

Date and Time: Saturday, December 23, 2023 5:40:00 PM EST

Job Number: 213277258

Documents (100)

1. [Uzbek expert raps Tajik hydroelectric power station projects](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

2. [People in Kazakh south evacuated amid floods risk](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

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3. [Uzbekistan starts receiving flood water from south Kazakh reservoir](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

4. [*Kyrgyz , Uzbek sides step in to prevent floods in Kazakh south*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

5. [*Letter from the past and the future*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

6. [*China's Turkmen Pipe*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

7. [*Turkmenistan sets up special anti-flood body*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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8. [*Turkmen east needs another river bridge, specialists say*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

9. [*Uzbekistan : Eximbank to open two credit lines*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

10. [*Roundup: Central Asian countries highlight Aral Sea crisis for int'l help*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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11. [ARAL SEA PROBLEMS WILL ONLY BE FIXED BY REGIONAL COOPERATION, UN STRESSES](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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12. [Anti-flood bank reinforcement work under way in Turkmen east](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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13. [Old Farming Habits Leave Uzbekistan a Legacy of Salt](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

14. [*Cotton still king in Uzbekistan despite a legacy of salt*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

15. [*Buddhism in the Hellenistic world*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

16. [*DataCore Software Sees Total Enterprise Virtualization Take Off in Europe Third DataCore Partner Conference in Central Europe is marked by vibrant and optimistic channel partners*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

17. [*Uzbekistan destroys facilities before island transfer to Turkmenistan - website*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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18. [*Kazakhstan , Uzbekistan agree on free access to water of river*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR

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19. [*Kyrgyz way of river water use should not harm neighbours - Uzbek paper*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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20. [*Kyrgyz PM hopes to sign water accord with neighbours in 2009*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

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Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

21. [*Campaign Starts to Save the Aral Sea*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR

groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

22. [*Kyrgyz paper denies Uzbek claims on violation of water accord*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

23. [*Central Asian states fail to agree on river water use*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

24. [*Uzbek foreign minister voices concern over use of trans-border rivers*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

25. [*Analysis: Central Asian energy in 2008*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

26. [*Einbrecher flüchteten ohne Beute Tankzug vertrieb vermutlich die Täter von der Aral-Tankstelle in Ober-Schmitten*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR

conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

27. [*Turkmenistan building river bridge on Uzbek border*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

28. [*PM Chudinov: Construction of Kambarata-1 water power station to help Kyrgyzstan , Uzbekistan tackle dry hydrological cycle problems*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

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Narrowed by

29. [Parliament ratifies agreement on advance payment of \\$150 US thousand for drinking water supply](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

30. [Obama's War](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

31. [No Headline In Original](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

32. [*Insight - Central Asia: long-term challenges and short-term crises.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

33. [*Now I've really lived. I've gone on a movie set and shouted 'Action!' Robert Fisk's World*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

34. [*Kazakh PM visits Uzbekistan .*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

35. [Central Asian Leaders Fail To Overcome Differences At Water Summit](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

36. [SECRETARY-GENERAL PROMISES ON ASSISTANCE IN FORMULATING LONG-TERM SANCTIONS TO WATER, ENERGY ISSUES OF ARAL SEA BASIN, IN MESSAGE TO ALMATY MEETING](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR

Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

37. [*Uzbek leader against "third" parties involvement in water talks*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

38. [*United Nations : Secretary-General promises Un assistance in formulating long-term sanctions to water, energy issues of aral sea basin, in message to almaty meeting*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

39. [*Russian commentary says Aral summit wrecked by interstate recriminations*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

40. [*Tajik press reacts to Uzbek leader's objection to new power stations*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

41. [*Tajik paper claims Uzbekistan to blame for demise of Aral Sea*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

42. [*No Headline In Original*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

43. [*China-built bridge commissioned in Tajikistan*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

44. [*Ukrainian president to attend opening ceremony of railway bridge*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin

management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

45. [G8: ACQUA, PER LEI SI ARRIVA ANCHE A COMBATTERE/ ANSA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

46. [Turkmenistan completes railway bridge over Oxus](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

47. [*US endgame in Afghanistan : Pakistan regional power in Central Asia*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed by

Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

48. [*Rationed use of water resources - the key to sustainable development*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed by

Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

49. [*New vehicle checkpoint built on Turkmen - Uzbek border*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

50. [*IMU & Taliban eye Central Asia again*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

51. [*Kazikstan :OSCE Centre in Astana starts co-operation with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

52. [*Playing it safe in Central Asia.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

53. [*UNECE-GTZ Programme Helps Central Asian Countries to Strengthen Regional Institutions for Transboundary Water Management*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

54. [*2nd LD Chinese, Turkmen, Kazakh, Uzbek presidents unveil gas pipeline*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR

Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

55. [*Urgent: Hu attends inauguration of China-Central Asia gas pipeline*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

56. [*Tajik expert says Central Asian states should hold talks to settle water issues*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

57. [*Paper highlights results of Ukrainian leader's Turkmen visit*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR

groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

58. [*Kazakhstan : Central Asian body fails to reach consensus on water use*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

59. [*Afghanistan : Horsing around in the Kush*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

60. [Sting in the pay of tyrannical Uzbekistan regime](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

61. [Paper says US envoy visited Tajikistan to talk about Iran](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

62. [Ashgabat to host ICWC meeting](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

63. [*Uzbek leader addresses Asian Development Bank summit*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

64. [*Helping Central Asia's dying sea*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

65. [*This day in Kuwait 's history*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

66. [*Tajikistan promises to continue sharing its water*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

67. [*Tajik leader says neighbours' interests considered in country's water policy*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

68. [*Uzbek security officers seize about 40 kg of Afghan opium in south*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

69. [*EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DISCUSSES STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE ARAL SEA BASIN*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

70. [*UNECE Executive Secretary discusses strengthening cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

71. [*New small hydro power stations launched*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

72. [*Manchhar just four feet off dangerous level*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

73. [*Turkmenistan : Altcom to build bridge across Amu Darya river*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

74. [*Turkmenistan to commission railway bridge across Amu Darya by 2011*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

75. [*Cut made to Ural Regulator to save Sehwan*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin

management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

76. [*Breach in Manchar caused after technical advice, broad base consultations*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

77. [*Manchar Lake situation worsens*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

78. [*Breaches in Manchhar dykes: Decision taken after consulting experts: CM*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 201979. [*Threat to Manchhar lake*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors**Narrowed by:****Content Type**
News**Narrowed by**
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 201980. [*Manchar leaks lead to mass migration from Bhan Saeedabad*](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

81. [*Stagnating floodwater hampers DPs return*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

82. [*Manchhar Lake receding*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

83. [*Uzbek leader reiterates his opposition to Tajik energy project*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

84. [KAZAKHSTAN : STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION WITH THE HELP OF THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

85. [Delegation of Ecologic movement of Uzbekistan visits USA](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR

Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

86. [Deal With a Dictator](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

87. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

88. [Tajik commission says Uzbekistan "secretly" built 75 reservoirs](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR

groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

89. [CENTRAL ASIAN STATES FINALIZE THE THIRD ARAL SEA BASIN PROGRAM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

90. [Being Afghani](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

91. [Easier Said Than Done](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

92. [Pakistan 's water experts to salvage Central Asian States from water woes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

93. [Pakistan : Pakistan 's water experts to salvage Central Asian States from water woes](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

94. [*CITY \(Complex range of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems emerged: Experts\)*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

95. [*SDPI Working Group adopts resolution on environmental crisis in Aral sea region*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

96. [Working group adopts resolution on environmental problems in Aral Sea region](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

97. [Water experts ponder over saving](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR "water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

98. [Measures to resolve environmental crisis in Aral sea region](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold

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Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

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News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

99. [Working Group on saving Aral Sea for sustainable development meets](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

Search Type: Terms and Connectors

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Timeline: Jan 01, 2008 to Dec 31, 2019

100. [Pakistan : Water experts ponder over saving](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: hlead(*water* OR river* OR lake OR dam OR stream OR tributary OR diversion OR irrigation OR pollution OR water quality OR flood! OR drought! OR channel OR canal OR hydroelect! OR reservoir OR groundwater OR aquifer OR drought OR recharge OR "water table" OR "bore hole") and hlead(treaty OR agree! OR negotiat! OR resolution OR commission OR secretariat OR joint management OR basin management OR peace OR accord OR "peace accord" OR settle! OR cooperat! OR collaborat! OR disput! OR conflict! OR disagree! OR sanction! OR war OR troops OR "letter of protest" OR hostility OR "shots fired" OR boycott OR protest! OR appeal OR intent OR reject OR threat! OR force OR coerce OR assault OR fight OR demand OR disapprove OR diploma! OR statement OR memorandum) and hlead(Aral OR Syr Daria OR Naryn OR Amu Daria OR Syr Darya OR Amu Darya OR Akhangaran OR Chirchik) and not hlead(ocean OR navigat! OR nuclear OR "water cannon" OR "light water reactor" OR "mineral water" OR "hold water" OR "cold water" OR "hot water" OR "water canister" OR "water tight" OR " water down" OR "flood of refugees" OR Rivera OR Suez OR Panama OR oil OR drugs OR "three gorges" OR waterski OR watermelon OR dishwater OR waterproof OR "water resistant" OR "water bath")

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Uzbek expert raps Tajik hydroelectric power station projects

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

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January 25, 2008 Friday

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Length: 1192 words

Body

An Uzbek expert has criticized Tajik hydroelectric power production projects, and said they might cause environmental problems in the region. The director of the Uzbek Hidroproyekt [Hydroproject] Institute, Sergey Zhigaryov, said the international legal basis for the use of transborder rivers and waterstreams should be observed in drawing up and implementing such projects. The following is an excerpt from Sergey Zhigaryov's report entitled "The construction of hydroelectric power stations and the Aral Sea problem" published by the Uzbek newspaper Pravda Vostoka on 24 January; subheadings inserted editorially:

An event for which long preparations had been made took place in Tajikistan recently. We are talking about the test launch of the first power unit at the Sangtuda-1 hydroelectric power station on the Vakhsh river. Russian government and business circles have expressed great interest in this event as the construction of the 482m-dollar hydroelectric power station was carried out in cooperation with the Unified Energy System of Russia, which acted as the key initiator, investor and chief contractor [of the power project]. The power unit with a projected capacity of 167.5 MW will produce about 2.4 million kWh per day. The Unified Energy System of Russia will own 75 per cent of the new hydroelectric power station.

One can fully understand Tajikistan's intentions to expand power production facilities to resolve aggravating problems in the supply of power in the country and to meet the requirements of the population and enterprises. The power supply problem becomes especially acute and seriously affects the economy and people's sentiments in winter every year.

However, for the sake of justice it should be noted - and this is supported by experts' calculations - that the growing problem of shortage of electric power stems, to a larger extent, from the poor use of the existing power generation facilities in the country, from a programme that has not been thought through and sometimes from the lack of such a programme. Tajikistan produced only 16.7-17.5bn kWh annually in recent years, whereas the existing facilities can produce twice as much electric power, that is about 50 per cent of the existing capacities are being used.

The [water] level at the Norak reservoir fell to a critical point in the past years. The head of the Tajik state energy company said: "There is so little water here (in the Norak reservoir) that this volume may be sufficient for the hydroelectric power station to work only for the first ten days of February, and after that a critical situation may arise in the country." Because of this policy, as a result of shortage of resources only 45-48 per cent of the Norak hydroelectric power station's actual capacities are used today, and it is hard to say when they will be filled to a normal stable level.

There are even more questions regarding the use of the electric power that has already been produced. About half of the total electric power produced and transmitted is used to satisfy the needs of the country's largest industrial

Uzbek expert raps Tajik hydroelectric power station projects

enterprise, Tajik aluminium company (TALCO), as well as the Tajik cement plant which supplies its products mainly for the construction of two units of the Sangtuda hydroelectric power station. According to Tajik sources, the Tajik aluminium company currently uses 20 million kWh per day, which is double the amount used by the entire population of the Tajik capital, Dushanbe.

The Tajik people have many questions regarding the fact that in the periods of acute shortage of electric power, the country increases its export to Afghan territory. It becomes quite clear that shortages in power supply are due not only to objective causes, but also to vital interests of business circles which, rather than meeting the needs of the population above all, aim to increase electricity and aluminium exports.

Regional benefits of Sangtuda-1 doubtful

Lots of festive speeches were made at the ceremony of launching the first unit of the Sangtuda-1 hydroelectric power station. Those who listened to or read these speeches in the press apparently noticed certain inconsistencies and even paradoxes in the statements of organizers of the ceremony. According to these statements, the countries located along the transborder rivers - for instance the largest river in Central Asia, Amu Daryo, which supplies water to millions of people in the neighbouring states - should be grateful to the Tajik government for implementing these large-scale power projects. The statement that all Central Asian nations benefit from the construction of the so-called "multi-functional hydroelectric power stations" is, to put it mildly, doubtful and goes against common sense.

It is no secret that water is used for two purposes, specifically power generation and irrigation. [Passage omitted: General remarks about hydropower production, the use of dams and hydraulic mechanisms] Secondly, the more dams the more obstacles to natural river flows, and the more acute the problem of water supply, first of all, to people living along the lower courses of the rivers as well as that of satisfying the needs of farm irrigation. And it is well known that 95 per cent of all people in Central Asia owe their livelihood and food provision to farm irrigation.

Moreover, the discharge of large volumes of water in winter leads to the backing of subsoil waters, the emergence of swamps and sometimes floods in irrigated lands which cause irreparable damage to agriculture, and the consequences are easily predictable: water shortages and drought in the lower courses of the rivers and tens of millions of people losing their sources of income from agricultural production, not to mention the receding Aral [Sea], which is a problem becoming increasingly acute with every passing year, which directly raises the issue of survival of over 36-40 million people living in the vicinity of Aral.

Coordination of hydroelectric projects important

Uzbekistan's position on this issue is firm, and it has been presented on many occasions at different levels. First of all, the construction of an efficient system of joint use of resources of transborder rivers in Central Asia should be based on the existing international legal framework on using transborder rivers and waterstreams. Cooperation on the basis of the universally accepted international norms and rules will secure each of the sides' sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit and fairness. Each country has a right to implement projects on using resources of the transborder rivers, including the construction of hydraulic facilities, but on condition that a thorough and independent feasibility and environmental study is carried out openly and the information should be fully accessible to the interested parties.

Two extremely important conditions need to be met here. First, the watercourse level must not be lower for countries located along the lower course of the river. Second, the environmental safety of the region, which is already very unstable, must not be violated.

Source: Pravda Vostoka, Tashkent, in Russian 24 Jan 08 p 1

Load-Date: January 25, 2008

People in Kazakh south evacuated amid floods risk

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
February 8, 2008 Friday

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Length: 171 words

Body

Excerpt from report by Kazakhstan Today news agency website

Shymkent, 8 February: There is a real danger of **floods** in **settlements** along the **River Syr Darya** in South Kazakhstan Region [SKR], said the first deputy governor of SKR, Islam Abishev, at a working meeting yesterday.

"We have estimated that 20 settlements with 15,516 inhabitants located along the River Syr Darya are under a risk of floods. Of them, 9,407 people are being evacuated," he said.

[Passage omitted: discharge of water from the Chardara reservoir may increase from the current 700 to 800 cu.m. per second, leaving thousands of hectares under water]

However, Abishev noted that "these are forecast estimates. Even if the water [from the Chardara reservoir] is discharged at 700 cu.m. per second, ice jams may occur on the river and settlements located in the vicinity of dangerous areas maybe left under water".

[Passage omitted: preventive measures are being taken in the region]

Source: Kazakhstan Today news agency website, Almaty, in Russian 0504 gmt 8 Feb 08

Load-Date: February 8, 2008

Uzbekistan starts receiving flood water from south Kazakh reservoir

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
February 20, 2008 Wednesday

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Length: 297 words

Body

Excerpt from report by Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency

Shymkent, 20 February: Within the framework of intergovernmental agreements, Uzbekistan has opened its locks on irrigation canals to receive flood water that is flowing into the River Syr Darya in the south of Kazakhstan and posing a threat to large densely populated areas.

As the head of the water usage department of the Yugvodkhoz [South water management] national state enterprise [NSE] in South Kazakhstan Region (SKR), Aygul Omarova, said to the Interfax-Kazakhstan [news] agency on Wednesday [20 February] that Uzbekistan had opened locks on the Grand Fergana and North Fergana canals last Tuesday [19 February].

"Water is being discharged into each of the canals at a rate of 40 cu.m. per second," Omarova said.

At the same time, Uzbekistan has not opened the Janubiy Mirzachol Canal [in central Uzbekistan], into which it was planned to discharge up to 200 cu.m. of water per second in accordance with the agreement between the sides, while the canal has a capacity to receive 300 cu.m. per second, she said.

According to Omarova, "only 20 cu.m. per second is being discharged there at the moment".

According to the Yugvodkhoz NSE, the water is flowing into the Chardara reservoir, located in SKR on the River Syr Darya, at a rate of 1,599 cu.m. per second at the moment. The volume of water in the reservoir, which has a capacity to collect 5.5bn cu.m., has reached 4.4bn cu.m. The Kazakh authorities say that the discharge of water from the Toktogul reservoir in Kyrgyzstan, which then flows into the River Syr Darya, has a rate of 700 cu.m. per second.

[Passage omitted: background information on the risk of floods in southern Kazakh regions]

Source: Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency, Almaty, in Russian 1129 gmt 20 Feb 08

Load-Date: February 20, 2008

Kyrgyz, Uzbek sides step in to prevent floods in Kazakh south

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
February 22, 2008 Friday

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Length: 321 words

Body

Excerpt from report by Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency

Shymkent, 21 February: Today, within the framework of intergovernmental agreements, Kyrgyzstan reduced the volume of water discharged from the Toktogul reservoir to lessen the inflow of water into the Chardara reservoir and the River Syr Darya in the south of Kazakhstan.

"The Kyrgyz side reduced the discharge of water from Toktogul by 150 cu.m. per second on Thursday [21 February], while the Uzbek side has opened locks to increase the volume of water flowing into the Arnasoy hollow [in central Uzbekistan]," the chairman of the committee for water resources of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture, Anatoliy Ryabtsev, said at a meeting at the governor's office of South Kazakhstan Region [SKR], attended by Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Masimov, in Shymkent (administrative centre of SKR) on Thursday [21 February].

Moreover, Ryabtsev recalled that "the Uzbek side has started to draw off water for irrigation in midstream" of the River Syr Darya.

"As a result, we expect that the volume of water flowing into the Chardara reservoir will decrease up to 1,100-1,200 cu.m. per second in the coming days," he said.

However, Ryabtsev said, "we will continue now to discuss increasing the discharge" of water into [Uzbekistan's] Arnasoy.

He expressed the hope that, as a result, water discharged into the River Syr Darya [by the Kyrgyz reservoir] would be reduced to 500 cu.m. per second.

In his turn, the governor of SKR, Nurgali Ashimov, said at the meeting that the thaw causes an increase in the volume of water flowing into the River Syr Darya from the River Arys. In this connection, he said, if the volume of water discharged into the River Syr Darya is not reduced, a devastating flood may occur in the region's Otrar District.

[Passage omitted: background; known facts about recent floods in SKR]

Source: Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency, Almaty, in Russian 1621 gmt 21 Feb 08

Load-Date: February 22, 2008

Kyrgyz , Uzbek sides step in to prevent floods in Kazakh south

End of Document

Letter from the past and the future

The Toronto Star
February 29, 2008 Friday

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Section: NEWS; Pg. A02

Length: 618 words

Body

The other day, I received an email from an old friend.

His name is Faramarz Sangi and the last time I saw him, he was putting me into a barge to cross the heavily mined **Amu Darya River** that separates northern Afghanistan from Tajikistan. That was in late December 2001, after we'd spent two months together running hither and yon with the jubilant Northern Alliance as American B-52s dropped megaton bombs on Taliban **forces**.

Faramarz was my fixer. He entered my life one fortuitous morning after I'd just finished using the running-**water** bathtub - the only contraption of its kind thereabouts - in a house owned by Ahmed Shah Massoud. The legendary Alliance leader was dead by then, assassinated by Al Qaeda on the eve of 9/11 in a quid pro quo between Osama bin Laden and one-eyed Mullah Omar.

It was a rescue of sorts, as Faramarz offered his services as facilitator and interpreter, to replace the totally inept fellow I'd been using, who'd turned out to be both a thief and incapable of stringing together more than a dozen words of English. Faramarz, by comparison, spoke English well, had a lovely disposition, was well-connected with the Alliance and devoted himself entirely to my well-being.

In the way of Afghan males, however, and the tradition of prolonged palaver, this required man-to-man negotiations just shy of the Oslo Accords. Two days they spent, drinking tea while I paced, Faramarz explaining that his rival's honour had to be appeased. Finally, said honour was appeased to the tune of several hundred U.S. dollars.

The only problem was that Faramarz would never leave my side, even when I wanted desperately to be alone and would bird-dog me from a distance on those occasions when I slipped away for some solitary rambling. "It is not done," he would admonish. "Women do not walk alone in Afghanistan." Adding: "You are shaming me in front of the other men."

Eventually, Faramarz moved into my mud-walled hovel. Every evening, by candlelight, we played hours of gin rummy, which I taught him. He introduced me to Afghan folk music, the tapes he'd managed to save when such godless abominations were outlawed by the Taliban.

Faramarz had been a university student in Kabul when the Taliban came to power, far more educated than most Afghans. Yet I was shocked, one day, when I tried to have a conversation with him about Israel. He'd never heard of Israel. He'd never heard of Jews. This is how insular and primitive Afghan society remained, in the 21st century, although it was refreshing not to rehash Muslim-Jewish grievances. Faramarz didn't know anything about religious enmity and Middle East wars.

Letter from the past and the future

It is easy to forget, as the West laments Afghanistan's sluggish movement toward rehabilitation, how far that nation has come in the past six years.

When Famarz and I were together, just finding food was a challenge, both of us subsisting on a diet of potatoes and rice, foraging for wood to boil well water. And now here he is, sending me email from an Internet cafe.

Let me tell you a story about Famarz because it encapsulates the optimism and tragedy of Afghanistan.

His father had been a general in the Afghan air force - yes, they did have one. Just before Kabul fell, he'd flown the country's single remaining fighter jet to Amman, for safe storage. After the Taliban was deposed, he decided to bring the aircraft back, an act of symbolic triumph. The plane crashed short of Kabul and Famarz's father was killed.

He wrote afterwards to tell me that, tears splashed on the paper.

Famarz is in Kabul now, working for the International Security Assistance Force.

I loved him, chastely. I love his country, ardently.

Rosie DiManno usually appears Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Load-Date: February 29, 2008

End of Document

China's Turkmen Pipe

World Gas Intelligence

March 5, 2008

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Section: WHAT'S NEW

Length: 775 words

Body

Any remaining doubt that Turkmenistan will be China 's first source of imported gas dissolved with the recent launch of construction on China 's second West-East gas pipeline -- billed as the country's first major system to transport foreign gas. However, uncertainty persists over how much gas Turkmenistan and other Central Asian states along the system's route will have to export.

PetroChina started work on the cross-country pipeline two weeks ago at three locations: Xinjiang, Ningxia and Shaanxi provinces. Ma Kai, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, said at the Feb. 22 groundbreaking ceremony that the 30 billion cubic meter per year (2.9 billion cubic foot per day) pipeline will carry "gas from Turkmenistan and other Central Asian countries." He noted PetroChina's deals last year to ship 13 Bcm/yr from its Bagtiyarlyk development on the right bank of the Amu Darya River in Turkmenistan and to secure another 17 Bcm/yr from Turkmen sources, presumed to be the Samandepe and Altyn Asyr deposits being developed by Turkmen state companies (WGI Jan.2,p3). Domestic fields in China 's Tarim Basin in Xinjiang and the big Changqing field in Shaanxi province are to provide backup volumes.

PetroChina reportedly gave the price of Turkmen gas as \$145 per thousand cubic meters (\$4 per million Btu), plus \$50/Mcm for pipeline fees to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan , for a Chinese border price of \$195/Mcm (\$5.42/MMBtu). Sources say this would work out to an average city-gate price of over 3 yuan per cubic meter (\$11.67/MMBtu). More distant coastal cities are expected to pay more -- reflecting not just higher import costs, but also the government's desire to shift gas prices up toward international levels. Demand from industry and residential users looking for a substitute for oil is likely to be high, particularly since the piped gas will still cost less than imported LNG (WGI Jul.4,p7).

The estimated \$20 billion, 9,102 kilometer West-East system will start in Khorgos (Huoerguosi) in Xinjiang and run across 12 provinces to Shanghai and Guangzhou . This includes a 4,843 km trunk line and eight spurs to various cities. Although construction has started on the Khorgos-Zhongwei-Jingbian section, the final engineering design for the project won't be complete until June, with construction of the eastern section due to start in September. The western section could be complete next year, with the full system slated for start-up in mid-2011.

Shanghai has already requested 2 Bcm/yr (195 million cubic feet per day) of gas from the second pipe. Last year, the first West-East pipe delivered 13.7 Bcm of mostly Tarim Basin gas, and the western section was expanded to handle 17 Bcm/yr (WGI Apr.18,p3).

Work is also progressing on the Turkmen end of the line. A €395.4 million (\$600 million) contract for the 188 km section in Turkmenistan was awarded last month to Gazprom-owned Stroitransgas. Turkmen news reports say the 1.42 meter diameter pipe will run from the Malai gas field across the Amu Darya River to the Uzbek border,

China's Turkmen Pipe

although diplomatic sources in Ashkhabad say that a "backup" pipeline will also be laid from Malai to the giant Dauletabad gas field in the south.

The 30 Bcm/yr pipeline is due for completion to the Kazakh-Chinese border in 2009. It will run 530 km north across Uzbekistan along the route of a Soviet-era oil pipeline to Shymkent in Kazakhstan . Then it will run 1,300 km inside Kazakhstan , east to Almaty and finally to Khorgos on the Chinese border. Capacity could be expanded to 40 Bcm/yr, enabling the line to carry Kazakh gas. PetroChina parent China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) is setting up 50-50 joint ventures with state gas companies in Kazakhstan , Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to build and own the segments in those countries.

The pipeline gives these Central Asian gas producers an opportunity to ease their reliance on Russia for exports -- if gas is available. Turkmenistan claims the second-biggest gas reserves in the former Soviet Union, but a clearer picture awaits the results of an audit ordered by the new leadership in Ashkhabad . Turkmenistan plans to boost production 12.7% this year to 81.5 Bcm from 72.3 Bcm in 2007, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov said last week. Given that Russia takes around 50 Bcm/yr and some 20 Bcm/yr is used domestically, output must be increased significantly to fill the China pipe (WGI Nov.21,p1).

Kazakhstan is planning to build a 1,500 km pipeline from its energy-rich west to its heavily populated southern regions, where alarm bells rang in January when Uzbekistan briefly cut gas flows due to higher consumption at home.

Load-Date: April 4, 2008

End of Document

Turkmenistan sets up special anti-flood body

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 13, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 111 words

Body

Text of report by state-owned Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr *channel* on 13 March

Under a *resolution* issued by the president [Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow] of Turkmenistan, a new specialized body, Amyderyakenarberkidis [*Amu Darya* embankment fortification], has been set within the *Water* Economy Ministry. Its head office is located in the town of Turkmenabat [eastern Turkmenistan].

The new body will be responsible for thorough fortification of the embankment of *Amu Darya*, our country's biggest *river*. It will ensure the reliable protection of *settlements*, crop plantations and facilities against *floods*.

Source: Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr *channel*, Ashgabat, in Turkmen 1300 gmt 13 Mar 08

Load-Date: March 13, 2008

Turkmen east needs another river bridge, specialists say

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 21, 2008 Friday

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Length: 296 words

Body

Excerpt from report by Turkmen opposition website chrono-tm.org on 20 March

In January and February of this year, Turkmenistan lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Such was the cost of the **forced** idleness of the Turkmenabat-Farap pontoon which was damaged by this winter's frost. It is the only bridge across the **river Amu Darya** on Turkmen territory for vehicles.

Let us recall that the actual cause of the damage to the bridge was ice which covered the river due to abnormal 30 degrees of frost during the first two months of this year.

[Passage omitted: the pontoon bridge was built some 20 years ago]

As specialists note, there is a need for a new bridge. This is because huge reserves of oil and gas have been discovered lately in the eastern bank of Amu Darya river. On the other hand, there is also an expected increase in cargo transportation due to the construction of a Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline that takes its start from the eastern bank of the river.

How much is the financial loss from the two-month long idleness of the pontoon bridge?

"A foreign lorry pays 150 dollars for one-way passage over the bridge," says an official from the river navigation service. "About 20 to 50 lorries a day use the bridge, and this number does not include light cars registered here in Turkmenistan."

All hard currency revenue coming from the bridge, about 100,000 dollars a month, goes to the Central Bank of Turkmenistan, and it is a significant contribution to the state reserves. At the same time, revenue in manats [national currency] which comes from local vehicle drivers goes to the account of Turkmedenizderyayollary [Turkmen state navigation company].

[Passage omitted: repetition on the significance of the bridge]

Source: chrono-tm.org website, Vienna, in Russian 20 Mar 08

Load-Date: March 21, 2008

Uzbekistan: Eximbank to open two credit lines

Esmerk Uzbekistan News

May 21, 2008 Wednesday

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Length: 81 words

Byline: Esmerk

Body

SOURCE: PRESS-UZ.info, 21 Mar 2007

ABSTRACT

Uzbekistan's National Bank of External Economic Activity (Natsbank VED) has signed a **cooperation agreement** with China's Eximbank. Under the contract, the bank will open two credit lines for the total sum of US\$ 15.93mn (EUR 11.97mn). Attracted resources will be invested into equipment purchase and installation at two small hydropower plants (MGES) - by the Andizhan **reservoir** storage (US\$ 10.03mn (EUR 7.54mn)) and by the **Akhangaran reservoir** storage (US\$ 5.9mn (EUR 4.43mn)).

Load-Date: June 17, 2008

Roundup: Central Asian countries highlight Aral Sea crisis for int'l help

Xinhua General News Service

May 27, 2008 Tuesday 9:10 PM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Science & Technology

Length: 680 words

Dateline: UNITED NATIONS May 27

Body

The UN ambassadors of five Central Asian countries on Tuesday put a spotlight on the deepening environmental crisis involving the Aral Sea, which used to be the world's fourth largest lake but has only shrunk to one-tenth of its original size.

In their respective statements delivered at a UN seminar, the permanent representatives of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, whose countries share the Aral Sea Basin, were unanimous in appealing for attention and support from the international community.

Their view on the severity of the situation was shared by officials from relevant UN agencies -- the UN Development Program (UNDP), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP) -- who also attended the Uzbekistan-sponsored meeting.

"The irrational use of water resources over the past fifty years, which begun in the Soviet era, has caused one of the biggest catastrophes of the modern history -- the drying out of one of the most beautiful natural water reservoirs on our planet -- the Aral Sea," said Uzbekistan's UN ambassador Alisher Vohidov who chaired the gathering.

According to Vohidov, the volume of the Aral Sea has shrunk almost 10 times, and water surface area has shrunk more than 4 times. Water level has dropped more than 29 meters, and coast line has stepped away for tens of kilometers.

Despite efforts made so far, "much less efforts have been made to actually rehabilitate the environment in and around the drying sea or to improve coordination of work at regional and international level," he said.

"Efforts of Central Asian states have not achieved effective international community mobilization against this growing disaster," he observed.

"As a result, a complicated set of ecological, social-economic and demographic problems have emerged in the Aral Sea region," he said. "Their origin and the subsequent severity of their consequences have assumed an international, global character."

Citing such problems as spreading diseases, lack of drinking water, desertification and biological degradation in the region, Vohidov urged help from the international community.

Roundup: Central Asian countries highlight Aral Sea crisis for int'l help

"Today it is obvious, that without serious expansion of financial and technical assistance by the international donors, it is simply impossible to rehabilitate the Aral Sea region and resolve most outstanding issues," he stressed.

Tajikistan's UN Ambassador Sirodjidin Aslov echoed his Uzbekistan colleague's view.

Although the ecological situation in the area may not be restored to its original level in the 1960s, Aslov said, efforts must be taken to prevent its further deterioration.

"This problem can be resolved in case of efficient regional cooperation and adequate financial support on behalf of the international community," Aslov said.

Kori Udovicki, head of UNDP's European branch, told the meeting that the Aral Sea situation "is probably one of the most acute ... environmental crises in the world."

Unlike tsunamis, earthquakes and cyclones, the crisis does not call for "immediate and urgent attention to itself," she said. "And yet, it does require a concerted and committed response by the entire international community."

Vohidov announced that the Central Asian states plan to introduce a draft resolution on the Aral Sea to the 63rd session of the 192-member UN General Assembly, whose term ends this September.

"Giving the importance that Central Asian states attach to this severe problem, we hope that UN member states will support this initiative," said the Uzbekistan envoy.

The one-day seminar was held as a follow-up to the international conference on March 12 in the Uzbekistan capital, Tashkent, which aimed at boosting international cooperation on tackling the Aral Sea crisis.

As a parallel event, a photo exhibition depicting the dire ecological effects of the crisis was opened Tuesday by the Uzbekistan mission at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Load-Date: May 28, 2008

ARAL SEA PROBLEMS WILL ONLY BE FIXED BY REGIONAL COOPERATION, UN STRESSES

States News Service

May 28, 2008 Wednesday

Copyright 2008 States News Service

Length: 402 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Resolving the problems caused by the drying out of the **Aral** Sea, which has shrunk drastically in size in recent decades because of the inefficient use of **water** resources and climate change, will only happen when the countries of Central Asia work together, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says.

The problems "cannot be solved through the efforts of a single country," UNDP Regional Director for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States Kori Udovicki told the Aral Sea Forum Seminar, held at UN Headquarters in New York yesterday.

She called on the countries of Central Asia, as well as international donors, regional organizations and civil society, to begin a concerted collaborative effort to produce "marked improvements in mitigating the effects of the environmental and socio-economic disaster."

In 1960 the Aral Sea was the fourth-largest inland water body in the world, but the diversion of tributary rivers for irrigation projects has slashed its size to about 10 per cent of the original. It has raised the salinity of the area's soil, reducing the amount of arable land, causing irreversible losses in flora and fauna and depriving millions in neighbouring countries of critical sources of income. The region is also heavily polluted.

Ms. Udovicki said the Tashkent Conference on the issue, held in March, ended with a declaration from experts and representatives of governments and civil society that assistance to the area must be enhanced.

She stressed that the "solution to these problems is possible only through transboundary cooperation and UNDP is firmly committed to support these efforts," adding that improving the use of water resources will be key to tackling the problems.

In a separate presentation to the seminar, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said it was working with UNDP and many regional organizations on initiatives to encourage collaboration between the countries and to map out potential strategies for dealing with the problems.

UNEP noted that many people in the region are experiencing severe health problems because of the poor quality of the drinking water.

ARAL SEA PROBLEMS WILL ONLY BE FIXED BY REGIONAL COOPERATION, UN STRESSES

The seminar was organized by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which all lie in the basin of the Aral Sea and its tributary rivers. A photo exhibition on the subject is also being staged at UN Headquarters.

Load-Date: May 29, 2008

End of Document

Anti-flood bank reinforcement work under way in Turkmen east

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
June 5, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 119 words

Body

Text of report by state-owned Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr **channel** on 5 June

In line with an order issued by the esteemed president [Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan], the unitary enterprise Amyderyakenarberkidis [**Amu Darya River** bank reinforcement], located in the town of Turkmenabat [eastern Turkmenistan], has mobilized all of its machinery and personnel for the mission of protecting **settlements** and crop plantations from the **Amu Darya river's flooding**.

At present, work is are under way on reinforcing both banks of Amu Darya as well as straightening the river bed. The newly-set up enterprise is carrying out more flood prevention work.

Source: Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr channel, Ashgabat, in Turkmen 1300 gmt 5 Jun 08

Load-Date: June 5, 2008

Old Farming Habits Leave Uzbekistan a Legacy of Salt

The New York Times

June 15, 2008 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; Foreign Desk; Pg. 6

Length: 1419 words

Byline: By SABRINA TAVERNISE; David L. Stern contributed reporting from Tajikistan.

Dateline: KHUJAYLI, Uzbekistan

Body

Salt crunches underfoot like frosty soil on this bare stretch of land in western Uzbekistan.

"Thirty years ago, this was a cotton field," said a 61-year-old farmer who has lived near this city all his life. "Now it's a salt flat."

Uzbekistan, a land-locked country that was once part of the Soviet Union, is home to one of the biggest man-made disasters in history. For decades its rivers were diverted to grow cotton on arid land, causing the Aral Sea, a large saltwater lake, to lose more than half of its surface area in 40 years.

