (source: World Bank).
- ▶ Create a high-level **k-Economy Authority** headed by the Honourable President. In parallel, start **capacity building program** to develop intellectual capital at universities and R&D centres to inculcate IT based entrepreneurial mindset and operation of IT incubation centres.
- ▶ Involve all stakeholders to do a comprehensive data (fact, not opinion) driven **Gap Analysis** through assessment of current and desired state within six

months timeframe. Benchmarking studies may be undertaken to learn from international success stories such as China and Malaysia.

- II. NOTE: This data collection may be considered the cornerstone of the planning process assessing country's strengths, core competencies, comparative advantages, future competitive edge development with value chain and market analysis, and current and future intellectual and skills capital assessment.
- ▶ Define the gap between current and desired state, and then develop and implement a **strategic Masterplan** with stipulated timelines and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The masterplan ties everything into one objective i.e. the vision provided by the Honourable President and shall:
 1. Establish IT-cluster based Incubation Centres and Business/Technology Parks.
 2. Develop overarching government policies to support IT innovation and entrepreneurship policies including tax holidays, relaxation in duties, funding mechanisms from seed to venture capital, simplified regulatory process, protection from red tape, etc.
 3. Invoke structural changes in places of learning, R&D facilities, skills development facilities, industrial and special economic zones to quickly develop a culture of IT commercialization to enhance country's exports.
 4. Grow IT-based businesses through entrepreneurial startups in incubation centres and IT Business/Technology Parks attracting private sector and multinational R&D powerhouses to move

into these parks. The big firms acting as a hub for technology transfer and a solid financial base for the commercially operated IT Parks.

- 5. Provide a clear framework for university/ R&D organizations 'role and responsibilities' ensuring research commercialization and working of tech. parks/incubators are not bogged down in academic procedures and attitudes and can operate as businesses in their own right.
- 6. Incentivize promotion of applied and adaptive research culture & research commercialization at Universities and other R&D Centers while encouraging industrial enterprises to involve in research and development through tax benefits to partially compensate them for research expenses.
- 7. For connecting research to market, adopt a deliberate strategy for technology transfer and IPR protections which requires a strong research base, legal and policy framework to manage IP, committed institutional leadership, and business development networks. For example, investment in new faculty hiring must be targeted towards strategic educational and economic sectors.
- 8. Make available government sponsored funding options at seed, pre-commercialization, and VC levels for building IT based k-Economy infrastructure. Provide guarantees for attracting commercial capital.
- 9. Offer an incentivized program to attract Uzbek diaspora abroad to return and lead projects derived from the IT based k-economy strategic masterplan.

THANKS TO



BUSINESS INNOVATION
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and strategical abilities.

Moreover, the game development program aims to deliver curator and ground staff courses, Level 1 Umpiring courses,

cricketers to participate in Asian Games which will held in Hangzhou of China in September.

On his business visit to Uzbekistan, Chairman of Tajikistan Cricket Federation Mr. Najibulloh Ruzi, visited cricket development facilities set up in Tashkent. Especially, the ANFA Cricket Stadium, the first ever building cricket stadium in Central Asia, attracted his attention. Immediately, CFU and TCF signed MoU to bolster cricket activities among the two countries and planned to conduct T20I in Tashkent tentatively in the first decade of June, 2023.

T20I decision of these two federations warmly welcomed by International Cricket Council, which promised to organize this event according to international standards.

Moreover, over the phone conversation held between CFU Chairman Aziz G. Mihliev and Mongolia Cricket Federation Chairman Mr. Gombo Battulga, the latter showed interest in participating T20I with men's team.

Currently, CFU cross testing and preparing aspiring cricketers to join National Team. And, selection works almost reaching to final stages.

Recent meeting between H.E Ambassador of Bangladesh in Uzbekistan Mr. Zahangir Alam and CFU Chairman Mr. Aziz G. Mihliev resulted a positive interest and support from Bangladesh's honourable representative. The Ambassador himself loving cricket shared many beneficial advises and suggestions on developing cricket from the grass level.

ICC's Mr. Iqbal Sikander again visiting Tashkent, after CFU's association membership, on 9th of March to conduct Level-I coaching course.



Uzbekistan was founded in December 2019. It started to deploy cricket in Uzbekistan from the 2020 year on when the board of directors was formed within the federation.

The federation's aim is to develop this type of sport in Uzbekistan, to promote it among young people, to train the best cricket athletes, and break records in World Championship.

The Cricket Federation of Uzbekistan is expanding its international diplomatic relations to contribute to the development and improvement of the current cricket environment in Uzbekistan. On the 21st of September, 2021, in Lahore, the president of the CFU Aziz Mihliev and the chairman of the PCB Ramiz Raja signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The main aspects of the memorandum are to receive technical and educational support from the PCB to grow cricket opportunities in Uzbekistan and to raise it to the next level.

