

Kazakhstan



CIS farm produce grew by 2.5%

In CIS countries the production of agricultural products in the first half of the year 2006 increased by 2.5 per cent on an average in comparison with January - July, 2005.

According to CIS Interstate Statistics Committee for the period under report production of farm produce in Uzbekistan increased by 7.2 per cent. Kazakhstan enhanced farm production by 4.1 per cent, Ukraine by 3.2 per cent, Kyrgyzstan by 2.3 per cent, and Moldova enlarged its output by 1.8 per cent. Tajikistan submitted no data on dynamics of farm produce. - *Source: Kazinform*

Cattle and poultry breeding increases

The volume of agricultural products in Kazakhstan increased by 4.3% in comparison with the same period of 2005 and constituted 311,6 bln. tenge (126 tenge=\$1).

On September 1, 2006 the livestock is as follows:

Poultry: 30497.6 thousand heads

Sheep and goat: 18028.9 thousand heads

Pig: 1817.3 thousand heads

Horse: 1363.9 thousand heads

Camel: 144.0 thousand heads

- *Source: APK-Inform.com; Translated and edited by: usapeec.kz*

White House officially announced visit of Kazakh President to the U.S.

The White House has officially announced Kazakhstan President's visit to the U.S. on September 29, 2006. At a briefing press secretary of the White House Tony Snow stated that Kazakhstan was an important

strategic partner in Central Asia. Kazakh Ambassador to the U.S. Kanat Saudabayev noted that Kazakh side was ready to develop bilateral cooperation. Theme of the forthcoming talks will be interaction in promotion of peace and prosperity. This meeting will strengthen friendship between the two states and open new horizons for strategic partnership, he added.

U.S. was the first country having acknowledged Kazakhstan's independence and established diplomatic relations with it in 1991. In 2001 Kazakh and the US leaders defined relations between the two countries as long-term strategic partnership.

Economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and America is actively developing as the US is the largest investor in Kazakhstan. More than 400 American companies work in the state. - *Source: Kazinform*

Kyrgyzstan



13 anthrax cases among population registered in Kyrgyzstan within 8 months

According to the Chief of Epidemiological Department of the Republican Center of Quarantine and Infectious diseases - Kubanychbek Bekturdiyev, 13 cases of anthrax, 5 cases of rabies, 3 thousand 38 cases of brucellosis are registered in Kyrgyzstan within eight months of 2006.

Lately in September, cases of anthrax among humans have been registered in the Osh region in southern Kyrgyzstan, the Kyrgyz Ministry for Ecology and Emergency Situations reported. According to a Ministry report, an outbreak of anthrax has been fixed in the Kara-Kuldzha district. Four residents from the settlement of Sharaktama

have been hospitalized to a regional clinic with anthrax. They are undergoing intensive treatment, while the settlement has been put on quarantine. One more anthrax case was fixed in the neighboring Jalal-Abad district.

As the statistics has shown, high parameters on epidemiological diseases are typical for southern regions of the country. For example, 8 anthrax cases out of 13 cases are registered in Jalalabad oblast, 4 – in Osh oblast. Bekturdiev explained the reasons of unsuccessful epidemiological situation in the southern regions of Kyrgyzstan with ignorance of population hygiene rules. - *Source: Kyrgyz National News Agency; Edited by: usapeec.kz*

Members of Kyrgyzstan's Parliament debate on impeachment of the President and Government dismissal

Members of Kyrgyz parliament convened a special hearing on September 11 in connection with the scandal, which erupted September 6 with the arrest of former Parliament Speaker Omurbek Tekebayev in Poland on a drug smuggling charge.

The resolution envisages declaring illegal the political duet of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev and Prime Minister Felix Kulov and claiming for their resignation. Besides, the resolution proposes to dismiss the Kyrgyz government and establish a government of popular trust (a coalition government).

The MPs also claim that deputies of the National Security Service head, the interior minister, the Prosecutor-General, the Head of the Drug Control Agency, the President and the Vice President of Manas Airport should resign, the Ambassador to Germany and Councilor at Kyrgyz Embassy in China should be recalled.