But old habits are hard to break, and 17 years after the Soviet Union collapsed, cotton is still king and the environmental destruction continues unabated, cutting into crop yields. Uzbekistan is the world's second-largest cotton exporter after the United States, drawing a third of its foreign currency earnings from the crop, but that status seems increasingly threatened by corruption, poor planning and the degradation of cropland.

Far less money is spent now on maintaining the vast networks of water drainage and irrigation that crisscross the country than was expended under Communism. Authorities spend about \$12 per hectare on maintenance (a hectare is around two and a half acres), down from \$120 per hectare in Soviet times, according to the International Water Management Institute. Blocked drainage pipes push salt levels up, damaging the land and dragging crop yields ever lower.

A United Nations report in 2001 estimated that 46 percent of Uzbekistan's irrigated lands have been damaged by salinity, up from 38 percent in 1982 and 42 percent in 1995.

"The delivery system is dilapidated, the drainage system is failing," said one foreign expert, who asked that his name not be used because he has to work with Uzbek officials. "It is a big problem."

How that has affected cotton production is a difficult question. Cotton and its production are ensnared in politics, so national statistics on it are scarce. But a pattern of decline in the industry was evident in three regions based on local figures provided to The New York Times.

In Karakalpakstan, the region that contains what is left of the Aral Sea, the total area of land under cultivation has dropped by 14 percent since 1991, according to local statistics. In the Bukhara region in the south, land planted with

Old Farming Habits Leave Uzbekistan a Legacy of Salt

cotton has declined by 15 percent in the past eight years, and in Jizzax, a region in central Uzbekistan, 15 percent of the cultivated land has become too salty to farm.

In Manghit, a small city near Khujayli, an early sign of saltiness came in the 1980s when mushrooms that had grown along the banks of the mighty Amu Darya River began to disappear, a local farmer recalled. Soil that used to grow 4.5 tons of raw cotton, measured with seeds and stems, per hectare now produces 2.5 tons, and in some places as little as 1.3 tons, said the farmer, who asked that his name not be used because Uzbek authorities frown on people speaking to foreign journalists.

"When you see this salt, sad, dark thoughts take you," he said, explaining that the salt is what is left when water evaporates after intense irrigation. "Nothing grows on salty land. It's like standing on a graveyard."

Uzbekistan's environmental problems date from the 1950s, when Nikita S. Khrushchev ramped up industrial agriculture, diverting river flows into a vast new maze of industrial-size canals. Slowly, the land began to change.

The farmer in Khujayli recalled a car trip with his father in the winter of 1954 near the city of Muynoq that began with a crossing of miles of Aral Sea ice. Now the shore is more than 50 miles away from the city. In the 1970s, his grandfather's apricot trees died. Salt eats away at shoes here and turns bricks white. "For so many years we raped the land," said the farmer. "This is the result."

Sharing dwindling water resources is a maddening post-Soviet puzzle. Central Asia, once a single part in the Soviet machine, is now five countries with competing interests. Uzbekistan, the most populous, depends on its neighbor Kyrgyzstan for water. This year will be dry, Uzbek farmers and officials said, because Kyrgyzstan used more of its water than usual to generate electricity for heat last winter, which was unseasonably cold.

Environmental woes, however, are only part of the problem. Uzbekistan's farming industry is still largely frozen in its Soviet past. Though the industry was rearranged several years ago to break the Soviet-era collective farms into private plots, the price paid for cotton is still set by the government, as are the quotas for how much to grow. The state price is set at less than one quarter of the world market price.

As yields decline and government prices remain low, farmers say that profits are increasingly elusive, and in some areas farmers have begun to abandon their fields. One farmer in Jizzax said he had stopped farming one parcel that had grown too salty, and he drove with a reporter past abandoned fields that stretched as far as the eye could see, more than 700 acres, he said.

As in Soviet times, production plans are not closely coordinated with the realities on the ground, and in Jizzax the local authorities, whose jobs depend on fulfilling quotas, have started to force bad fields -- about a third of the cultivated land area in the region, according to local statistics -- onto state institutions such as the post office, the state pension fund and schools, three farmers there said. Those, in turn, are forced to farm the land or to pay cash to satisfy the quota.

"Jizzax is an experiment," said one of the farmers, who asked that his name not be published to avoid trouble with local officials. He provided a document for a plot of land that had been abandoned by a farmer and was now the responsibility of a local school. Farmers who did not meet quotas were fined and even taken to court, as was the case in April with 89 farmers.

"Farmers have no rights," he said. "They are just ordered around by the government."

The farmers who are fined must pay with cash, which forms the heart of a cycle of corruption that has enriched officials for generations. Those officials, envied and vulnerable to charges of corruption, change with the seasons: In Jizzax, there have been five heads of the main cotton processing factory since 2000, the farmers said.

Some farmers violate the government's rules and plant crops other than cotton, a practice that has been encouraged by foreign experts who say that crop rotation will allow the land to rest. But the government has often prohibited other crops, not wanting to suffer declines in cotton, and farmers grow other things at their own risk. This

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spring in Tajikistan, a neighboring country that also relies on cotton, farmers were growing watermelons on the sly, as though they were crops of illicit opium poppies.

"We are destroying ourselves," said the 61-year-old farmer in Khujayli. "Why are we planting cotton, and what are we getting from it? We never ask those questions."

The government is starting to acknowledge the problem, and last year it issued an order that will set up a fund for drainage improvements. The World Bank is also financing a program to improve drainage.

Some experts argue that if irrigation is managed properly, the soil in most of the country can still be productive. Wheat yields, they say, have increased sharply in the past decade, which is evidence of soil fertility. In a study of 12 farmers in the Khorezm region over four years, Kirsten Kienzler, a doctoral student at the Center for Development Research of the University of Bonn, said their cotton and wheat harvests were not declining.

She argued that farmers were still steeped in the Soviet system, in which the state did everything, and while it is true that they do not receive world prices for cotton, they are also not paying world prices for fuel, fertilizer or water, which are subsidized by the state.

Even so, the state still owns the land, and farmers said they were leery of committing to large projects while they remained renters. A farmer in the Bukhara region said that he was no longer breaking even, since fuel prices jumped in the past few years, and that he secretly hoarded cotton to sell on the black market to pay his bills.

"I am stealing from myself," he said, gesturing at a storage room piled high with illicit cotton. "Soon I'll have to sell these," he added, snapping the waistband of his sweat pants.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

PHOTOS: The diversion of rivers in Uzbekistan for irrigation has contributed to the loss by the Aral Sea, a saltwater lake, of more than half of its surface area in 40 years.

Cotton, to be used to make a mattress, is stacked in a home. The status of Uzbekistan as the world's second-largest cotton exporter is in danger because of environmental destruction.(PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE NEW YORK TIMES) MAP: A farmer said the land around Khujayli was basically a salt flat. Map details area of Khujayli.

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Cotton still king in Uzbekistan despite a legacy of salt

The International Herald Tribune

June 16, 2008 Monday

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Byline: Sabrina Tavernise - The New York Times Media Group

Dateline: KHUJAYLI, Uzbekistan

Body

David L. Stern contributed reporting from Tajikistan.

*

Salt crunches underfoot like frosty soil on this bare stretch of land in western Uzbekistan.

"Thirty years ago, this was a cotton field," said a 61-year-old farmer who has lived near this city all his life. "Now it's a salt flat."

Uzbekistan, a landlocked country that was once part of the Soviet Union, is home to one of the biggest man-made disasters in history. For decades its rivers were diverted to grow cotton on arid land, causing the Aral Sea, a large saltwater lake, to lose more than half of its surface area in 40 years.

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The farmer in Khujayli recalled a car trip with his father in the winter of 1954 near the city of Muynoq that began with a crossing of kilometers of Aral Sea ice. Now the shore is more than 80 kilometers, or 50 miles, away from the city. In the 1970s, his grandfather's apricot trees died. Salt eats away at shoes here and turns bricks white.

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As yields decline and government prices remain low, farmers say that profits are increasingly elusive, and in some areas farmers have begun to abandon their fields. One farmer in Jizzax said he had stopped farming a parcel that had grown too salty, and he drove with a reporter past abandoned fields that stretched as far as the eye could see - more than 300 hectares, he said.

As in Soviet times, production plans are not closely coordinated with the realities on the ground, and in Jizzax the local authorities, whose jobs depend on fulfilling quotas, have started to force bad fields - about a third of the cultivated land area in the region, according to local statistics - onto state institutions like the post office, the state pension fund and schools, three farmers there said. Those, in turn, are forced to farm the land or to pay cash to satisfy the quota.

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Cotton still king in Uzbekistan despite a legacy of salt

Farmers and others who cannot meet their production quotas are forced to pay cash, which forms the heart of a cycle of corruption that has enriched officials for generations. Those officials, envied and vulnerable to charges of corruption, change with the seasons: In Jizzax, there have been five heads of the main cotton processing factory since 2000, the farmers said.

Some farmers violate the government's rules and plant crops other than cotton, a practice that has been encouraged by foreign experts who say that crop rotation will allow the land to rest. But the government has often prohibited other crops, not wanting to suffer declines in cotton, and farmers grow other things at their own risk. This spring in Tajikistan, a neighboring country that also relies on cotton, farmers were growing watermelons on the sly, as though they were crops of illicit opium poppies.

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Buddhism in the Hellenistic world

Daily Mirror (Sri Lanka)

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Body

Colombo, June 21 -- The interaction between Hellenistic Greece and Buddhism started when Alexander the Great conquered Asia Minor and Central Asia in 334 BC, going as far as the Indus, thus establishing direct contact with India, the birthplace of Buddhism.

Alexander founded several cities in his new territories in the areas of the *Amu Darya River* and Bactria, and Greek *settlements* further extended to the Khyber Pass, Gandhara and the Punjab.

These regions correspond to a unique geographical passageway between the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush mountains, through which most of the interface between India and Central Asia took place, generating intense religious and cultural exchange and trade.

Interaction

Several philosophers are said to have been selected by Alexander to accompany him in his eastern campaigns. During the 18 months in India, they interacted with Indian holy men. Pyrrho returned to Greece and became the founder of the school named Pyrrhonism.

Few of his sayings are directly known, but they are clearly reminiscent of Buddhist thought: "Nothing really exists, but human life is governed by convention. Nothing is in itself more than that."

Another of these philosophers, Onesicritus, is said to have learnt in India the Buddhist precepts such as: "That the best philosophy is that which liberates the mind from both pleasure and grief."

These contacts initiated the first direct contacts between Greek culture and Indian religions, which were to continue and expand for several more centuries. After Alexander's death, Chandragupta, the founder of the Mauryan dynasty, was able to drive away the Greek garrisons from the Indus valley and in 321 B.C. he became the ruler of the Magadha kingdom from the capital at Pataliputta.

However, he kept contacts with his Greek neighbours and several Greeks, such as the historian Megasthenes and Deimakos were invited to live in the Indian court.

In 311 BC Alexander's successor, Seleukos I, led an attack against the Indians hoping to regain the Punjab but he was up against the might of Chandragupta. So, by 304 BC., Seleukos was glad to conclude a treaty with him, ceding large areas of what is now Baluchistan and Afghanistan.

Buddhism in the Hellenistic world

Ashoka

Chandragupta ruled for 24 years and his son Bindusara, about whom we know very little, ruled for 28 years until his death in 269 B.C.

Ashoka was Chandragupta's grandson. He took over the Maurya Dynasty in 273 BC. He embraced Buddhism after witnessing the mass deaths of the war of Kalinga, which he himself had waged out of a desire for conquest.

He was later dedicated in the propagation of Buddhism across Asia and established monuments marking several significant sites in the life of Gautama Buddha.

Some of the Edicts of Asoka describe the efforts made by him to propagate the Buddhist faith throughout the Hellenistic world, which at that time formed an uninterrupted continuum from the borders of India to Greece.

The Edicts indicate a clear understanding of the political organisation in Hellenistic territories: the names and location of the main Greek monarchs of the time are identified, and they are claimed as recipients of Buddhist missions: Antiochus II Theos of the Seleucid Kingdom (261-246 BCE), Ptolemy II Philadelphos of Egypt (285-247 B.C.), Antigonos Gonatas of Macedonia (276-239 BCE), Magas of Cyrene (288-258 BCE), and Alexander of Epirus (272-255 BCE).

Greek Emissaries

Greek populations, (described in ancient times throughout the Classical world as Yona, Yojanas or Yavanas) were under his rule in north-western India. Ashoka says: "Here in the king's domain among the Greeks...everywhere people are following Beloved-of-the-Gods' instructions in Dharma."

Some of the emissaries of Ashoka are described as leading Greek (Yona) Buddhist monks, active in Buddhist propagation. Far from just being recipients of Buddhism, they took active roles in spreading the Buddhist faith as emissaries of Ashoka.

Dhammaraksita, the Greek therā, was the leader of the mission to Aparantaka.

The country of Aparantaka has been identified as the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent, and comprises Northern Gujarat, Kathiawar and Sindh, the area where Greek communities were probably concentrated. To this day, a city in Gujarat is named Junagadh, originally "Yonagadh", ("City of the Greeks").

Dharmarashita therā preached the Aggikkhandopama Sutra, and 37,000 men and women entered the Order. The therā Mahyantika was sent to Kashmir and Gandhara, also areas with strong Hellenic presence.

Although he is not identified as Greek, his name probably means Maha (great) + Antika (Antiochos), a common Greek first name.

The therā Maharakkhita (Maharaksita in Sanskrit) is said to have been sent to the country of the Greeks. He would probably have been Greek as well due to the nature of his mission.

It is not clear how much these interactions may have been influential, but some authors have commented that some level of syncretism between Hellenist thought and Buddhism may have started in Hellenic lands at that time.

They have pointed to the presence of Buddhist communities in the Hellenistic world around that period, in particular in Alexandria and to the pre-Christian monastic order of the Therapeutae (possibly a deformation of the Pali word "Theravada", who may have "almost entirely drawn its inspiration from the teaching and practices of Buddhism)."

In the second century CE, the Christian dogmatist Clement of Alexandria recognised the existence of Buddhist monks among the Bactrians, and even their influence on Greek thought.

Eventually, 50 years after the Asoka's reign the Greco-Bactrian's, who maintained a strong Hellenistic culture, expanded into India, where they established the Indo-Greek kingdom in 180 BC, under which Buddhism was able to

Buddhism in the Hellenistic world

flourish and it has been suggested that their invasion of India was intended to protect the Buddhist faith from the religious persecutions of a new Indian dynasty.

Milinda

Menander I (known as Milinda) was one of the rulers of the Indo-Greek Kingdom in northern India and present-day Pakistan from either 165 or 155 BC to 130 BC.

According to the historical records, during his reign, a Greek Buddhist head monk named Mahadharmaraksita led 30,000 Buddhist monks from "the Greek city of Alexandria" (possibly Alexandria of the Caucasus, 150km north of modern day Kabul in Afghanistan), to Sri Lanka for the dedication of the Maha Thupa built by king Dutugamunu at Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka around 130 BC.

This indicates that Buddhism flourished in Menander's territory and that Greeks took a very active part in it.

Greco-Buddhism influenced the artistic (and, possibly, conceptual) development of Buddhism before it was adopted by Central and North-eastern Asia from the 1st century CE, ultimately spreading to China, Korea and Japan.

Probably not feeling bound by any restrictions, and because of their cults of form, the Greeks were the first to attempt a sculptural representation of the Buddha.

In India as well, it was only natural for the Greeks to create a single common divinity by combining the image of a Greek God-King with the traditional attributes of the Buddha.

Many of the stylistic elements in the representations of the Buddha point to Greek influence: the Greco-Roman toga-like wavy robe covering both shoulder, the asymmetric pose of the upright figures.

The interaction of Greek and Buddhist cultures operated over several centuries until it ended in the fifth century AD with the invasions of the White Huns, and later the expansion of Islam.

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**DataCore Software Sees Total Enterprise Virtualization Take Off in Europe;
Third DataCore Partner Conference in Central Europe is marked by vibrant
and optimistic channel partners**

PR Newswire

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Body

MUNICH, Germany, July 2 /PRNewswire/ -- DataCore Software, the leading software provider of storage virtualization software, today announced that it gathered more than 70 distributor and reseller partners at its third Central European partner conference held in Hagen, Germany. Over twice as many partners as the previous year attended the event to hear DataCore Software outline its plans for growth, to discover mutual opportunities and to witness firsthand the roadmaps the company has developed for its SANsymphony(TM), SANmelody(TM) and SANharmony(TM) storage management and virtualization platforms. Attending **channel** partners reported on further growth and margin opportunity in the market, fuelled by market **demand** and the uptake of customer interest in total enterprise virtualization (TEV) solutions -- spanning desktops, to servers and to storage.

DataCore CTO Ziya **Aral** underscores the professionalism and technical competence of the resellers in attendance as follows, "The sheer professionalism and technical competence of the group was remarkably impressive. It is just terrific and DataCore's customers above all are fortunate to have resellers this technically competent and professionally enthusiastic."

At the conference, Aral and the technical team provided valuable insights into DataCore technology and product development roadmap for the company's virtualization platforms. Highlights included announcements on 64-bit versions of SANsymphony and SANmelody, and SANharmony was showcased as a new, key channel initiative. SANharmony represents the next generation of storage virtualization that harmonizes existing Microsoft NAS file serving capabilities, new storage services and new virtual server applications with DataCore SANmelody and SANsymphony software within a simple-to-use management environment. SANharmony extends DataCore's Virtualization 2.0 program by enabling a new class of storage applications to be easily integrated within the virtualization layer -- enabling DataCore services and I/O performance acceleration to be applied to both SAN and NAS storage in the network, thus allowing Microsoft NAS file serving to benefit from DataCore's SAN performance acceleration and advanced storage capabilities such as thin provisioning and continuous data protection (CDP).

"The great interest shown before and during the event has confirmed our strong belief that DataCore and its partners are on the right virtualization road," states Iris Hatzenbichler, Marketing & Operations Manager EMEA, DataCore software. "With our storage software platforms we are offering a true value path for our partners and customers. The market for storage virtualization is in a buoyant, optimistic mood."

Total Enterprise Virtualization: multi-level virtualization is the key

DataCore Software Sees Total Enterprise Virtualization Take Off in Europe Third DataCore Partner Conference in Central Europe is marked by vibrant and optimistic....

At the conference, DataCore's distribution partners stated that the storage virtualization market was gathering momentum on the back of desktop and server virtualization from Citrix, Microsoft, VMware and others. Rainer Bretzel from DataCore distributor Magirus confirms, "It functions according to the whirlwind principle. Server and storage virtualization simply belong together and our resellers are realizing this."

Distributor Azlan also expects that the virtualization of desktops and applications will be combined with that of servers and storage. In addition to various hardware platforms, the Azlan Technology Centre in Munich also provides its business partners and potential end users with virtualization solutions combining Citrix, VMware and DataCore for test and demonstration purposes. Paul H. Mathes, Business Development Manager at Azlan, says, "The market is still evolving and maturing, with room for further growth, and what we see is that each partner approaches the end user customer in a different way. Partners profit from events like the DataCore partner day, as they can learn from one another and use these platforms for a lively information exchange."

ADN is one of the newest value-add distribution partners to recently sign with DataCore. ADN has a strong Citrix background and has only recently signed a distributor agreement with DataCore. The distributor integrates DataCore solutions into other virtualization solutions in its own computer center at its head-office in Bochum, Germany, which has become an official DataCore Training Center. "DataCore perfectly supplements our product range," explains Udo Schillings, Marketing Manager, ADN. "Our resellers and system vendors benefit very much from that expansion and now can select the appropriate individual or all-in-one solution for small and medium-sized customers, as well as for large-scale enterprises, in accordance with their needs."

Growing acceptance in SMB market

Growing acceptance of virtualization concepts is now prevalent in the SMB market. Manuela Greinwald, Product Manager Virtualization at DNS, sees "clear growth, particularly in the small and medium-sized sector" and links the options open to the resellers to the quality of their services. "In the storage virtualization market, the partner still has to act as an educator and drive the market in addition to the activities undertaken by DataCore, because not all customers have realized and understood the benefits offered by storage virtualization," she commented. "There are still some good profit margins out there for our partners! We offer our resellers consulting and many other services to enable them to profit more quickly from this business." DNS, which has just successfully held the first virtual fair ("virtuelle Messe") on this subject, offers its partners a Demo Center with various types of hardware and virtualization platforms, such as VMware, Citrix and DataCore.

Service for partners

The virtualization market continues to evolve and diversify. DataCore's Partner Conference introduced and explored alternative options for market entry. At the event, Stortrec introduced itself as DataCore's first European-wide service provider for the channel. Through Stortrec, VARs can commission the company to cover staff shortages or to assure project quality with the end customer. This service was particularly interesting to partners who were entering the market for the first time and were not yet fully accredited and certified. "Our experiences with DataCore show that the demand for our expertise not only comes from large data centres, but also from small and medium-sized companies", says Thomas Horig-Braun of Stortrec. "It is just important that the service remains entirely within the dealer's domain."

DataCore distributors, resellers and integrators obviously are now actively positioning themselves with diversified virtualization offerings that rely on the concept of total enterprise virtualization (TEV). At the DataCore partner conference, almost everyone agreed that the best of virtualization business is still to come. "Partners who recognize this potential will not have a problem with profit margins either," states Mathes.

Additional partner comments and testimonials

"My expectations have been fully and completely met at the DataCore partner conference. I was very pleased to understand DataCore's outlook on the technology and vision for the future; also notable was that the engineering

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team was on site and that one could exchange information directly with them. I shall definitely be here again next time." Uwe Frerichs, Senior Consultant at SCC - Specialist Computer Centres

"At the DataCore partner conference, valuable future prospects of technology were presented and we have learned about the directions in which storage virtualization is developing. I found the partner event very useful, as it provided me with a good overview of technological trends, not just in the field of storage." Robin Jager of stepIT.net

"In the critical project business, we have found DataCore to be a vendor who organizes its support in an intelligent and competent manner. You can still get to know the people and faces and you can always make things happen in a personal discussion. We appreciate this very much and are also taking advantage of it at the DataCore Partner Conference." Uwe Kramer, Executive Director of Kramer & Crew

"We are only at the beginning. There is still a lot to be achieved in the interaction with desktop and server virtualization. Virtualization is, of course, also being pushed by current trends about energy and hardware costs, as well as by the Green IT trend. The DataCore partner event was very useful and informative. What is important to us is the direct contact, with their engineering and support organizations. We were able to clarify some things, obtain first-hand information about product developments and enter into discussions with other resellers. From my point of view, this event was definitely worth it." Dirk Neumann, Member of the Board of ASSISTRA AG

For a free 30-day test drive of DataCore's affordable line of feature-packed SAN virtualization solutions, please visit: <http://www.datacore.com/trialsoftware> .

About DataCore Software

DataCore Software, the leading provider of storage virtualization SAN software, fundamentally changes the economics of managing storage with innovative software that combines advanced functions and services with the agility and savings of hardware independence. DataCore lowers the cost and complexity of IT by making storage efficient, fast, flexible, fail-safe and virtual. DataCore's portable storage server software simplifies and automates capacity expansion and centralizes storage management for Windows, UNIX, Linux, MacOS, NetWare, VMware and other leading open system and virtual server platforms. DataCore is privately held and its corporate headquarters are in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. For more information, call (877) 780-5111 or visit <http://www.datacore.com/> .

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Load-Date: July 3, 2008

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***Uzbekistan destroys facilities before island transfer to Turkmenistan -
website***

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
July 3, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 175 words

Body

Excerpt from report by Turkmen opposition website chrono-tm.org on 3 July

A 17-year old **dispute** between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan over the ownership of an island in the middle reaches of the trans-border **Amu Darya river** has been **settled** at last. The island, located in the **Amu Darya river**, running between Turkmenistan's Lebap Region and [western] Uzbekistan, was handed over to Turkmenistan this spring.

Uzbek border guards, who managed to get a foothold there in the past years, now, prior to giving the island to Turkmenistan, have blown up everything what has been built there for the border service - barracks, canteen, training ground, communication lines and vehicle bridge linking the island with the eastern river bank, that is with Uzbekistan.

Everything has been destroyed beyond restoration and therefore, the Turkmen border guards now have to rebuild apartments and put the territory in right order.

[Passage omitted: power and communication lines and a river bridge being built there]

Source: chrono-tm.org website, Vienna, in Russian 3 Jul 08

Load-Date: July 3, 2008

Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan agree on free access to water of river

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
July 8, 2008 Tuesday

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Length: 163 words

Body

Text of report by state-owned Kazakh news agency Kazinform

Tashkent, 8 July: We have reached an **agreement** with Uzbekistan on free access to **water** of the **River Syr Darya**, Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Umurzak Shukeyev said in Tashkent today, the Kazinform news agency reports.

"We reached agreements with the Kyrgyz government last week on purchasing electricity amounting to 500m kW [as published]. In return for this, Kyrgyzstan is to discharge approximately 600m cu.m. of water from the Toktogul [reservoir]," Shukeyev said.

These volumes of water should flow through Uzbekistan into Kazakhstan without a loss. "In this regard, we have reached an agreement in principle: on how much water to be received from Toktogul, and how much to flow into Kazakhstan along Syr Darya," the Kazakh deputy prime minister said.

We recall that a meeting between Shukeyev and Uzbek First Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov was held in Tashkent.

Source: Kazinform, Astana, in Russian 1216 gmt 8 Jul 08

Load-Date: July 8, 2008

Kyrgyz way of river water use should not harm neighbours - Uzbek paper

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
July 31, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 668 words

Body

Excerpt from report by founded by Uzbekistan's Cabinet of Ministers, Uzbek newspaper Pravda Vostoka on 26 July

All water resources of the Central Asian rivers are distributed within "the plan on use of water resources in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers' basins ", which is agreed by all countries of the region.

As a country with a huge population, Uzbekistan consumes over 50 per cent of all water resources of the Central Asian rivers. At the same time, over 85 per cent of the country's water resources originate outside it, and the main reservoirs, which are regulating flow of water to the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers, as well as to Uzbekistan's various water facilities, are located in neighbouring countries.

Taking into account that the Naryn-Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers have a status of trans-border ones, all countries in their basins must fulfil generally accepted requirements regarding trans-border rivers and should observe the international and historical right of each [country] to the amount of water they are entitled to.

However, currently the countries of the region have various approaches to resolve water as well as fuel and energy issues.

For instance, Kyrgyzstan unilaterally changed the system of work of the Toktogul reservoir from [a reservoir for] irrigation purposes to [a reservoir for] energy purposes.

It caused severe water-related and ecological problems in the basin of the Syr Darya river, particularly in its middle and lower reaches, where annually a shortage of irrigation water is experienced in the summer period, and on the contrary, in the winter period, the flooding of irrigated land and agricultural fields takes place.

[Passage omitted: background information]

Referring to the [last] severe winter, electrical engineers of the Toktogul [hydroelectric power station] used 2bn cu.m. of water more than it was stipulated by the agreed water discharge schedule in the non-irrigation seasons in 2007-2008.

Having decreased the reserves of water in the reservoir to a very low level, they thus put themselves, as well as the downstream countries, on the verge of water shortage.

This was the main cause of the crisis situation that unfolded in the reservoir.

Uzbekistan thinks that Kyrgyzstan should not make up for the amount of water used by reducing water discharge [to neighbouring countries] in the [agricultural] irrigation season.

Kyrgyz way of river water use should not harm neighbours - Uzbek paper

Moreover, the international law on water resources does not have such clause, according to which Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan can use only 50 per cent of the Naryn-Syr Darya water.

[Passage omitted: background information on the Toktogul reservoir]

As for the generation of electricity in Kyrgyzstan, it can be increased, but not to the detriment of other users of water, who use it as a source of life. According to the international law, if unilateral use of water causes damage to other users of water, then this damage should be compensated for.

All nations living in the valleys of the Central Asian rivers have been using water of these rivers at all times. In the international practice there is no case of deliberately keeping water resources in artificial reservoirs for their further sale as a good.

The Kyrgyz side is regulating the flow of water in its own interests, rather than in the interests of the downstream countries. Kyrgyzstan practically continues to insist on its monopolistic right to water resources of the Naryn-Syr Darya basin, which cannot be recognized as justified.

Using the capacity of the Toktogul hydro-energy complex, Kyrgyzstan is trying to resolve its domestic problems at the expense of the Uzbek and Kazakh water users.

[Passage omitted: a project concerning the Toktogul reservoir]

Each country has the same right to use water of trans-border rivers. At the same time, a decrease in the water flow to the downstream countries should not be allowed and ecological security of the region, which is already vulnerable, should not be damaged.

Source: Pravda Vostoka, Tashkent, in Russian 26 Jul 08, pp 1, 2

Load-Date: July 31, 2008

Kyrgyz PM hopes to sign water accord with neighbours in 2009

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
August 17, 2008 Sunday

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Length: 340 words

Body

Kyrgyz Prime Minister Igor Chudinov says that a quadripartite agreement on using the water of the River Naryn may be signed between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in March-April 2009. In an interview with the privately owned Vecherniy Bishkek daily, which was published on 8 August, Chudinov agreed with Uzbek claims that the water of the River Naryn was common to all the downstream countries, including Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, but asked them to pay the maintenance costs of hydraulic facilities in Kyrgyzstan.

"Uzbeks say: 'The River Naryn is common and therefore downstream countries have the right to half of its water flows'. We do not deny this. We are discharging about 14bn cu m of water from average annual water flows of 19bn cu m. Neighbours, however, need 7bn in summer. Therefore, they are asking to adjust the water flows to their demands. We are telling them: 'Let water be yours, but services on regulating [water flows] are ours. If you want us to regulate this process, pay for this service or we will inflict damage on ourselves. Yet we will get less electricity in Kyrgyzstan. We will have to increase the workload for the Bishkek heat and power plant to avoid a shortage of electricity,'" Igor Chudinov said.

In answer to a question about the possibility of a quadripartite agreement being signed between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Chudinov said that it would not be signed this year.

"Is there a hope to sign a quadripartite agreement?" a Vecherniy Bishkek correspondent asked the Kyrgyz prime minister.

"Not this year. We have to wait until March-April 2009," Chudinov said.

In June 2008, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reached a quadripartite agreement on jointly using water and energy resources of the River Naryn and the River Syr Darya, but it failed to become valid after Uzbekistan refused to sign a protocol to the agreement.

Sources: Vecherniy Bishkek, Bishkek, in Russian 8 Aug 08; AKIpress news agency website, Bishkek, in Russian 1157 gmt 10 Jun 08

Load-Date: August 17, 2008

Campaign Starts to Save the Aral Sea

Korea Times

August 31, 2008 Sunday

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Length: 1034 words

Body

In this regard, on March 11-12, 2008, the government of Uzbekistan hosted an international conference, "Problems of *Aral*: Impact on the Gene Pool of Population, Flora, Fauna and International *Cooperation* for Mitigating Consequences."

The key objective of the conference was to formulate a comprehensive vision and a set of measures to resolve current socio-economic and environmental problems in the region.

The conference agenda focused on the impact of climate change on the living standards in the region, biodiversity, *water* and land management as well as opportunities for overcoming present challenges and fostering sustainable socio-economic development in the *Aral* Sea region.

Importance of this problem without exaggeration is not limited only to water security issues within one particular region.

Participants the world over have discussed issues related to implications of the Aral Sea crisis and the development of measures, which would allow the world community to assist people in central Asian countries who are living immediately in the crisis area, to prevent the worsening of living conditions and the maintaining of fragile environmental balance of unique flora and fauna of the region.

The problem of the Aral Sea is rooted in ancient times.

During the last 60 years, it has developed into a wider-scale crisis, involving intensive agricultural development of new land and irrigation coupled with construction of irrigation systems throughout Central Asia.

Continuing demand for water for household and commercial use caused one of the major environmental global scale crises in modern history - drying out of the once one of the most beautiful natural water reservoirs on our planet.

Over the last 50 years, the area of water of the Aral Sea has shrunk more than four times in size and the volume of water has decreased 10 times while the salinity increased accordingly.

The Aral Sea area is seeing a relentless invasion of desert.

Not only regions surrounding the drying out sea - Kyzyl Orda region of Kazakhstan, Dashkhovuz region of Turkmenistan and Republic of Karakalpakstan, also Khorezm, Navoi, Bukhara regions of Uzbekistan are in the zone of continuous environmental risk.

Campaign Starts to Save the Aral Sea

Shortage of water resources, including declining access to quality potable water, land degradation, drastic reduction of biodiversity, climatic changes as a result of increase in haziness of atmosphere, and reduction of glaciers in Pamir and Tuan-Shan, is just further evidence of the perishing Aral.

It is obvious that the Aral region has a complex set of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems of international and global character in terms of origin and implications.

The U.N. Central Asia Human Development Report of 2005 stated that attrition (exhaustion) of the Aral Sea has had both regional and global impact.

The issue of reasonable use of water resources of transboundary rivers of the region is becoming increasingly important. These rivers at all times ensured vitally important needs of the states located in their basins.

At present, these are of vital interests to the more than 50 million people living in six countries of the region, which calls for a comprehensive and well-considered approach, and decisions about the use of water resources, primarily runoff of transboundary rivers for the sake and in the interests of all countries and peoples living in the region, need to be made.

Failing this the water supply in lower Amudarya and Sirdarya will be further aggravated, accelerating the ecological catastrophe of the shrinking Aral Sea, calling into question sustainable development and even the habitation of countless nationals of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In accordance with key documents of international law, including Convention of the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) and on the Law of the Non-Navigable Uses of International Watercourses (1997), it is stipulated that all countries with waterways "use within the limits of their territories the international runoff in a fair and reasonable manner."

These documents also provide for obligation of international runoff states to undertake "any appropriate measures for prevention of considerable harm to other runoff states" in using it on their territories and in case of such harm, undertake adequate measures "for liquidation or minimization of such harm, and if necessary, discuss compensation issues."

International law as regards use of water resources of transboundary waters also provides for the general obligation of the countries of the region to cooperate "in order to achieve optimal use and proper protection of international runoff."

A summit of heads of Central Asian states in March 1993 marks an important start to such cooperation.

At this meeting in Kyzyl-Orda city, Agreement on Mutual Actions on Resolution of the Aral Sea Crisis was signed.

Since then, countries of the region joined with international organizations have made considerable efforts toward overcoming environmental and socio-economic crisis in the Aral Sea basin and improving the situation in the region.

Undoubtedly, such global socio-ecological problems, including those within the framework of attaining Millennium Development Goals should be addressed through the formula "toward globalism via regionalism," by creating efficient regional mechanisms.

Under U.N. General Assembly, the years 2005-2015 are declared as International Decade of "Water for Life."

It is symbolic that the Tashkent International Conference was held not only 15 years after signing the first Agreement on Joint Activities of Central Asian Countries in Resolving the Aral Sea crisis, but also shortly before March 22, International Day of Water Resources and in International Year of the Planet Earth, proclaimed by the United Nations.

Campaign Starts to Save the Aral Sea

The outcomes of this conference would enable formulation of new vision and an understanding of the Aral crisis by international community and develop specific measures for improvement of the situation.

And these would become a foundation for further fruitful cooperation with the aim of protecting the gene pool of the population, flora and fauna of the Central Asia.

Load-Date: September 2, 2008

End of Document

Kyrgyz paper denies Uzbek claims on violation of water accord

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

September 9, 2008 Tuesday

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Length: 861 words

Body

A paper denies claims by Uzbek deputy agriculture minister that Kyrgyzstan is using water to produce electricity in violation of an agreement on the use of water in the basins of Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers. It also urges the Central Asian states to resolve the issue of water and energy carriers jointly. The following is an excerpt from an article by Sergey Shvets entitled: "International law and legal vacuum", published by the Kyrgyz newspaper Vecherniy Bishkek on 1 August:

A response by the press office of the Kyrgyz open joint-stock company Elektricheskiye Stantsii to an article by Uzbek Deputy Agriculture [and Water Resources] Minister Shavkat Hamroyev.

Central Asia is a region with a sharp continental climate and is facing a shortage of water not for the first time.

[Passage omitted: this year's drought created problems in all Central Asian states]

It is difficult to resist temptation to shift responsibility for natural disasters and disorder inside the country on a so-called "foreign enemy". Publications of recent days indicate that just our country has now become a more convenient target for Uzbekistan in this context. The article by the Uzbek deputy agriculture and water resources minister, Shavkat Hamroyev, entitled "On the problem of interstate cooperation in the basin of the Naryn and Syr Darya rivers" published by the Pravda Vostoka newspaper on 26 July this year and a detailed interview by a deputy director of the scientific informational centre ICWC [Interstate Commission for Water Coordination], Sokolov, published by the news agency Fergana.ru on 13 July are evidence of this.