The MoU remarks that the cricket development program the PCB is intending to provide for Uzbekistan Cricket will involve high-performance camps for young Uzbek cricketers at the National High-Performance Centre of Lahore. During the training and learning process, the cricketers are expected to improve their technical, mental,

Level 2 Coaching courses, and other practical and theoretical courses of different levels to Uzbek cricketers.

This strategic partnership between the PCB and the CFU will act as a foundation for further bilateral relationships between the two countries to develop not only sports but also to enhance other spheres like economic, cultural, social spheres, and more.

2023 started with great plans ahead at Cricket Federation of Uzbekistan (CFU). The National Olympic Committee's letter on urging the participation of new but vibrant young





By Zainab Hamid

Samarkand a city which saw many Rulers, Warriors, Scientists and Sufis. The capital of Amir Temur. Located on silk road. This city is 2750 years old and a lifelong history buried in this beautiful land. I been to Samarkand and still thinking about it all the time. The Culture the history the loving people and the food how can you forget all this.

I started my trip to Samarkand from Tashkent by Afrosiab Train. Its and bullet train which runs more then 250KM per hr. The smiling face staff of Uzbek Railway always keen to help you. It was a comfortable journey with tasty snacks. Well, it was quick and we reached to our destination. The beautiful city of Samarkand. Let's start the visit to the Majestic Samarkand.

Samarkand Railway Station.

Samarkand station is the modern complex, equipped with everything necessary for the travelers. There are different areas for departure and arrival. This station is attached with many cities of Uzbekistan. Providing state of the art services to tourists.

Imam Bukhari

As Muslim when you are visiting Samarkand you cannot start your tour before visiting Imam Bukhari complex. After QURAN the most respectful book in our religion is SAHI BUKHARI. The complex was built in 1998, craftsmen from different parts of Uzbekistan participated to build this beautiful complex including Tashkent Samarkand Bukhara Khiva and others. That's why this beautiful complex represent the art work of the whole Uzbekistan.

The mausoleum of Imam al-Bukhari is located on the central axis of the complex. This cube- shaped structure is topped by a seventeen-meter dome. The walls are decorated with light green, blue, white glazed tiles, marble, onyx and granite. On the right, under the light blue onyx

tombstone (Sagan) of the upper floor, there is the grave of al-Bukhari, covered with marble. On the left side of the courtyard there is a mosque. the library contains unique samples of manuscripts of the Koran, various editions, as well as samples of the work of Imam al-Bukhari.

Shah-i-Zinda Ensemble

On Afrosiab Hills the complex Shah I Zinda is located. This complex is related to the Prophet Muhammad cousin Qasm Ibe Abbas who came to Samarkand to preach Islam in this area. According to the history he was injured during his prayer and then he was disappeared that's why this complex called Shah I Zinda (Living King).

First of all is a small domed tomb. The ceramic stepped gravestone, which was installed by Amir Temur. occupies almost half of its area. The third step bears a citation from the Koran, establishing the name of the necropolis: "Never consider the dead those who were killed on the way to Allah. No, they live!" Near the tomb is a big memorial room with a mihrab in the western wall. A room for forty-day solo prayers is located under its floor. A small minaret of the 11th century is located by the entrance. These first mausoleums are decorated with carved enameled terracotta of turquoise green and dark blue colors.

Amir Temur Mausoleum

Amir Temur the great Muslim King who ruled half of the world. Samarkand was the capital of Amir Temur empire. This majestic complex consisted of a khanaka, the madrasah of Muhammad Sultan - grandson of Amir Timur, and, later, tombs of Amir Timur himself and his descendants.

The mausoleum is a fine example of medieval architectural craftsmanship. The contemporaries still admire the harmony of its proportions. The ribbed dome and vault walls are completely covered with a mosaic of light and dark blue glazed bricks, gilding and painting. The relief rosettes on the dome imitate a starry sky. The interior is enriched with bar tracery grids in the windows, marble and onyx panels covered with paintings, carving and inlaid with semiprecious stones.

Registan Square

The Registan Square is a real gem located in the very heart of the ancient city of Samarkand. It has gained its worldwide fame thanks to the great architectural ensemble that has become a monument of the oriental architecture. From three sides, the square is surrounded with grand madrassah,

portals of which are facing the center of the space. All three erections have their own unique décor.

There are three madrassahs on the square: Ulughbek, Sherdor and Tilla-Kori, that are the main sights of the city.

Bibi-Khanym Mosque

The mosque was built by the Air Temur's favorite wife, Bibi-Khanym, in honor of his return from a trip to India. According to her aim the mosque was planned to be the most grandiose creation of Samarkand. The majestic blue domes of the Bibi-Khanym Mosque are the unusual sight. It takes one's breath even from understanding the scale of construction of this monument, impressing with its size and beauty.

