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Special Issue

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2011: A Year in Pictures



Kazakhstan's major cities Astana and Almaty
host the 7th Asian Winter Games.



The country's long-serving diplomat and statesman
Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev is appointed as Director
General of the United Nations Office in Geneva.



Kazakhs vote en masse to elect Nursultan Nazarbayev president for five more years.



In Paris, Astana submits its bid to host an international specialized exhibition EXPO 2017.



Kazakhstan hosts the 10th anniversary Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Astana, concluding its year-long chairmanship in the organisation.



Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the Organisation of Islamic Conference takes off at the Council of Foreign Ministers in Astana. The meeting adopts historical decisions for the Muslim Ummah, including its renaming into the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Customs control posts are abolished between the Customs Union countries of Kazakhstan, Russia and Belarus starting from July 1, 2011.



Kazakhstan marks the twentieth anniversary of closing the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. Major commemorative events take place around the globe on 29th August, the UN-recognised International Day Against Nuclear Tests.

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev addresses the 66th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, highlighting non-proliferation, UN's economic role, and cybersecurity.



Children outline Kazakhstan's vision of a nuclear-weapons-free world. Six winners of the nationwide essays and art contest are handed iPads.



International Forum for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World becomes an important step towards a safer and more secure world.

Kazakhstan ranks 47th in World Bank's Doing Business 2012 report, climbing 11 spots and joining the top 50 countries in this rating. The country also enters top 10 world economies for protecting investors.





Almaty hosts the first Summit of Turkic Council.
Almaty Declaration charts way forward for cooperation of Turkic-speaking countries.



Kazakh-Language Wikipedia tops 100,000 articles.



First artificial heart implant saves a life in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's weightlifting team finishes third at the World Championship in Paris. National team gains 8 London Olympic slots.



A gunman kills seven people in a deadly attack in the southern town of Taraz.

Astana hosts a session on Afghanistan, calling on the international community to stand by aid pledges beyond 2014.



President Nazarbayev dissolves parliament, calls for early elections.



Astana, Moscow, Minsk make a step towards the Eurasian Economic Union. The three countries sign a treaty creating the Eurasian Economic Space.



Almaty launches Kazakhstan's first subway line. The \$1.1 billion underground project becomes first in Central Asia in 20 years.



11-year-old Zhansaya Abdumalik from Almaty becomes world champion in chess for the fourth time.



Kazakhstan sums up interim results of the Industrialisation Programme, launches scores of landmark projects.



Kazakhstan concludes its mission in the OSCE Troika, and its chairmanship in the Organisation's Forum for Security Cooperation. OSCE praises Kazakhstan's leading role in updating the 1999 Vienna Document.



The Senate of Kazakhstan's Parliament adopts the Independence Anniversary Declaration, highlighting the country's main achievements.

The nation proudly celebrates the 20th anniversary its independence with festivities across the country.



Tragic events in Zhanaozen, a town in the western region of Mangistau, shock the country, with 16 people dead as a result of the riots. The government pledges to ensure transparent and just investigation, and adopts a special programme to develop the town.



Kazakhstan's GDP grows by 7.3%. Gross agricultural output increases by 27.3%. Population's real cash incomes increase by 6.7% and real salary - by 5.5%.

Astana is filled with lights and colours to welcome New Year.



ASTANA CALLING is a bi-weekly online publication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Please send your requests and questions to pressa@mfa.kz