Democratic Kyrgyzstan is always open for criticism. However, some passages of the aforementioned articles, to put it mildly, puzzles you. For example, Kyrgyzstan is accused clearly of violating "a scheme agreed by all the states on the comprehensive use of water resources of the basins of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers. The reproach is a serious one, if we do not take into account the fact that those schemes were approved back in the 1980s, that is to say during the Soviet times, when all water and other natural resources used to be common national property. Currently, sovereign Kyrgyzstan has to buy energy carriers from neighbouring states at world [market] prices and as a result it has been forced to change the regime of water discharge from the Naryn hydroelectric power station's water reservoirs in order to ensure its own energy security at a minimal level. It has to be said that this is a necessary measure, because the country this year had for the first time to impose serious limitation of electricity supplies to consumers even in summer.

[Passage omitted: during the Soviet times the power station received gas from Uzbekistan and coal from Kazakhstan in exchange for water; Kyrgyzstan is using water to generate electricity in order to ensure its own energy security]

Kyrgyz paper denies Uzbek claims on violation of water accord

Kyrgyzstan is currently using about one per cent of the Naryn river's water flow formed in its territory. The rest of the water goes to the neighbouring states.

Our country discharges over 80 per cent of water, and not 50 per cent as was mentioned in Shavkat Hamroyev's article. At the same time, the neighbouring states have the potential to build hydro technical facilities on their own territories and regulate the water flow independently. If they seek services of other states in this, then they must pay for the provided services. However, Uzbek experts, including Hamroyev and Sokolov, say that Kyrgyzstan should provide this sort of services without charges, which runs counter to the international law.

Issues relating to the regulation of water discharge (that is to say when and what amount of water should be discharged) must be resolved jointly by taking into account mutual interests. It has to be said that Kyrgyzstan's hydroenergy facilities do not consume water, they use them keeping the amount of discharge at the previous level. That is why it is not correct to link the operation of Kyrgyz hydroelectric power stations with the drying up of the Aral Sea.

[Passage omitted: the Aral Sea is drying up because of the irrational use of water in agriculture; an agreement signed in 1998 has lost its power; no new agreement on water usage has been signed]

Repeated attempts were made to revive the agreement reached earlier. For example, the meetings of working groups from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were held in Bishkek on 30 April and 10 June at the initiative of Bishkek. However, no compromise was reached. At the same time, our country did not propose anything new - it proposed the traditional tested scheme for the use of water, electricity and gas, which had been used from 1995 up to 2003. The working group from Uzbekistan led directly by Shavkat Hamroyev, refused to sign it, without proposing anything for exchange.

Thus, it was just Mr Hamroyev, the author of critical remarks addressed to Kyrgyzstan, can be in the first instance rebuked as one of the initiators of the current legal vacuum.

Could not be this behind the aforementioned publications?

Source: Vecherniy Bishkek, Bishkek, in Russian 1 Aug 08 p 7

Load-Date: September 9, 2008

Central Asian states fail to agree on river water use

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

September 11, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 374 words

Body

Text of report by Russian state news agency ITAR-TASS

Almaty, 11 September: The Syr Darya basin countries have failed to agree on the most topical issue - rational use of river water. The heads of water and energy facilities in the Central Asian states admitted that they practically reached deadlock in Astana yesterday evening. They were expecting to reach a unanimous decision and conclude multilateral agreements for the nearest five years. They were also planning to prepare for the winter and spring-summer irrigation periods, but were hindered by the following "political" question: Should or should not the River Syr Darya be recognized as a transborder river?

Uzbekistan has principally been advocating for such status for a long time. Kyrgyzstan is categorically against it. The point at issue is that the transborder river status stipulates that the countries of the region become members of various international conventions. In particular, this stipulates that countries situated at the upper reaches of the river have to coordinate plans on building any kinds of hydroelectric power facilities with all users of the water. Moreover, the transborder status stipulates that everybody uses water free of charge.

Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Umirzak Shukeyev said that this issue is "not a matter of principle and was over-politicized". However, the sides "decided to take a time out for a week and try to eliminate this paragraph".

"We will have another meeting in Almaty on 17-18 September," Shukeyev told journalists.

Cyclicity is a characteristic feature of Syr Darya and its flow: for 4-5 years there is high water and then water shortage follows in the next 4-5 years. Now it is a period of shortage of water. As a result, the Kyrgyz Toktogul reservoir has accumulated only 9 cu. km. of water instead of 19.5. If neighbours of Kyrgyzstan fail to agree on providing its thermal power stations and boiler houses with fuel during the winter and fail to supply electricity in exchange for water, than the reservoir will already get empty in February. In this case, Kazakh and Uzbek cotton and rice growers will be left without irrigation water in spring and summer.

Source: ITAR-TASS news agency, Moscow, in Russian 0458 gmt 11 Sep 08

Load-Date: September 11, 2008

Uzbek foreign minister voices concern over use of trans-border rivers

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
October 2, 2008 Thursday

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Length: 366 words

Body

Text of report by Uzbek privately-owned newspaper Biznes-Vestnik Vostoka on 2 October

Uzbek Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov has made a speech at a round table meeting dedicated to the UN millennium development goals at the UN headquarters in New York. The minister spoke about Uzbekistan's achievements in ***fighting*** poverty, improving the population's health and educational level. He stressed Uzbekistan's efforts to protect the environment and, in particular softening the consequences of the disaster in the ***Aral*** Sea basin.

"About 10-15m dollars are allocated from the state budget every year for the zone of the environmental disaster, in particular for the health care, education and social protection of the Aral Sea region's population," the foreign minister said. He added that efforts by governments of the region's countries and of the international community over the last 15 years have produced specific positive results, which softened the consequences of the Aral Sea crisis.

At the same time, the minister expressed great concern over "plans and persistent ambitions of a number of the region's countries to artificially reduce the volume of the water flow in the Syr Darya and Amu Darya trans-border rivers and restrict the schedules for releasing water of the rivers". Vladimir Norov also recalled requirements of international law regarding the issue. When building and commissioning new hydro-power facilities, neutral, authoritative international audit organizations should be involved to assess adherence to environmental requirements, he added.

"Ignoring these principles can lead to unpredictable environmental, economic, social and political consequences in the region," the Uzbek foreign minister warned. He also said that work on increasing hydro-power capacities on the trans-border rivers will, in the medium-term, negatively affect the system of water use, the situation in the agro-industrial complex and environmental balance in the region, primarily in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

We should recall that ensuring environmental stability is the seventh of the eight millennium development goals.

Source: Biznes-Vestnik Vostoka, Tashkent, in Russian 2 Oct 08, p 2

Load-Date: October 2, 2008

Analysis: Central Asian energy in 2008

UPI Energy

December 31, 2008 Wednesday 7:17 PM EST

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Length: 1383 words

Byline: JOHN C.K. DALY

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Dec. 31

Body

The noted Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes once wrote, "Poor Mexico, so far from God, so close to the United States." Substitute "Central Asia" for "Mexico" and "Russia" for the "United States," and one begins to have an idea of the energy exports problems facing Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. For the three easternmost former Soviet "Stan" republics, 2008 has been a year of stress and possibility. Given their geographic isolation, despite their independence, all three nations have been **forced** to acknowledge the reality of Russia's ongoing regional influence, despite the collapse of communism in 1991. Russia's state-owned monopoly Gazprom remains the largest player in the region's energy market, as foreign investors largely remain fixated farther west on the immense Caspian hydrocarbon reserves of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Further complicating the energy picture for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are their tangled interstate relationships, dominated by one single issue -- **water**. Hydrocarbon-poor but rich in aquatic resources, both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan recently have tried to use their dominant position controlling the headwaters of Central Asia's largest **rivers**, the **Amu Darya** and **Syr Darya**, to both generate **hydroelectric** power and **negotiate** favorable energy import arrangements with their western downstream neighbors Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, all of whom need the **water** for their immense **irrigation** networks.

Bedeviled by energy shortages during the autumn and winter months, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan increasingly have taken to releasing water from their reservoirs through their hydroelectric cascades to generate power, playing havoc with the growing seasons of their downstream western neighbors, whose need for water peaks during the spring and summer planting and growing season. Attempts by Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to get their neighbors to agree to pay for water or enter into barter arrangements for fuel and power imports have been unavailing up to now, leaving both countries facing the prospect of blackouts and economic hardships in the upcoming months.

Further complicating the picture, while Russia remains the dominant regional player, a few hardy Western firms have been making tentative steps to enter the three countries' internal markets, and to the east, China is waiting in the wings as well. At a time of global recession, the only certainty for the three nations' attempts to lessen Russian influence and achieve energy independence is that the current situation is negatively impacted by the world's economic slowdown, and the future is uncertain at best. For many in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the question is not

Analysis: Central Asian energy in 2008

so much when the global economy will recover as simply surviving a winter of increased energy prices and blackouts.

With a population of 27 million, Uzbekistan is Central Asia's most populous and dominant power. A conservative fiscal policy since 1991, including inconvertibility of the national currency, the som, has shielded its citizens from the hyperinflation that ravaged other former Soviet republics, but the policies have also diminished potential foreign investment.

Like neighboring Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan's current oil production is modest, at about 100,000 barrels per day. Uzbekistan's natural gas reserves are another matter, however. With reserves estimated earlier this year at 1.84 trillion cubic meters, with sufficient investment Tashkent has the possibility of becoming a significant player in the regional energy market. Uzbekistan currently produces 60 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas annually, an amount nearly equal to Turkmenistan's production.

Unlike Turkmenistan, however, nearly 80 percent of Uzbekistan's production, about 48.4 bcm, is currently reserved for domestic use at heavily subsidized rates. Of the 12 billion bcm Uzbekistan exports, more than half currently goes to Russia, with the remainder to neighboring Central Asian states. Like other former Soviet republics, the Uzbek government chafed under Gazprom's "buy cheap, sell dear" policies and earlier this month scored a significant negotiating success with Gazprom by getting an agreement that in 2009 Gazprom will pay \$305 per thousand cubic meters (tcm). To put the accomplishment in perspective, Uzbekneftegaz sold gas to Gazprom for \$130 per tcm in the first half of 2008, which then rose to \$160 in the second half of 2008.

Uzbekistan also has been successful in attracting foreign investment to develop its energy industry, most notably with Malaysia's Petronas, since 2006. Last month Uzbek President Islam Karimov announced that Petronas and its Uzbek joint venture partner NHC Uzbekneftegaz were investing not only \$750 million in projects but an additional \$2 billion to implement a large petrochemical project to produce synthetic liquid fuel in Uzbekistan.

Flush from its success with Gazprom, Uzbekistan in turn recently negotiated with both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to raise its natural gas prices. Last January Uzbekistan raised the price of its gas exports to both countries from \$100 to \$145 per tcm. Kyrgyzstan, which currently produces about 30 million cubic meters (mcm) a year, about 4 percent of its annual consumption, had little choice but to agree, as did Tajikistan.

Tajikistan subsequently ran up a \$7 million debt, and on Dec. 29 Tashkent reduced gas supplies to Tajikistan by 45 percent, from 40 tcm of gas per hour to around 22 tcm. Uztransgaz is seeking a new price of \$300 per tcm from Tajikgaz for gas supplies to Tajikistan in 2009, a price that Tajikgaz head Fatkhiddin Mukhsiddinov hopes is negotiable. As Uzbekistan is the sole exporter of gas to Tajikistan, Dushanbe's room to maneuver is limited. Whatever the eventual outcome of the negotiations, passing along the price increases to consumers, Tajikistan will increase electricity charges by 25 percent beginning Jan. 1.

Kyrgyzstan was marginally more fortunate in its discussions with Tashkent, which originally wanted \$300 per tcm. In three separate rounds of negotiations, Bishkek managed to get the price lowered to \$250 per tcm. Putting a brave face on things, on Dec. 30 Kyrgyz Minister of Industry, Energy and Fuel Resources Ilias Davydov told journalists, before returning to Tashkent for further discussions: "The agreement was reached during the official gas talks in Tashkent. The price is quite acceptable, when Uzbekistan sells gas to Russia at \$326 per tcm."

In truth, the Kyrgyz natural gas industry is bankrupt, and in October the government announced it was studying selling Gazprom about 75 percent of the country's state-owned natural-gas company Kyrgyzgaz. Stating the obvious, in a Dec. 28 interview with the Russian media, Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev said, "Russia was always, is and will be the most important strategic partner of Kyrgyzstan."

Both countries have high hopes that foreign investors will increase their hydrocarbon production, eventually making them self-sufficient. David Robson, boss of Tethys Tajikistan Petroleum Ltd., a subsidiary of Cayman Islands-registered Tethys Ltd., has stated that Tajikistan has all opportunities to fully meet its demands in natural gas within two to three years. Bishkek has similar hopes, as well, for output from its foreign joint ventures, but its immediate

Analysis: Central Asian energy in 2008

concern is how its citizens will survive the cold, and to that end, in the short term their hydroelectric cascades will be running regardless of their downstream neighbors' concerns.

Last winter was the coldest in the region in 40 years, and both Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have already imposed massive power blackouts in a frantic effort to conserve energy and reduce costs.

As the "Stans" gradually shed their communist past and integrate into the global economy, their drive for prosperity and energy independence does not lessen their Soviet legacy of interdependence. Central Asian leaders should heed the chaos enveloping Wall Street, where a relentless drive for maximum short-term profits has led to a global recession. Instead of viewing their neighbors' populations as a resource to be exploited to the max, they should regard it as a finite resource to be carefully husbanded and nurtured, whose careful use can provide rising prosperity for all.

Like water.

Load-Date: January 1, 2009

End of Document

Einbrecher flüchteten ohne Beute; Tankzug vertrieb vermutlich die Täter von der Aral-Tankstelle in Ober-Schmitten

Kreis Anzeiger (Germany)

Mittwoch 31. Dezember 2008

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Kreis-Anzeiger

Section: LOKALES

Length: 255 words

Body

OBER-SCHMITTEN (jk). Nicht zum ersten Mal war die Aral-Tankstelle in Ober-Schmitten Ziel von Einbrechern. Für Pächter Gerhard Schips, der die Tankstelle seit zwei Jahren betreibt, war es in der Nacht zum Dienstag allerdings der erste Einbruch. Offenbar verfügten der oder die Täter über detaillierte Ortskenntnisse. Nachdem die Tankstelle inzwischen fast festungsartig mit Riegelsystemen und Stahlgittern gesichert ist, hatten sich die ungebetenen Gäste den wohl einzigen Schwachpunkt auf der Rückseite des Gebäudes ausgesucht. Dort befand sich früher ein Glasbausteinfenster zum Geschäftsraum, das vor längerer Zeit von außen mit Blech abgedeckt und von innen mit einer Gipsplatte verdeckt worden war. Die Eindringlinge lösten das Blech und stießen die Scheibe ein. Dabei gingen Geschirr und diverse Marmeladegläser, die auf einem Bistrotisch neben dem Kaffee-Automaten standen, zu Bruch. Die Mühe der Einbrecher hat sich bei frostigen Temperaturen jedoch nicht gelohnt. Offenbar wurden sie gestört, denn sie verließen den Tatort ohne Beute, wie die Polizei auf Nachfrage bestätigte, die die Tat vor Ort aufnahm und Spuren sicherte.

Ann-Kathrin, die Tochter des Pächters, vermutet, dass der Tankzug, der gegen 3.30 Uhr zum Nachtanken der Säulen auf das Gelände fuhr, die Täter zur Flucht veranlasste. Sie entkamen unerkannt. Sachdienliche Hinweise nimmt die Polizei in Friedberg unter der Rufnummer 06031/6010 oder jede andere Polizeidienststelle entgegen. Inzwischen ist das Loch in der Außenwand der Tankstelle zugemauert worden.

Load-Date: December 31, 2008

Turkmenistan building river bridge on Uzbek border

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

January 29, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 108 words

Body

Text of report by state-owned Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr **channel** on 28 January

The construction of the initial sections of a motorway bridge, intended to link Seydi with Hojakenep [eastern Turkmenistan, bordering Uzbekistan], across the **Amu Darya River** has been completed.

The facility is being built under a **resolution** issued by the president of Turkmenistan. The 57.5m-euro bridge, being built by Turkey's Ickale Insaat construction firm, together with Turkmen specialists, is due to be **commissioned** by 2010. It will serve the further socio-economic development of the region.

Source: Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr **channel**, Ashgabat, in Turkmen 1300 gmt 28 Jan 09

Load-Date: January 29, 2009

PM Chudinov: Construction of Kambarata-1 water power station to help Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan tackle dry hydrological cycle problems

Alaswaq.net

February 5, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 162 words

Body

Construction of Kambarata-1 water power station will help Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan tackle dry hydrological cycle problems, Igor Chudinov told news conference today in Bishkek. Kambarata-1 station will become additional regulator of water issues. "This is why when they are talking about protests of the neighboring countries, we would like to stress one more time that this will help tackle dry hydrological cycle problems. Toktogul hydroelectric station will remain the main regulator. But we will have the station higher with reserve of 5 billion of water that can be used in dry hydrological cycles. We will be able to produce additional 6 billion kWh without using water from Toktogul reservoir," Igor Chudinov said when describing advantages of Kambarata-1 water power station. The Prime Minister said it is unclear yet who will control water streams, but Toktogul water power station will be the property of Kyrgyzstan and the main regulator of water issues on Naryn river.

Load-Date: August 6, 2009

Parliament ratifies agreement on advance payment of \$150US thousand for drinking water supply

Alaswaq.net

February 5, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 108 words

Body

The Parliament of Kyrgyzstan today ratified the agreement on advance payment for preparation of the Second Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project signed between the Kyrgyz Republic and the International Development Association on 29 October 2008 in Bishkek. Under this agreement Kyrgyzstan will receive advance payment worth \$150US thousand that will be spent by the Department of Rural Water Supply for preparations for the second project in villages of Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas oblasts. These villages should contribute 5% of the provided funds. The \$30US million agreement was signed with the Asian Development to tackle water supply problems.

Load-Date: August 6, 2009

End of Document

Obama's War

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

February 14, 2009 Saturday

National Edition

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Section: WORLD; Pg. A19

Length: 1979 words

Byline: National Post

Body

U. S. President Barack Obama has pledged to make Afghanistan the main front in his war on terror. But problems are many and solutions elusive in a country ravaged by war and corruption, writes Peter Goodspeed in the first of a two-part series examining Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Twenty years ago tomorrow, General Boris Gromov drove the last Soviet armoured personnel carrier out of Afghanistan, crossing a bridge over the Amu Darya River into Soviet Uzbekistan.

Greeted with kisses and garlanded with bouquets of carnations, he, nevertheless, was a symbol of abject defeat. After nine years of vicious fighting, in which up to 110,000 Soviet troops occupied Afghanistan, killing a million Afghans and losing 15,000 soldiers themselves in the process, the badly demoralized Soviet army abandoned the country to another decade of civil war and chaos.

Now, fears are growing that the United States and NATO may be making exactly the same sort of mistakes as the Soviets.

Seven years after U. S. and allied troops drove the Taliban from power, Afghanistan is ensnared in an increasingly violent insurgency that threatens both Kabul and nuclear-armed Pakistan. The country is threatened by new waves of suicide attacks, roadside bombings and assassinations of key Kabul-appointed officials.

Operating from safe havens across the border in Pakistan, the Taliban now occupy 72% of the country and run shadow governments and courts that challenge local officials.

Riddled with corruption, poverty and despair, Afghanistan has deteriorated into a "narco-state," that provides 90% of the world's illegal opium.

Like the Soviets before them, the United States and NATO control Afghanistan's cities but are unable to maintain a decisive presence in the hinterland.

"There is no mistake made by the Soviet Union that was not repeated by the international community here in Afghanistan," says Zamir Kabulov, Russia's current ambassador to Kabul.

"They have already repeated all our mistakes. Now, they are making mistakes of their own," says Mr. Kabulov, who was the KGB station chief in Kabul during the Soviet occupation.

Obama's War

U. S. President Barack Obama wants to change that. He has vowed to make Afghanistan the centerpiece of his foreign policy, declaring it "the central front in the war on terror."

Promising "a robust military effort," he is preparing to dispatch an additional 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, while insisting the United States and its allies need to reassess their strategy.

Unable to win a decisive military victory or to withdraw abruptly without facing potentially catastrophic consequences, Mr. Obama is determined to overhaul U. S. policy in Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan completely before a crucial NATO summit in Strasbourg, France, in April.

If Iraq was known as "Bush's War," Afghanistan is definitely about to become "Obama's War." It could come to define Mr. Obama's presidency.

"The window of opportunity for expansive nation building in Afghanistan has closed," says Roland Paris, director of the Centre for International Policy Studies at the University of Ottawa. "Deteriorating security conditions and declining public support for the international mission require a more focused, modest set of goals.

"The situation has become urgent. More NATO troops are certainly needed, but the deployment of additional forces will not, in itself reverse the slide towards defeat. A new approach is needed to the mission."

Two weeks ago, as he testified before the U. S. Senate Armed Services Committee, U. S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates declared previous U. S. goals for Afghanistan were "overly ambitious" and "too broad and too far into the future". "If we set ourselves the objective of creating some sort of Central Asian Valhalla over there, we will lose," he said.

Since Mr. Obama won the presidential election in November, Washington has been swamped with experts undertaking reviews aimed at changing the trajectory of the Afghan war. Richard Holbrooke, Mr. Obama's special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Army General David Petraeus, head of Central Command, and Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are all conducting their own reviews. This week the White House appointed Bruce Riedel, a former CIA official, to chair an inter-agency policy review committee to assess all work on Afghanistan.

So far, there seems to be a consensus view that the war in Afghanistan suffered from a lack of resources and manpower as a result of the U. S.'s preoccupation with the war in Iraq.

But there is also a growing disenchantment in Washington with the government of Afghan President

Hamid Karzai.

Once the darling of the West, he is no longer assured of the unwavering support he enjoyed from former U. S. President George W. Bush. During the presidential election, Mr. Obama criticized Mr. Karzai's government as being unreliable and ineffective, saying it "had not gotten out of the bunker and helped organize Afghanistan."

Before he was appointed special envoy, Mr. Holbrooke wrote a withering criticism of U. S. policy in Afghanistan in the September issue of Foreign Affairs magazine in which he bluntly claimed Afghanistan's "central government has shown that it is simply not up to the job."

"As the war enters its eighth year, Americans should be told the truth," Mr. Holbrooke said. "It will last a long time -- longer than the United States' longest war to date, the 14-year conflict (1961-1975) in Vietnam. Success will require new policies with regard to four major problem areas: the tribal areas in Pakistan, the drug lords who dominate the Afghan system, the national police, and the incompetence and corruption of the Afghan government."

A long series of well-placed leaks and snubs have left little doubt that the relationship with Mr. Karzai has soured. Last October, a leaked U. S. intelligence report identified Ahmed Wali Karzai, the Afghan president's half-brother, as a major drug trafficker. Senior U. S. officials repeatedly express doubts over Mr. Karzai's ability or willingness to rein in corruption, to improve law and order and to confront warlords who exploit a thriving opium trade.

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NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer wrote recently in the Washington Post, "Afghan leadership is not some distant aspiration -it's something that we need as soon as possible and on which we must insist. The basic problem in Afghanistan is not too much Taliban; it's too little good governance."

If Afghans were given a government that deserved their loyalty and trust "the oxygen will be sucked away from the insurgency," he predicted.

"Nothing will sap the insurgency's power as effectively over the long term as a positive, tangible alternative to Taliban rule that is based on physical security, the provision of basic services and accountable, non-predatory governance," says a recent policy brief by the Center for New American Security, a Washington think tank with close ties to the Obama White House.

For now, Mr. Karzai seems bent on further alienating his Western allies. When he opened parliament on Jan. 23, he delivered a blistering speech that attacked the conduct of the U. S.-led war, complaining Washington and NATO undermine his government by ignoring its authority and overlooking corruption and waste in their own aid programs. He also criticized U. S. and NATO military tactics, claiming air strikes were killing too many civilians.

Recently, Mr. Karzai sent U. S. and NATO officials a document outlining possible new rules of engagement in which Afghan officials would control where and how foreign troops were deployed. Mr. Karzai is demanding co-ordination at "the highest level" on the use of air strikes and wants to stop having allied troops search Afghan homes or arrest Afghans.

The move may be a calculated election ploy to bolster Mr. Karzai's chances in presidential elections that were recently rescheduled for August 20. But it could set the Afghan president on a collision course with Washington as Mr. Obama prepares to order a "surge" of three new combat brigades into Afghanistan starting this spring.

While a lack of progress in Afghanistan threatens to undermine western support for the NATO mission there, experts agree military operations need to be beefed up to reverse the Taliban's recent gains, but they stress the ultimate solution lies in creating a viable, long-term Afghan alternative to the Taliban.

"We need to get back to basics," says J. Alexander Thier of the United States Institute of Peace. "Establish security, create a conducive regional environment, build basic governmental legitimacy, engage the citizenry, create economic opportunity -these are the building blocks of a virtuous cycle that will broaden opportunity for ordinary Afghans while narrowing the space for insurgents."

pgoodspeed@nationalpost.com On Tuesday: Pakistan--A Powder Keg

pgoodspeed@nationalpost.com-----

National Post AFGHANISTAN' S FOUR MAJOR PROBLEMS

TRIBAL AREAS IN PAKISTAN - Semi-autonomous tribal lands consisting of seven "agencies": Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, and North and South Waziristan. - There are also six smaller "frontier regions" in the transitional area between the tribal lands and the North-West Frontier Province to the east. - Pashtun tribesman from this region tangled with Alexander the Great in the 4th century; held off the Mughal Emperor Babur in the 16th century and fought the British Raj to a standstill in the 19th and 20th. - Area is a social and economic backwater. Illiteracy exceeds 82%; per-capita income is half Pakistan's average of \$500 a year, - Residents are guided by Pashtunwali, a code of conduct promoting equality, self-respect, revenge and honor. - According to recent opinion polls, only 3.6% of tribal-area residents consider the Taliban to be terrorists.

DRUG LORDS - Afghanistan is the world's largest opium producer and exporter. - Drug dealing in Afghanistan is worth 50% of the entire country's GDP. - Over 193,000 hectares are under poppy cultivation. - The country supplies 92% of the world's opium. - It produced 8,200 metric tons of opium in 2008. - Afghanistan is also a major producer of cannabis resin. - Bulk of Afghanistan's poppy production comes from the south, an area where Taliban insurgents wield considerable influence. It flourishes due to a mix of powerful landowners, organized criminal

Obama's War

networks, corrupt officials and a lack of law and order. - Opium crop is worth more than \$1 billion and the Taliban is estimated to have earned up to \$500-million last year from drugs.

NATIONAL POLICE - The Afghan National Police is operated by the Ministry of the Interior. - Has 70,000 members but wants to build and reform 82,000 personnel capable of operating countrywide. - Widespread corruption in all levels of the ANP has long been a major problem. Taliban fighters have been able to quickly buy their freedom with bribes. - Police development hindered by a lack of reform, corruption, insufficient trainers and advisors, and a lack of unity of effort within the international community - Canada has 21 civilian police trainers/ mentors and advisors and about 60 soldiers and military police embedded with the ANP in Kandahar.

INCOMPETENCE AND CORRUPTION - Afghanistan is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, everything appears to be for sale; public offices, access to government services, even a person's freedom. - Afghanistan's ranking on an international index measuring corruption is 176 out of 180 countries. (Somalia is 180th). - People at the highest levels of the Karzai administration, including President Karzai's own half-brother, Ahmad Wali Karzai, are said to be cooperating in the country's opium trade. - More than \$20-billion in U. S. aid to Afghanistan has been siphoned off to fuel local corruption, pay expensive American consultants or carry out over-billed development projects.

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Oleg Popov, Reuters; U. S. President Barack Obama is preparing to dispatch an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, declaring it "the central front in the war on terror." ; Map: Andrew Barr, National Post; ; Black & White

Photo;; ; Black & White

Photo;; ;

Load-Date: February 14, 2009

No Headline In Original

Global Broadcast Database - English americatv 5:12 PM IND

March 20, 2009 Friday

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Length: 59 words

Body

STATION: 41 WJAN

MIAMI

A group of Cuban exiles **protested** outside the Intercontinental Hotel in Downtown Miami where a fair to promote business with Cuba was taking place. Int. Silvia Iriondo, MAR for Cuba. Int. Angel de Fana, Planted Until Freedom and Democracy. Int. Janisset **Rivero**, Democratic Directory. Int. Carlos Saladrigas, Cuban Study Group. Int. Tessie **Aral**, ABC Charter.

Load-Date: March 23, 2009

End of Document

Insight - Central Asia: long-term challenges and short-term crises.

Water Power & Dam Construction

March 31, 2009

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Section: Pg. 14

Length: 4217 words

Highlight: Despite the pressing challenges elsewhere in the world, the international community must pay close attention to water and energy developments in Central Asia, warns Johannes F Linn. Long term development opportunities and short term threats need to be addressed in order to avoid a compound crisis in which water and energy scarcity play a huge role.

Body

Central Asia (1) is an arid region. Its fertile plains are former deserts made arable by vast irrigation systems. Most of the water comes from the high mountain ranges of Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (and to a lesser extent from Afghanistan) channelled downstream to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan by the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers. Over the last century Soviet engineers harnessed these water resources with an extensive system of dams, reservoirs and irrigation canals to support the rapidly growing populations of the downstream countries and their agricultural production that in turn supported the Soviet Union. The reservoirs also produce electricity, but local peak demand for electricity is in the cold winter months, when water needs to be stored for summer irrigation release. During Soviet days, downstream countries provided the upstream countries with gas and coal in the winter to allow them to generate heat and power without releasing water needed for the summer.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union the elaborate water and energy sharing agreements among the Soviet Republics of Central Asia broke down, and the previously integrated regional water and electricity infrastructure became fragmented and suffered from lack of maintenance. With overuse and poor water management agricultural yields fell, and the water levels of the Aral Sea dropped precipitously, leaving behind a mere remnant of what was previously one of the largest inland seas in the world.

As a result, the provinces around the Aral Sea suffered great hardships and increases in poverty. While the Central Asian republics of the Former Soviet Union have avoided military conflict over scarce water resources, their relations have at times been strained, especially between Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic on the one side and Uzbekistan on the other.

Over the last two years two interrelated developments have aggravated this difficult situation: First, the two poor upstream countries, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, have started to develop their hydro resources for export. Downstream countries, and especially Uzbekistan, consider this a challenge to their water security. Secondly, changes in precipitation and temperatures threaten the supply of water and energy in the region. This has created - together with rising food insecurity and the impact of the global economic crisis - the potential for a 'compound crisis' in the region in 2009 that combines humanitarian, economic and environmental threats especially for Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

Let us look in turn at these two issues: the long-term opportunities and challenges of unlocking the hydro resources of Central Asia, and the short term threats of a compound crisis.

Long term hydro development opportunities

The Soviets planned and built hundreds of dams to regulate the water flow in the Aral Sea river basin for irrigation use and for generating electricity. Among them was Rogun dam in Tajikistan, planned for a height of 335m and started in 1976, but never finished, since the break-up of the Soviet Union and Tajikistan's subsequent civil war brought construction to a halt in 1991 (See Figure 2).

In May 2008 the country's President, Emomali Rakhmon, announced that construction had resumed (2). While initially drawing on the country's limited budgetary resources, the Tajik government hopes to attract foreign financing for this project.

When completed, the dam will generate 3600MW of power. This is enough to supply much of Tajikistan's electricity needs and to allow exports to Tajikistan's neighbours, including to Afghanistan and Pakistan through a 1000MW transmission line, which has yet to be constructed.

While a preliminary dam built in Soviet days was washed away by floods in 1993, there remains a network of huge tunnels and caverns carved inside the mountains on both sides of the river. These will house the eight turbines that will eventually generate the power. While the completion of the dam is still expensive at a planned cost of US\$2.2B, the fact that a significant part of the work has already been carried out strengthens the economic justification for pushing forward with the project.

The plan is to complete the dam in stages over the coming 8-10 years, while filling the reservoir could take up to 18 years, although power generation would start earlier. The dam is to be built of rock and earth, which will allow it to absorb potential seismic shocks better than a concrete structure, an important consideration in this earthquake-prone region. While eager to involve others in the financing, the government intends to retain control over the dam and its energy output, a fact that may deter others from participating.

Another potential obstacle is that some downstream countries object. Uzbekistan has been especially concerned that the large storage requirements of the new dam will endanger the essential supply of water to the millions of Uzbeks dependent on the river's uninterrupted flow during the summer months when irrigation needs are highest.

Rogun is the largest of the dams currently on the drawing board in Central Asia. Others are under consideration, among them the Kambarata 1 and 2 dams in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan with a joint capacity of 2260MW and an estimated cost of US\$2B. The total capacity of currently planned hydro investments in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan is 11,360MW at a total estimated cost of US\$10.2B (3).

These projects share similar characteristics. First, because of their high costs they cannot be funded by national resources alone - Rogun's cost is about 85% of Tajikistan's gross national income (GNI), Kambarata's cost is 77% of Kyrgyzstan's GNI. The two countries will have to attract public or private investors from abroad if they are to proceed.

Second, the hydro dams will generate large quantities of electricity that can meet the rising national energy needs of the countries at costs much lower than imported energy and will help avert the energy shortages currently prevailing during the winter months in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. Surplus power can be exported to neighbouring countries, where electricity is also in short supply and generation costs are at least three to ten times higher.

Moreover, peak demand for electricity in South Asia falls in the summer, which is also the time of greatest water release for downstream irrigation needs. This makes power exports from Central Asia to Pakistan and eventually to India particularly attractive. Major regional transmission lines are under construction or being planned to allow power exports from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Third, global climate change is threatening Central Asia's long term economic and ecological stability as global warming is melting glaciers in the region at an alarming rate. In the last 50 years the waters stored in the glaciers of Central Asia are estimated to have shrunk by 25% and they are projected to shrink by another 25% over the next

Insight - Central Asia: long-term challenges and short-term crises.

20 years (4). These numbers are at best guesswork for now, but they do reflect the broad trends that will likely see major changes in water flows of the principal rivers in the region. Greater water shortages in the long term will force Central Asian countries to use their available water much more efficiently than has been the case so far, especially in irrigation (5). But they will also make cooperative approaches to rational storage and allocation of scarce water resources across the region much more important if peace and prosperity in the region are to be preserved.

If foreign financing is to be attracted, detailed feasibility and environmental impact studies still need to be conducted for the new dams to assure that benefits outweigh costs, and that potential negative environmental and social impacts can be adequately mitigated. In the case of Rogun, the World Bank has initiated such assessments in preparation for possible funding (6). In view of the concerns of the downstream countries, the rules of international water conventions need to be respected. There are various ways of dealing with the allocation of transnational water resources:

- a. Downstream countries could pay upstream countries for the summer release of water stored in the winter. This in effect was the practice during Soviet days, when downstream republics provided upstream republics with free gas and coal to generate electricity and heat during the winter months. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, upstream countries argued that water should be treated as a commodity and paid for by downstream countries (at least in terms of the cost of maintaining and running the dams and turbines), while downstream countries rejected this notion on the grounds that water in transnational rivers is a common good shared equally by all riparians.
- b. Downstream countries could build dams and reservoirs on their territories to catch the waters released by the upstream countries during the winters for summer use. Such reservoirs have already been constructed (in Uzbekistan) and more are currently under construction (the huge Golden Century Lake in Turkmenistan) or planned (Kokserai reservoir in Kazakhstan) (7). The problem with these downstream reservoirs is that they are an inefficient and partial response. Since they are located in flat land rather than deep mountain valleys they are more expensive, provide little or no hydroelectric capacity, and lose lots of water to evaporation and seepage.
- c. A third option is to build dams and reservoirs upstream along the same river or river system in sequence. This allows the release of water from the higher reservoir for electricity generation in winter, while catching and storing the water in the subsequent reservoir for summer release. In the case of Rogun dam the downstream Nurek reservoir could serve this purpose; for Kambarata dam the downstream Toktogul reservoir is available.

Among these options, the last one may well be the most feasible for the Central Asian region, but it requires a level of trust among countries that is currently not universally present. The practical question then is whether a mechanism can be found to provide appropriate guarantees for the downstream countries that create the minimum of trust to permit cooperation in this critical area.

Currently various efforts are underway to try and find such a mechanism. This includes a High-Level Group set up in 2006 by the Eurasian Economic Community (EurasEC - with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as members) to develop a strategy for the efficient utilisation of water and energy resources in Central Asia. It has been working on a strategy document but apparently has not yet reached agreement (8).

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Forum (CAREC - whose participants are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as six multinational institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank) has also prepared an energy sector strategy under which member countries agreed on the broad principles for the development of the region's hydroelectricity resources. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO - with China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as members) in its 2007 summit agreed to develop an 'energy club', but so far little is known about its practical implementation and how it would address the hydro power issues of Central Asia.

While the preparation of regional strategies and broad understandings are helpful for creating a platform for dialogue and improved mutual understanding, the key will be the pragmatic implementation of major specific river basin projects, such as Rogun for the Amu Darya and Kambarata for the Syr Darya. A practical way to achieve this would be the creation of a consortium of partners, including all directly affected countries, as well as possibly one or more of the big neighbours (such as China or Russia), the international financial organisations and private

Insight - Central Asia: long-term challenges and short-term crises.

financiers. The Government of Tajikistan has in fact invited Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to join such a consortium. Kazakhstan has responded positively to this invitation (9).