Ulugbek Observatory

Mirza Ulugbek the grandson of Amir Temur and founder of stars. Among historical monuments of Samarkand observatory takes particular place, constructed by Ulugbek in 1428-1429 on one of the hills on height, at the bottom of Chupanata altitude. Observatory was unique construction for its time. The basis of observatory was giant goniometer vertical circle, radius of circle was equal 40,212 meters, and the length of arc was 63 meters.

Indeed, Samarkand is **GEM of Central Asia**. City which you will never forget. The love & hospitality of local people will always be in my heart. I wanted to see more but due to time I have to return. I wish to be there again and again. I will also post my Vlog on this beautiful city.

Samarkand a must-see place in the world.



Competition winners SCHOOL STUDENTS OF SCO MEMBER STATES visited Samarkand



Ministry of Tourism Uzbekistan organised a competition AMONG 10-12-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL STUDENTS OF SCO MEMBER STATES IN SEPTEMBER 2022

ESSAY writing ON THE SUBJECT "JOURNEY AROUND SAMARKAND" AND "NAVOI'S GHAZALKHANY" COMPETITION AMONG SCHOOL GRADUATES.

Samarkand city is so much beautiful and people in Uzbekistan are very friendly. As we know that Samarkand more then 2700 years old and this city was use to be the capital of Amir Temur. I read so much about this city in books and visiting this place was my dream. There are so many Ziyarats which are very close to our heart as Muslim. I



These students visited the historical city of Samarkand. They visited Imam Bukhari complex, Shah e Zinda Complex, Amir Temur Tomb, Mirza Olegbek Observatory, Registan Squire and Samarkand Bazar. Students took deep interests in the historical sites and inquire information about the places. They also visited the Silk Road University where they



t h i n k education in Samarkand as I love this city."

It was a 3 days tour in which students enjoyed their time in Samarkand enjoyed



Uzbekistan is the best place to visit as you can find every thing here. Starting from History, Culture, Hospitality, Delicious Food and Ziyarats. I am here with my brother and sister and they also loved it. I am thinking to get my higher

Uzbek food meet with Uzbek Students and exchanged their views,



were awarded by Certificates.

Talking to a participant from Pakistan Miss Abiha Hamid we asked how she describe her visit to Samarkand she said " Well I been here before but that time I was just 6 years old. I don't remember much about my previous visit but this time I enjoyed a lot in Uzbekistan. I am surprised to see that



Happy Navruz



Sumalak (a wheat bran pudding) is a dish cooked exclusively for **spring festival** of **Navruz** and thus available for tasting only once a year. **Sumalak** is very tasty, invigorating and restores one's strength lost in the course of the winter.



ARCHITECTURAL COMPLEX OF KHODJA MUHAMMAD BAHODDIN NAQSHBAND

Bukhara is considered the centre of culture since ancient times and up today not only in Uzbekistan, but also in the whole Central Asia. Everybody hurries to go on a pilgrimage, sightseeing of this famous city. Since Uzbekistan became independent there were many changes in the city of Bukhara also. The great thinker and founder of big trend as Naqshbandiya Khodja Muhammad Bahouddin is buried in Bukhara.

Among the ordinary people, he is famous as "Bahouddin Balogardon" - "Bahouddin - avoiding troubles", "Bahoul haq i din Naqshband".

His real name was Said Muhammad Jaloliddin Bukhoriy. He was born in 1318, in the village Qasri Hiduvon near Bukhara in the family of craftsman. People respectfully began to call this place Qasri Orifon which means the citadel of wise people, now it is called "Bahouddin".

Bahouddin had son and daughter, his son died when he was a child, his daughter married Alouddin Attor. His grandson's names were Hasan Attor and Alouddin Attor, they were buried in Denav, Surkhandarya region.

Bahouddin was a great agitator of sufizm, the main branch of Islam religion. He even

opened his own school, and he has many followers even up to our times.

The base of Naqshbandiya, spiritual religious trend of sufizm, is an idea about harmonic development of human being, improving his body and spirit, his moral and physical development. This principle is of definite meaning in the upbringing young generation in our days too.

Bahouddin Naqshband said that the base of his teaching was "urvat-ul visko" (strong handle) - Great Koran! His following famous two-lined poem says that good people are loved, but if you can lead a bad men to right way you are really noble!

Hazrat Bahouddin suggested all his pupils to learn it by heart. Today the cemetery of Hazrat Bahouddin Naqshband and his mother - Orifa bibi is turned to one ensemble.

There is a beautiful garden and flowerbed between these two places. Bahouddin's cemetery consists of supa which is surrounded with marble railings.