In its turn, President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, speaking at a session of Kyrgyzstani parliament, called on the deputies to not get emotional and think twice of their resolution, especially in the part of the demand of government resignation. - *Source: Regnum News Agency, Eurasinet.org Edited by: usapeec.kz*

Tajikistan



New U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan waits for American investors

The United States is gradually turning from humanitarian assistance to a long-term cooperation with Tajikistan, a newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to Tajikistan Tracy Ann Jacobson told after her meeting with the Tajik President Emomali Rahmonov in Dushanbe.

Tracy Ann Jacobson and Emomali Rahmonov have discussed several joint projects in such spheres as hydropower energy, health, education, counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics.

“We are waiting for American investors. According to an agreement signed in June this year, Tajikistan will receive a grant for the development of its energy sector and power supplies to neighboring Afghanistan. The republic has large energy potentialities. This priority supports the ongoing integration process between Central and South Asia. There are huge energy markets in the southern part of the region, especially in Pakistan and India. We are ready to interact with our national companies striving to develop these opportunities,” Jacobson stressed. - *Source: Avesta News Agency*

Uzbekistan



Animal husbandry in Uzbekistan

As of July 1, 2006, in comparison with the same period of the previous year, the population of cattle increased by 257,5 thousand heads (by 4%) of which cows by 121,9 thousand (by 4.3%), sheep and goats - by 626,9 thousand (by 5.3%), poultry - by 1127,3 (by 5.6%).

The main part of cattle and poultry is concentrated in dekhkan and private farms.

The share of cattle in them was 98%, cows – 98.5%, sheep and goats – 77.1%, pigs – 83.7%, poultry – 75.3%.

The population of cattle, sheep and goats, poultry in farms of all types has increased in all regions of the Republic.

In the first half of 2006 farms of all types produced 528,9 thousand MT of meat in living weight (6.6% more than in the corresponding period of the previous year), 2184,7 thousand MT of milk (5.6%), 916,2 mln eggs (6.6%).

The production of animal products (meat, milk, eggs) in all regions has mainly increased at the expense of dekhkan and private farms. Their share in total production of meat was 96.7%, milk – 99.2%, eggs – 60%, wool – 81.6%.

As of July 1, 2006, private farms had 357,3 thousand heads of cattle, including 117,6 thousand cows, 611,9 thousand sheep and goats, 13,5 thousand pigs, 830,2 thousand poultry. As compared to the first half of 2005 the population of cattle increased by 11.4%, cows – by 16.3%, sheep and goats - by 27.7%, poultry - by 4.3%; the population of pigs decreased by 14%. - *Source: State Committee on Statistics of Uzbekistan; Edited by: usapeec.kz*

World Bank issues report on the ease of doing business in 175

The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation have released a report Doing Business 2007. The report ranks 175 countries as to the ease of doing business there.

In terms of attractiveness for business, Kyrgyzstan has gone up from 104th to 90th place and Kazakhstan from 82nd to 62nd. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have the worst positions among the CIS countries – 133rd and 147th, respectively. Ukraine and Belarus are 128th and 129th, respectively.

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine have carried out, at least, one reform. Tajikistan have carried out no reforms, while Uzbekistan has made business an even harder job for its companies.

Kyrgyzstan introduced a fixed notarial tariff for land transfer contract certification. The tariff has replaced an interest honorarium. This reform has reduced the cost of property right transfer from 5.25% to 1.99% of the cost of the property. The country also allowed non-court guarantee and pledge claims, which has made it easier for creditors to get back their debts. The period of compulsory employee dismissal notification was reduced from two to one month.

The first credit bureau of Kazakhstan has begun issuing crediting reports on potential borrowers. Today, the bureau has information (both negative — non-payment of loans, and positive – timely payment) on 5.5% of Kazakhstan's population. It gets the information from 29 commercial banks.

Uzbekistan has made things worse for its business. The country imposed a new tax on business – compulsory allocation to the school education development fund. As a result, the tax burden on local companies has grown from 106.3% to 122.3% of their profit. The local creditors have become less protected in bankruptcy cases.

The report says that the key problems in the region are red-tape in trade and complicated tax system. For example, in Kazakhstan the export of a product takes 93 days and requires 14 documents.

The key indicators of the report are how much time and money is needed for a new company to prepare all necessary documents, its activities, trade operations, taxes and closing procedures. - *Source: Regnum News Agency*

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