Such consortiums would operate under a carefully crafted agreement that lays out the key water and energy sharing arrangements, the financing and management responsibilities, and the arbitration mechanism in case of unresolved disagreements. International financial institutions could be asked to provide guarantees, which in turn would be counter-guaranteed by the regional member governments. Perhaps the best example of a successful internationally backed river basin agreement with lasting success is the Indus Water Treaty which was signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan after years of arduous negotiations with the support of the World Bank (10).

In sum, there are great potential benefits to Central Asia and its neighbours that argue for the swift implementation of cooperative solutions for the development of Central Asia's 'blue gold'. The principal responsibility for this rests with the countries of the region, but the big neighbours and the international community can do much to help create a supportive environment:

- Offering financial support for appropriately structured regional consortiums.
- Funding neutral third-party analyses of costs and benefits and of their distribution across countries.
- Creating opportunities for constructive dialogue and trust building among the regional players.
- Stressing the shared long-term interests of all concerned.

Of course, even under the best of circumstances, the construction of new hydro capacity is a long-term proposition. Measures to encourage more efficient utilisation of available water resources and emergency steps to prepare for water and energy crises when they threaten, as is the case right now, also need to be promoted as a matter of high urgency.

a compound water-energy-food crisis

Against the backdrop of the opportunities and challenges of long term hydro energy development in Central Asia, a water and energy situation that is already difficult and tense at best during years of normal weather can quickly deteriorate into a major humanitarian, economic and political crisis for the region when climatic conditions are adverse.

The years 2007-9 have been particularly problematic, since normal climatic cycles (probably linked to the El Nino-La Nina phenomenon) appear to be intensifying and are overlaid on the long term effects of global warming. The last major drought in the region occurred in 2000-01. In 2007, a new drought period began with an unusually hot and dry summer in much of Central Asia, followed by an exceptionally cold and dry winter.

The winter of 2007/8 had its most severe impact in Tajikistan, where parts of the country had to do without electricity for weeks at a time, shutting down businesses and schools, limiting hospital operations, and forcing families to live without heat or light during the winter months when temperatures as low as -30 deg C were not uncommon. Even the capital, Dushanbe, was severely affected by power cuts.

Tajikistan's situation was aggravated by the fact that Uzbekistan, plagued by its own winter energy shortages, suspended gas exports and limited transfer of electricity through its territory. At the same time, the food situation in the country deteriorated, as farmers had to eat or sell their seed stock, cattle ran short of feed, aquaculture suffered from frozen ponds and streams, and food supplies from neighbouring countries dwindled along with rising prices (11). Kazakhstan, the main grain exporter in the region, temporarily banned exports, including to some of its neighbours, reinforcing the damage done by the world food crisis beyond its borders.

The summer of 2008 was once again unusually dry in large parts of Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, with the result that the major reservoirs of these two countries, Toktogul and Nurek, experienced sustained levels much below normal. Like Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan depends on electricity for the winter months. Going into the winter 2008/9, both countries had to ration electricity in large parts of each country for months on end. Fortunately, so far this winter has

Insight - Central Asia: long-term challenges and short-term crises.

been relatively mild, so the humanitarian impact has been less severe, even though the economic and social costs of the disruptions of power supply are once again significant.

The international reaction to the unfolding water and related energy crisis in Central Asia involved emergency assistance for Tajikistan in 2008. Among others, the US provided nearly US\$2.5M in emergency relief to Tajikistan in 2008 (12). The World Bank provided a US\$6.5M emergency grant for rehabilitation of key energy facilities and to assist with the development and implementation of the Government's Energy Emergency Mitigation Action Plan (13). The World Bank also provided up to US\$5M in grants for emergency agricultural farm inputs and animal husbandry (14). The FAO carried out an assessment of the food security situation as a basis for a coordinated response by the international community. The UN organised flash appeals for emergency assistance for both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with mixed success.

Concerned by the indications of a severe crisis, the UNDP organised a meeting of international organisations and bilateral donors in July 2008 to share what information was available on the crisis situation. The meeting concluded that an in-depth assessment was urgently needed and under the leadership of the UNDP a report on the compound crisis was prepared and released in January 2009 (15). It concluded that Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are indeed threatened by a combination of water and energy shortage, high food prices and a looming recession resulting from the impact of the global economic crisis. The report noted that:

- Kyrgyzstan's and Tajikistan's key reservoirs, Toktogul and Nurek, were respectively 20% and 9% below normal at the end of 2008, with rigorous restrictions on winter water releases essential if reaching 'dead levels' of these reservoirs (at which electricity production ceases) are to be avoided.
- Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have been hit by an 'electric shock' due to lack of power - the estimated impact of the winter 2007/8 blackouts amounted to US\$280M in Tajikistan, or 7% of the country's GDP; with the extended blackouts especially in the provinces, but increasingly also in the capital cities, significant economic losses are again expected during the current winter 2008/9.
- Both countries have large population segments suffering from food insecurity, some 1.5M people in the case of Tajikistan, as a result of high incidence of poverty and high local food prices, even after international food prices receded from the exceptionally high levels reached during the summer of 2008.
- Finally, with their heavy dependency on minerals and cotton exports and on migrant workers' remittances - in the case of Tajikistan remittances are estimated to have reached 50% of GDP in 2008 - both countries are likely to see drastic reductions in foreign currency earnings, budget revenues and household incomes which will aggravate their already difficult economic and social condition.

The impact of this compound crisis is exacerbated by the tense relations between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on the one hand, and Uzbekistan on the other. Despite an agreement at the CIS Summit in October 2008 among the presidents of the region which was to have facilitated the provision of gas and electricity to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in exchange for prudent management of winter water releases, Uzbekistan blocked electricity transmission over its territory from Turkmenistan to Tajikistan and also cut off gas supplies to Tajikistan over an apparent disagreement on price. In return, Tajikistan threatened to draw down more of its water resources during the winter and curtail releases during the subsequent summer.

Under these circumstances it is critical that the international community and the big neighbours collaborate in assisting the upstream countries cope with the ecological, economic and social crisis that they now face. This requires assistance in addressing the underlying issues that cause their vulnerability to recurring droughts (limited power generation capacity, inefficient water and energy use, weak institutions), and engagement in a high level diplomatic dialogue to ensure the current tensions between upstream and downstream neighbours do not lead to tit-for-tat reactions that could turn into interstate conflict.

Honest brokers required

Insight - Central Asia: long-term challenges and short-term crises.

Central Asia lies at the hub of a rapidly integrating Eurasian super-continent, surrounded by some of the biggest and most dynamic economies on the globe. Its stability and prosperity is critical not only for Central Asians but for all of Eurasia and the rest of the world. Central Asia faces many opportunities and constraints. Among them the region's water and energy resources stand out because of the great potential that they represent, but also because of the complexity of the challenges that they present to each of the countries, to its neighbours and to the rest of the world. It is essential that Central Asian countries promptly address both the long term development opportunities and the short term threats of the compound crisis in which water and energy scarcity plays a huge role. But they cannot do it alone. They need the help of their neighbours as well as the help of the wider international community.

The international organisations - the United Nations and the multilateral development banks, including the World Bank - have a special role to play, because of their technical and financial capacities and their ability to act as honest brokers. Despite all the pressing challenges elsewhere in the world, it is important that the international community pay close attention to the developments in Central Asia, especially the developments in the water and energy domains.

Johannes F Linn is Senior Fellow and Executive Director of the Wolfensohn Center for Development at The Brookings Institution in the US, and a Special Adviser for the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC). He previously served as Vice President for Europe and Central Asia at the World Bank. Email: jlinn@brookings.edu

Footnotes

(1) For the purpose of this article Central Asia is defined to include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The population of the five countries combined is about 60 million. For an overview of the regions economic, social and political conditions see UNDP, Central Asia Human Development Report, New York, 2005 <http://europeandcis.undp.org/poverty/show/300BDC00-F203-1EE9-BE944F24EDFC09CE>.

(2) Konstantin Parshin, 'Tajikistan: government harbours hydropower dams, EurasiaNet, June 4 2008. <http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav060408.shtml>. [QQ] (3) See Eurasian Development Bank, Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia, Industry Report, April 24 2008.

(4) Eurasian Development Bank, op. cit. See also John Magrath, Glacier Melt, Oxfam Policy Paper January 2004 http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change/glacier_melt.html [QQ] (5) See UNDP, Central Asia Human Development Report, op. cit.

(6) For a good summary of prior feasibility studies for Rogun see International Water Power and Dam Construction (May 2008), Onwards and Upwards, Volume 60, No 5, pp30-34.

(7) See UNDP, Central Asia Human Development Report, New York, 2005. Kazakhstan announced in 2008 that it will proceed with the construction of Kokserai reservoir; see Joanna Lillis, Central Asia: Water Woes Stoke Economic Worries, Eurasianet, 28 April 2008 <http://www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav042808.shtml>

(8) Eurasian Development Bank, op. cit.

(9) On February 3, 2009 Russia reportedly agreed to provide Kyrgyzstan \$2 billion in financing for the construction of Kambarata; see http://www.rferl.org/content/Kyrgyzstans_Multivector_Foreign_Policy_Unravel/1491581.html. Tajik-Russian negotiations about Russian financing for Rogun broke down in 2007 since Tajikistan would not agree to give up control of this key national asset. During a recent visit to Uzbekistan, Russian President Medvedev announced his country's support for the Uzbek position that no upstream development of hydropower resources should proceed without full consultation and agreement of the down-stream neighbours; see <http://enews.ferghana.ru/article.php?id=2497>.

(10) See Stimson, The Indus Water Treaty: A History, 2007 <http://www.stimson.org/?SN=SA20020116301>

Insight - Central Asia: long-term challenges and short-term crises.

- (11) [http://www.fao.org/world/regional/REU/projects/TCP-TAJ-3104%20\(E\)-en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/world/regional/REU/projects/TCP-TAJ-3104%20(E)-en.pdf)
- (12) http://www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/press/success/2008-03-03.html
- (13) <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,contentMDK:21754640-piPK:437376-theSitePK:4607,00.html> pagePK:64257043-
- (14) <http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=64283627&piPK=3230&theSitePK=40941&menuPK=228424&Projectid=P112157>
- (15) UNDP, Central Asia Regional Risk Assessment: Responding to Water, Energy, and Food Insecurity, Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, New York, January 2009.

Load-Date: April 7, 2009

End of Document

Now I've really lived. I've gone on a movie set and shouted 'Action!'; Robert Fisk's World

The Independent (London)

April 4, 2009 Saturday

First Edition

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The  INDEPENDENT

Section: COMMENT; Pg. 42

Length: 913 words

Byline: Robert Fisk

Body

Not since the chariot race in Ben Hur has there been anything like it. Foreign correspondent Fisk is in the movie business. In the wilds of Tajikistan, no less, in a broken, half-deserted village called Azadi - look for Dushti on the map, go right along the Amu Darya river and stare north - I have made my first tentative steps into Hollywood as ... well, Head of Livestock, actually. Here's this poor old Afghan bloke called Hassan, returning to his native post-Taliban village after years as a refugee in Iran, only to find a large gentleman called Gulagha occupying his home. He bangs on the front door to demand his house back. And a herd of goats swarms past the camera. And yup, that's where Fisk comes in, hidden from the lens but driving the animals before him because the goatherd can't control them. Jump up and down and wave your arms menacingly at the quadrupeds and you get the general idea.

There were several shots of the same scene and, of course, the continuity lady got upset. She pointed out that I'd let the two white goats in the lead in the first shot fall back to the middle of the pack in the second shot. And we were one goat less. The owner had pulled one from the herd between shots one and two and killed it for food. Head of Livestock might not be my metier. So I was asked to help to design a refugee camp in a small desert valley. More later.

The film, I have to say, is a dramatic story of destitution and honour killing in an Afghan village, its working title Act of Dishonour and - here I admit my interest - its director is a dear friend. Into this crafty, sometimes frightening tale of love and family honour tramps a Canadian film crew, its "director" - a Canadian actor - anxious to make a film about the need to "liberate" women in Afghanistan. Their arrival detonates some Taliban-like hatred and a family tragedy when the betrothed daughter of an ex-guerrilla fighter is persuaded to play a minor role in the film - and thus destroys her family's "honour".

But I learned a lot. The crew was almost academically professional, the assistant director - David Antoniuk - a powerhouse of energy with a cinematic soft side. "Tell the man to bring on his donkey," he shouted. "And tell the man to stop beating his donkey!" Director of photography Paul Sarossy - the guy behind the camera - wore a straw hat, looked like the younger Van Gogh and defined images like Rembrandt. One of the actors in the Canadian

Now I've really lived. I've gone on a movie set and shouted 'Action!' Robert Fisk's World

"crew", Ben Campbell, even turned out to be the son of Sybil Thorndyke (yes, that's right, the Queen Dowager in The Prince and the Showgirl with Laurence Olivier and Marilyn Monroe).

"Sound speeding," the sound man would shout. And they really do cry "Action" - they let me shout it once - and the camera rolls. The sound is digitalised but the "speeding" is a throwback to the days of tape (just as CC on our laptops is a throwback to "carbon copy"). All that's new was the thundering "KHAMOUSH!" before each scene. It means "Shut up" in Dari and was sometimes obeyed by the vast number of extras who had set up an entire frontage of shops in Azadi, just for the movie. Azadi was almost derelict when it was chosen for the film. The film people rebuilt much of the village from ruins, including a new mud-walled mosque and a series of equally mud-walled homes. Weapons came courtesy of the Tajik police who were eager to appear in the movie themselves. (They did.)

Then came the refugee camp. Hassan, the chap whose home has been taken over by Gulagha, ends up in the UN-run camp after appealing to the village mullah for the return of his house. His title deeds had been kept for safekeeping in the mosque. But the old mosque has been destroyed in the war and the previous mullah killed. Hassan had run away to Iran while the villagers died. So now he has no home, save for a tent in the sandy valley where I helped to design the camp.

The obliging local head of the UN lent me 62 UN tents and I tried to remember how the Palestinians first lived when they fled from Galilee in the land that would become Israel in 1948. Old photographs show that their first tents were in a straight line on each side of a road in Lebanon. So with an army of 18 men from Dushti, I designed two lines of tents. Then, remembering how the Palestinian camps would spread outwards, disorderly and without UN supervision, I started putting more tents at right-angles and then without any order, up the sides of cliffs, along a dried-up river-bed. Some I put on the heights above the valley. Refugees who arrive late always live on hills - so they can watch for the food handouts and send the children to the UN hospital to collect free soup and rice.

And after several hours of this, I realised I was "writing" the story of refugees in the architecture of the tent city that I was helping to create. First come, first served. Then the later refugees turned up too late to register and became permanent outsiders, already separated from their original neighbours by UN laws. I was telling the story of the Palestinians. And, of course, the Afghans. The UN man even played himself in the movie. I was a correspondent again, but writing with tents and ropes and washing lines.

And sure enough, the director did acknowledge this. For on a washing line, between two drying shirts, was hanging a piece of paper whereon was written - in Arabic script - "Fiskabad". The town of Fisk. Maybe it's not Hollywood. And Bollywood was named after Bombay. So Follywood here I come!

Load-Date: April 3, 2009

Kazakh PM visits Uzbekistan.

Intellinews - Kazakhstan Today

April 6, 2009 Monday

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Section: NEWS

Length: 108 words

Body

Kazakh PM Karim Masimov visited Uzbekistan where he held talks with Uzbek president Islam Karimov. The parties discussed issues related to development of bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The special attention was given to the expansion of border trade, cooperation in water and energy sphere and supply of Uzbek agricultural goods to Kazakhstan . The parties also confirmed their commitment to cooperate against challenges of the global financial crisis. Meanwhile, Kazakh president held a telephone conversation with his Uzbek counterpart during which the president agreed to hold a private meeting during coming conference on Aral Sea .

Load-Date: May 26, 2009

Central Asian Leaders Fail To Overcome Differences At Water Summit

Radio Free Europe

April 28, 2009

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Section: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

Length: 817 words

Byline: Antoine Blua

Body

A rare Central Asia summit of the five founding members of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea revealed some common ground on that issue -- but nevertheless ended in bitter disagreement.

Meeting in the southeastern Kazakh city of Almaty for a one-day summit, the presidents of all five Central Asian states failed to overcome differences over water use.

Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiy exposed the real bone of contention among the states during his address -- energy shortages, the construction of new hydropower stations, and concerns by downstream states as to how their water supplies will be affected.

"The strategic issue that requires resolution is the coordination of our timetables of water release for irrigation and energy needs and compensatory fuel supplies [to Kyrgyzstan], and this is what should be the subject of international cooperation among parties interested in using water-saving technologies," Bakiy said.

The comments by Bakiy, whose "upstream" country is looking at hydropower as an answer to its energy needs, triggered an angry reaction from a "downstream" counterpart, Uzbek President Islam Karimov. "It was agreed that the only issue to be discussed at the current summit and the expanded summit would be the activities of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and its main tasks in the future," Karimov said.

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, representing another country keen on taking advantage of its ample water resources to produce electricity, also refused to introduce the water issue into the talks and was apparently angered by other leaders' assertions that water-supplying countries were responsible for water shortages.

"I thought we agreed not to discuss hydroenergy issues," Rahmon said. "I proposed it and you and the other colleagues agreed. And now there's a whole discussion being started. I also have something to say about it."

Upstream vs. Downstream

The summit's host, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev, later produced a statement focusing only on the decline of the Aral Sea. The document was signed by all five Central Asian leaders, including Gurbanguly Berdimukhammedov of Turkmenistan.

Noticeably absent from the summit was uninvited Russia, which in recent months has called on countries in the region to take the concerns of others into consideration when thinking about future hydropower projects.

Central Asian Leaders Fail To Overcome Differences At Water Summit

The call was seen by Tajikistan as a sign that Moscow was siding with Uzbekistan in the most serious source of dispute -- and instability -- among upstream and downstream countries in Central Asia.

Rivers that originate from mountainous Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan irrigate lands in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan before flowing into the Aral Sea.

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which suffer most during cold winters and have little hydrocarbon resources, have long been pursuing the construction of hydropower projects.

"At a time when natural energy resources are scarce, in order to ensure a stable supply of energy resources to our population, especially in the cold winter period, our country now has to place a special emphasis on the development of the hydroelectric industry," Kyrgyz leader Bakiev said.

The region's most populous country, Uzbekistan, fiercely opposes such projects, saying the construction of the hydropower stations would reduce the flow of water on its territory.

Saving The Aral

On a positive note, Nazarbaev announced that that Kazakhstan was not going to wind up the planned Aral Sea-saving efforts, despite the global economic crisis. The Aral, located between Kazakhstan to the north and Uzbekistan to the south, was once the world's fourth-largest inland body of water.

But the sea has dramatically shrunk in recent decades due in large measure to the diversion of its feeder rivers for irrigation, causing ecological and social disasters.

Its water levels have fallen to the point that the sea split into two separate bodies of water -- the Northern and the Southern Aral Seas.

As part of the first phase of the project to replenish the northern part, a 13-kilometer dike was opened in 2005. As a result, the Northern Aral Sea's surface area is now more than 40 percent larger than it was at its lowest point.

Nazarbaev said the second stage, involving constructing another dike to raise the water levels, would start in the near future.

Optimists say that within a few years the sea could again be lapping at the shores of the former port of Aral, which now stands 35 kilometers from the shore, bringing environmental recovery and new economic opportunities.

But regional cooperation and water management in all five Central Asian states remains of vital importance to the regeneration project.

RFE/RL's Kazakh Service contributed to this report

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Load-Date: April 28, 2009

**SECRETARY-GENERAL PROMISES ON ASSISTANCE IN FORMULATING
LONG-TERM SANCTIONS TO WATER, ENERGY ISSUES OF ARAL SEA
BASIN, IN MESSAGE TO ALMATY MEETING**

States News Service

April 28, 2009 Tuesday

Copyright 2009 States News Service

Length: 508 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: NEW YORK

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Following is the UN Secretary-General Bank Ki-moon's message to the Summit of the Member States of the International Fund for Saving the **Aral** Sea (IFAS), delivered by Miroslav Jenca, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive **Diplomacy** for Central Asia, in Almaty, 28 April:

I would like to extend my sincere greetings to the Summit of the Member States of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea. I am heartened that, despite the serious global economic and financial crisis, the decision makers of the Central Asian region have agreed, at the highest level, to discuss ecological issues of common concern, including those of the Aral Sea basin.

Central Asia's water resources are particularly vulnerable. In recent decades, the Aral Sea, once the world's fourth largest lake, has shrunk by 70 per cent, threatening local livelihoods and national prosperity. Climate variability poses a further challenge in this region characterized by vast areas of arid and semi-arid land. The mountain glaciers of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan that feed the lake are melting at an alarming rate. By 2050, water flow in the Amu-Darya and Syr-Darya rivers could diminish by up to 40 and 30 per cent respectively.

As a regional organization, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea is ideally positioned to facilitate the development of mutually beneficial and durable solutions among Central Asian countries. The fact that the Fund was granted observer status to the General Assembly emphasizes the commitment of the United Nations to supporting you to realize this potential.

My Special Representative for Central Asia and the Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy are prepared to assist you in formulating a long-term solution to the interrelated water and energy issues of the Aral Sea basin, and to offer mediation support to any future negotiations in this area. Wherever needed, United Nations specialized agencies also stand ready to provide assistance and technical expertise.

Any discussion of the Aral Sea must recognize the growing threat of climate change. This December, the world's governments will meet in Copenhagen to negotiate a new climate change agreement. It must be ambitious, fair and

SECRETARY-GENERAL PROMISES ON ASSISTANCE IN FORMULATING LONG-TERM SANCTIONS TO
WATER, ENERGY ISSUES OF ARAL SEA BASIN, IN MESSAGE TO ALMATY MEETING

effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It must also assist countries to adapt to the inevitable effects of climate change by facilitating the development and transfer of relevant resources and technology.

Such an agreement can begin to unlock the investments and innovation needed to transform the climate crisis into an opportunity for equitable, sustainable growth for all countries. In order to seal the deal, we will need leadership at the highest level from all countries, powerful or poor. I encourage your active participation in this process, with the same spirit that you are engaged in saving the Aral Sea. I wish you a productive and successful meeting.

* * * * *

For information media not an official record

Load-Date: April 28, 2009

End of Document

Uzbek leader against "third" parties involvement in water talks

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
April 28, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 545 words

Body

Text of report by privately-owned Kyrgyz AKIpress news agency website

Bishkek, 28 April: A dispute has erupted between the Uzbek and Tajik presidents at a summit of the leaders of the Central Asian republics which are founders of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.

The summit was held in Almaty (Kazakhstan) today. The leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan took part in it.

In his speech, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said: "The construction of 'great' hydroelectric power stations and reservoirs lack an unequivocal assessment. The 'great' projects were passed by a decision of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, the political bureau and the Cabinet of Ministers. None of the projects were thought over and nor did they undergo any expert assessment".

Uzbekistan supports the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the European Union which are represented by [the EU special representative for Central Asia, Pierre] Morel, Karimov said.

He said that he would like unwanted assessments by third states, which were trying to heighten the debate between the countries of Central Asia, to be excluded.

"Third countries, which want to take part in the discussion also pursue their own aims. We must think about reaching an agreement here on our own, and not raise the discussion to a political aspect," he said.

"I pay tribute to Kyrgyzstan's and Tajikistan's interests, but a compromise must be reached. There is no solution to this issue without a compromise," Karimov said.

The Uzbek leader fully supported the Turkmen president's speech on reaching a compromise.

Karimov said that without a compromise, it would take many years to resolve the issues. He urged his counterparts to resolve the existing issues jointly without involving others, and not to become a bargaining chip for other countries on the "divide and rule" principle.

After Karimov's speech, the presidents were due to sign a joint statement on the results of the summit.

"However, some issues have been raised by Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said, and recommended that these remarks be removed from the agenda and the joint statement be adopted without signatures.

Uzbek leader against "third" parties involvement in water talks

However, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon expressed his disagreement. He said that the presidents had agreed to discuss water and energy issues.

"I had proposed this and you all had supported it, but this discussion is unfolding here. I also have something to say. Not only those hydroelectric power stations which are under construction, but also the reservoirs, which are being built by some countries and which are twice as large as the Aral Sea, should also be examined by experts," Rahmon told his counterparts.

Nazarbayev agreed to remove the water issues from the joint statement.

After some time, information has appeared that the leaders have adopted the text of joint statement taking into consideration the opinion of the countries - founders of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.

Uzbekistan is against the construction of large hydroelectric power stations on the rivers in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan that flow to the Amu Darya and Syr Darya.

Source: AKIpress news agency website, Bishkek, in Russian 1307 gmt 28 Apr 09

Load-Date: April 28, 2009

United Nations: Secretary-General promises Un assistance in formulating long-term sanctions to water, energy issues of aral sea basin, in message to almaty meeting

M2 PressWIRE

April 29, 2009 Wednesday

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Length: 539 words

Body

Un assistance in formulating long-term **sanctions** to **water**, energy issues of **aral** sea basin, in message to almaty meeting

Following is UN Secretary-General Bank Ki-moon's message to the Summit of the Member States of the International Fund for Saving the **Aral** Sea (IFAS), delivered by Miroslav Jenca, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive **Diplomacy** for Central Asia, in Almaty, 28 April:

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Load-Date: April 29, 2009

Russian commentary says Aral summit wrecked by interstate recriminations

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union - Political

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 1, 2009 Friday

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Length: 1465 words

Body

Text of report by Russian political commentary website Politkom.ru on 29 April

[Article by Sergey Rasov: "**Aral** Is Beyond Saving"]

For more than 15 years now the countries of Central Asia have been unable to **agree** on the exploitation of "the resources of cross-border **rivers**." As Politkom.ru had suggested, the summit of the heads of state of the founder countries of the International Fund to Save the **Aral** held in Kazakhstan yesterday ended with no result. In this connection it should be remembered that on the eve of the meeting Central Asian countries began to actively create **water** and energy blocs against each other....

The initiator was President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, who, in order to achieve his objectives, forgot about his past disagreements with Nursultan Nazarbayev. The Uzbek leader actively organized a common stance against the Tajiks and Kyrgyz, getting the presidents of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to side with him. Then the Uzbekistan Foreign Ministry distributed an official statement "on the stance of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the issue of the construction of new hydropower installations on upper reaches of cross-border rivers of Central Asia." The diplomatic department made a hard-line statement about Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which are seeking "to hastily implement new large-scale projects for hydropower installations in the 'best' Soviet traditions of unrestrained violence against nature," are pursuing commercial interests, and "are are totally ignoring the concerns of neighbouring countries." It was also stated that "interference by third countries in the water and energy problems of Central Asia is inadmissible." This refers to Russia, which is allocating credit of \$1.7 billion for "the purpose of the construction of the Kambarata GES-1 [hydroelectric power station]" in Kyrgyzstan. The Uzbekistan Foreign Ministry insisted on "the need for a mandatory international expert assessment under UN auspices of all hydroelectric power projects on cross-border rivers. When it is a question of the construction of such major hydropower installations as the Kambarata GES-1 and Rogun hydroelectric power station [in Tajikistan], absolutely independent authoritative specialists must be recruited to make the expert assessment," the statement says.

The shortage of water has turned into a serious problem for Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan - countries lying on the lower reaches of the Amudarya and Syrdarya Rivers, which feed the Aral Sea. The Syrdarya and Amudarya rise in the Tian Shan and Pamir mountains. The Syrdarya flows from Kyrgyzstan through Tajikistan and Uzbekistan into Kazakhstan. The Amudarya flows from Tajikistan to Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Thus, oil-and gas-rich Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan receive water from poor countries - Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The latter are unable to pay market prices for fossil fuel supplies and see the development of their own electricity industry as their chance of breaking out of the crisis. In Tajikistan's opinion, around \$900 million can be earned from selling electricity from the Rogun hydropower station alone. Uzbekistan is categorically opposed to the construction of high-powered hydropower stations on the upper reaches of the region's cross-border rivers. Islam Karimov feels

Russian commentary says Aral summit wrecked by interstate recriminations

that the Rogun hydropower station in Tajikistan and Kambarata GES-1 and -2 in Kyrgyzstan will reduce the volumes of water reaching Uzbekistan after they are commissioned. For their part, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan consider that water is a commodity. And so the Kazakhs and the Uzbeks should have to make an annual payment for services for the multi-year storage, conservation, and delivery of water. It was suggested that at the Alma-Ata summit that the parties would be able to agree and sign a long-term agreement on the management of water resources in Central Asia, but this did not prove possible.

All five presidents of the Central Asia region came to the meeting; Russian representatives were not invited. In his capacity as host, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that around \$2 billion has been spent on saving the Aral but described the present state of the Aral Sea as "a world catastrophe." Nobody is any longer hopeful of restoring the Aral to its previous level; today "it is a question of purifying this water and providing the population with clean water," the Kazakhstan leader noted. His counterpart Islam Karimov said that "saving the Aral Sea... is practically impossible." And although Nursultan Nazarbayev urged the guests not to deviate from the agenda and to discuss only the problems of the Aral Sea, the discussion of water problems inevitably involved mutual recriminations. Thus, President Kurmanbek Bakiyev of Kyrgyzstan reminded his neighbours that "the main burden in resolving the problems of the water shortages of last year and the severe winter fell on the shoulders of the population of Kyrgyzstan, who felt personally all the hardships of electricity shortages and rolling power cuts aimed at saving water." After which he hinted that Kyrgyzstan needs compensation for water storage services. In particular, he cited the 2004 World Bank report *Water Energy Nexus in Central Asia*. Kurmanbek Bakiyev recalled that the World Bank suggests recognizing explicitly that an upstream country needs to be "compensated in cash for water storage services." Thereby stalemating the discussion. In response Islam Karimov took a swipe at Russia, saying that "third countries are politicizing this issue" in order to resolve geopolitical issues and control the entire region. And he noted that "Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are first and foremost concerned about their own interests."

"All these great projects were adopted in accordance with a decision of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, the Politburo, and the USSR Council of Ministers, and that also includes the projects that have been talked about today. And I am highly convinced that none of these projects was seriously thought through. None of them underwent any kind of expert assessment, let alone an international assessment," Karimov said.

In his words, Uzbekistan, the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank, and the European Union share the same attitude. After Karimov's speech, Tajikistan leader Emomali Rahmon refused to sign the summit final documents unless issues of water utilization and hydropower station construction in the region were excised from them. This related to Islam Karimov's amendments, which essentially would have imposed conditions on Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan obliging them to agree with their neighbours on the construction of new hydroelectric power stations in the region. Emomali Rahmon demanded that "henceforth large reservoirs in downstream countries with a volume of water greater than in the Aral Sea" should also be subjected to an objective international expert assessment. The conversation started to resemble not a chat between neighbours in a communal apartment but a conversation between a dumb and a deaf person. In the end, in order to avoid raising the temperature, Nursultan Nazarbayev asked the experts to exclude these points from the final declaration. Thus a joint statement by the leaders of the founder countries of the International Fund to Save the Aral was signed after all. In it the sides yet again stated that they "confirm their interest in developing a mutually acceptable mechanism for the comprehensive utilization of water resources and the protection of the environment in Central Asia taking account of the interests of all the states of the region."

Ultimately two conclusions flow from the Alma-Ata summit. First, it has to be recognized and accepted that the restoration of the Aral Sea in its previous boundaries is impossible. What was once the fourth-largest internal body of water in the world has lost three fourths of its water volume, and its area has shrunk by more than half. It is necessary to save the people who live around the dying sea.

Second, Islam Karimov is insisting on solving the water problems independently, without Kremlin interference. The position of Russia, which first promised Tajikistan to complete the construction of the Rogun hydroelectric power station and then assured Uzbekistan that it would not do so without its agreement and after that adopted a decision to grant credit to Kyrgyzstan, does not suit the Uzbek leader. It is totally unclear at this point how it is intended to resolve the acute mutual disputes over the distribution of the region's water resources without an intermediary, as

Russian commentary says Aral summit wrecked by interstate recriminations

was indeed demonstrated by the summit of the heads of state of the founder countries of the International Fund to Save the Aral.

Source: Politkom.ru website, Moscow, in Russian 29 Apr 09

Load-Date: May 1, 2009

End of Document

Tajik press reacts to Uzbek leader's objection to new power stations

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 12, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 1095 words

Body

Most central Tajik newspapers have widely reacted to a recent summit of Central Asian leaders on the *Aral* Sea environmental disaster. The summit, held in Almaty on 28 April, was marred by serious *disagreement* between the Tajik and Uzbek leaders over the construction of new *hydroelectric* power stations in the region's upstream countries, with President Emomali Rahmon *threatening* to walk out if President Islom Karimov's proposals were not removed from the summit's final communiqué.

An article by Rajab Mirzo in the privately-owned Nigoh weekly said that the summit of the five Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan ended with no clear outcome. He said: "Despite the fact that Rahmon, Nazarbayev, Bakiyev, Karimov and Berdimuhamedow gathered to discuss only the problem of the *Aral* Sea, the discussions eventually revolved around an 'unpleasant' issue for all of them, that is the region's *water* resources."

It went on to suggest that the Almaty summit had failed to achieve any positive results.

"We can say that one more meeting of the presidents ended with no results," it said.

Referring to Uzbek President Islom Karimov's objection to new power stations in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, a commentary by M. Maqsadulloh in the privately-owned Tojikiston weekly suggested that Tashkent's opposition to such projects frightened off potential foreign investments into the Tajik and Kyrgyz energy sectors, making these countries' economic development even more difficult.

"As a matter of fact, comrade Karimov's behind-the-scene purpose of fanning up the issue of the region's water and electricity, which has been continuing for the past 17 years, is to draw the attention of the international community to investment projects on building hydroelectric power stations in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Islom Karimov knows very well that when he makes use of this card in his own distinctive manner, the question of foreign investments in the region's hydroelectric power stations comes to a temporary halt," Maqsadulloh said.

He went on to say that ecological damage was inflicted on Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan as a result of "hasty" policies by Uzbekistan's leadership in the Soviet past.

"Scientists now proved that the land reclamation policy and hastiness in irrigating new cotton fields in Uzbekistan had led to a 10-fold increase in water consumption in the region, triggering the shrinking of the Aral Sea. Furthermore, following the Aral Sea disaster, salty currents blowing from the sea have been causing major glaciers in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to thaw, which is the result of insatiable and imprudent land reclamation policies of our Uzbek brothers. So who is going to compensate us for the damage incurred?" Maqsadulloh questioned.

Tajik press reacts to Uzbek leader's objection to new power stations

In conclusion, the journalist said good-neighbourly relations and mutual trade based on fair principles was "a key" to the existing problems among countries in the region. However, he added that if the strained relations between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were to persist, Dushanbe then should consider making water a commodity.

"A solution for the region's disagreements and quarrels over water and electricity as well as oil and gas can undoubtedly be attained through good-neighbourly and brotherly relations, while maintaining social justice in political decisions is a key to the swift resolution of the most complex problems. Such justice must be strictly observed in keeping with the standards that are equally honoured by all participating parties, be it the supply of water and electricity or oil and gas. However, as is known, justice is still violated when it comes to the sale of natural resources, such as electricity and natural gas, to neighbouring countries. Otherwise where is the logic in the fact that Uzbekistan sells 1,000 cu.m. of its natural gas to Kazakhstan for 84 dollars, while setting the price of the same amount of gas to Tajikistan at 240 dollars. On top of this, Tashkent has been using various pretexts to reduce the volume of gas exports [for Tajik consumers] by about 40 per cent. The use of economic pressure, unfounded pretensions and provocative pleas for the sake of reaching one's goals cannot and will not yield any solution to the problem. Otherwise we will be left no other choice but to start charging for our natural resource - water," Maqsadulloh concluded.

A brief report in the Ozodagon privately-owned weekly said: "During the meeting, the executive committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea was tasked with working out a new programme aimed at helping inhabitants of this drying sea basin, as well as with stepping up construction work and attracting more donors," the Ozodagon newspaper said.

A factual report in Tojikiston said World Bank chief Robert Zoellick had recently announced that, at the request of Uzbekistan, it was setting up a team of international experts to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study for the Roghun power station project.

"The World Bank will carry out its survey into the construction of the Roghun power station with the consideration of the interests of downstream countries and of the necessity to ensure the required volume of water flow into transborder rivers," the report said, citing the WB chief's message to the Uzbek president.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan Murodali Alimardon announced that Tajikistan was ready to receive the WB's expert group, adding that some 150m dollars had been earmarked in the 2009 state budget for speeding up Roghun's construction, the Tojikiston report concluded.

Faridun Rahnavard's commentary in Nigoh, among other things, said the Tajik government was determined to finish Roghun's construction, citing the head of the country's government think-tank.