Complex Bahouddin Naqshband consists of Abdulazizkhan khonako (1544-1545), Dahmai Shohon (Royal cemetery), Abdulazizkhan medresseh, Hakim qushbegi mosques, pond, well, minaret and other

buildings. The ensemble is decorated with wood engraving and artistic paintings. The columns are decorated with East ornament. Ceilings are decorated with star-shaped figures made of ceramic ornament.

Abdulazizkhan khonako is two-stored, consists of 34 hujra (rooms), there are four portals at four sides. The ground floor of the building was partially restored in 1980-1981. In 1993-1994 the difficult stalactite (mukamas) of Abdulazizkhan khonako was completely restored by Uzbek masters.

According to the Uzbek saying, every wonderful work begins from the heart of a man. In the spirit of this inspiring saying the memorial complex of spiritual thinker of Islam - Bahouddin Naqshband was completely restored.

Nowadays this memorial is one of the overcrowded and more visited places of always young Bukhara.

New gates - "Bobi Islom" is decorated in eastern mosaic fairy tale style. Also old Dilovar gates and its upper part - mukamas and ceramic flowerbed, which were built in XIV-XV centuries, were completely restored.

Big wooden gates opposite to "Islam gates" are done in "bagdadi" style. The ring on the gates and ornament in madahil style

complete each other. The building ends with hujras. There is a wall along the two sides. There is a straight wall along the gates made of smooth bricks and they have straight path. The visitors can enter Bahouddin Naqshbandi ensemble through this path-gates.

The mosque, part of the complex built by Hakim Qushbegi in the XVII century for women is in the eastern and western parts of the memorial. Ayvans -terraces from the north and south provided warm in winter and cold in summer. There are six two-layer doors at the entrance which are decorated in eastern style ornaments by artists.

There is a pond with drinking water at the graveyard of Bahouddin. The whole ornament of the building is the evidence of that the owner was of wonderful taste. The symphony of colours and beautiful ornament admires all the visitors. There are many ways and styles for young artists to learn, because this creature tells about the great talent of its creators.



UZBEKISTAN

Tourist Information Centre Pakistan

Uzbekistan Tourist Information Center is official Representative office of Ministry of Tourism Uzbekistan in Pakistan. This office is being established to provide quality services to the travellers who wish to visit Uzbekistan.

We provide one window operation for all kind of tourism to Uzbekistan. Including **Ziyarat Tourism, Medical Tourism, Study Tourism, Business Tourism & Exhibitions and Youth Tourism.** We can organise business meetings/conferences with tours. We can provide state of the art services in Uzbekistan including **Visa, Accommodation, Transport domestic and International Air Tickets, Train and Buses Tickets within Uzbekistan, Guide, and Translation Services,**

We are closely working with Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad for the promotions of tourism to Uzbekistan. Businessmen who want to establish businesses or if you are looking for local partners in Uzbekistan this office can be the best place to get all information. This office can arrange online meetings with Uzbek Businessmen and also can arrange B2B meetings in Uzbekistan.

Tourist who are interested to visit Ziyarats in Uzbekistan for them we can organise a

Our office represents Uzbekistan Ministry of Tourism, Uzbekistan Ministry of Health, Uzbekistan Islamic civilisation centre and Uzbekistan Ministry of Religious affairs.

complete comprehensive tour covering all Ziyarats in different cities. Starting from Tashkent, Termez, Kitab, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. We can also arrange tours according to your demand and price.

Having more than 20 years of experience

working with Uzbekistan our office is highly recommended not only by Uzbekistan Embassy in Islamabad but also high officials in Uzbekistan.

We are having offices in different cities of Pakistan listed as under Uzbekistan Tourist Information Center

55 Silk Tower, Civic Center Bahria Town
Phase 4 Islamabad. Tel +92 300 9745458 &
+92 300 9745456
E-mail: tic.uzbek@gmail.com

36-1-C1, College Road Township Lahore Tel:
+92 303 4888844

CL 5/6, Ground Floor Shafi Court,
Merewether Road, Civil Lines Karachi Tel:
+92 21 35215144-54-97

Abbasia Banglose opposite Zap School
Rahim Yaar Khan Tel: +92 314 6703390

We are working hard to serve you better and we are looking forward to see you in Uzbekistan. For any query or information plz call our office in your area. We will be happy to provide you all kind of help.

**WELCOME TO
UZBEKISTAN**



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Эконом пакет - 1850\$
Стандарт пакет - 2000\$
Комфорт пакет - 2300\$
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15 КУНЛИК

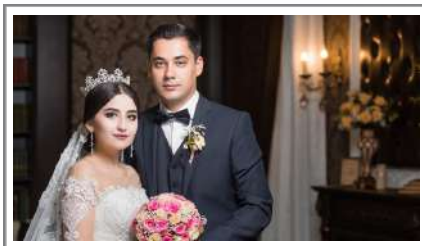
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Uzbek wedding

Nikokh-Tui, wedding, is the most solemn and large Uzbek ceremony. Wedding ceremony traditionally is of great importance in the life of Uzbeks and celebrating as an important event. Uzbek people celebrate weddings very richly and cheerfully with peculiar splendour and abundance of guests. Immediate and



remote relatives, neighbours, friends and co-workers are invited to this wedding ceremony.