"The director of the Strategic Research Centre under the Tajik president, Suhrob Sharifov, said Tajikistan will not overlook the international community's position, but at the same time, it will not forsake building Roghun. The Tajik side is also concerned about the incorrect distribution of water resources and it wants such energy projects to play a positive role in the resolution of this problem," Rahnavard said.

(The five reports are between 500 and 1,500 words each; no further processing planned)

Sources: Tojikiston newspaper, Dushanbe, in Tajik 30 Apr 09, p 5; Tojikiston newspaper, Dushanbe, in Tajik 30 Apr 09, p 4; Nigoh newspaper, Dushanbe, in Tajik 30 Apr 09, p 3; Nigoh newspaper, Dushanbe, in Tajik 30 Apr 09, p 10; Ozodagon newspaper, Dushanbe, in Tajik 30 Apr 09, p 6

Load-Date: May 12, 2009

Tajik paper claims Uzbekistan to blame for demise of Aral Sea

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 18, 2009 Monday

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Length: 949 words

Body

Hasty development of vast land areas under cotton crops in Uzbekistan has increased tenfold waste of water in the Central Asian region and led to the demise of the Aral Sea. Responding to remarks of Uzbek president, at the Central Asian leaders' meeting on the problems of the Aral Sea held in Kazakhstan, Tajik leader said that international organizations should also look at "wasteful use of water" in Uzbek cotton fields, which is causing the drying up of the Aral Sea. The following is the text of article by M. Maqsadulloh entitled: "Blackmail", published by the Tajik newspaper Tojikistan on 30 April; subheadings inserted editorially:

Yesterday's meeting [29 April] of the heads of the Central Asian states in Almaty [Kazakhstan] devoted to the problems of the Aral Sea has again shown that Uzbekistan will with particular obstinacy and open egotism use all means to achieve its goals on water issues. Scepticism and resentment of the president of Uzbekistan on the issue of the distribution of water in the region has now reached its peak and is about to go beyond the frame of regional disputes.

Using cards skilfully

The presidents of the five Central Asian states gathered in Almaty to discuss the Aral Sea problems. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the beginning of the meeting also stressed that only the problems of the Aral Sea should be discussed during the meeting. However, ignoring the request of his Kazakh counterpart, Uzbek President Islom Karimov with his usual specific insistence shifted the discussion to the water and energy issues.

In fact, Mr Karimov's covert goal of intensifying a dispute over water and electricity in the region, which has been continuing for 17 years, is to attract the attention of the world community to investment projects for the construction of hydroelectric power stations in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Islom Karimov knows well that every time he plays this card in a specific manner, the issue of foreign investment in the hydroelectric power stations in the region will be postponed for a certain time. This is because Tashkent's hue and cry has made international donor organizations to act cautiously. Seeing and knowing this, Karimov is skilfully using this card.

Since the strategy chosen by the Tajik government for the coming four years is to ensure complete energy independence, it must play its new card against the card of Karimov in order to steadfastly follow the goal it set itself.

"Plot hatched to mislead world community"

Responding to his Uzbek counterpart's sceptic remarks, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon also made some scoffing and felicitous remarks saying that we have also something to say on this issue. If Uzbekistan continues meddling in the construction of the Roghun reservoir, we will not turn blind eyes to the existence of water reservoirs which are

Tajik paper claims Uzbekistan to blame for demise of Aral Sea

much bigger than the Roghun reservoir, which is still a project. This sensitive note, in fact, has a rather profound meaning. This is because the roots of the Aral Sea disaster should be sought in the irrational use of water by the downstream countries, including Uzbekistan. The Aral disaster has resulted in by the fact that the downstream countries have been unsparingly and greedily using the region's water resources to irrigate their lands over the past 35 years. It has been scientifically proved that the irrigation policy and hasty development of vast land areas under cotton crops in Uzbekistan has increased tenfold waste of water in the region and led to the demise of the Aral [Sea]. Moreover, following the disaster in the Aral Sea, salty winds risen from it have sucked huge Tajik and Kyrgyz glaciers, and this also happened "thanks to" Uzbek brothers' policy of greedily opening new lands without thinking about future. Then, who must compensate for these losses?

Undoubtedly, the view that the construction of hydroelectric power stations in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan will doom 28m people in Uzbekistan to death is not more than a plot hatched to mislead the world community and in this way, to hide the environmental crimes committed in the region.

Since the World Bank, which quite recently was intending benevolently provide financial assistance to Tajikistan to build the Roghun hydroelectric power station and now wants the [project for the construction of] this hydroelectric power station to be examined, should not ignore this aspect of the problem. It has to be said that Tajikistan, which is an upstream country, irrigates only 170 ha of its land; and Uzbekistan, which is raising hue and cry over the shortage of water, irrigates over 1m ha of land. Where is justice?

The salvation of the region and disputes over water, electricity, oil and gas is, undoubtedly, an aspect of neighbourly relations. However, the administration of social justice in adopting political decisions is a key, which will help equitably resolve this complicated problem. However, as is known, no justice is being administered while selling natural resources, including electricity and gas, to neighbours. For example, where is logic in the fact that Uzbekistan sells its gas to Kazakhstan at the price of 84 dollars per 1,000 cu.m., and at the same time sets the price of 240 dollars for the same amount of its natural resource for its another neighbour Tajikistan moreover under various pretexts it has cut its supplies by 40 per cent? The administration of methods of exerting pressure, ungrounded scepticism and hostile complaints has never been and will never be a way to the settlement of disputes. Otherwise, we will have only one way to sell natural resources water!... [ellipses as published].

Source: Tojikiston, Dushanbe, in Tajik 30 Apr 09 p5

Load-Date: May 18, 2009

No Headline In Original

Global Broadcast Database - English aap.com.au 12:56 PM aap.com.au

May 21, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 868 words

Body

STATION: aap.com.au

ABSTRACT

BISHKEK, May 21 Asia Pulse - In Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous land-locked country, motor freight accounts for nearly 95 per cent of all the cargo carried in the country. As well as having no waterways, the country has only a small railway network and high airfreight rates. The motorways have been repaired very little since 2007. Currently, in addition to preserving and improving the road system, the Government is to undertake repairs. Road fund increased In 2008, 870 kilometers of roads were reconstruction and repaired, and 1.2 billion som was allocated for this purpose, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The Government allocated 293 million soms for the construction of new roads, the Karakol-Tyup-Kegen road in the Issyk-Kul oblast and the Batken-Pulgon road in the Osh oblast. The total road fund grew by 50 per cent when compared to 2007 and amounted to 1.5 billion soms. The benefits which road reconstruction brings are considerable. The surface upgrading of roadways and the installation of road facilities help improve traffic safety, lower freight charges, shorten transportation time, and reduce vehicle upkeep expenses including the cost of fuel and spares. As a result, shipping prices decrease. In 2008, the Government bought 120 units of road rehabilitation equipment for 125 million soms. The construction of 11 bridges has now been completed. Thanks to an improvement in the roads, the passenger traffic grew by seven per cent, while cargo turnover increased by 5.6 per cent. In accordance with the market economy In 2009, the Government is intending to continue to develop the transport complex to meet the demands of the market economy, and to improve the management of all modes of transport with better cooperation between cargo transportation organizations in the commodity logistics systems and international transportation corridors. The legal framework for the introduction of toll roads is also to be developed. In the first quarter of 2009, in Kyrgyzstan the growth of cargo transportation was higher than in other CIS countries, the CIS Interstate Statistical Committee reports. In Kyrgyzstan the volume of freight traffic grew by 8.9 per cent (5 million tons) in comparison with the first three months of 2008. In other CIS countries except for Tajikistan, the freight traffic volume has declined. There are some problems that are to be solved this year. Parliamentary deputies believe that the current law "On transport" has already become outdated. For several years, there have been attempts to create a new law "On transport". With the assistance of all the relevant ministries, the deputies have developed a new draft law, which would solve many problems and bring the documentation in line with the international conventions that Kyrgyzstan has adopted. MPs believe that the adoption of a new document would affect many sectors of the country's economy. Therefore, an analysis of its regulatory impact on economy and an extensive public discussion are required. Foreign investment needed The main goal of the Road Sector Development Strategy until 2020 is to achieve a stable

No Headline In Original

management of the transportation system in Kyrgyzstan. Firstly, it is necessary to improve the financing system in this sector and to transfer gradually all contract works to the private sector. By the end of 2011 the Transport Ministry plans to have completed repairs on 67 per cent of the international roads. The international transport corridors Osh-Sarytash-Irkeshtam, Bishkek-Naryn-Torugart, Osh-Batken-Isfana, and Talas-Suusamyr are to be brought up to meet international standards. This plan will depend upon attracting foreign investment. At the end of 2008, the Kyrgyz Parliament ratified the grant agreement between the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the Asian Development Bank on the Bishkek-Torugart road rehabilitation project. According to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the ADB is giving a US \$20 million grant for this project. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will participate in the Osh-Batken-Isfana project, according to the press service of the Batken oblast administration. The Osh-Sarytash-Irkeshtam project will facilitate trade and transportation between Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and China. The road project includes the supply of modern high-capacity equipment for road maintenance. The southern Batken oblast's territory includes the enclaves of two neighboring states -- Sokh (Uzbekistan) and Varukh (Tajikistan). The Osh-Batken-Isfana highway is the only path linking Batken oblast with other Kyrgyz oblasts and the capital Bishkek. The route goes through Uzbek territory twice and once through Tajikistan. That is why improving the existing roads and building new bypasses which detour the enclaves remain important economic challenges. The EBRD has allocated \$35 million for the construction of the road. The World Bank will also be involved in the financing of road construction. It is expected to allocate \$20 million for this purpose. The projects aimed at developing the transport infrastructure in Batken oblast and the construction of the by-passes are expected to be completed by 2010. (TCA)

Load-Date: August 7, 2009

End of Document

China-built bridge commissioned in Tajikistan

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
June 23, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 155 words

Body

Text of report by privately-owned Tajik Avesta website on 23 June

Dushanbe, 23 June: Today Tajik President Emomali Rahmon attended a ceremony to put into operation a motorway bridge on the **River Syr Darya**, which is linking the town of Khujand with Bobojon Ghafurov District in Sughd Region.

The presidential press service reported that the bridge was built within the project on repairing the Dushanbe-Khujand-Buston-Chanak road.

The motorway bridge is 427 metres long, and is eight metres wide.

The Chinese China Road and Bridge Corporation has constructed the bridge as part of an additional agreement within the project for repairing and building the Dushanbe-Chanak road.

According to information which was received from Khujand, today the president will attend a ceremony to commission a cardiologic centre and block of flats in the administrative centre in Sughd Region.

Source: Avesta website, Dushanbe, in Russian 0545 gmt 23 Jun 09

Load-Date: June 23, 2009

Ukrainian president to attend opening ceremony of railway bridge

Trend Daily Economic News

July 1, 2009 Wednesday 3:28 PM GMT +4

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Section: TRANSPORT

Length: 198 words

Body

Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, July 1 /[Trend News](#), G.Hasanov/

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko will visit Turkey this autumn. An agreement on this issue was reached during a telephone conversation between Ukrainian and Turkmen Presidents Yushchenko and Gurbangulu Berdymuhamedov. Yushchenko was invited to participate in opening ceremony of the railway bridge over the Amu Darya river which is the giant one in Central Asia.

A week ago, Berdymuhamedov was dissatisfied with terms of construction of a railway bridge which is conducted by Ukrtransstroy since 1999 and worth \$123 million. Noting the critical importance of this strategic site, the head of state demanded to take immediate and appropriate steps to complete the construction.

In early January 2009, Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry handed over a note to Kiev, which "expressed concern of the senior management due to fail in terms of construction of critically important sites" by Ukrainian companies. Besides the bridge, there was an engineering-communication tunnel, construction of which was entrusted to Ukrainian "Interbudmontazh" in 1999. The Turkmen authorities have threatened to suit at the international arbitration court.

Load-Date: September 30, 2009

G8: ACQUA, PER LEI SI ARRIVA ANCHE A COMBATTERE/ ANSA

ANSA Notiziario Generale in Italiano

July 10, 2009 Friday 4:10 PM CET

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Section: Politica - Italia

Length: 388 words

Dateline: ROMA

Body

(ANSA) - 10 LUG - L'acqua, al centro di un testo comune del G8 con i Paesi africani, è una delle risorse più necessarie e insostituibili del pianeta Terra e l'accesso alle risorse idriche, come è già successo per il petrolio, è una delle potenziali cause di guerre del futuro. I "punti caldi" del conflitto idrico potenziale sono molti, ma i più critici sono il Lago d'Aral (Kazakhstan, Kirghizistan, Tagikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan), Gange (Bangladesh, India, Nepal), Nilo (Burundi, Rep. Dem Congo, Egitto, Eritrea, Etiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda), Giordano (Israele, Giordania, Libano, Siria, Territori palestinesi), e Tigri-Eufrate (Iraq, Siria, Turchia). I contrasti passano anche tra diverse etnie e diverse zone dello stesso Paese. Causa di proteste e rivolte violente può essere anche la privatizzazione dello sfruttamento idrico. Secondo un libro recente di Vandana Shiva, il primo episodio 'bellico' risale al 1924, quando i residenti della Owens Valley, in California, fecero saltare un acquedotto destinato a dirottare le acque della Sierra Madre verso Los Angeles.

Anche recentemente contese e scontri, anche armati, si sono verificati spesso. Ecco alcuni degli ultimi casi con intervento di autorità politiche: - marzo 2001 - Una fonte governativa israeliana dichiara che Israele non resterà passivo davanti alla decisione libanese di pompare le acque dell'Hasbany, che fornisce circa il 25% delle acque del Lago di Tiberiade, principale serbatoio idrico dello stato ebraico, ma nasce in Libano. Lo sfruttamento delle risorse idriche è uno dei motivi di scontro con tra Israele e Autorità nazionale palestinese. - gennaio 2005 - La Bolivia è paralizzata da uno sciopero generale per chiedere la rescissione del contratto di trattamento delle acque in mano a Aguas de Illimani, filiale della società francese Suez-Lyonnaise de Eaux. E' solo l'ultimo episodio di una 'guerra dell'acqua che va avanti da anni. - settembre 2005 - Il Governatore di Omsk, in Siberia, accusa la Cina di prelievo incontrollato dal fiume Irtysh, che nasce sul versante cinese dell'Altai, tocca il Kazakhstan, e poi entra in Russia. Il dirottamento di risorse idriche verso il distretto cinese di Karamai, potrebbe provocare carenze di acqua potabile per circa 2,5 milioni di persone.

Load-Date: July 10, 2009

Turkmenistan completes railway bridge over Oxus

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

August 25, 2009 Tuesday

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Length: 161 words

Body

Excerpt from report by pro-government Turkmenistan.ru Internet newspaper website on 25 August

The construction of a railway bridge, the largest in the region, across the **River Amu Darya** has been completed in eastern Turkmenistan. The 1,414-metre Atamyrat-Kerkici bridge is practically ready for **commissioning**, a Turkmenistan.ru correspondent reports from Ashgabat.

[Passage omitted: the 123m-dollar bridge has been built by a Ukrainian firm]

According to the Turkmen state news agency (TDH), the new bridge makes it possible to speed up the development of the right bank of the River Amu Darya, which is rich in hydrocarbon as well as mineral resources.

"The commissioning of the large installation across the Amu Darya will play an important role in using the giant transit potential of Turkmenistan, a country situated at the crossroads of North and South and East and West," the report says.

Source: Turkmenistan.ru Internet newspaper website, Moscow, in Russian 25 Aug 09

Load-Date: August 25, 2009

US endgame in Afghanistan: Pakistan regional power in Central Asia

Rupee News

August 29, 2009 Saturday 4:53 AM EST

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Newstex Web Blogs
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Length: 5393 words

Byline: aliphbay@aol.com (Rupee News)

Body

Aug. 29, 2009 ([Rupee News](#) delivered by Newstex) --

President Zardari recently visited Tajikistan and agreed to build a rail and road network from Dushambe to Gwader. This surely did rankle feathers in Delhi. The Bharati defense establishment is in a tizzy. Unable to come up with a proper reply, they are going through the motions of a diplomatic response. Since Russia brokered the deal between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan, Delhi is unable to undo the alliance. Premier Singh could not go to Dushambe so the Delhi bureaucracy did the next best thing, they are sending President Pratibha Patil to visit to Tajikistan on September 2. Pakistan cannot remain impervious to the threat of spread of challenges from Afghanistan to neighboring countries. It has been very active indeed

Delhi is fishing on troubled waters seeking alliances with countries way beyond its shores. Foreign interference, regional rivalry, Bharati dreams of hegemony play active parts in Delhis designs. For Bharat the violent manifestations of separatism and extremism add to the potential for instability beyond the Amu Darya and the Kabul river? in Central Asia.

The visit of the Ms. Patil provides a rare backdrop to pin Bharati thoughts on Delhis approach to regional security issues in South and Central Asia. Bharat which was ascendant in its relations with the Central Asian Republics a decade ago and made some huge inroads into Tajikistan. It is now a bystander as it watches Tajikistan slip away to the various interests arrayed in front of it. The region is still caught in the vortex of security problems and threats that may appear temporary or episodic but are real, formative and more complex than anyone could imagine. The West sees the biggest threat to regional stability originating from Afghanistan. However the regional view is different. Tajikistan sees a local insurgency and Uzbekistan is threatened by the IMU. The militancy is intermingled with the activities of radical extremists and drug traffickers.

Regional radicalism, local insurgencies, revolutionary zeal, are huge problems in Central Asia. Simultaneously a high level of strategic and geographical uncertainty has dogged the region for some time. Paradoxically this instability stems from big power rivalries exacerbated by the multiple invasions of Afghanistan and the ongoing war on terror. Oil remains the prize for all the energy starved nations surrounding Central Asia. The Black gold gives the region the focus that it doesn't want. Its importance as a major source of oil and gas props it up as an alternative

US endgame in Afghanistan : Pakistan regional power in Central Asia

to the volatile Middle East and Caspian regions. Russias status as a regional power and a source of energy to Europe has made the regions security more complex.

The major powers of the world Russia, the US and China are competing to consolidate their hold on the region through complex matrix of relationships that simultaneously inculcate competition and promote cooperation at the same time. This concept of ChiUSA, ChiRussia, AmeriChin and AmerRussia makes the situation more complex. The strategic rivalry disguised as cooperation is worsening security in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan with a huge spillover in Pakistan. As local Tajik militants threaten Tajikistans dictators the house of cards in Central Asia seems ready to implode like the USSR slipped into chaos for a decade. This strategic uncertainty has humongous implications for the world and the region.

Pakistan is not averse to being the promoter or participant in a competing efforts. In fact Pakistan was very active in Central Asia right after the imploding USSR had left a huge vacuum north of the Kabul River. Pakistan is affected by the ongoing struggle for spheres of influence between the pro-Russian and pro-American vectors or among contending programs for the region. The Russian energy plans compete with the US Greater Middle East plans. The rise of Red China and Americas new banker mingles with the the EUs expansion. The rise of Muslim parties in Turkey have brought it into the game also. A hint of irredentism can be seen in the moves by Ankara. Turkey sees Pakistan as a strategic partner for increasing its influence in its former countries. The IMU and other groups in the region are pressing for the inevitable integration of the region. It would be best for all players to peacefully support a democratic Central Asia rather than set up dictatorships that are more aligned with the Western powers. The West and Russia can support a Pro-Western democratic Central Asian Union or it will have to deal with a Anti-Western totalitarian Caliphate.

The international players involved in the region are supporting the regions fragile stability but may face a backlash akin to the Iranian revolution. The current American policy focuses on drawing the Central Asian countries into its sphere of influence. It is looking at stabilizing Afghanistan, pacifying Pakistan and neutralizing Iran. As the US nears a peace deal in Afghanistan it surely rankles Indian feathers in Delhi. Any movement towards peace is seen with suspicion by the pundits of the Ganges.

Is the Bharati Presidents visit to Tajikistan largely ceremonial? Some would like to think so. Many in Delhi would like to see Pratibha Devisingh Patil consolidate the two bases in Tajikistan and ensure that the deal with Pakistan does not jeopardize Bharati interests in Tajikistan and the region. Bharat is jittery about Pakistan simultaneously appearing on several templates in South Asia, Central Asia, and the Greater Middle East. The Bharati discussion on the decade old Afghan war was narrowly focused on an Anti-Pakistan agenda. It failed to see the hidden American agenda of the Afghan war"encroachment into Central Asia. Egged on by the Bush Administration in the post 911 era Bharat tried to become a regional player. That regional play painted a target on Delhi. Bharati assets in Central Asia are now seen as interference in the big power play between Russia and the US. Russia sees Delhi with suspicion because it has become too close to America. The US on the other hand sees Bharati moves as competition. Americas latent agenda is not hidden anymore. The core agenda of GWOT was and remains the pursuit of Plan of a New American Century (PNAC) and global domination. Many Neocons see it as the unfinished business of the Cold War. Many analysts will see 2008 as the year of Cold War 2.

The appointment of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Robin Raphel as a member of the Richard Holbrookes team is a ominous sign for Delhi and a good omen for Pakistan. On October 28th 1993, Robin Raphel stated that Washington did not recognise the Instrument of Accession to India as meaning that Kashmir is not forever more an integral part of India. She expressed the view that the whole of Kashmir is disputed territory, the future status of which must be determined in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir.

Her appointment is the clearest signal yet of the US rapprochement with the Taliban and gives us an inkling to the American Exit strategy which was publicly announced by President Barack Obama and is being openly discussed in the US Congress. The opinion polls surely show a trend whereby neither the the American public nor the US Congress will not tolerate a perpetual mimetic warfare in Afghanistan. Mr. Raphel enjoys privileged access to the

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Taliban leadership in Qandahar. This is déjà vu repetition of the 90s. History repeats itself. The Taliban was seen as a solution by the CIA. Congressman Rohrabaker was instrumental in setting up the Taliban to bring security to Afghanistan. The plan had worked. However the Neocons in the Bush Administration wanted a war and show the world that America could occupy and create new realities in the region. Many contend that the 2nd nuclear bomb thrown on a distraught and surrendering Japan was lobbed on Nagasaki as a warning to Russia, not as an assault on Tokyo. Many see the attack on Afghanistan and the destruction of a Russian ally "Iraq as warning to a resurgent Russia and a rising China. The games with the Taliban have already begun. The surge was the first play in an Exit strategy. Mr. Raphael has openly and actively campaigned for the Taliban's unique credentials as an indigenous force capable of stabilizing Afghanistan, which posed no real threat to world or American security.

It is obvious that America has wanted to strategically dominate Central Asia even before 9/11. Does NATO have an open-ended stay? Will NATO expand to include Pakistan within its fold? The writing is on the wall. The U.S. is unable to win the war in Afghanistan without Pakistan. It tried it for a decade. It did not work. The US used Bharat to counteract Pakistani moves and wanted to gobble up Afghanistan like Puerto Rico and Hawaii. It did not work. In a post American Spanish war, the US had annexed the Philippines and had to regurgitate the country and accept it as an independent state, after losing 20,000 soldiers. Now in a change of policy, the US wants to do the same in Afghanistan. It wants to stabilize Afghanistan by pacifying Pakistani fears. Bharat has been asked to curtail the activities of its consulates. The US is also encouraging the NATO-Pakistan partnership. NATO ties with Pakistan which were on a medium-term basis seem to be going beyond the Afghan war. Bharati analysts wonder how a NATO with Pakistan and Turkey would manage the interests of Delhi.

China, Russia and the US all feel threatened by the radicals in AfPak. The only way to reduce the simmering temperatures in the Hindu Kush is to include the Pakistanis. This is a lesson learned by two great powers of our time. The rehabilitation of the Taliban in a setup in Kabul and its inclusion in mainstream Afghan politics is not only on the anvil, it is going to be one of the results on the "elections". Gulbuddin Hikmatyars Hizb e Islami is a major player in the Afghan majlis. Mr. Karzai has promised the inclusion of the moderate Taliban in the government. Bharat sees the inclusion of the Taliban without its formal disarming, as a clear and present danger to its interests in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Bharat is trying to do the calculus and factor in what the ascendance of its nemesis in the region will entail for its security. Delhi is unable to learn a lesson from the fact that King Zahir Shah is dead. Bharat is unable to see the writing on the wall "All roads to Afghanistan lead through Islamabad".

As the U.S. political engagement of the Taliban gains traction and as a new government in Kabul tries to include the Taliban into its fold, Washington will surely expect New Delhi to keep the Bharati profile in Kabul below the parapet. These contradictions present Bharat with huge challenges. For the first time in a decade Bharat is confronted with a regional security paradigm with contradictory tendencies. Bharat has to keep the lines of communication open with Pakistan.

The Bharati president's visit to Dushanbe takes place at a critical juncture when several tectonic plates are converging together with full force. The blind men in Delhi and those who travel with Ms. Patil cannot hear the inevitable earthquake. The deaf in Delhi cannot see the U.S. creating a new power equation in Kabul which includes the Taliban.

Admiral Mullen, Richard Holbrooke, General McChrystal, and all the half dozen envoys to AfPak seem to be discussing an end to the war in Afghanistan and serious engagement with the Taliban. After a brilliantly successful operation which culminated in the decapitation of the TTP, the British just ponied up an additional \$800 million for the rehabilitation effort in Swat. The Foreign Secretary David Miliband underscored the reconciliation with the Taliban in his recent speech at the NATO headquarters.

Just bringing the Taliban into Kabul will not solve everything. Afghanistan is a multi-ethnic country and it is affected by its neighbors. The IMU and the Tajik rebels are also key stake holders in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Can Washington count on Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to acquiesce to the process? It would be to American interests if a democratic dispensation is placed in Dushanbe and Tashkent. Pakistan is rooting

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for reconciliation with the Talibs. Sensing victory the Talibs are a bit reluctant. The ISI and the Pakistani government has openly offered to help the US in bringing the Talibs to the table if the US sequestered Bharati involvement in Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan is important to peace in Afghanistan as it lies just north of the Amu Darya (known as the Oxus during the reign of Lord Curzon) . Pakistan is critical for peace in the Pakhtun heartland. Iran is important in Herat. All of Afghanistans neighbors, including Iran have to buy in to the new dispensation. This includes Dushambe in northern Tashkent in Northwestern Afghanistan and Islamabad in southern and eastern Afghanistan.

Bharat faces a complex regional security challenge. Pakistan has a huge advantage in the endgame in the Afghan war. It has correctly anticipated the inevitable shift in the regional alignments. It clearly sees the picture as the U.S. presses ahead with its long term strategy in Central Asia. Mr. Zardari's recent visit to Tajikistan was a clear indication of far sightedness. The visit also produced some tangible results. Hooking up Dushambe to the warm waters of the Arabian sea world surely put a smile on the ghost of Catherine the Great. She had told her progeny to extend Russian links to the ocean. Pakistans smart geopolitical positioning is now paying dividends. Islamabad is in the drivers seat. It can take advantage of an intense US desire to leave Afghanistan with a face saving "victory". Islamabad has checkmated Bharat which had seemed to control Afghanistan. Delhi overplayed its hand by sending in its army of mercenaries which caused havoc with normal life in Pakistan. Bharati grandstanding on Mumbai and its interference in Tibet and Xinjiang created a Chinese backlash which forced the US to ask Delhi to cool its jets.

Bharats plans to paint Pakistan into a corner seem to have backfired. Most countries supported Pakistani efforts in Swat and want it to continue the eradication of the evil doers. The Pakistan Army is taking its time. Pakistans burgeoning ties with the Turkey and NATO seem to be a virtual U.S. guarantee against any coercive diplomacy on Indias part. Islamabads an all-weather friendship with China keeps Bharat out of the loop. Mr. Zardari's active regional diplomacy with Iran kept Bharat out of the energy grid. The Pakistani machinerys partnership with the Central Asian States with active participation of Russia are a brilliant move which caught Delhi off-guard. Pakistan has a geographic advantage. It lies between, Russia, China and Afghanistan. It has become a key interlocutor for regional countries. Energy and the Talibs make it an indispensable player in the region. Iran, has learned its lessons from the 90s. By fighting Pakistan and supporting the Northern Alliance for a decade it locked itself out of Afghanistan. Tajikistan sits on a powder keg. Uzbekistan faces huge issues with the IMU. All these factors make Pakistan indispensable to the region.

The frontline Central Asian states, Russia and Iran are under compulsion to seek out Pakistan as an important interlocutor in seeking a practical solution to the issues affecting their national security. Turkey, Iran and Pakistan have reignited the ECO as a regional mechanism to bring peace and stability to the region. All countries of the region including Russia and China have formed bilateral and regional formats for engaging Pakistan on all fronts. Pakistan remains an irreplaceable ally for the U.S. To achieve its goals in Central Asia the U.S. is obliged to strengthen Pakistani military capability. Pakistan continues to take a nuanced approach towards the various militant groups that threaten Indias security. Islamabad is careful in not confronting American interests directly. At the same time it is pushing its own agenda at its own pace. Delhi watches on the sidelines. The trip to Tajikistan by Ms. Patil will be just a show of pomp "full of sound and fury"signifying nothing.

President Zardari recently visited Tajikistan and agreed to build a rail and road network from Dushambe to Gwader. This surely did rankle feathers in Delhi. The Bharati defense establishment is in a tizzy. Unable to come up with a proper reply, they are going through the motions of a diplomatic response. Since Russia brokered the deal between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan, Delhi is unable to undo the alliance. Premier Singh could not go to Dushambe so the Delhi bureaucracy did the next best thing, they are sending President Pratibha Patil to visit to Tajikistan on September 2. Pakistan cannot remain impervious to the threat of spread of challenges from Afghanistan to neighbouring countries. It has been very active indeed

Delhi is fishing on troubled waters seeking alliances with countries way beyond its shores. Foreign interference, regional rivalry, Bharati dreams of hegemony play active parts in Delhis designs. For Bharat the violent

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manifestations of separatism and extremism add to the potential for instability beyond the Amu Darya and the Kabul river"? in Central Asia.

The visit of the Ms. Patil provides a rare backdrop to pin Bharati thoughts on Delhi's approach to regional security issues in South and Central Asia. Bharat which was ascendant in its relations with the Central Asian Republics a decade ago and made some huge inroads into Tajikistan. It is now a bystander as it watches Tajikistan slip away to the various interests arrayed in front of it. The region is still caught in the vortex of security problems and threats that may appear temporary or episodic but are real, formative and more complex than anyone could imagine. The West sees the biggest threat to regional stability originating from Afghanistan. However the regional view is different. Tajikistan sees a local insurgency and Uzbekistan is threatened by the IMU. The militancy is intermingled with the activities of radical extremists and drug traffickers.

Regional radicalism, local insurgencies, revolutionary zeal, are huge problems in Central Asia. Simultaneously a high level of strategic and geographical uncertainty has dogged the region for some time. Paradoxically this instability stems from big power rivalries exacerbated by the multiple invasions of Afghanistan and the ongoing war on terror. Oil remains the prize for all the energy starved nations surrounding Central Asia. The Black gold gives the region the focus that it doesn't want. Its importance as a major source of oil and gas props it up as an alternative to the volatile Middle East and Caspian regions. Russia's status as a regional power and a source of energy to Europe has made the region's security more complex.

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The international players involved in the region are supporting the region's fragile stability but may face a backlash akin to the Iranian revolution. The current American policy focuses on drawing the Central Asian countries into its sphere of influence. It is looking at stabilizing Afghanistan, pacifying Pakistan and neutralizing Iran. As the US nears a peace deal in Afghanistan it surely rankles Indian feathers in Delhi. Any movement towards peace is seen with suspicion by the pundits of the Ganges.

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post 911 era Bharat tried to become a regional player. That regional play painted a target on Delhi. Bharati assets in Central Asia are now seen as interference in the big power play between Russia and the US. Russia sees Delhi with suspicion because it has become too close to America. The US on the other hand sees Bharati moves as competition. Amercas latent agenda is not hidden anymore. The core agenda of GWOT was and remains the pursuit of Plan of a New American Century (PNAC) and global domination. Many Neocons see it as the unfinished business of the Cold War. Many analysts will see 2008 as the year of Cold War 2.

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Posted in Afghan CA, Current Affairs, History, India CA, Pak CA, Politics, S. Asia History, US CA, US Int Rel., US Poli Tagged: Pakistan regional power in Central Asia, The Pakistani perspective on Central Asia, US endgame in Afghanistan

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Rationed use of water resources - the key to sustainable development

Trend Daily News (Azerbaijan)

September 2, 2009 Wednesday 2:15 PM GMT +4

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Section: FOREIGN POLICY

Length: 678 words

Body

Commentator of [Trend News](#) European Desk, Victoria Zhavoronkova

For a long time, Central Asia has been a relatively unified system, providing its peoples with good living conditions. This system has developed itself over the centuries and creates objective requirements for the integration process, for the mutually beneficial international division and cooperation of labor at various levels. Along with this, the majority of people in the region have a historic understanding, gained from tough experience, about the need to live in peace and cooperation. The territory provided them with water for centuries; it is located in the basins of the rivers of Central Asia, the Amu Darya and Syr Darya, and has long been known as Mesopotamia. These major arteries formed a water system for the region.

However, the decisions that were taken during the USSR led to intervention in the natural process and the irrational use of water resources, dramatically altering the age-old system of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya drainage. All this caused a twentieth-century ecological catastrophe, linked with the drying of the Aral Sea, the consequences of which today are not just confined to the Aral Sea region and Central Asian countries, but which reach far beyond.

In a situation where several territories of the region are experiencing a chronic shortage of drinking and irrigation water, the sensible use of natural resources, especially water, is becoming one of the most pressing issues for the region. The water of the transboundary rivers is not only needed for the development of the power economy, but also for food security and providing adequate living conditions for people living on their shores. The Central Asian countries are seeking to rationally use the water resources.

For example, in Uzbekistan, dozens of projects on the water supply and accurate rationing of drinking and irrigation water are being carried out both with the national budget and foreign investment; it is already producing a tangible effect. For instance, the country has allocated over three billion soums (1000 UZS = 0.6650 USD) to introduce irrigation for growing fruit and vegetables. Considerable resources are directed at purchasing accurate water flow meters for homes, industrial and processing enterprises and private firms.

However, such approaches to the priceless gift of nature are not manifested everywhere. Irrational use of water may lead to the further deterioration of the ecological situation and the increasing pressure on water resources in the region. It is necessary to take into account possible consequences.

Rationed use of water resources - the key to sustainable development

Irrational use of water resources in the region has already led to a river flow reduction to the estuaries of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers. As a result, the Aral Sea - once the world's fourth largest lake - has become a series of salty lakes, separated from one another. So it is not an exaggeration to say an ecological disaster of world significance has occurred in the region.

The water problem in Central Asia must be solved by all the countries, which are involved one way or another. Otherwise, this may further aggravate the situation of the water supply in the lower reaches of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers and further aggravate the ecological catastrophe of the drying of the Aral Sea.

Also one cannot ignore the fact that this zone is of high significance. Experts, who can sensibly assess the environmental situation in the region, should be involved in implementing projects on the two rivers. The water and energy sector is important for the economies and living standards of the countries throughout Central Asia. Long-term stability in the region and prospects for future economic growth in all the Central Asian countries depend highly on the regional cooperation's success and a respect for all national strategic interests. In short, the distribution of water resources should not become a bone of contention among the countries and a cause of environmental disasters.

This article used materials provided by the Uzbek Embassy in Azerbaijan.

Load-Date: October 1, 2009

New vehicle checkpoint built on Turkmen-Uzbek border

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

September 3, 2009 Thursday

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Length: 142 words

Body

Text of report by state-owned Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr **channel** on 3 September

The construction has ended of a new border checkpoint for vehicles in Farap, on the right bank of **River Amu Darya** [on Turkmen-Uzbek border]. A ceremony will be held soon to **commission** the building. The two-storey terminal, which also includes several auxiliary premises, has all conveniences for the efficient work of the staff and for cargo checking operations in a timely manner and with high quality.

The terminal is equipped with modern devices including a powerful X-ray equipment which makes it possible to check cargo vehicles without unloading them.

A heavy flow of transit vehicles coming from Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan cross this checkpoint every day.

Source: Turkmen TV Altyn Asyr channel, Ashgabat, in Turkmen 1300 gmt 3 Sep 09

Load-Date: September 3, 2009

IMU & Taliban eye Central Asia again

Rupee News

November 21, 2009 Saturday 3:40 PM EST

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Byline: aliphbay@aol.com (Rupee News)

Body

Nov. 21, 2009 ([Rupee News](#) delivered by Newstex) --

While several reporters in Russia and the US have recently woken up to the Afghan **war** spillover into Central Asia, Rupee News has been monitoring the seesaw for years. [AfPak countercurrents beyond the Oxus to AfPakAzUzbKazTurkKyr-istan](#). Several recent incidents on the **Amu darya** (Oxus **River**) which forms the boundary line between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have caught the attention of international analysts and Afghanistan watchers. This autumn, many Afghan officials, including Mr. Karzai have expressed repeated concern bordering on panic that the Taliban are transferring **forces** to the north of the country. Discussing the move, on September 23, Afghan General Mustafa Patang said hundreds of militants had arrived in the north. They should have not have been surprised. The insurgents control most of Southeastern and Western Afghanistan. It is but logical that they go after the last remnants that they do not control. The move to the North was all the more obvious since the warlord Dostum was in exile abroad.

[AfPak countercurrents beyond the Oxus to AfPakAzUzbKazTurkKyr-istan](#)

[Uzbekistan is scared of IMU/Taliban reprisals on supplies to Kabul Anti-Occupation forces choke US Afghan war](#)

The Central Asian Republics (CARs) have once again allowed their territories to be used as the supply chain to bring in military freight into Afghanistan. The new supply lines are actually the old supply lines used by the USSR. The Uzbeks and the Pakhtuns know these routes well. The Central Asian Republics (CARs) were never immune from the Afghan war and are increasingly being dragged into the vortex of conflict. The exponential increase in Taliban activities in the German controlled Kunduz province, a region close to Tajikistan foretells the Pakhtun strategy to disrupt the supply NATO lines from the northern route. On October 12, President Hamid Karzai confirmed that the insurgents were moving men to the north. He astonished the reporters by claiming that they were using military helicopters to do so "obviously hinting at collusion with Afghan military personnel. In May, police were targeted in and around the eastern city of Andijan, while in August the deputy head of the interior ministry's counter-terrorism department, Colonel Hasan Asadov, was killed. The bulk of these foreign fighters are assumed to belong to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which was active in Central Asia in the late 1990s before relocating to Afghanistan and then, after 2001, to lawless parts of Pakistan. Estimates of their numbers range wildly from a few hundred to 5,000. The Taliban seized two fuel tankers in Kunduz in early September. NATO responded with an

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air strike on civilians which caused an international crisis. Increased attacks on German military vehicles puts pressure on Berlin to withdraw the troops from the military base in Termez. Central Asia's most feared Islamic group is back in the news, with reports that it has regrouped in northern Afghanistan close to the border with Tajikistan. At first sight, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, IMU, looks positioned to mount a repeat of the incursions it mounted in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan a decade ago, especially as a string of armed attacks were reported over the summer. By Ainagul Abdrakhmanova, Aida Kasymalieva, Inga Sikorskaya, and Anara Yusupova in Bishkek, and Lola Olimova and ?rdasher Tahamtan in Dushanbe (RCA No. 595, 18-Nov-09)

[The implications of the IMU activity in Pakistan](#)

So aren't the Taliban supposed to be Pakhtuns? Isn't the area next to Uzbekistan controlled by Uzbeks? What is the synergy between the Uzbeks and the Pakhtuns? Is the Northern Alliance relevant in today's Afghanistan? The US seems to think that by using the Northern routes to get supplies into Afghanistan, it can avoid the trials and tribulations it has faced from Karachi to Khyber. As the supply lines move to the CARs (Central Asian Republics) so will be sabotage and the reprisal attacks to cut the supplies. [Tough lessons in geography](#)

The Taliban threat to coalition air bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and to the French airfield in Tajikistan is now matter of concern not only to ISAF, and NATO but also to Dushanbe, Ferghana and Samarkand.

President Obama advisor Bruce Riedel has it only partially right, it's not just AfPak, it's the AfPakUzKaTurkKyr problem. Chaudhry Rehmat Ali described the link of the Central Asia Republics to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the 1940s. It part of a mosaic. It's like a multifaceted orchestra. Tune one and the other one goes out of sync. Colonialism, Communism and the Crusades (both old and new) have tried to manufacture new realities based on the results of the World Wars.

There are many poltergeists in the Khyber and many hobgoblins in the Amu Darya. For years we have shed light on the pull and push theory. Can the \$80 Billion Think Tank industry not comprehend the simple truths described by Peter Senge in his seminal book 'The 5th Discipline'. Their theory goes as follows. When the Police cracks down on drug dealers on 42nd street, the drug dealing does not disappear, it simply moved to 52nd street or gets dispersed over a bigger area out of reach of the police raids. Similarly when the US bombs the insurgents in East Afghanistan, it is but obvious that they will find shelter and hideouts on the Durand Line and beyond. As the US drones bomb FATA, areas in Pakistan are affected destabilizing parts of the NWFP.

According to Afghan officials insurgent activity in Kunduz involved non-Afghan militants of Central Asian Republics, Uzbeks, Tajiks and others. Neither the Uzbeks nor the Tajiks can live peacefully in their own countries. Both countries have brutal dictatorships in power. Pushed from Swat and Waziristan, the Uzbeks are now returning to their original bases along the Afghan Uzbek border. A militant commander General Mustafa Patang, told newspaper reporters on September 12 that 'hundreds of militants had come to northern Afghanistan from the tribal areas of Pakistan.

It is pedagogical to note that the oil rich Central Asia republics are being courted by all the major superpowers, and by the wannabees. Many think that the reason why the US invaded Afghanistan was not because of any threat from any cave dwellers, but from the possibility of a Pakistani dominated Muslim Central Asia. The US therefore used many proxies to thwart the inevitable march of history and the unification of the areas of the birth (Samarkand) life (Lahore and beyond) and death (Kabul) of Babur.

The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan grew out of the resistance to the brutal dictatorship of Islamov who is known for boiling his opposition in big vats. The US of course has no problem with dealing with these human right abusers. Desperate and hounded the Uzbeks headed to Afghanistan to fight the Russians. The IMU Pakhtun alliance primarily was against the US and the occupation of Afghanistan. Hounded from pillar to post they then lost their

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way. Ensconced in their new home in FATA, they were unable and unwilling to get leave. The Pakistani Army forcibly dislodged them. Now they return to their ancestral homeland.

There has been much discussion of dictators and democracy in Pakistan. Amazingly the US media and the American government doesn't seem at all bothered by the excesses committed by dictators in Central Asia.

Mr. Islam Karimov is one of the worst dictators on the planet who boils his opponent in water. Uzbek President Islam Karimov is scared out of his wits that the war in Pakistan will spill over to the other ætans. He barely survives the perpetual onslaught of his own insurgents. By bringing money from Moscow and Washington he thinks he can survive popular dissent. A South Korean deal with Mr. Karimov provides him with a fig leaf to hide his double dealing with the USA while promising Russia that he has kicked the US out of a base. With assistance from South Korea, the US has reestablished a strategic presence in Uzbekistan - kind of. The Uzbek Korean agreement on US access to Navoi airport gives Karimov the plausible deniability in front of Moscow that he has cut a deal with the United States. In fact he has, but not directly. Washington will play along because it gets what it needs " a transit base which can be used as a replacement for the lost American base in Kyrgyzstan scheduled for a possible.

The seeds of the IMU grew in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley in the early Nineties, when Yoldash was a leading figure in an Islamic group called Adolat based in the city of Namangan in Fergana Valley. A crackdown ordered by President Islam Karimov forced members to flee the country, and many became caught up in a civil war in neighbouring Tajikistan, where they fought alongside Islamist forces against the government, with Jumaboy Khojaev, otherwise known as Juma Namangani, as their military commander.

It was after the Tajik conflict ended in 1997 that the IMU emerged as a distinct force whose agenda was to topple secular governments in Central Asian states, first and foremost in its homeland Uzbekistan. To this end, IMU guerrillas launched a series of raids into Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in 1999 and 2000. These attacks made international headlines and alerted regional governments to shortcomings in their security forces, but did not pose an existential threat to these states.

By this time, with bases in Afghanistan, the group had formed an alliance with that country's Taleban rulers, and when the US-led Coalition arrived in late 2001, the IMU put up resistance in Kunduz. Namangani was killed, and the survivors escaped to Pakistan's lawless fringes Relief Web

The Taliban know that they defeated the USSR by disrupting their supply lines "hence the incessant attacks on the Karachi to Khyber to Kabul supply chain. The US was forced to find other sources of supply so as to reduce its dependence on Pakistan. The Taliban are now counting on the IMU to help them disrupt the supply lines from Russia and beyond. Rupee News reported on the inevitability of this about a year ago. Our analysis showed an intense and close alliance between the Tajiks, the IMU and the Taliban. This is the vortex of violence that existed before the US arrived. Eight years later, the problem has been exacerbated. In 2001, many of these groups would listen to the Americans and the Pakistanis. There was much positive equity for Washington then. Today the US has lost that positive energy and faces a huge backlash.

After the October revolution of 1917, Lenin and later Stalin forcibly inculcated the Central Asian Republics of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. In the 90s all of them became independent. It has been decades, but the entire mosaic of the ætans cannot be solved in compartments.

The Ferghana Valley of Uzbekistan has many links to the South Asian Subcontinent. Zahiruddin Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire was born in Ferghana and lies buried in Kabul. One reason While the offensive goes on, one of the factors effecting situation is the presence of hardened foreign fighters. The Uzbeks have been present in Pakistan and Afghanistan. These Uzbeks came to Pakistan during the 80s and some of them got married and stayed in FATA. They continued to come down. One reason they came down was because of the pressure on the IMU.

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dl Uzbeks to Pakistan Pakistan Afghan map dl

The IMU was a loose band of idealists who first wanted independence from Russia and then wanted to merge all the states together in a Muslim Commonwealth. Uzbeks Juma Namangani, and Tohir Yuldashev were inspired by Babur. In 1998, they formed The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), a militant group that wants to eliminate Soviet and Russian influences from Uzbekistan and the other former Central Asian republics. The IMU objective is to overthrow President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, and to create an Islamic state.

Washington is like a blind man, looking for black cat in a dark room which isn't there. While it looks for the ephemeral Quetta Shura in Balochistan, and sends Balckwater to hunt down Al-Qaeda in Karachi, the real Ho Chi Minh trail is actually situated across the Amu Darya. Unable to face reality, Washington is stuck in the paradigm painted by Delhi and its obsession with Pakistan. The Tajiks are fighting the government in Dushambe. The Taliban are helping them, just like the Tajiks helped the Taliban fight the Americans. However no story appears in the Western press about the duplicity of the Tajik government or the trail of terror from Uzbekistan. Hillary Clinton does not go to Dushambe and lecture the Tajiks about the existential threat to their country. Admiral Mullen doesn't travel to Ferghana and blame them for his failures in Afghanistan.

They are everywhere "in plain sight, in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, along the Tajik-Afghan border and deep into Uzbekistan. They are fighting against corruption, cruelty and have a unified state before it was taken over by Lenin and Stalin. This frontier is as difficult as it was in the 16th century when Babur came down across it. It is as porous as it has been since the days of Taimurlane and Alexander. It is inhabited by smugglers today as it was during the time of the Mongols. The mountain goat warriors of the IMU find mountain pathway routes through Tajikistan to Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan. The IMU knows this terrain well "it has lived in it for decades. It used the same routes in the 80s and then again in the 90s. The US and the media has been blind to their presence, and has just suddenly woken up to the wider conflict of Afghanistan that has engulfed all her neighbors, Pakistan, Iran, China, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

If [Tohir] Yoldash is indeed dead " which a recent report throws into some doubt " there are questions about whether the IMU will survive in its present form under a new leader or break up into smaller factions. Some experts also suggest that the group has relocated to Afghanistan not entirely by choice, but because the combination of a major Pakistani ground offensive and United States unmanned planes on a mission to pick off al-Qaedas top men is making their stay in South Waziristan untenable. ReliefWeb

The coalition members and the Central Asian states are not completely aware of the dangers of the wider conflict. The Russian and Chinese were so alarmed that they formed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to protect themselves from the insurgency. They discuss security issues every year and hold exercises to thwart the IMU, and the Afghans. [Noticias de Rupia](#) | [Nouvelles de Roupie](#) | [Rupiennachrichten](#) | [???????? ???? ??"-??-?](#) | [Roepienieuws](#) | [Rupi Nyheter](#) | [?????"????????????????](#) | [Notizie di Rupia](#) | [The Dawn](#) | [Military Strategy](#) | [Strategic Thinking and Policy Institute](#) | [Failed States](#) | [Pakistan Historian](#) | [Gandhi Unmasked](#) | [PAKISTAN LEDGER](#) | [???????? ???? ?](#) | [RUPEE NEWS](#) | November 21st, 2009 | Moin Ansari | [???? ????&Oelig;?](#)

The Asian Pipeline grid puts Pakistan as a central node in both the TAP and the IP pipelines. In 2008, despite huge opposition from Washington, Iran and Pakistan decided to move forward with the pipeline without India. The Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan (TAP) pipeline is also in the works. The key letter missing from both of them is C. If the TAP becomes TAP+China and the IP becomes IP+China, this will integrate Central Asia as never before.

[Pipelines through TurkeyIran Pakistan Pipeline](#)

Iran Pakistan Pipeline [The politics of IPC, IPI, TAPI, TAPIC](#)

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[Blaming Pakistan wont help the war on terror.](#) Re-engineering all of Central Asia is not within the scope of the current American project. Giving the US some sort of face saving victory is. However hard they try, the compensating feedback pulls the cats together.

Moin Ansari. Rupee News exclusive

Posted in Afghanistan, Current Affairs, Pak CA, Politics, US CA, US Int Rel., US Poli Tagged: Central Asia, IMU
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Notes

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Kazakhstan :OSCE Centre in Astana starts co-operation with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea

Right Vision News

November 27, 2009 Friday

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Dateline: Pakistan

Body

Pakistan, Nov. 27 -- The Directorate is a national branch of IFAS and works to implement **Aral** Sea basin projects in Kazakhstan. IFAS is an international organization, which promotes sustainable development and **water** security in the **Aral** Sea region and includes the five Central Asian republics. Environment and security, including **water** management, are important aspects of the OSCE's work to help promote security and stability. Signing the **Memorandum**, Ambassador Alexandre Keltchewsky, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, said: "The co-operation with the IFAS Executive Directorate in Kazakhstan will provide a strong basis for our joint work on environment and security matters, given their significance for stability in the OSCE area." Medet Ospanov, Director of the IFAS Executive Directorate in the Republic of Kazakhstan added, "This **Memorandum** is opening the way to joint co-operation in the area of integrated **water** resources management, environmental recovery in the basin and preparation for the **Aral** Sea Basin Programme." Under the **Memorandum**, both parties **agreed** to take targeted measures to strengthen and expand the potential of the IFAS Executive Directorate in Kazakhstan in implementing the Third **Aral** Sea Basin Programme for 2011 - 2015, which is meant to improve social and economic conditions of the **Aral** Sea states. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Right Vision News. For more information on news feed please contact Sarabjit Jagirdar at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

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Load-Date: November 26, 2009

Playing it safe in Central Asia.

Water Power & Dam Construction

December 3, 2009

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Section: Pg. 14

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Highlight: Many of Central Asia's ageing large dams are located in the basins of transboundary rivers. The United Nations is leading an initiative to promote the safe operation and management of such structures in the region. Bo Libert, Erkin Orolbaev and Yuri Steklov give more details.

Body

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in particular through its Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, is engaged in promoting cooperation on the management of shared water resources in Central Asia. This is a precondition for sustainable development in the subregion. One direction of activities is promoting the safe operation of dams and other large water management structures.

Large dams represent a very important segment of the water management infrastructure of Central Asia. According to ICOLD classification, out of more than 1200 dams in the region, 110 are large dams. Many of these are located in the basins of transboundary rivers such as the Amu Darya, the Syr Darya, the Ili and the Irtysh. One of the world's highest dams, the 300m tall Nurek Dam, is located on the Vakhsh River, a tributary of the Amu Darya in Tajikistan.

The economic hydro power potential(2) in Central Asia is estimated at 400B kWh annually, 10% of which is exploited. The region could cover more than 70% of projected electricity needs by hydro power. The main part (about 90%) of this hydro potential is found in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. In these countries, new hydro power stations are being constructed, one example being the Rogun station in Tajikistan on the Vakhsh River. With a 335m high rockfill dam and a water volume of 13.8km³, Rogun is designed to have an installed capacity of 3600MW(3). In Kyrgyzstan, the Kambarata-1 hydro power station on the Naryn River will be 275m high and have a water volume of 4.65km³. The projected capacity is 1.9MW.

Many of the dams in Central Asia were built 40 to 50 years ago, and due to limited resources for their maintenance and the inadequacy of a legal framework for their safe operation, the risk of accidents is increasing. With a couple of exceptions there are also no established procedures for notification of co-basin countries in the case of accidents or emergency situations. With dams on the transboundary rivers criss-crossing the region, the failure of a dam could have disastrous consequences in densely populated downstream regions and countries.

Project initiation

In response to a request by countries in Central Asia that this important issue be addressed, UNECE and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) started the project, Capacity-Building for Cooperation on Dam Safety in Central Asia in 2006. Funding was provided by the Government of Finland. The project is a contribution to the implementation of the Cooperation Strategy to Promote

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the Rational and Efficient Use of Water and Energy Resources in Central Asia(4) The Strategy has been developed and adopted under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

The project's phase I, completed over nine months by the end of 2006, aimed to prompt the countries first to consider setting up or revising national dam safety regulatory frameworks to achieve their harmonisation; and secondly to pursue regional cooperation on information exchange and notification in the event of accidents or emergency situations with dams. This resulted in two major outcomes:

- A model national law on safety of large hydraulic facilities, including dams, intended to be a base of national harmonised legal frameworks for dam safety.
- A draft regional agreement on cooperation on dam safety, which stipulates, inter alia, the exchange of information and the notification of other countries in the event of accidents with dams.

In the first project phase, national reports on the issues related to various aspects of dam safety were prepared for each country. Then, on the basis of these reports, a publication on dam safety in Central Asia was issued(5). The publication covers the current national legal, institutional and financial modalities in the area of dam safety, the existing cooperative arrangements in that sector, as well as the model law and draft regional agreements. It also contains a list of large dams in Central Asia, updated for the first time since the end of the 1980s.

Phase II

The second three-year project phase started in 2008, with renewed funding from Finland and co-funding from the Russian Federation. UNECE is responsible for project implementation in close cooperation with the executive board of the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS).

The project's objective is to improve the national legal and institutional frameworks as well as to set up regional cooperation mechanisms on dam safety in Central Asia. Project activities in four areas support the countries in terms of developing:

- National regulatory frameworks for dam safety, building on the model national law developed in phase I.
- A regional cooperative framework on dam safety and sustained intra-regional cooperation, with the draft agreement of the first phase as a starting point.
- The necessary documentation and technical capacity for harmonising technical regulations and procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of dam performance.
- Improved access to potential sources of technical assistance for rehabilitation of dams and improvement of monitoring and early warning systems.

In all of the participating countries, some action has been taken to formulate legislation on dam safety, or to improve the existing regulatory framework(6).

Kazakhstan

The draft of a national law proposing incorporation of amendments related to the safety of hydrotechnical structures in the national Water Code has been reviewed within the framework of the project. As a result, the draft law has been revised. More changes in the national legislation are however required to adequately handle safety issues. An important step towards strengthening of the legislation in this sector was made with the approval of national rules for the safety of water management systems and structures by the Government of Kazakhstan on 12 May 2009.

Kyrgyzstan

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A law on establishing a dam commission as a national regulator for the safety of large hydrotechnical structures was recently drafted through a World Bank project. It will be reviewed by the UNECE project, taking into account the draft model law.

Tajikistan

A first draft of a national law on dam safety has been prepared with reference to the project's model national law. However, more efforts are required to initiate the process of law formulation. A national seminar on dam safety is planned for late 2009 which would help trigger the process.

Turkmenistan

Participants at a national seminar on dam safety in 2008 realised the necessity of having a national law on the safety of hydrotechnical structures. Subsequently, a draft law was prepared along the lines of the model law, but the draft needs revision to comprehensively reflect the specifics of water infrastructure management in the country. It is anticipated that assistance from the project will be requested to finalise the draft law.

Uzbekistan

Upon reviewing recent changes in Russian legislation on the safety of hydrotechnical structures presented at a national seminar on dam safety in 2008, Uzbek authorities initiated a revision of the national law on the safety of water management infrastructure adopted ten years ago. The draft national law containing provisions aiming to improve the existing law was prepared by the State Water Control Facilities Committee (the country's national regulator in this sector) in consultation with other concerned ministries and agencies for submission to the Parliament.

The review of the proposed changes, along with recommendations for improving the draft, was made by an international expert affiliated with the UNECE project. The legal act proposing amendments to the national law is in the approval process.

Harmonising technical norms and regulations

This work has received a significant push from complementary funding from the Russian Federation, which has made it possible to engage the Centre on Safety of Hydrotechnical Structures (Moscow), Association Hydroproject (Moscow) and the Vodoavtomatika Institute (Bishkek) in the activities. With a view to proposing a model set of uniform technical norms and regulations, a list of legal acts and technical documents used in the Russian Federation for regulating the safety of hydrotechnical structures, plus similar lists for all five Central Asian countries, have been prepared and analysed.

On this basis, a draft set of documents has been proposed, and the idea of preparing a model technical directive, comprising both model law provisions and some technical norms, has been discussed. The proposed approach is likely to speed up the revision and introduction of a regulatory framework in the Central Asian countries. The outline of the model technical directive has been prepared and submitted to all the Central Asian countries for comment.

Regional agreement

The development of an agreement on cooperation in the field of dam safety in Central Asia has continued. New drafts from 2008 have been discussed at regional and national meetings and circulated to relevant ministries in the countries. A draft charter for each of the proposed alternative bodies for cooperation, namely an international commission or a regional centre on the safety of hydrotechnical structures, has been prepared.

A new draft incorporating most of the changes and amendments proposed by countries was distributed in October 2009 to the five governments for approval.

Challenges for the future

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There are significant challenges for future work on dam safety in the region. Obviously, there is a need to increase the efforts at the individual installations to make sure that the technical standards are followed, and that proper measures are taken to make sure that the risk of accidents does not increase with the ageing of dams. On a national level, it is important that national legislation and the institutions responsible for controlling the safety of hydrotechnical facilities are developed in all countries. Training of staff responsible for dam safety is a very important direction of the work, one which urgently needs to be developed. At a regional level it is important that a platform, such as a commission or centre, is established for the five countries to discuss technical issues and cooperation on dam safety.

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Project cooperation with other organisations

The International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea (IFAS) is the major regional partner in this project. The IFAS executive board for Kazakhstan has hosted several regional meetings in Almaty. Members of the IFAS executive committee actively participate in the project's activities and have made substantial contributions to its development. The placing of the proposed international commission on the safety of hydrotechnical structures in Central Asia under the IFAS umbrella has been proposed by several countries and welcomed by the IFAS executive committee.

The Euro-Asian Economic Community (EurAsEC) has provided support for the official approval of the model national law. In May 2008, the EurAsEC inter-parliamentary assembly adopted the model law and recommended its member-countries to refer to that law when drafting or revising their national legislation for regulating the safety of dams and other hydrotechnical structures.

In cooperation with a World Bank project in Kyrgyzstan on restructuring the water sector management, cooperation on dam safety is developing.

Collaboration with Association Hydroproject, a loose union of research and design institutes in the field of hydrotechnical structures in the former USSR republics, has contributed to the formulation of a model set of technical norms.

In a German initiative (the Berlin Process) to support the water cooperation in Central Asia, the safety of hydrotechnical structures is one direction for project development with the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is planning a dam safety project in Uzbekistan on the Syr Darya which will aim to identify safety concerns of individual dams for further possible development of investment financing.

REFERENCES

(1) The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

(2) Data on the hydro power potential as well as other information on the energy situation in Central Asia can be found at: http://www.unece.org/speca/pdf/wer/effuse_e.pdf

(3) Data on Rogun, Kambarata and other dams in the region can be found at: http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Water_Series_Publication5_r.pdf

(4) http://www.unece.org/speca/pdf/wer/effuse_e.pdf

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(5) http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Water_Series_Publication5_r.pdf, only available in Russian.

(6) Details on project implementation including meeting reports can be found online at: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/damsafety.htm>.

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UNECE-GTZ Programme Helps Central Asian Countries to Strengthen Regional Institutions for Transboundary Water Management

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Body

The United Nations Economic and Social Council's Economic **Commission** for Europe issued the following news release:

Opportunities for strengthening regional institutional and legal frameworks for the management of transboundary **water** resources in Central Asia are being discussed today in Almaty. The two-day meeting of the Working Group on Institutional and Legal Strengthening is convened by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for saving the **Aral** Sea (IFAS) and facilitated by the UNECE under the programme on Regional Dialogue and **Cooperation** on **Water** Resources Management in Central Asia, financed by the Government of Germany through GTZ in the framework of the Berlin **Water** Process.

The process provides support to the implementation of the decisions of the IFAS Summit (28 April 2009, Almaty), where the Heads of Central Asian States expressed their firm commitment to further improve the institutional structure and legal framework for regional **water** resources management and mandated the Executive Committee of IFAS to develop the new **Aral** Sea Basin Program for 2011-2015. The decisions of the Summit are an exceptionally important window of opportunity to start real, sustainable progress towards the solution of complex, often controversial issues related to **water**, energy and environment in Central Asia.

In this process, the UNECE offers an impartial umbrella, in-house expertise and a solid legal basis in the form of the UNECE environmental instruments, in particular the UNECE Water Convention, its institutions and advisory support. The UNECE efforts are part of the broader efforts by the donors' community and key regional and international organizations to provide support to improve the management of water and energy resources and protect the environment in Central Asia.

The Working Group is the first of a series of regional and national meetings designed to elaborate a set of proposals to improve the efficiency of regional cooperation. The proposals will be submitted for approval to the governments of States-members of the IFAS by the end of 2010.

Notes for Editors

The International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was established by five Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - to implement in a coordinated way the practical measures and programs to overcome the impacts of the Aral crises and to improve environmental and socio-economic conditions in Aral Sea basin.

UNECE-GTZ Programme Helps Central Asian Countries to Strengthen Regional Institutions for Transboundary Water Management

Gesellschaft for Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, which supports the German Government in achieving its development-policy objectives. It provides viable, forwardlooking solutions for political, economic, ecological and social development in a globalised world. Working under difficult conditions, GTZ promotes complex reforms and change processes. Its corporate objective is to improve people's living conditions on a sustainable basis.

Berlin Water Process was launched at the first "Water Unites" conference (Berlin, 1 April 2008) by German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The Process is an important part of the water and environment pillar of the European Union's Central Asia Strategy. The Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Program is implemented by GTZ under the Berlin Water Process to optimize cooperation in the Central Asian water sector and improve the lives of people in the region.

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) of 1992 aims to strengthen national measures and transboundary cooperation for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. 35 States and the European Community are Parties to the Water Convention. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are Parties to this instrument.

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Load-Date: December 11, 2009

End of Document

2nd LD Chinese, Turkmen, Kazakh, Uzbek presidents unveil gas pipeline

Xinhua General News Service

December 14, 2009 Monday 5:40 AM EST

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Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 1040 words

Dateline: TURKMENABAD Dec. 14

Body

Chinese President Hu Jintao and his counterparts from Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Monday jointly put into operation a natural gas pipeline linking the four nations.

At the ceremony in a gas plant near the Turkmen-Uzbek border, President Hu said the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline is a model of sincere solidarity and mutually beneficial cooperation of the four countries. He said the gas pipeline is a carrier of goodwill for friendship and mutual benefits of the four countries.

With their hands on wheel of valves, President Hu and Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Uzbek President Islam Karimov turned on the flow of natural gas together in the gas plant on the right bank of the Amu Darya River.

The 1,833-kilometer gas pipeline starts at the gas plant near this border town in Turkmenistan and runs through central Uzbekistan and southern Kazakhstan before entering China at the border pass of Horgos in the northwest region of Xinjiang.

One of the two parallel pipelines which make up the project has already come on stream and the other line is expected to be operational next year.

The pipeline connects with pipelines inside China that carry natural gas produced in Turkmenistan to major Chinese cities like Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

President Hu said at the inauguration ceremony that the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline is a major cooperative project and of great significance to the four countries.

He said China is ready to continue to maintain close communication and step up coordination with Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to build the second line of the project and secure safety and efficiency in the pipeline's operation. He said China is ready to advance energy collaboration among the four countries in an all-round way and to establish a long-term, stable, secured and reliable partnership of energy cooperation.

Hu said the plan and construction of the gas pipeline has won consistent attention and support of the presidents of the three Central Asian countries. The governments of these countries have done a great deal to lay a solid foundation for the smooth progress of pipeline construction. Hu said the pipeline is also a result of hard work by engineers from the four countries who have set a high standard of safety, efficiency and quality in construction.

2nd LD Chinese, Turkmen , Kazakh , Uzbek presidents unveil gas pipeline

Hu said the four countries have their own specific advantages in energy industry and share conformity in the policy goals of developing energy industry.

He said in recent years, the four countries have actively carried out energy cooperation and achieved fruitful results in line with the principle of mutual complementarity, mutual benefit, equality and win-win cooperation.

President Hu traveled some 80 kilometers by car from the Turkmenabat Airport to the border town. He and other leaders were given warm welcome by the local people.

At the ceremony, the leaders spoke highly of the pipeline, saying the China-Central Asia gas pipeline will bring benefits to the whole region.

Hu said at present the international situation is undergoing profound and complicated changes. He called for the four countries to strengthen cooperation and work to promote common development of all countries in the region.

He said the China-Central Asia gas pipeline provided yet another important platform for regional cooperation. He called for the countries to apply the experience and model of this project to other fields of cooperation among the four countries so as to enhance regional economic cooperation in an extensive way and lay a solid foundation for institutionalizing and scaling up regional cooperation.

Hu said China and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are good neighbors whose people share long-standing friendship. In recent years, the sustained, healthy and steady growth of relations among the four nations has brought about substantial benefits to economic growth, social stability and improvement of international status of the four countries.

Hu said China places great importance on developing friendly cooperation with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. He expressed the wish that the four nations be good neighbors, friends and partners forever.

Chinese officials said that the pipeline will serve the long-term interests of China and Central Asian nations, and will promote social and economic development of the countries in the region.

Turkmenistan's state media said that transporting gas supplies to China is important for the implementation of the country's strategy to diversify energy export routes to world markets.

Turkmen President Berdymukhamedov said in an earlier interview with Chinese media that the gas pipeline is an embodiment of true partnership based on equality, mutual complementarity and full recognition and utilization of cooperative potentials. He said the completion of the pipeline opened up a greater prospect of bilateral cooperation.

"The project has truly realized the balance of interests among energy exporters, transporters and consumers," he told reporters.

Deimdet Sh. Shayakhmetov, general director of Asia Gas Pipeline LLP of Kazakhstan, said in an interview that construction of the gas pipeline has created a large number of job opportunities and prompted growth of relevant industries in Kazakhstan.

He said after the gas pipeline went into operation, Kazakhstan would reap in a handsome income from transport fees. The sub-line of the pipeline will supply much needed natural gas to southern part of Kazakhstan, Shayakhmetov said.

Shayakhmetov said the gas pipeline has opened up a new outlet of energy export for both Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and will bring about a great deal of income from transport fees to the latter.

"In fact, the most significant point of the China-Central Asia gas pipeline lies in that we and our neighbors find more common interests and cooperative opportunities," Shayakhmetov said.

2nd LD Chinese, Turkmen , Kazakh , Uzbek presidents unveil gas pipeline

Chinese officials said the pipeline will help improve the energy structure of China.

Load-Date: December 15, 2009

End of Document

Urgent: Hu attends inauguration of China-Central Asia gas pipeline

Xinhua General News Service

December 14, 2009 Monday 2:40 AM EST

Copyright 2009 Xinhua News Agency

Section: WORLD NEWS; Political

Length: 94 words

Dateline: TURKMENABAT Turkmenistan, Dec. 14

Body

Chinese President Hu Jintao, together with leaders of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, attended an inauguration ceremony for the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline on Monday in a gas plant near the Turkmen-Uzbek border.

At the ceremony on the right bank of the **Amu Darya River**, Hu, together with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, Uzbek President Islam Karimov and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, spoke highly of the pipeline project, describing it as a successful example of **cooperation** among countries in the region.

Load-Date: December 15, 2009

Tajik expert says Central Asian states should hold talks to settle water issues

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
December 18, 2009 Friday

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Length: 232 words

Body

Text of report by privately-owned Tajik news agency Asia-Plus website

Dushanbe, 17 December: The attraction of the world community to expert examination of reservoirs of the downstream [countries] in Central Asia may certainly find out the true reason of the Aral Sea's drying up but the matter is how it [the examination] will be carried out, Georgiy Petrov, head of the hydroelectric power generation laboratory of the institute for water problems, hydroelectric power generation and ecology of the Tajik Academy of Sciences, has said. He was commenting on yesterday's address of the Tajik president to the UN to carry out expert examination of Central Asia's water consumption system and also reservoirs in the downstream countries of the region and their impact on the environment.

He thinks there will be a little benefit from the examination if it is carried out from the point of view of politics.

The expert is sure that the Aral Sea's drying up is an exclusive result of the rapidly developing irrigation in Central Asia and a reservoir, in his opinion, is just a basic element of the developing irrigation.

"However, the world community will help us a little, and therefore, countries of the region should sit at the table of negotiations and seek ways independently under the current circumstances," Georgiy Petrov added.

Source: Asia-Plus news agency website, Dushanbe, in Russian 17 Dec 09

Load-Date: December 18, 2009

Paper highlights results of Ukrainian leader's Turkmen visit

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

December 18, 2009 Friday

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Length: 4575 words

Body

Text of unattributed article headlined "Bridges that lead to friendship, creation and progress" and published by the Turkmen newspaper Neytralnyy Turkmenistan on 17 September

Turkmenabat, Atamyrat, 16 September: Today President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko, who is in Turkmenistan on an official visit, visited Lebap Region [eastern Turkmenistan] to attend the ceremony of commissioning the Atamyrat-Kerkici railway bridge. The two also kicked off two major investment projects - construction of a railway bridge across the River Amu Darya and of a cement plant in the area of Garlyk. Berdimuhamedow and Yushchenko addressed a meeting held there on this occasion.

These events mark an important step along the path of the implementation of the colossal economic potential of Turkmenistan, a country with its exclusively advantageous geographic location and richest natural resources. The event also marked the creation of modern transport infrastructure in the country and formation and efficient use of convenient regional and interregional transport routes going via Central Asia.

Having been an example of mutually advantageous cooperation, these projects have become in fact a significant milestone in the history of friendship and cooperation between Turkmenistan and Ukraine. These events have also been a powerful impetus given [to bilateral cooperation] during Turkmen-Ukrainian talks yesterday [15 September].

As was already reported, a significant package of documents intended to step up relations in the trade and economic field, education, science, higher technologies and agriculture was signed after the talks at the highest level.

Today [16 September], a Boeing with the Turkmen president on board landed at Turkmenabad airport, where the leader of the country was met with great warmth and joy and with bread and salt [i.e. he was given a red carpet treatment] by top officials of the region, elders and representatives of the clergy. Girls in bright national costumes presented the leader of the nation with red autumn flowers.

Having greeted the gathered people, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow had a conversation with the elders and asked them about their lives and health. He took an interest in moods and everyday work of Lebap people. In his cordial conversation with them, the head of state made a special accent on priorities of socio-economic development of Lebap and on goals and tasks of large-scale reforms carried out in the era of true revival.

On behalf of all residents of the region, the elders expressed their warm gratitude to the president for constant care about, and happiness and worthy life for, the Turkmen people. They wished him good health and new outstanding successes in his titanic work for the sake of the beloved homeland.

Paper highlights results of Ukrainian leader's Turkmen visit

After some time, the aircraft of the president of Ukraine landed in Turkmenabad airport that had been decorated with the state flags of two friendly states. The high ranking visitor was met with the traditional bread and salt, and children gave him bunches of bright flowers.

Viktor Yushchenko was gladly met by Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow. The leaders of the two countries exchanged warm greetings. The visitors were greeted by dance groups, who performed fiery national dances right at the runway.

The heads of the two states then went to a helicopter that was waiting for them. The helicopter took them to the town of Atamyrat - an important railway and motor road link of the eastern region which is acquiring the status of a major transit centre of national and international networks of transport communications.

As is known, Lebap Region plays a very significant role in the implementation of the country's strategy for social and economic development of the country. The best evidence of this is major national and international projects that are being successfully implemented in various fields and, above all, in the fuel and energy complex, power engineering, the railway and motorway sector, the textile and chemical industries, agriculture and the construction industry.

It is exactly there, on the right bank of the River Amu Darya, richest deposits of oil and gas have been found in the past several years. And it is there where the transnational gas pipeline Turkmenistan-China starts. The supply of the blue fuel [i.e. natural gas] to the friendly country [China] via this pipeline will start very soon.

There, at the Garlyk deposit of potassium, the construction of the first in Turkmenistan mining complex for manufacturing potash fertilizer has started. This has paved the way for creation of principally new branch of the national economy - the mining industry.

New areas of virgin land are developed on the territory of the region. A case in point is the new agricultural district of Dovletli. Dozens of new industrial and social facilities are being built in the region.