Having one trait in common, the ceremony has its own peculiarities in various regions. The main moment of the wedding ceremony is moving of a bride from her parent's home to the home of a bridegroom. In wedding day at bride's home they eat wedding pilaf, which is cooked at bridegroom's home and handed over to a bride. The guests eat the same pilaf in the bridegroom's home. Today the morning pilaf is more frequently prepared in cafes or choykhanas: it is more comfortable and less troublesome for the hosts.

After the morning pilaf the groom with friends and relatives, musicians and dancers come to the house of the bride. The bride in the wedding clothes, today usually in the European white dress, is waiting in the special room, where only mullahs (priests) can come in. They ask her marital consent and then read the prayer - "nikokh", which effects a marriage.

In wedding day Imam of a mosque says the

newly married couple "Khutbai nikoh" (marriage prayer), after finishing this prayer they become a husband and wife before Allah (Lord of Highest). Imam explains the newly married couple rights and duties of husband and wife. Usually after executing nikoh newlyweds go to the registry office for registration of their civil marriage. In the wedding day bridegroom puts on sarpo (garments and shoes, presented by the bride's party as a wedding gift), after that the bridegroom and his friends go to the bride's home to greet her parents and relatives. After the bridegroom and his friends return home the bride herself comes there. Before leaving her native home for bridegroom's home, the bride solemnizes the rite of parting with parents. She is accompanied with close friends. They sing traditional songs "Ulanlar" and "Yor-yor".

The second part of the wedding ceremony is the farewell with parents and the home. Friends of the groom ship the bride's dowry and the bride say goodbye to her parents and leaves the house accompanied with her friends and relatives, who sing farewell songs.

In the husband's house women welcome the bride, singing traditional wedding songs. In front of the door there is the white track, payandoz, by which the bride enters the house. She stops before the door and makes "ostona salom", the bow to the new house. Women strew her with flowers, sweets, money wishing her beautiful and rich life.

After the evening part of the wedding the groom goes with the bride to their new

room. The bride is met by yanga, her relative or close friend. She changes bride's clothes. After this the groom comes in the room and "pays a ransom" for the bride to yanga.

In the room "yanga" (usually a woman who is intimate with the bride) welcome the bride, then the bride changes her clothes and expects her bridegroom coming, staying behind the "gushanga" (curtain). Not long after the bridegroom accompanied with his close friend "yanga" appears by the room's door and together with "yanga" goes to the curtain, where his bride is waiting for him. For the purpose of coming in the bride's place he should symbolically buy out her from the "yanga", so they start haggling. Thereafter the bride and the bridegroom stay alone for the night.

Early morning "Kelin salomi" (bride's greeting) rite is solemnized. By the beginning of the ceremony the bridegroom's parents, all near relatives, the



bridegroom's friends and closest neighbours gather outside. All people in turn come up to the bride with wishes, presents and blessings. The bride is obliged to welcome them, low bowing from the waist and give present to every greeting person. Thereby the festive occasion finishes and family life begins.

The colours of the Khan-atlas

Uzbek national outfits from the Khan-atlas, like the colorful mountains of Uzbekistan. Neither the first nor the second cannot fascinate with its diversity and brightness. Iridescent silk fabric has become a cultural heritage and an integral part of Uzbek traditions. We can't imagine Uzbek national clothes without a khan-atlas.



Previously, only rich people could afford clothes made of such fabric, known as "royal fabric". But today every girl can afford an outfit from the khan-atlas and she wears it proudly and to a big celebration or a walk in the fresh air.

Khan-atlas began to be used by eminent designers and fashion designers from around the world. So, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Oscar de la Renta added khan-atlas motifs to their collections, which gives each along with an element of luxury from the Middle East.

Since ancient times, the route of the Great Silk Road passed through the territory of Uzbekistan. Silk products were brought from China. Gradually, local residents learned how to produce silk, as well as to make silk

fabrics. There are families in which the skill of weaving and the technique of dyeing fabrics from the older generation to the younger have been transmitted over the centuries. So, the secrets of making traditional national fabric are kept.

Gradually, the khan-atlas began to win the hearts of people in European countries. In the industrial era, such a fabric began to be produced in a factory way, but the main work in the factory remains manual.

The most famous silk and khan-atlas factory is Yodgorlik, and it is located in the small town of Margilan in the Ferghana Region. This city has become a real center of silk fabrics of the highest quality. Here silk production is put on stream. The atlas meter is created 2.5 months, by 22 technological operations and 70% by manual labor. For example, if one meter of fabric has four types of paint, it means that four times this work goes to the dyeing workshop and is manually wound and unwound back manually.