The atmosphere of a real holiday and of profound high spirit is reigning on the outskirts of the city of Atamyrat, where various representatives of the public have gathered. Everybody is waiting for the forthcoming event [commissioning of the railway bridge] that will go down as a bright chapter in the newest history of the country. The place of the event has been decorated by state flags of Turkmenistan and Ukraine, and there is a big board with pictures of the presidents of Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Viktor Yushchenko.

And the long-awaited moment begins: a clear-cut shape of the helicopter appears on the bright blue sky. After several minutes the helicopter with long-awaited visitors lands.

In accordance with a good tradition, the Turkmen and Ukrainian leaders are met with flowers and bread and salt. Representatives of the clergy raise their arms in a gesture of supplication and ask the Almighty to protect the leaders of the two fraternal countries. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Viktor Yushchenko warmly and cordially meet members of the government, heads and representatives of leading ministries and departments and staff of railway and motorway industries. There are members of official delegations of the two countries, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and domestic and foreign journalists are attending the event.

By warmly greeting the gathered people, the presidents go to a special place - a platform under the tent. As the leaders walk on the carpet path, young people standing on both sides warmly greet them. Music is played. Lebap groups make bright folklore performances. Young sportsmen demonstrate their skills in national wrestling and martial arts. Some of them play football and volleyball.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow once again warmly and cordially greets President Viktor Yushchenko and members of the Ukrainian government delegation as well as all people gathered there. He says that genuinely significant and joyful event is taking place today on the ancient land of Lebap, which includes laying foundations for motorway bridge across the River Amu Darya and opening of a unique facility - the Atamyrat-Kerkici railway bridge, which is the largest railway bridge in Central Asia. The bridge is a bright symbol of steady development of Turkmenistan and its

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strengthened economic might. Another significant event will be held today as well. The construction of a powerful cement plant will start at the place called Garlyk.

As the Turkmen leader emphasized, the creation of developed transit and transport infrastructure is a strategic tasks intended to give a powerful impetus to the development of all the regions of the country and to the national economy as a whole, as well as to promote fruitful trade and economic cooperation with other countries.

Proceeding from this, construction of various facilities is now being carried out at high paces, including multi-lane roads that meet international standards such as Ashgabat-Garagum-Dasoguz and Turkmenbasy-Ashgabat-Farap. These roads will cross Turkmenistan in all directions and link the country's north with south as well as the east with the west by reliable transport corridors. Unceasing attention is being paid to development of village roads and to modernization of depots of lorries and passenger transport.

Powerful road-building machines - dumper lorries, excavators, bulldozers, Caterpillars, Komatsu machines and Kamazs - which are bought from world-known producers have been involved in the construction of golden ring of high-speed highways. Dozens of engineering structures - modern road interchanges, bridges and flyovers, which make it possible to reduce heavy traffic and ensure road safety - are set up along such highways.

The country's railway network, including international railway lines, is also radically upgraded. A graphic example of this is the North-South railway line that is being built jointly by Turkmenistan, Iran and Kazakhstan. It will provide European countries with the shortest access to the Persian Gulf. Here it should be noted that the Tejen-Sarabs-Mashhad and Ashgabat-Garagum-Dasoguz railway lines have already been operating.

It should be noted that computerization of traffic control service of Turkmen railways, reconstruction and modernization of carriage repair plants and depots and providing them with powerful machines such as locomotives, comfortable passenger carriages and special wagons and tanks for transporting oil and oil productions, liquefied gas, cement, mineral fertilizers and grain are helping to rapid development of the sector.

The president once again emphasized that construction of unique engineering structures - motorway and railway roads - across the River Amu Darya has a great significance for the economy of Turkmenistan. Each of these kinds of facilities is intended to become a golden link in the international network of transport communications.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow described as very symbolic the fact that, in the past, the caravan routes of the Great Silk Road went through this land. The Great Silk Road served as a road of cultural and trade cooperation between people living in the East and the West. In the new historical epoch, we are reviving this road for the sake of general good, the Turkmen leader said. By maintaining good relations with its close neighbours and other countries of the world, Turkmenistan has been serving as a reliable bridge for mutually advantageous economic and humanitarian cooperation between people of Europe and Asia as it did thousands years ago, the head of state added.

Talking about the need for economic practicability of the projects that have been aimed at developing the transport field, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow emphasized that their implementation would bring large economic profits to our country and to neighbouring countries from transport transits as well as would serve towards further development of comprehensive international cooperation.

Turning to the history of the construction of the Atamyrat-Kerkici railway bridge, the president said that the project's history was not simple; there were many difficulties in the process of the implementation of the project. But all the barriers have been removed eventually thanks to joint efforts made by the leadership of the two counties, the Turkmen leader said. And this gives grounds to say that traditional friendship ties between the Turkmen and Ukrainian peoples - who are wise, patient, talented and hardworking - can pass all the tests of time, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow added..

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow emphasized that Turkmenistan and Ukraine, which have been friends since a long time, were open to each other. The countries have a huge potential and have rich history of economic and humanitarian cooperation. Turkmen-Ukrainian cooperation has dozens joint projects under its belt, including

Paper highlights results of Ukrainian leader's Turkmen visit

projects in the oil and gas industry, in the construction of all kinds of transport communications facilities, in culture and in education.

The Turkmen leader said that construction of large-scale and complicated engineering structures such as the Atamyrat-Kerkici was unprecedented in the region. The head of state expressed his gratitude to Turkmen and Ukrainian builders and specialists and all those who took part in the creation of this wonderful engineering structure that meets the highest world standards and all the requirements of traffic security.

Together with our Ukrainian friends, today we have laid firm foundations of motorway and railway communications across the River Amu Darya. Thus we have opened, in direct and symbolic meaning of the word, a broad road for large-scale development of countless mineral deposits in the region, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow said. With the lapse of time, a major industrial centre will appear here. Thousands of new jobs and many new towns and villages will be created; and this will turn the region into a flourishing oasis, the Turkmen leader added.

Having congratulated everyone on the significant event of the day, the president expressed his confidence that new transport communications facilities would become the continuation of big deeds and undertakings for the good of the Turkmen and Ukrainian people and for the sake of general prosperity and progress.

The Turkmen president's speech caused general enthusiasm and people attending the event responded to it with thunderous applause.

After that the floor was given to the Ukrainian president.

By congratulating people attending the significant event, Viktor Yushchenko, in turn, also highlighted its [the bridge's] significance for further dynamic development of Turkmen-Ukrainian cooperation. Today, we are jointly laying the foundations of the motorway bridge and commissioning another unique facility in Central Asia - a railway bridge across the great river of Amu Darya, the Ukrainian president said. This is a huge success of Turkmen-Ukrainian partnership. This is a victory of our countries' engineering thought and that of our countries' practice of cooperation, he added.

We know how much this bridge is important for the economy of Turkmenistan and for the entire Turkmen people, the high ranking visitor said. Back in the past, when the possibility of construction of the bridge was just viewed, it was dubbed as the Bridge of Friendship. Today it has become the real implementation of this friendship and a convincing proof of broad prospects for cooperation between Ukraine and Turkmenistan, he added. Victor Yushchenko said that the new bridge had linked not only the right and left banks of the great river, but it also tied up relations between the two countries. This bridge opens the road for new projects of Ukrainian-Turkmen cooperation, he added.

After that the culmination of the event starts. Under the applause of people attending the event, the presidents of the two countries sign an address to future generations and put it into special capsule to be placed under the foundation of the future bridge. In keeping with the set tradition, presidents Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Viktor Yushchenko kick off symbolic construction of the bridge by throwing the first shovels of concrete into the foundation of the new transport communications facility.

The bridge will be constructed by specialists from the Ukrainian company Dorozhnoye Stroitelstvo Altkom on the order of the Turkmenawtoyollary [Turkmen Motorways] company. Its length will be 1,415 metres and the width of the floor system of the bridge is planned to be 11.5 metres. The bridge is expected to be commissioned in the autumn of 2012.

A beautifully arranged exhibition of pictures gives a detailed picture about joint Turkmen-Ukrainian projects. The pictures show the spans of the motorway bridge which will be built among the Atamyrat-Kerkici railway bridge. They look especially beautiful at night-time illumination.

Paper highlights results of Ukrainian leader's Turkmen visit

Several minutes left before opening the traffic along the railway bridge across the ancient Jeyhun [historical name of Amu Darya], the river known by its capricious temper. A special train is waiting nearby. It will carry participants in the event to the right bank of the River Amu Darya.

The huge significance of the strategic transport corridor [as published] for social and economic development of Lebap and entire Turkmenistan can scarcely be overestimated. Because the right bank of the River Amu Darya, as it has been mentioned, have colossal amounts of hydrocarbons, mining minerals and unique deposits of natural resources. Up until now, the absence of a reliable bridge has been the break on rapid development of deposits and commercial extraction of countless minerals there. And now the barrier has been removed.

The grandiose facility, which is the only one of its kind in the region, has been build under the patronage [as published] of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow.

His project was drawn up by the Ukrainian state design institute Dneprogiprotrans on Turkmenistan's order. Specialists of state corporation Ukrtransstroy carried out a great number of difficult operations, including underwater and drilling work which require extremely high precision and highest professional skills, during the construction of the bridge with 12 steel 110-m spans and two 33.6-m approach spans. It is also should be noted that all technical parameters - the load of goods and that of passenger trains, speed of their movement and the earthquake resistance of the facility (the bridge can withstand earthquake measuring eight points on the Richter scale) - were taken into account when creating this wonderful engineering structure.

...[ellipsis as published] The event reaches its apogee. The presidents of Turkmenistan and Ukraine go up the railway embankment towards the train on the track and board a railway carriage. The driver of the locomotive sounded the horn as a signal that the train was about to start off. Having smoothly started off, the train with brand-new and comfortable carriages started gaining speed and crossed the River Amu Darya. High in the sky, several helicopters accompany the train. Hundreds of residents of Lebap witness this unforgettable event. Having formed a live corridor along the railway line, they greet joyfully the high ranking visitors.

The lettered train No1 arrives at a railway station on the right bank of the River Amu Darya, which from now on will be connected with the unified network of railway lines of Turkmenistan. The atmosphere of a real holiday reigns at the railway station - everywhere are flags, banners, balloons and flowers in the hands of people meeting the train. People voice their desires wishing prosperity and wellbeing to the beloved homeland and the Turkmen people as well as good health for many years to come to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow.

When the festivities are over, the leaders of the two countries say warm words to the people gathered there as they leave the place. They go in the direction of the helicopter waiting for them. They leave the place for Koytendag District, which is Lebap's depository of minerals. Shortly after that the helicopter lands on the outskirts of a place called Garlyk. There the leaders of the two countries will kick off the construction of a powerful cement plant.

The area where the industrial giant will be set up has been decorated with various flags and banners. The plant is intended to be one of the visible symbols of grandiose reforms and radical changes that are being carried out in the country. The reforms are carried out in every corner of the country.

The guests of honour are met by Lebap folk groups that perform national songs and sparkling dances. One can see coloured flags everywhere. People wish good health and prosperity to the visitors.

The presidents of Turkmenistan and Ukraine are presented with flowers. Honourable elders and representatives of the clergy raise their arms in a gesture of supplication and ask the Almighty to give robust health to the leaders of the two countries.

Warmly greeting people gathered there, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Viktor Yushchenko walk along a carpet path towards the rostrum in the area. .

Addressing people and visitors attending the event, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow emphasized that the ancient land of Lebap was in the epicentre of events that are of unlimited significance for the future of

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Turkmenistan, the country that has been firmly following the path of progress, prosperity and good life for the Turkmen people.

The open foreign policy of Turkmenistan, which has received international acclaim among world public figures and prestigious international experts, has been fully directed at achieving the above tasks, the president of Turkmenistan said. Being supporter of wide international cooperation, Turkmenistan treats with respect its partners and maintains fraternal and friendly relations with them, our president added. A proof of this is unprecedented international projects in our country. Each of them can serve as a positive example of mutually advantageous economic partnership on the entire Eurasian space.

One of such projects is the cement plant that will be built in the area called Garlyk jointly by our Turkish partners [as published], the Turkmen president, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, went on to say.

He said that the commissioning of this plant would promote the implementation of a programme for comprehensive development of Lebap and would give an impetus for construction of new towns and socioeconomic facilities in the region. The president of Turkmenistan especially emphasized that, from the environmental point of view, the new plant would meet all the environmental requirements. The most comfortable working and living conditions will be created for people working there, the president said. With the lapse of time, there will be comfortable houses and school with multimedia technologies, modern kindergartens and hospitals fitted out with up-to-date equipment as well as industrial enterprise like in other rural areas of the country.

At the end of his speech, the Turkmen president once again congratulated everybody on the significant event - the start of the cement plant's construction. He expressed his confidence that the project would serve for the benefit of the Turkmen people.

The Turkmen president's speech was responded with thunderous applause. After that, the president of Ukraine took the floor.

Having congratulated people attending the meeting on the event, Viktor Yushchenko highly praised Turkmenistan's readiness and wish to develop mutually advantageous international cooperation, including by means of participation in major joint projects in the fields of transport communications, construction infrastructure and some other fields. Having emphasized the importance of stepping up Turkmen-Ukrainian cooperation, the high-ranking visitor described as decisive factors of its efficiency the following things: high level of the cooperation's openness, mutual respect and understanding. Finishing his speech, the Ukrainian leader wished the Turkmen people successes in all their deeds, prosperity and wellbeing.

After that the main moment of the event starts. Under the applause of people attending the event, the presidents of the two countries sign an address to future generations and put it into a special capsule. At the same place there is an exhibition demonstrating samples of various minerals which are contained in deposits of Koytendag.

As is known, geologists in the Gaurdak-Kugitang mining area discovered a great number of deposits, including that of potassium, sulfur, phosphates, rock salt, mineral white, celestite (sulphate of strontium), complex ores, limestone and other minerals on the basis of which not only chemical industry but also the construction materials industry will be intensively developed. The capsule is placed into the foundation of the future cement plant. After that presidents Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Viktor Yushchenko, having thrown the first shovels of concrete, symbolically kick off the construction of the largest facility in the region.

After completion of the ceremony, the presidents became acquainted with the project of the future complex. The design capacity of the enterprise is 1m tonnes of cement a year. The necessary raw material will be extracted in mines that are very close to the plant. About 1,000 people will work at the plant. As early as in two years time, cement produced there will be supplied to various construction sites in the country via the Atamyrat-Kerkici railway bridge.

Having warmly said good bye to people attending the event, the leaders of the two countries go to the helicopter. The helicopter takes them to the town of Turkmenabad.

Paper highlights results of Ukrainian leader's Turkmen visit

After a brief rest at a fashionable residence given to him, the Ukrainian leader went sightseeing in the administrative centre of Lebap Region [i.e. Turkmenabad]. After that there was a joint dinner of the presidents of Turkmenistan and Ukraine. When the dinner is over, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Viktor Yushchenko say good bye to each other in a warm and friendly way. Having expressed their confidence that Turkmen-Ukrainian relations will further develop successfully, the leaders of the two countries wished wellbeing, peace and progress to the two fraternal people of Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

The motorcade of the high-ranking visitor goes to the airport. After several minutes the aircraft with the Ukrainian leader on board takes off and flies in the direction of Kiev.

After seeing off the high-profile visitor, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow held a brief meeting at the Ruhyet Palace in Turkmenabad. The meeting was attended by deputy prime ministers. The president of Turkmenistan once again emphasized the historic significance of today's events - the laying of the foundations of a motorway across the River Amu Darya; the opening of the Atamyrat Kerkici railway bridge that is a unique engineering structure and largest railway bridge in Central Asia; and the start of the construction of a powerful cement plant in the area Garlyk - for the future of Turkmenistan.

The president of the country emphasized that these facilities would become an important link in resolving the strategic task of setting up well-developed transit and transport infrastructure and would give a powerful impetus to dynamic development of not only eastern regions of the country, but also to the entire national economy, as well as will promote successful trade and economic cooperation with other countries.

The implementation of these projects is of special importance for successful implementation of the long-term strategy for socioeconomic development of the country in compliance with the implementation of the national programme for radically reforming social and living conditions of people living in villages, small towns and district towns, and, in the long run, for the benefit of our people, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow said.

Having expressed his satisfaction with the results of the visit of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, the Turkmen leader once again said that the visit was an example of mutually advantageous Turkmen-Ukrainian economic partnership. The above projects have indeed become significant milestones in the history of friendship and cooperation between Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

This evening President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow returned to Ashgabat.

Source: Neytralnyy Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, in Russian 17 Aug 09

Load-Date: December 18, 2009

Kazakhstan: Central Asian body fails to reach consensus on water use

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
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January 15, 2010 Friday

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Length: 378 words

Body

Excerpt from report by privately-owned Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency

Shymkent, 15 January: Members of the interstate committee for water coordination of Central Asian states (ICWC) failed to reach an agreement on the use of water in the Naryn-Syr Darya basin, during a meeting held in Shymkent (the administrative centre of Kazakhstan's South Kazakhstan Region of) today.

"Because of existing energy-related problems in the regions, the sides did not reach a consensus on the issue of water use quotes in the basins of the rivers Amu-Darya and Syr-Darya, on forecast operation modes of the cascades of reservoirs and on the course of water supply during the 2009-10 non-growing season," say minutes of the regular 54th session of the ICWC.

The ICWC comprises representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

[Passage omitted: known details]

Anarbek Orman, chairman of the session, who is the acting head of the committee for water resources under the ministry of agriculture of Kazakhstan, told a news conference in Shymkent today that the use of water in the Qayroqqum reservoir was "the most difficult" issue in the session.

"We have failed to reach an agreement in this area, because the Tajik side is saying that if the previous (Central Asian unified energy) system is not restored, the amount of water to be released for Uzbekistan will be sharply reduced during the growing season. In other words, in winter and spring they (Tajikistan) will have to release all water to generate electricity," Orman explained. As a result, the Qayroqqum reservoir will switch to the power generating mode, he went on to say.

According to him, this cannot be allowed, "because areas under crops in Uzbekistan and in our Maktaaral District (South Kazakhstan Region) are directly connected with the Qayroqqum reservoir".

"I think that this issue will be discussed involving specialists from energy sector and I believe that we will adopt an optimal decision," Orman said.

Starting from 1 December 2009, Uzbekistan quit the Central Asian unified energy system, about which it officially warned the authorities of Tajikistan which is the most dependent on electricity imports.

Source: Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency, Almaty, in Russian 1141 gmt 15 Jan 10

Kazakhstan : Central Asian body fails to reach consensus on water use

Load-Date: January 15, 2010

End of Document

Afghanistan: Horsing around in the Kush

The New Zealand Herald

February 12, 2010 Friday

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Section: TRAVEL; General

Length: 1474 words

Body

The Pamir mountains in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush, whitewashed with snow, reflect in the waters of remote Chaqmaqtin Lake. Water for tea boils on a fire of dry yak dung as my horse grazes after a long day on the trail. A passing Kyrgyz nomad calls a friendly greeting and insists I visit his round tent on my way past tomorrow. As the sun drops, the wind gasps its final breath of the day and there isn't a sound, save that of grass being munched.

Pinched between the borders of Pakistan and Tajikistan, the Wakham Corridor is that little tail on the end of Afghanistan's map. So separated from the rest of the war-ruffled land it feels and acts like a different country, even the camels here have two humps instead of one. The corridor offers the rarity of safe Afghan travel in the shadow of the Pamir Mountains; trekking, horse riding and climbing in Afghanistan's highest and most secure region.

Setting out from Ishkashim, the last real town in the northern province of Badakhshan, on a horse purchased in the bazaar and a borrowed saddle, my travel permit from the local constabulary is tucked away inside my passport. The trail away from the final vestiges of civilisation leads along the southern bank of the Amu Darya River, formally known as the Oxus.

On the other bank, literally just a stone's throw away, is Tajikistan. A friendship bridge across the river means anyone wishing to visit the Wakham can do so directly from the Tajik side and thus avoid the less stable rest of Afghanistan.

Few travellers come this way on horseback or foot as most are carried by 4WD to the end of the road, two days drive up river from where they begin their treks. However, making the journey in such a sedate, eco-friendly way (horses are low carbon-emitters) gives you the opportunity to experience village life among the Tajik farmers. They are masters of irrigation, cutting channels sometimes for miles across the mountainsides with nothing but pick and shovel to bring water from distant streams to quench their fields on the river's flood plains.

Everyone waves and gestures for me to take their photo; kids scamper by my trusty mount between swaying fields of wheat and barley; the constant invitations to tea would make the ride never-ending if even half were accepted. Traditions of hospitality are ingrained in the Afghan psyche; handshakes are common, firm and full of meaning: welcome.

At night I stay in whichever mud-brick village built into the mountainside I end up in, billeted by a local farmer for a gift of a few dollars, or I find lodgings and stables in one of the guest houses funded by the Ismaili Muslim leader the Aga Khan.

Afghanistan : Horsing around in the Kush

Alternatively I camp alone between settlements on the banks of the river and make tea from the Oxus. Evening entertainment consists of watching the sun go down behind the mountains, waiting for the stars to come out and then crawling into my tent.

One afternoon I wander away from the main road on what looks to be a shortcut only to find myself virtually in someone's backyard. By a creek I startle three unveiled Tajik women doing the laundry. As they scuttle inside the sanctity of their walled home, the eldest hisses at me like a defensive cat, the younger two smile and giggle. I hurry on through the fields but don't get far before the man of the house emerges and calls me back.

"Bebakhshed baba-jan!" I apologise, I'm sorry, Uncle. In other parts of Afghanistan such a mishap could have caused grave offence.

"Ne! Ne bebakshesh!" No, don't apologise, and the farmer's hand, as rugged as a rawhide glove, grasps mine to show that none has been taken by the moderate Ismaili. Back in his home I'm offered everything in the pantry: tea, sour yogurt and fresh baked bread, and even the old man's wife eventually smiles.

At the village of Sarhad-e-Broghil the road runs out. Anyone who continues further does so on horse, donkey, yak or foot. I have my permits checked by the local commandant, who gives me a none-too-serious ear-bashing for camping the previous night on the south side of the river too close to the Pakistani border, and then sends me on my way into the mountains of the Pamir.

From here the trail climbs - really climbs - over goat tracks that are the only way through a gorge I will follow for the next two days. Altitude adds another obstacle to the rugged terrain. The wise are prepared for this section of the corridor and carry enough supplies with them to last until they meet the locals again. I am not wise. Not realising I won't find anyone living in the narrow valley, I walk (it is too steep and too tough on my poor horse to ride) for two days on an empty stomach and wobbly legs having taken nothing with me apart from tea and a scrap of flat bread.

By the third day I'm wondering whether I should start boiling the pages of my notebook or the soles of my shoes, and the fat orange marmots that whistle at me from the entrances to their burrows are beginning to look as appetising as roast chickens. Even the intentions of the massive eagles carving circles in the skies above are a concern.

Thankfully I am rescued by two Kyrgyz nomads who come up the trail behind me. Stopping to share my fire, they unwrap a large cloth full of crispy fried bread. They fill my tucker bag and when I offer to pay they refuse anything I try to give them, insisting I am a guest in their mountain home. By this stage I feel less like a guest and more like a grateful beggar.

At the head of the Wakham Corridor the valley opens out into sweeping grazing lands. At the joining of the Wakham and Wakhjir Rivers, conical mud-brick tombs mark the graves of past Kyrgyz shah at the winter grassland of Bozai Gumbaz. On the morning I pass, I stop at the only tent on the pasture, hoping to be offered something to eat. Unfortunately the tent's sole occupant, a nomad in his 40s, is too busy trying to get his opium pipe lit to stoke up the fire for tea.

Below the dramatic Himalaya-rivalling ranges, Kyrgyz nomads live an uncluttered life, with their yaks, fat-tailed sheep, goats and horses; they spend the entire year in the high valleys even toughing out the brutal winters. Each cluster of their round felt-covered dwellings has a guest tent where those passing can spend the night.

One evening I share rug space with a trader who has loaded his donkey with bolts of cloth, thread and wool yarn, flashlight batteries, combs, matches, and assorted odds and ends and is spending the summer trying to sell it all. Sadly he has nothing of much use to me, no toilet paper or food.

The old trader is the last reminder of the Silk Route, a branch of which passed down the Wakham from the deserts of Chinese Turkestan, the modern border of which is just a few kilometres away. Marco Polo passed through the valley on his way to meet the Emperor of Cathay and left his name on the curly-horned sheep which still inhabit the high peaks.

Afghanistan : Horsing around in the Kush

That night is the eve of Ramadan, (known as Ramazan in Afghanistan) the Muslim holy month when the faithful fast during daylight hours. To see in the start of the festival we are taken as guests to every tent in the camp and served milky tea and fresh bread.

Heading down the corridor again I skirt the northern shore of Chaqmaqin Lake and climb slowly into the Pamir range. Crossing two high passes, Aqbelis and Kotel-e-Qarabel, the trail reveals hidden lakes and small glaciers.

My faithful horse and I find ourselves on some nights in uninhabited valleys, home to the unseen snow leopard, and on others sharing a fireplace in the cosy stone hovels of the Wakhi herdsmen who give the region its name. Primitive etchings of ibex and other prized kills of the prehistoric hunt are scratched into the boulders along the rivers and attest to how long the region has been inhabited.

After three weeks on the trail the first flurries of winter snow and the vision of a hot shower, a change of clothes and a meal of something other than tea and bread leads me back through the gorge, this time more sensibly provisioned, to Sarhad-e-Broghil. The commandant seems pleased to see me back safely this time and helps me arrange transport back down to Ishkoshim.

Before I leave for the town I bid a sad farewell to my dear horse. He, however, doesn't appear unhappy the adventure is over and that he'll be left in relative peace on the high pastures of the Afghan Pamirs.

CHECKLIST

Getting there: Via Kabul: Fly to Dubai and then to Kabul. Via Tajikistan: Fly via Istanbul to the capital Dushanbe. Alternatively to other Central Asian Republics.

Visas: All nationalities require a visa to enter Afghanistan. A one-month visitor's permit can be obtained from the Afghan Embassy in Canberra.

Getting around: Jeeps to the Wakham can be arranged from Kabul by .

Tours: and offer tours in the Wakham for small groups; trekking or horseback tours can be arranged.

Best time to visit: May to September.

Load-Date: February 12, 2010

Sting in the pay of tyrannical Uzbekistan regime

Guardian.com

February 22, 2010 Monday

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theguardian

Length: 810 words

Byline: Marina Hyde, guardian.co.uk

Body

ABSTRACT

Sting accepted more than £1m to play for the Uzbek dictator's daughter, reports Marina Hyde

FULL TEXT

Once again we must ponder the question "how much money is enough?", inspired by reports that Sting accepted between £1m and £2m to perform for the glory of the brutal despotic regime in Uzbekistan.

The services of Sting - whose personal fortune is estimated well north of £150m - were engaged by Gulnara Karimova, the daughter and anointed heir of dictator Islam Karimov. To explore Islam Karimov's human rights record in full would take too long: suffice to say he is condemned approximately every 10 minutes by organisations from the UN to Amnesty, accused of such delights as boiling his enemies, slaughtering his poverty-stricken people when they protest, and conscripting armies of children for slave labour. Oh, and the Aral Sea on which his country sits - once the world's fourth biggest lake - has lost 80% of its volume, partly as a result of Karimov siphoning it off to intensively irrigate his remote desert cotton fields.

Whether he is a perfect fit for self-styled eco-warrior and humanitarian Sting is a matter for you to decide: what is beyond dispute is that in October, the former Police frontman agreed to travel to Tashkent and effectively headline Gulnara Karimova's alleged arts festival.

Unfortunately, people have now found out about the jaunt, and so many of them have misunderstood the reasoning behind it as financially motivated that Sting has been forced to issue a statement.

"I played in Uzbekistan a few months ago," he begins. "The concert was organized by the president's daughter and I believe sponsored by Unicef."

You can believe it all you like, Sting, but it's absolute cobbles - indeed, a Unicef spokesman tactfully describes the organisation as "quite surprised" by your claim.

Sting in the pay of tyrannical Uzbekistan regime

"I supported wholeheartedly the cultural boycott of South Africa under the apartheid regime," Sting continues, in response to those who wonder why he did not refuse the invitation, "because it was a special case and specifically targeted the younger demographic of the ruling white middle class."

Chop-logic, sir! But go on.

"I am well aware of the Uzbek president's appalling reputation in the field of human rights as well as the environment. I made the decision to play there in spite of that. I have come to believe that cultural boycotts are not only pointless gestures, they are counter-productive, where proscribed states are further robbed of the open commerce of ideas and art and as a result become even more closed, paranoid and insular."

Mm. Even if you accept Sting's live performances as "ideas and art", you can't really help but question this idea of "open commerce", considering the tickets for his concert cost more than 45 times the average monthly salary in Uzbekistan. 45 times! As for his distaste for the regime, the picture above shows Sting being repulsed by it all at a fashion show during the "cultural" week, which also seems to have served as a vehicle for promoting Gulnara Karimova's jewellery range for stratospherically expensive Swiss firm Chopard. She's the one sitting right next to him.

"I seriously doubt whether the President of Uzbekistan cares in the slightest whether artists like myself come to play in his country," concludes Sting. "He is hermetically sealed in his own medieval, tyrannical mindset."

You will note that Sting conspicuously declines to deflect the heat by stating that he donated all or indeed any of his monstrous fee to charity. And I could go on - but at this point it feels right to hand over to former British ambassador to Uzbekistan Craig Murray.

"This really is transparent bollocks," observes Murray [on his blog](#). "He did not take a guitar and jam around the parks of Tashkent. He got paid over a million pounds to play an event specifically designed to glorify a barbarous regime. Is the man completely mad?"

"Why does he think it was worth over a million quid to the regime to hear him warble a few notes?"

"I agree with him that cultural isolation does not help. I am often asked about the morality of going to Uzbekistan, and I always answer - go, mix with ordinary people, tell them about other ways of life, avoid state owned establishments and official tours. What Sting did was the opposite. To invoke Unicef as a cover, sat next to a woman who has made hundreds of millions from state forced child labour in the cotton fields, is pretty sick."

Well quite. And yet, to misquote his worship, I seriously doubt whether Sting cares in the slightest whether shmucks like Craig and us question his probity. He is hermetically sealed in his own self-righteous mindset.

Still, him accepting a wedge from despots, Trudie making films for Tesco - it must be said that the House of Sumner has moved into a most intriguing era of late, and we shall redouble the focus on its activities.

Load-Date: February 22, 2010

Paper says US envoy visited Tajikistan to talk about Iran

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

March 14, 2010 Sunday

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Length: 798 words

Body

A paper suggests that the main issue of the visit of the US envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, to Tajikistan was US concerns on Iran and Washington is in search of allies against Tehran. The following is an excerpt from the article entitled: "Selling Iran: Why did Holbrooke come to Dushanbe", published by privately-owned Tajik newspaper Farazh on 24 February; subheading inserted editorially:

Richard Holbrooke, US envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, arrived in Dushanbe last week and had talks with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. He said that he would make only one statement and that would not answer questions. He said the Tajik president and he discussed the situation in Central Asia and Tajikistan, the construction of another bridge across the River Amu Darya, the CASA [Central Asian Sharing Aid] -1000 electricity power line, water and energy issues, specifically the use of Tajikistan's water resources in order to resolve water and energy problems in other areas of the region, including in Pakistan and India.

[Passage omitted: quote of Radio Liberty report on Holbrooke's statement]

Iran is the main issue of the visit

However, the problems that emerged last week in connection with the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, raises doubts about the main goal of the US envoy's visit. First, what Holbrooke said does not suit his authority and duties. Second, Tajik-US consultations were held in Washington on 12 February. Those issues could have been discussed there. Cooperation between Tajikistan, Pakistan and India could also have been discussed by themselves, without the participation of the USA.

In short, we have all grounds to think that the main issue of the US diplomat's talks in Dushanbe was Iran. In May last year, the former head of Israel's intelligence, Aaron Zeevi Farkash suggested that the USA and Israel should set up a coalition with "Sunni Muslim states surrounding Iran (Persian Gulf monarchies, Azerbaijan and Central Asia), which are scared of Iran's nuclear bomb".

In fact, Holbrooke arrived in Dushanbe after visiting Islamabad, Kabul, Tashkent and Bishkek and then paid visits to Ashgabat, Astana and Tbilisi. There was no logic to pay a visit to Baku. This is because Iran has lately been supporting the position of this state on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and the efforts made by the White House in the past had not yielded results.

US and Israeli diplomats and military are currently trying to employ every method and means to influence Iran's neighbours and partners. This is because they are also thinking about launching a military attack on Iran and are looking for allies.

Paper says US envoy visited Tajikistan to talk about Iran

[Passage omitted: known facts; the US Secretary of State's visit to the Middle East and Turkey; talks on Iran in Turkey did not yield results; Israeli prime minister was in Moscow]

However, can the USA persuade or buy Central Asian states to come out against Iran in order to use them if it launches an attack on Iran? Outwardly, Central Asian states are not being seriously considered in this dispute. However, in fact, they may have a big role in resolving this issue. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan may follow Russia. The first does not that much need US money and Kyrgyzstan is not that much significant and not worth spending money. Uzbekistan also does not need that much of financial support and may want to be neutral. However, it also may want Iran to be weak because it supports Tajikistan's energy projects. Neither does Turkmenistan need financial aid nor will provide its territory for the USA and NATO. Tajikistan, although it is poor, does not have the moral right to betray fraternal Iran. Holbrook's visit to Tajikistan is a simple diplomatic ethic.

In general, the Central Asian states will act in keeping with the principles of good-neighbourliness. That is to say the USA and NATO have come here to defend their interests and will undoubtedly leave the region one day in the way they come. However, Iran will remain as a neighbour in the region.

The regional states are also afraid of collaborating with the USA against Iran. This is because it is a game of the USA that wants to involve others in it. As evidence of this can be cited Holbrooke's statement saying that it is Al-Qa'idah not the Taleban that is posing a threat to Central Asia. Taleban have records of cooperation with the USA. However, the regional states have long ago seen and felt the serious threat coming from them [Taleban] to the region. However, the region does not know Al-Qa'idah as much as the USA does.

The heated disputes over Iran's nuclear programme has increased tension in the international politics and reached Central Asian states. We will in future witness new disputes in the region. We must be ready for this.

Source: Farazh, Dushanbe, in Tajik 24 Feb 10, p 7

Load-Date: March 14, 2010

[Ashgabat to host ICWC meeting](#)

Trend Daily Economic News

March 24, 2010 Wednesday 2:36 PM GMT +4

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Section: MACROECONOMICS

Length: 118 words

Body

Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, March 24 / [Trend Capital](#) H. Hasanov /

A meeting of the Interstate Coordination for **Water Commission** of Central Asia (ICWC) will be held in Ashgabat in the near future, an official Turkmen source said.

The **commission** was established in accordance with an interstate **water** resources management and protection **agreement** between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed in Almaty Feb. 18, 1992.

The **commission** is a regional body in Central Asia jointly resolving governance, rational use and interstate **water** resources protection issues in the **Aral** Sea and implementing joint programs based on principles of collegiality and the mutual respect of party interests.

Load-Date: March 27, 2010

Uzbek leader addresses Asian Development Bank summit

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

May 4, 2010 Tuesday

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Length: 2378 words

Body

Uzbek President Islam Karimov told an Asian Development Bank summit in Tashkent on 3 May that he was against an unjustified increase of financial resources in the financial sector. He also said Uzbekistan was creating favourable conditions to attract foreign investments into the country's economy. Karimov said that during the summit, the ADB signed four loan agreements worth over 1.15bn dollars with Uzbekistan which he said would make sure that the loans were used in a targeted way. Speaking about the water problem in the region, the leader said: "Unfortunately, some of our neighbours, especially those in the upper reaches of the Amu Darya and Sir Darya rivers, are taking the problem very lightly and are not thinking about what consequences this attitude towards the extremely important resource may have." President Karimov also said Uzbekistan supported the bank's projects to restore Afghanistan. The following is an excerpt from the president's remarks broadcast on Uzbek state-owned Television First Channel the same day:

[Presenter] Dear TV viewers, an official ceremony was held to open the 43rd annual meeting of the board of governors of the Asian Development Bank in Tashkent today [3 May]. Uzbek President Islam Karimov attended the meeting and made a speech. Now, we present to you a programme on the ceremony held at the Uzbekistan international conference palace in the capital.

[Passage omitted: President Karimov welcomes the participants in the meeting and also speaks about the 2009 global financial crisis and its impacts on the world economy]

[President Karimov, speaking in Russian] In our view, we should agree with opinions of many prominent world experts that the excess liquidity and further feeding of financial resources to the banking and financial sector create conditions for an outburst of speculative capital, pumping up so-called bubbles on stock and raw-materials markets. This may result in a new collapse on financial and exchange markets in future, with all ensuing consequences. Let alone the fact that growing emissions of and an increase in the volume of monetary resources create a potentially dangerous situation for inflation processes.