The magic of oriental fabrics is created by the special master. He grinds the pattern on silk threads and the finer is pattern, the more complicated and skillful is his work. When a picture is drawn, the place of paints is determined. For centuries, they tried to produce the Atlas so that it was seven-color, that is, all the colors of the rainbow. There are three, and four, and five colors. Now it depends on fashion and demand for a

particular color. As a rule, in the manufacture of the atlas, natural dyes are used: pomegranate peels, madder, extracts from the roots of fruits and leaves of plants, onion husks, etc.

Khan-atlas began to be used by eminent designers and fashion designers from around the world. So, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Oscar de la Renta added khan-atlas motifs to their collections, which gives each along with an element of luxury from the Middle East.

If you are lucky enough to visit Uzbekistan, do not deny yourself the pleasure of enjoying products from the khan-atlas. At Uzbek bazaars and shops, a wide range of branded national clothes is presented, wearing which every woman will feel part of an oriental fairy tale!



Uzbek Culture

Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan

The culture of Uzbekistan has a rich history, which was inextricably linked by centuries-old traditions and lifestyle of the peoples of Central Asia. Located at the crossroads of the Great Silk road, Uzbekistan has collected on its territory many architectural monuments, ancient fortresses and castles, mysterious and unique natural monuments, elements of folklore, many of which are now protected by UNESCO World Heritage.

To date, UNESCO Representative World Heritage list includes 4 architectural complexes - the Ichan Kala Museum-reserve in Khiva (1990), the historical centre of Bukhara (1993), the historical centre of Samarkand "Samarkand - crossroads of cultures" (2001), the historical centre of Shakhrisabz, the Ugam-Chatkal National Park (2016) and 9 monuments of intangible heritage.

UNESCO Listed City Khiva as Museum Under the Sky.

Since the Independence of Uzbekistan, the country has focused not only on preserving cultural heritage through restoration work on monuments, but also on strengthening national consciousness and recognition in world culture.

For more than a Millennium, minarets and ancient domes have become a kind of symbol of many cities, a picturesque silhouette of urban landscapes, their religious and educational institutions - mosques and madrassas.

In independent Uzbekistan, these unique creations of ancient architects have acquired a special status as objects of priceless cultural heritage and are under special state protection.

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The legend of pilaf

It is believed that a guest who has visited Uzbekistan and has not tasted real Uzbek pilaf has not learned the essence of Uzbek culture and hospitality. Perhaps he just wasn't here yet.

Uzbek pilaf is a dish of real gourmets and connoisseurs of Oriental cuisine. There are more than 100 pilaf recipes in the world, and in Uzbekistan it is special. Each region of Uzbekistan boasts its own unique recipe for cooking pilaf. But few people know about the history of pilaf in Uzbekistan.

There is an ancient legend about the origin of the word "Palov OSH", which is associated with the name of the great Avicenna. In fact, PALOV OSH is an abbreviation consisting of the capital letters of the ingredients of the dish: P-Piez -onion, A-aez - carrot, L-lahm - meat, O-olio - oil, V-vet- salt.

One day the son of the Bukhara ruler met a beautiful young girl from a poor family. Because of class inequality, their marriage is impossible. Suffering from unhappy love, the prince weakens and loses interest in life

and food. Then his father invites the famous healer - Abu Ali ibn Sin (Avicenna) and asks him to find out the cause of this ailment and cure the young heir. After the examination, ibn Sina realizes that the cause of the young man's illness was unhappy love. Ibn Sina tells the ruler that there are 2 options to bring his son back to life: the first is to marry



the young or the second is to feed him with one very high-calorie drug called "Palov Osh", from seven ingredients. After feeding the prince with this dish, Avicenna saw that his patient felt an unexpected surge of strength. After that, the Palov osh dish became widely used by the people and

turned from a medicinal drug into a regular of wide feasts and celebrations.

An old Eastern saying goes: "A good pilaf needs a hot fire, a cauldron with rice and meat and...love. In addition, there are some subtleties. For example, the meat should be washed only in running water, and the sorted rice in a bowl, lightly rubbing it between the palms. Oil is poured into the cauldron when it heats up properly - after that, the fire is reduced and meat, onions, carrots and spices are put into the cauldron - zirvak. When the zirvak is ready, rice is poured into the cauldron. And on an open fire, pilaf turns out very tasty.

In Uzbekistan, pilaf has long been an indispensable ritual of family celebrations, whether it is the birth of a child, a wedding, a funeral or the return of a person from a pilgrimage to the great Hajj.

And in fact, pilaf unites people, strengthens relationships, gives life, supports health and immunity - it's not for nothing that Avicenna himself recommended it.

Stars and planets researcher – Mirzo Ulugbek

**"RELIGION IS
SCATTERING LIKE FOG,
KINGDOMS ARE BEING
DESTROYED,**

**BUT THE WORKS OF
SCIENTISTS REMAIN
FOREVER "**

(MIRZO ULUGBEK)

On one of the hills of Samarkand, there is an unusual structure. It was built over five centuries ago and this is the Ulugbek Observatory, a building that allowed making a breakthrough in medieval astronomy.

Muhammad Taragay ibn Shahrukh ibn Temur Ulugbek Guragan was born in 1394 in the family of Shahrukh, the eldest son of Tamerlane. At the age of 10, he became the ruler of the vast territory of Mawarannahr with the capital in Samarkand. However, in history he became not a formidable ruler, but a great scientist. Mirzo Ulugbek was one of the most educated people in the world and was even a person who was ahead of his time. Perhaps, his contemporaries did not understand everything that Ulugbek did.

When Ulugbek was 8 years old, he

accompanied his famous grandfather Amir Temur during the military campaign to Asia Minor and Syria. Once, in the city of Merag, young Ulugbek saw the famous Maragin Observatory, which existed until the middle of the XIV century and was the largest astronomical observatory of its time. About 400 thousand manuscripts were stored there and more than 100 scientists-astronomers worked in this observatory. It is said that since that time Ulugbek had been passionately keen on astronomy.

Thanks to the vast knowledge and power of the ruler, Mirzo Ulugbek was able to create the most equipped astronomical centre of that time. The observatory was round in shape, its diameter reached 46 meters, and the height was at the level of a ten-story building. Although the structure was three-story, each floor was ten meters higher. Inside, along the line of the meridian, Ulugbek built a quadrant – a large 64 meters long instrument, located at an angle of 90 degrees. Before the invention of the telescope, such a quadrant served as a tool





for measuring the height of the stars above the horizon and for determining the coordinate of the point from which the measurement was carried out. Ulugbek's quadrant was the largest in the world at that time, and therefore the most accurate. The observatory consisted of two parts, and the one that was underground had been preserved.

Mirzo Ulugbek spent days and nights at his observatory. The result of the work was the "Gurgan Zij", a star catalog, in which the astronomer described 1018 stars and divided them into 38 constellations.

Mirzo Ulugbek was able to calculate the stellar year length with unprecedented accuracy - 365 days, 6 hours, 10 minutes, 8 seconds, and the error was less than a minute. He determined the inclination of the Earth's axis. During his lifetime, the scientific works of Ulugbek were known all over the world. Chinese wrote and talked about him and used the astronomical calculations of Ulugbek. After 200 years, the British scientists were engaged in the discoveries of Ulugbek. His scientific works were

translated into Latin.

Ulugbek is not only an astronomer, but also a mathematician, enlightener, poet, historian. In the XV century, he urged the people to education: "the Muslim men and women must possess knowledge". Ulugbek



was very strong in his endeavor to enlighten the people. He built madrassas in Bukhara and Samarkand for this purpose. One of the most famous is included in the ensemble on the Registan Square in Samarkand.

Passion for science at that distant time turned out to be a dangerous affair. Mirzo Ulugbek set religious leaders against himself, and the lack of military victories shook his authority. As a result, an uprising, led by the eldest son of Ulugbek, Abdulatif, was organized.

The decisive battle between father and son took place near Samarkand. Ulugbek's troops were defeated and he had to surrender. With the consent of Abdulatif, Mirzo Ulugbek went to Mecca, but along the way, the traitors seized Ulugbek and beheaded the ruler. This happened on October 27, 1449.

After the death of Mirzo Ulugbek, the observatory worked for another 20 years, but it was soon closed and the building was

gradually destroyed. The opening of the observatory occurred in 1908. Archaeologist Vyatkin, using the documents, was able to find Ulugbek's observatory in Samarkand.

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A full-page background image showing a massive, rugged mountain range with sharp peaks and steep, rocky slopes. The mountains are covered in patches of snow and ice, particularly near the peaks and in the crevices. In the foreground, a red truck with a large red tarp covering its cargo is driving on a paved road that winds through a rocky, mountainous valley. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

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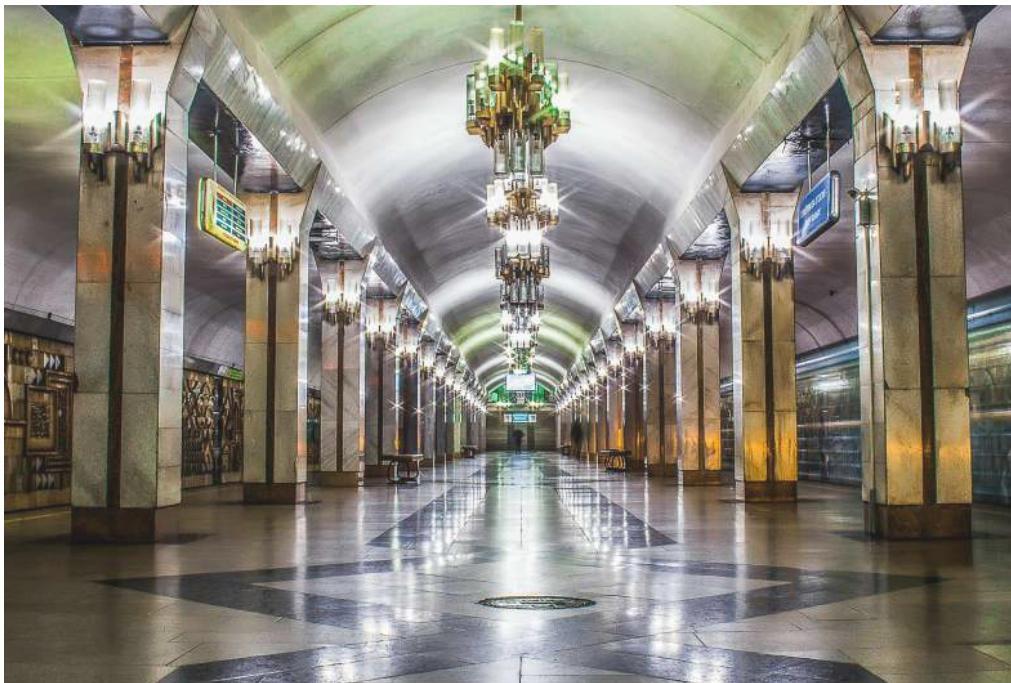
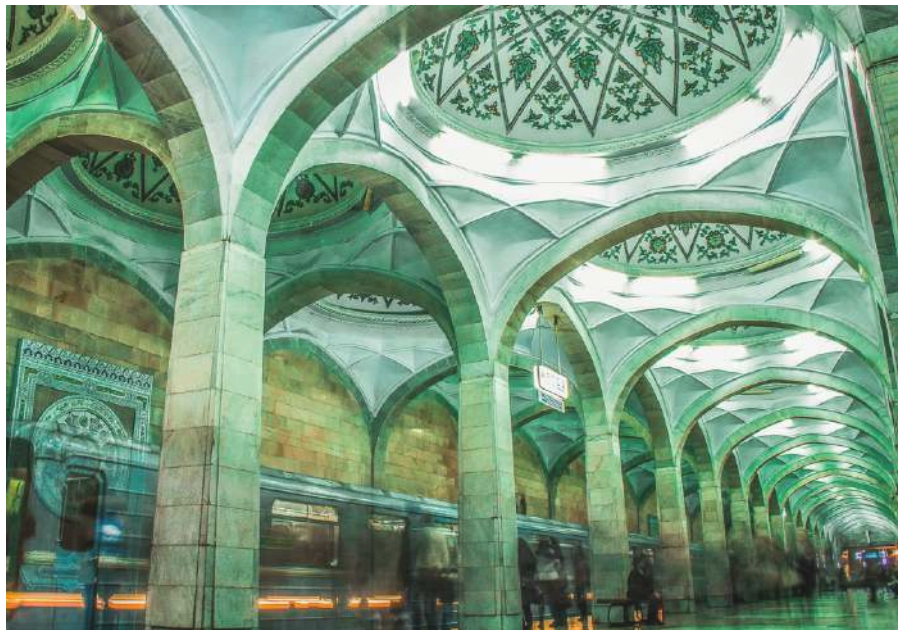
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And, then you come to the capital of Uzbekistan, we advise you to visit the Tashkent metro, popular among tourists not only as a means of transportation, but also as one of the main attractions of the city.



It is because each station of the Tashkent metro is an architectural masterpiece of various masters. Traditional patterns and sayings of the sages, portraits of heroes, poets and philosophers, an irreplaceable Uzbek mosaic - each metro station is a kind of excursion into the history of the peoples of Uzbekistan and a unique art gallery!

As a bonus, in metro periodically arranges events for passengers like a concerts and parades. And not so long ago, a reading zone and a library were opened at the stations of Alisher Navoi and Pakhtakor.

Welcome to Uzbekistan

OUR TEAM.

HAMID MAHMOOD
EDITOR

ABIHA HAMID
BUSINESS MANAGER

WAQAS KHAN
ASSISTANT MANAGER

MUHAMMAD HARIS
DESIGNER

ZAINAB HAMID.
VLOGGER

UZBEKISTAN

Tourist Information Centre Pakistan

55, Civic Center, Phase 4, Bahria Town Islamabad.
Tel +92 300 9745458, +92 300 9745456
Email: tic.uzbek@gmail.com

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