One has to speak again and again about the increase in protectionist measures in many countries, especially in developed ones, which, first of all, cause considerable problems for the developing countries, as well as for the recovery of the global economy as a whole.

I will not be mistaken if I say that the topic that is most discussed in expert and official circles at regional and global levels is state control of the banking and financial sphere, mechanisms and tools to ensure systemic control over banking capital, as well as the role of international financial institutions in this.

During discussions on the topic, certain proposals arouse interest, in particular the creation of an international financial institution that could control financial and banking activities on a global scale.

Uzbek leader addresses Asian Development Bank summit

A proposal has been made to give control of speculative banking activities in the world market to this institution. This also includes derivatives and other derivative securities which may deregulate international trade and the international financial market as a whole.

In this connection, the reforms being proposed by US President Barack Obama arouse, in our opinion, the greatest interest and won support. Among other things, they suggest setting up a special agency for overseeing US financial institutions' operations and restricting risky operations with derivatives at the expense of tax payers.

It appears that, if long discussions and disputes on the subject result in a rational decision acceptable for all sides, this will undoubtedly be one of the greatest achievements in the settlement of the crisis problems.

[Passage omitted: President Karimov praises the Uzbek model of economic reforms and development, as well as the adoption of the anti-crisis programme for 2009-12]

Uzbekistan seeks to create necessary conditions for investors

I would like to emphasize that we in Uzbekistan realize that in the post-crisis period, the first winners are those countries that as early as today create the foundations and implement long-term innovative projects aimed at deep structural reforms and diversification of manufacturing.

In 2009, Uzbekistan adopted a programme to implement major projects for modernization, technical and technological re-equipping for 2009-14. The programme includes over 300 vital innovative projects worth a total of over 42.5bn dollars which are aimed at modernizing key basic sectors, implementing the largest transport and communications projects, creating new modern manufacture and introducing resource-saving technologies.

Of course, we in Uzbekistan realize perfectly well, and are well aware, that all these projects are unthinkable without attracting foreign investment and creating the necessary conditions and concessions for them. It would be quite difficult to solve the set tasks without this.

That is why I would like to take this opportunity to tell you again and again that we see in you exactly those partners who can help us, Uzbekistan, implement these projects. [Applause]

At the same time, we attach huge significance to mobilizing domestic resources in funding investment programmes. The share of domestic resources in the total amount of investments made in Uzbekistan's economy in 2009 was 68 per cent, and it would be no less than 70 per cent in 2010.

In implementing long-term and large-scale projects, we attach great significance to further strengthening the potential and capabilities of the Reconstruction and Development Fund of Uzbekistan set up in 2007. Today its capital amounts to about 5bn dollars. The main function of the fund is to finance primarily infrastructural projects, as well as, to participate, jointly with foreign partners, in implementing promising projects to upgrade and reconstruct facilities in the basic sectors of the economy.

I would like to use this chance to stress once again that foreign investors, no matter how good they are and how eager they are to help us, will never come to those areas and territories where there is no infrastructure, specifically where there is no water, gas, railway lines or motorways. That is why our tasks in Uzbekistan is to create all the necessary conditions for any investor. An investor comes to us only to make profit and receive their dividends. And we want the conditions that we offer to fully satisfy you, investors, who, I am sure, will come to Uzbekistan tomorrow. [Applause]

For example, with the financial support of the fund in 2009, the construction started of a modern steam and gas unit worth 470m dollars at a thermal power plant in the [central] town of Navoiy, where, as you know, a free industrial and economic zone and an international multi-modal logistics centre are now being set up at Navoiy town airport.

I would like to say a few words about the great significance that is attached in Uzbekistan to reforms in the education system and training skilled personnel.

Uzbek leader addresses Asian Development Bank summit

I would like to note again and again that we in Uzbekistan realize that there might be the most attractive projects with all the conditions there, but if there are no skilled personnel, who can operate modern technologies. Not a single project would be implemented. We understand this very well.

[Passage omitted: Karimov says Uzbekistan paying particular attention to the development of the education system; there are skilful young people in the country; he hails Uzbekistan's economic performance in the past year]

ADB, Uzbekistan sign four agreements worth 1.15bn dollars

Uzbekistan highly rates growing cooperation with the Asian Development Bank and regards it as the most important strategic partner. For us, it has become a key international financial institution both in terms of credit portfolio and regional cooperation in Central Asia over the past few years.

Over the past period, in other words, since 1996, eleven projects worth over 520m dollars have been implemented using 1.2bn dollars worth of loan resources allocated. Fifteen projects worth a total of over 650m dollars are being implemented.

We note with great appreciation that today our cooperation is substantially expanding and rising to a new level. As part of the annual meeting, four more loan agreements worth over 1.15bn dollars were signed, in other words, the Asian bank has practically doubled its credit portfolio for our country.

From this high platform, I, on behalf of our people and all those who live in Uzbekistan, would like to take this opportunity to thank, first of all, governors of the Asian Development Bank and all the participants for the attention that you are giving to Uzbekistan. [Applause]

Today we have full confidence that Uzbekistan will continue its commitment to such key components of our cooperation with the Asian Development Bank as the reliable and committed partnership, and ensure that the allocated funds are used in a targeted way.

Now, let me briefly speak about priority areas, from our point of view, of cooperation with the Asian Development Bank.

First, we believe that the Asian Development Bank could become a key partner for Uzbekistan in implementing programmes extremely important for Uzbekistan in structural reforming and diversifying the economy, which are aimed at developing rich natural resources, mineral, hydrocarbon and agricultural raw materials, along with achieving qualitative change and increased exports of hi-tech and competitive products.

The matter concerns the implementation of projects to modernize, technically and technologically restructure key fields of the Uzbek economy, including the mining, oil and gas, chemical and textile fields of industry.

Among the highest priorities of our strategy to modernize the country, we put creating a modern system for transportation communications, implementing such projects as creating an Uzbek national motorway, developing an intermodal logistics centre at Navoiy airport, fundamentally upgrading the rolling stock and expanding railway networks.

We highly rate the fact that as part of the annual meeting, the Asian Development Bank signed an agreement to allocate a 600m-dollar loan for construction and modernization of the Uzbek national motorway.

[Passage omitted: as a second area for cooperation, Uzbekistan proposes that the bank support and further develop private business in the country]

Rational use of water crucial for Uzbekistan

Third, development of cooperation in further reforming and strengthening material resources in agriculture and auxiliary sectors.

Uzbek leader addresses Asian Development Bank summit

One should not forget that over 90 per cent of agricultural goods are produced only on irrigated lands in Uzbekistan. I repeat again that 95 per cent of all our agricultural goods are produced only on irrigated lands. This is why the use - wise and rational use - of water energy resources is of vital significance to us. If 95 per cent of all the agricultural goods that feed our population, raw materials for industry and exports - almost everything is grown on irrigated lands, you may understand what water means for us. Uzbek people say: where there is no water, there is no life.

That is why indeed, we consider this problem so serious. Unfortunately, some of our neighbours, especially those in the upper reaches of the Amu Darya and Sir Darya rivers, are taking the problem very lightly and are not thinking about what consequences this attitude towards the extremely important resource may have.

In these conditions, we will need to do large-scale work of fundamentally improving the reclamation of land under threat of mass salinization. Here we see a promising area for cooperation with the Asian Development Bank.

[Passage omitted: the Uzbek leader is upbeat about prospects for cooperation with the ADB in the country's education, healthcare and banking systems]

Uzbekistan backs ADB projects for restoring Afghanistan

Uzbekistan has been supporting in all possible ways the Asian Development Bank's projects aimed at the economic rehabilitation of our neighbour Afghanistan. For example, the construction of the Surxon-Naibabad-Kabul power line made it possible to increase electricity supplies from Uzbekistan [to Afghanistan] six-fold in 2009. If previously, electricity was available in Kabul for only two hours, today electricity is supplied round-the-clock. In 2010, electricity supplies will double, including to other regions of Afghanistan.

We have supported the Asian bank in implementing the project to construct the Hayraton-Mazar-e Sharif railway line. We believe that it is necessary to further develop railway communications in Afghanistan. This would make it possible to implement a project to construct a trans-Afghan corridor, ensure the shortest route for the passage of railway goods from Central Asia to the nearest ports of the Indian Ocean and support Afghanistan's economic development.

Dear participants, and guests of the annual meeting. During this period, which is not a simple one, of the global financial and economic crisis, the Asian Development Bank, its board of governors and President Mr Kuroda have demonstrated effective and well-organized work that ensured a timely response to challenges caused by the crisis, managed to develop and introduce new methods and non-standard approaches to mitigate the consequences of the crisis.

Today the countries of Asia, the most dynamically developing region in the world, [changes tag] and I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that Uzbekistan is an Asian country and we are proud that we are an Asian country and that I am an Asian. [Applause]

Asian countries have indeed coped with destructive impacts of the crisis better than others. They are on the threshold of new challenges both in the field of economic development, ensuring a balanced economic growth and the field of regional stability and security.

The settlement of these issues requires well-coordinated joint work of international organizations, financial institutions and governments.

[Passage omitted: the Uzbek president wishes good luck to everyone; ADB President Kuroda also made a speech]

Source: Uzbek Television First Channel, Tashkent, in Uzbek 1502 gmt 3 May 10

Load-Date: May 4, 2010

Helping Central Asia's dying sea

UPI Energy

June 2, 2010 Wednesday 5:00 PM EST

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Length: 486 words

Dateline: BERLIN, June 2

Body

Experts meeting in Berlin have urged for international cooperation to save the Aral Sea in Central Asia, which, in one of the most severe man-made ecological disasters, has lost nearly 90 percent of its water since the 1950s.

"The drying-out of the Aral Sea is a worldwide symbol for increasing desertification that is sped up by climate change," said Olaf Tschimpke, the president of German environmental conservation group NABU.

Together with the Kazakh Embassy, NABU last week organized a talk on the fate of the Aral Sea and the millions of people living in the wider Central Asian region.

Some 60 years ago, the Aral Sea was the world's fourth-largest lake with an area of 26,000 square miles. Located between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the sea was rich in plant and animal life, with thousands of fishing plants located in thriving cities along its shores.

In 1918, the Soviet government decided that the two rivers that feed the Aral Sea would be diverted to irrigate the desert and turn it into rice and cotton farmland. The construction of irrigation channels began in the 1940s. Many of them were poorly built, however, allowing water to leak or evaporate. In the late 1950s, when most of the Aral Sea's external water supply had been diverted, its gradual dying began.

Not only did the water retreat rapidly, it also became too saline for fish and plant species to survive. By 2007, it had declined to 10 percent of its original size, splitting into three lakes, one of which has since disappeared.

The retreating water left behind massive amounts of salt and toxic chemicals -- the results of weapons testing, industrial projects, pesticides and fertilizer runoff -- that are picked up and carried away by the wind as toxic dust. The little water that remains is spoiled.

As a consequence, people in the region are plagued by health problems. In 2009, the number of illnesses and deaths was greater than ever before, the German environmental group NABU claims.

Moreover, because there is no longer a sea to act as a moderating factor, the summers in the region have become hotter and the winters colder.

Helping Central Asia's dying sea

Experts meeting in Berlin last week called for greater international cooperation to revive the Aral Sea.

Nurgali Ashimov, the environment minister of Kazakhstan, said key to saving the sea was "the development of a multilateral cooperation between the Central Asian states." He added that Kazakhstan as the current chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has already tried to place the Aral Sea higher on the regional agenda.

Individual efforts have already paid off. The Kok-Aral dam built with money from the World Bank and Kazakhstan separated the North Aral from the remainder of the sea and has helped to raise the sea level by nearly 40 feet, causing a few dozen fishermen to return.

However, more efforts are needed to truly save the economically deprived region, the experts said.

Load-Date: June 3, 2010

End of Document

This day in Kuwait's history

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

June 7, 2010 Monday

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Length: 161 words

Body

1939 -- Al-Mubarakia School students perform a play entitled "Omar ibn Al-Khattab's Embrace of Islam," attended by Kuwait's Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.1992 -- Kuwait and Honduras establish diplomatic relations.1999 -- Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8) purchases 250 petrol stations in Belgium from the German Aral company.2001 -- Kuwait Sports Club wins Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad soccer tournament, beating Tadamun 3-0.2003 -- The Modern Technology Company for Bottled Water (Abraaj) is inaugurated in the Free Trade Zone.2003 -- Kuwait announces that it has found the remains of a Kuwaiti martyr. This is the first finding since 1991. The martyr, Saad Mishaal Al-Enizi, was kidnapped from Kuwait in November 1990 during the Iraqi occupation. His remains were found in a mass-grave site in Samawah, near Baghdad.2005 -- Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) elects Kuwait as new member of the Governing Body, which is ILO's executive body.

Load-Date: June 11, 2010

Tajikistan promises to continue sharing its water

Associated Press International

June 8, 2010 Tuesday 2:56 PM GMT

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Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 402 words

Byline: By OLGA TUTUBALINA, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: DUSHANBE Tajikistan

Body

Tajikistan sought Tuesday to improve its strained ties with neighboring Uzbekistan by offering assurances it will not stop sharing its copious water resources with other nations in Central Asia.

Speaking at a conference on water security, Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon also said his country would cooperate actively in diminishing the impact of the Aral Sea environmental disaster.

The Aral Sea, which lies between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, has been gradually drying up over the past five decades due to water being drawn from rivers flowing into it.

Disputes over water-sharing have been a source of tension between countries in the region since they gained independence amid the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Uzbekistan in particular is angry about mountainous Tajikistan's plans to build a giant hydroelectric dam that Uzbek authorities say will create water shortages for their farmers.

In recent months, Uzbekistan has been preventing trains carrying crucial supplies from crossing into Tajikistan in apparent retaliation for the Roghun dam project.

In an effort to ease tensions in the region, Rakhmon said that Tajikistan would commit to providing drinking water for neighboring countries and beyond.

"Tajikistan is prepared and capable of providing not only Central Asia, but also a wider region, with pure drinking water," he told delegates at the Water for Life 2005-15 conference.

While sounding a conciliatory note, Rakhmon complained that the absence of an agreed regional system on how to divide water resources worked at a disadvantage to countries at the point of origin.

While 80 percent of water flowing to the Aral Sea comes from upstream countries, more than 85 percent of that water is used in downstream countries, Rakhmon said.

Of the five nations of former Soviet Central Asia, the mountainous and impoverished countries of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are upstream, while energy-rich Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan rely heavily on river streams coming from those countries to irrigate their crops.

Tajikistan promises to continue sharing its water

Tajikistan is particularly embittered by Uzbekistan's insistence on selling its natural gas at what it considers exorbitant prices.

Rakhmon said what he described as water diplomacy was a key priority in forging some agreement on how to settle resource-sharing conflicts. He is due to meet with Uzbek President Islam Karimov later this week for talks expected to focus on water issues.

Load-Date: June 9, 2010

End of Document

Tajik leader says neighbours' interests considered in country's water policy

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 9, 2010 Wednesday

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Length: 1385 words

Body

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon has said his country considers the neighbouring countries' interests in using its water and energy resources. Speaking at the international conference "Water for Life 2005-15" in the Tajik capital city of Dushanbe on 8 June, which was broadcast live by Tajik TV, Rahmon said that his country offered to carry out a feasibility study and environmental assessment of its controversial Roghun power plant in order to ensure the transparency of the project. Commenting on the Aral Sea problem and its resolution, President Rahmon said that "certain" Central Asian countries were striving "to distort the reality and divert the world community's attention away from the real causes of the disaster". The following is an excerpt from Emomali Rahmon's speech broadcast by state-owned Tajik Television First Channel on 8 June; subheadings have been inserted editorially:

Dear Mr Undersecretary! Ladies and gentlemen! Dear guests! I am much pleased to welcome all of you in Dushanbe city, the capital of Tajikistan, at an international conference attended by high-ranking representatives of countries and regional and international organizations which is dedicated to a mid-term inspection of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-15.

Five years ago, the United Nations General Assembly started the International Decade for Action "Water for Life". Today we are in the middle of this major international event. In this regard, there is a need to sum up the results of work done and take the relevant measures for further actions.

[Passage omitted: the president talks about shortage of water resources in the world; the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on solving water issues; Tajikistan's water resources]

Despite huge water resources, 40 per cent of people in our country have no access to pure drinking water, and drinking water supply has turned into a difficult problem in some remote districts. In addition to this, in Tajikistan there are natural disasters, electricity shortages, deficit of funding in the water sector and other factors, which have escalated in the past decade. Despite the government's efforts to prevent them, this situation is making a great negative impact on the process of development in our country.

[Passage omitted: Rahmon talks about Tajikistan's national water programmes and projects; Central Asian regional mechanisms and strategies to settle the Aral Sea problem]

Aral Sea problem

Unfortunately, instead of making efforts to resolve problems in the Aral Sea basin, certain countries in the region are trying to distort the reality and divert the world community's attention away from the real causes of the disaster, i.e. inefficient and at times destructive use of water resources. We think that this one-sided interpretation of the

Tajik leader says neighbours' interests considered in country's water policy

existing facts and figures does not contribute to the solution of the problem. The efficiency of efforts to save the Aral Sea is above all connected with clearly and correctly realizing the reality and taking specific measures.

It is well known that the five countries in the region established the International Fund to resolve Aral Sea problems. We think that above all, old and out-of-date irrigation systems should be restored to achieve this goal.

Repeated attempts by countries in the region with the participation of the World Bank, the European Union, the United Nations and other independent international organizations to draw up a strategic programme on water consumption in Central Asia have not produced desirable results.

Tajikistan has always supported the programmes and is ready to contribute to their implementation. However, certain countries in the region pursued only their own interests and benefits and refused to accept these programmes. Today Tajikistan is ready for multi-faceted cooperation with all countries of the region and international organizations to solve water and energy problems and improve the environmental situation in the Aral Sea basin.

It is exactly for this reason and with the aim of learning a real picture of the current water and environmental problems in Central Asia that Tajikistan has asked the United Nations to help conduct an overall impartial examination of the existing water consumption system, irrigation structure and the environment in the region.

We are convinced that the development of mutually suitable and mutually beneficial ways and methods for using water and energy resources in the region, which combines interests of the upstream countries that are rich in water resources and the downstream countries that have enormous raw hydrocarbon reserves, will help long-term mutually beneficial cooperation between countries in the region and their stable development. The creation of a water and energy consortium will be an efficient measure in this field which may play an effective role not only in resolving water and energy issues but also in implementing the Millennium Development Goals and improving socio-economic conditions and the environmental situation in the region.

[Passage omitted: Rahmon speaks about Tajikistan's hydroelectric potential; power generation industry; electricity shortage in the winter period]

Tajik water policy

Tajikistan fully takes into account the neighbouring countries' interests in using its hydroelectric resources. It is for this reason and with a strong will and taking into account the guarantee of transparency and regional interests that we have asked the World Bank to carry out a feasibility study and environmental assessment of the Roghun hydroelectric power plant, and it is under way now.

Pure drinking water supply becomes more problematic with every passing year due to dynamically developing agriculture and the growing number of population in the region. Analyses of population growth and its impact on water resources in the near future are not so comforting. Tajikistan proposes building water pipes from Lake Sarez, which is located in the middle of the Pamirs [mountains] at a height of 3,300 metres above the sea level, to resolve this problem. Water reserves of the lake, which contains the purest drinking water from the ecological point of view, are about 17 cubic kilometres and capable of providing the entire population in Central Asia with pure water. From the point of view of its stability and purposefulness, it can be an effective project for resolving this vital problem of people in the region, that is the provision of pure drinking water, in conditions of water shortage in the region.

[Passage omitted: climate change, floods and other natural disasters inflicting economic damage on Tajikistan, Rahmon said]

Central Asian glaciers, snowfields

The degradation of glaciers and snowfields where the main rivers take their beginning is getting rather worrying for our region. The area of glaciers has shrunk by one third over the past few decades. Over 1,000 of 14,000 glaciers [in Tajikistan] have melted completely and one of the world's largest land glaciers, the Fedchenko glacier, lost over 20 per cent of its size in the second half of the 20th century. This trend predicts that a substantial change will

Tajik leader says neighbours' interests considered in country's water policy

happen in the region's water resources, which are the basic element of developing all fields of the economy and of stable development as a whole.

Therefore, it is necessary to draw up, in cooperation with international organizations, a complete programme to research and conserve these sources of pure drinking water.

[Passage omitted: Rahmon speaks about international water cooperation; the development of water diplomacy]

Cross-border rivers are of strategic importance not only at inter-state level but also at regional and national levels. In this regard, I think that the declaration of 2012 the international year of water diplomacy will help to boost cooperation and dialogue, discover new ways for settling water relations between riverside countries and will improve mutual understanding between water consumers at all levels.

[Passage omitted: the leader talks on improvement of international law on water consumption; economic problems putting obstacles to the resolution of water issues; global warming and urgent measures to improve drinking water supply]

Source: Tajik Television First Channel, Dushanbe, in Tajik 0500 gmt 8 Jun 10

Load-Date: June 9, 2010

Uzbek security officers seize about 40 kg of Afghan opium in south

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring
June 22, 2010 Tuesday

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Length: 125 words

Body

An attempt to smuggle 39 kg of opium from neighbouring Afghanistan into Uzbekistan through the **Amu Darya River** was foiled, during a joint operation held on 7 June 2010 by officers from the [Uzbek] National Security Service's [NSS] Surxondaryo regional directorate and border **troops**, Uzbek state-owned Television First **Channel** reported on 21 June.

Two residents of Surxondaryo Region were detained as suspects, the report said.

On 8 June, an Afghan national from Balkh Province was also detained on suspicion of attempting to smuggle nearly five kilos of opium into Uzbekistan by illegally crossing the border at night, the report said. An investigation is under way, it added.

Source: Uzbek Television First Channel, Tashkent, in Uzbek 1600 gmt 21 Jun 10

Load-Date: June 22, 2010

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DISCUSSES STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE ARAL SEA BASIN

States News Service

July 16, 2010 Friday

Copyright 2010 States News Service

Length: 960 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: GENEVA, Switzerland

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations:

Jan KubiÅ', UNECE Executive Secretary, visited the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) on 16 July in Almaty. The visit is part of broader efforts by UNECE to actively support the sustainable development of Central Asia, in particular by strengthening transboundary water cooperation. UNECE efforts build on the solid basis of international legal instruments, in particular the UNECE environmental conventions, as well as on internationally accepted tools and approaches like integrated water resources management and the river basin approach.

"UNECE stands ready to further assist the countries of Central Asia in finding mutually acceptable, cooperative solutions to the complex problems related to the water and energy nexus in the region. There are no easy or rapid solutions; however, we support the efforts led by the Executive Committee of IFAS to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for regional cooperation. Strong and modern regional institutions will enable IFAS member countries to effectively address present and future challenges", Jan KubiÅ' told the Committee.

UNECE closely cooperates with the Executive Committee of IFAS in an ambitious programme, which aims to improve regional institutions and legal frameworks for water management in the region. The Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management, implemented by UNECE and funded by the Government of Germany through GTZ in the framework of the Berlin Water Process, is part of the Water and Environmental Pillar of the European Union's Central Asia Strategy. The programme identifies ways to modernize institutional agreements, to increase the efficiency and coordination of the regional organizations and to strengthen their analytical capacity. These efforts are supplemented by strengthening the understanding and application of international water law in the region: national capacity-building workshops are organized in Central Asian countries with an emphasis on the UNECE Water and Espoo Conventions. The programme also contributes to improved water monitoring and information exchange - a key tool to support decision-making at the regional level.

In cooperation with IFAS, UNECE also helps the countries of Central Asia to strengthen cooperation on dam safety in the region by improving national legislation and by negotiating a regional agreement, which will include commitments to exchange information, notify and provide assistance in case of accidents at hydro-technical installations. The agreement is also expected to establish a body for regional cooperation on dam safety.

The visit by the UNECE Executive Secretary is a good opportunity to evaluate existing cooperation with IFAS as well as to discuss future needs. Among such needs is the development and implementation of the Third Aral Sea

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DISCUSSES STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE ARAL SEA BASIN

Basin Programme (ASBP-3) - a major action plan for coordinated efforts of Central Asian countries and the international community to mitigate the environmental and social consequences of the Aral disaster. UNECE will continue to provide advice and assistance to the Executive Committee of IFAS in the elaboration of ASBP-3 in order to bring it to a qualitatively new level and to make it a regional framework for coordinated efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other international development priorities.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/cadialogue/cadwelcome.htm>

Note for Editors:

The International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was established in the early 1990s by five Central Asian states - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - to implement in a coordinated way the practical measures and programs to overcome the impacts of the Aral crises and to improve environmental and socio-economic conditions in Aral Sea basin.

Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, which supports the German Government in achieving its development-policy objectives. It provides viable, forward-looking solutions for political, economic, ecological and social development in a globalised world.

The Berlin Water Process was launched at the first "Water Unites" conference (Berlin, 1 April 2008) by German Foreign Minister. The Process is an important part of the water and environment pillar of the European Union's Central Asia Strategy. The Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Program is implemented by GTZ under the Berlin Water Process to optimize cooperation in the Central Asian water sector and improve the lives of people in the region.

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) of 1992 aims to strengthen national measures and transboundary cooperation for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. The Convention has 37 Parties. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are Parties to this instrument.

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) was adopted in the Finnish city of Espoo in 1991 and entered into force in 1997. It sets out the obligations of its Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. The Convention has 44 Parties. In Central Asia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are Parties to this instrument.

Load-Date: July 16, 2010

UNECE Executive Secretary discusses strengthening cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin

UzDaily (English)

July 17, 2010 Saturday 12:29 AM GMT

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Length: 563 words

Dateline: Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com)

Body

Jan Kubis, UNECE Executive Secretary, visited the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the **Aral** Sea (IFAS) on 16 July in Almaty. The visit is part of broader efforts by UNECE to actively support the sustainable development of Central Asia, in particular by strengthening transboundary **water cooperation**.

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UNECE Executive Secretary discusses strengthening cooperation in the Aral Sea Basin

commitments to exchange information, notify and provide assistance in case of accidents at hydro-technical installations. The agreement is also expected to establish a body for regional cooperation on dam safety.

The visit by the UNECE Executive Secretary is a good opportunity to evaluate existing cooperation with IFAS as well as to discuss future needs. Among such needs is the development and implementation of the Third Aral Sea Basin Programme (ASBP-3) - a major action plan for coordinated efforts of Central Asian countries and the international community to mitigate the environmental and social consequences of the Aral disaster. UNECE will continue to provide advice and assistance to the Executive Committee of IFAS in the elaboration of ASBP-3 in order to bring it to a qualitatively new level and to make it a regional framework for coordinated efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other international development priorities.

Load-Date: February 1, 2011

End of Document

New small hydro power stations launched

Uzbekistan National News Agency (UzA)

August 20, 2010 Friday

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Uzbekistan National News Agency

Length: 136 words

Body

Small hydro power station has been **commissioned** at **Akhangaran water reservoir** in Tashkent region. The power of the two installed hydro aggregates is 21 MW.

Another small HPS was launched at Aksu river, watering Gissar reservoir in southern Kashkadarya region. It produces about 1 million kWh per day.

The station will work mostly during the vegetation period of grain and other crops grown in Shahrissabz, Kitab and Yakkabag districts.

The launch of the two power stations has increased the capacity of the Agriculture and Water Resources Ministry's energy system from 323 MW to 439 MW.

Their opening concludes the first stage of the program of creation of the high-pressure hydro power stations at water reservoirs.

Other existing small hydro power stations in Uzbekistan are Andijan, Tuyamuyun, Tupolang and Urgut stations.

SK

Load-Date: October 26, 2010

Manchhar just four feet off dangerous level

Plus Patent News

September 4, 2010 Saturday

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Length: 421 words

Dateline: DADU

Body

Water level in Manchhar lake increased to 113.1RL on Friday and after a rise of four feet it will touch the dangerous sign of 'red mark' signifying a threatening situation.

Owing to increase pressure in the lake, water has started to flow in Danistar Wah which originates from Manchhar. It had overflowed at four places and inundated 12 villages in Sehwan area.

People of the inundated Kahboroth, Bilahan, Sandhpur and Jaheeja villages were in trouble.

Water of MNV drain was flowing into Manchhar lake with a 5,500 cusecs discharge against its capacity of 3,500 cusecs.

Sehwan, Bubak, Bhan Syedabad and Khudabad towns and Shahbaz airport of Sehwan would be in danger if breaches developed in embankment of Manchhar lake.

An engineer of the irrigation department Zahid Hussain Shaikh said that water level in Manchhar was not posing a threat. He said that heavy machinery was deployed at embankments as a precaution.

He was not clear whether after water from Tori bund breaches reaches from western side of the flood protective embankment and Johi branch, it could be controlled or not.

The residents of village Chappar Jamali said that owing to negligence of irrigation officials, five breaches had occurred near their village, which inundated 40 villages and affected a population of 50,000. They said that water from these breaches was moving to Zero point of Manchhar.

A resident of Zero point of Manchhar, Adam Mallah, said that the embankment of Manchhar at this point could be damaged because water flowing from breaches of MNV drain at Chappar Jamali was developing pressure.

The assistant engineer of flood protective embankment, Ghani Qureshi, said that water flow was high and it could damage Manchhar if water level in Indus did not recede.

He said that at present water level in Aral Wah of Manchhar was lower than the Indus river hence it was not possible to drain out the water from Manchhar into the Indus.

Some 100,000 cusec of flood water from mountains of Balochistan has started reaching in Hamal Lake. The Tori breach water was already flowing into Hamal.

A resident of Faridabad, Akram Chandio said that water from Qambar-

Shahdadkot district was already flowing and now a heavy flow of water from mountains area of Balochistan had started flowing in Hamal lake.

He said that he had not seen such a flow of water into Hamal lake since the last 50 years.

An engineer of MNV drain, Ishtiaq Ansari, said that 5,500 cusec of water was flowing from Zero point of Hamal lake into MNV drain.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

Manchhar just four feet off dangerous level

End of Document

Turkmenistan: Altcom to build bridge across Amu Darya river

Esmerk Turkmenistan News

September 4, 2010 Saturday

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Section: ONLINE

Length: 71 words

Byline: Esmerk

Body

SOURCE: Regnum, 04 Sep 2010, online

ABSTRACT

The Ministry of Railway Transport of Turkmenistan will sign a contract with the Ukraine-based company Altcom. According to the contract, Altcom will supply and assemble metal parts for buttresses of the Atamurat-Kerkichi bridge across the **Amu Darya river**. The company will **commission** the bridge in February 2011. The project costs USD 159mn (EUR 123.60mn). The bridge will be 1,415m long, and have a 11.50 m wide roadway.

Load-Date: September 15, 2010

Turkmenistan to commission railway bridge across Amu Darya by 2011

Trend Daily Economic News

September 4, 2010 Saturday 1:27 PM GMT +4

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Section: TRANSPORT

Length: 111 words

Body

Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, Sept.4 / Trend, H.Hasanov /

The Ministry of Railway Transport of Turkmenistan will sign a contract with Road-Building Altcom (Ukraine) for delivery and assembly of metal parts of the intermediate structures of the bridge Atamurat - Kerkichi across **Amu Darya River** with the terms of **commissioning** the completely finished the railway bridge in February 2011.

The relevant order was signed by theTurkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhammadow.

The document says that the new contract will be signed to implement tasks facing the country's railway industry, and the full **commissioning** of the railway bridge Atamurat-Kerkichi across the **Amu Darya River**.

Load-Date: September 6, 2010

Cut made to Ural Regulator to save Sehwan

Daily the Pak Banker

September 15, 2010 Wednesday

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Length: 161 words

Dateline: Sehwan Sharif

Body

Sehwan Sharif, Sept. 15 -- **Irrigation** authorities made a cut in **Aral** Wah Regulator In order to save Sehwan Sharif from the bloating **waters** of Manchar **Lake**; the move reduced the leakage of **water** subsiding the submersion **threat** at least for the time being.

Water level in Manchar has been raised to 120 feet high which is just two feet under the danger level. The reduction in water flow has inundated some 50 villages including Pir Bakhsh Goth, Jahangara, Bajara, Netang and Shah Hassan.

Resultantly, thousands of people got stranded. Many areas such as Zamzama Oil Field, Sehwan Airport, Bobak and Sehwan are still under threat.

The water of the Manchar Lake started falling in River Indus via Sapna Stream. As per authorities, Dadu, Bhan and Saeedabad are out of danger Published by HT Syndication with permission from Daily Pak Banker. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: September 16, 2010

Breach in Manchar caused after technical advice, broad base consultations

Plus Patent News

September 16, 2010 Thursday

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Length: 698 words

Dateline: HYDERABAD

Body

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has said that the decision to give passage to floodwater of Manchar Lake has been made in consultation with technical experts and public representatives to minimize the losses in the area.

Talking with the newsmen at Irrigation Rest House, Sehwan, on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that though free board of Manchar Lake was up to 124 feet but due to heavy winds in the area, the water started overtopping its embankments and caused breaches.

He said that now the water of Manchar Lake has taken its route towards Indus River and its discharge into Indus River was being managed on Karampur side.

Responding to a question, Syed Qaim Ali Shah said that some Union Councils in the way of water were feared to be affected and efforts have already been made to evacuate the inhabitants of these Union Councils.

However, he maintained that some 10 to 15 percent people are still reluctant to leave their houses due to their personal reasons. He said that local administration is pursuing them to leave for safer places but they will not be forced.

He said that large number of boats have been made available and kept in ready position to evacuate remaining people, if any in the area, but at present the level of water is too low to sail the boats in the water, however he said that arrangement of transport has been made for the purpose.

Responding to another question about capacity and giving alternate way for discharging Manchar Lake water into Indus River as calculated by management earlier, Syed Qaim Ali Shah said that keeping in view the increasing trend of the water in the Manchar Lake, we gave the alternate way to the water into river by excavating another route to bypass Aral Wah Regulator, but instead of that the inflow into the Manchar Lake was greater than outflow, this resulted increase in water level in Manchar Lake up to alarming level and way wash, due to bellowing strong winds in the areas further worsen the situation.

He said that more quantum of water is yet to come from upper Sindh towards its natural route and we must have to give way to it minimize the losses.

To another question, the Chief Minister said we did not delay in taking decision for giving way to the water but it was necessary to get experts' point of view and take all stakeholders on board. He said that all decisions have been taken within time frame.

He said that the management of WAPDA has been directed to strengthen the embankments of Indus link and to ensure that the nearby towns and other villages are safe.

He said that the arrangements for temporary settlements of displaced people or people under threat have already been made. The transport is being provided, boats were made available and relief camps with all living facilities have been managed at neighbouring areas, he said.

Later, the Chief Minister visited the site where cut in Manchar Lake was made at RD 11-12 near Bagh-e-Yousuf and took briefing from the engineers about release of water and pressure from the Manchar Lake and

Breach in Manchar caused after technical advice, broad base consultations

its embankments.

Sindh Minister for Food Mir Nadir Magsi, who is also the member of committee constituted by Sindh Chief Minister for giving recommendation to give safe passage to the Manchar Lake water, was also present on the occasion and said that giving way to gushing water is the only solution to meet the challenges of this disaster.

He said we have experienced this practice successfully while saving Shahdadkot, Qambar, Naseerabad and other towns in upper Sindh. He said that the more we resist the water more damage would be caused.

He said that still there is huge quantity of water in the areas of upper Sindh and we cannot afford to keep it stagnant there. He said that the coming sowing season is feared to get setback in the flood affected areas. However, efforts were being made to reclaim the inundated land within shortest possible time.

Sindh Minister for Finance Syed Murad Ali Shah, Ex-Nazim District Jamshoro

Malik Asad Sikandar, DCO Jamshoro Samiuddin Siddiqui and other officers of Irrigation department accompanied Sindh Chief Minister Sindh during his visit.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

End of Document

Manchar Lake situation worsens

South Asian Media Network
September 16, 2010 Thursday

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Length: 428 words

Dateline: Karachi

Body

Karachi, Sept. 16 -- **Irrigation** authorities made a cut in **Aral** Wah Regulator in order to save Sehwan Sharif from the bloating **waters** of Manchar **Lake**. The move reduced the leakage of **water** subsiding the submersion **threat** at least for the time being.

Water level in Manchar had been raised to 120 feet high which was just two feet under the danger level. The reduction in water flow had inundated some 50 villages including Pir Bukhsh Goth, Jahangara, Bajara, Netang and Shah Hassan. Resultantly, thousands of people got stranded. Many areas such as Zamzama Oil Field, Sehwan Airport, Bobak and Sehwan were still under threat. The water of the Manchar Lake started falling in River Indus via Sapna Stream. As per authorities, Dadu, Bhan and Saeedabad are out of danger.

Manchar Lake situation was getting even worse despite a cut caused in Aral Wah, as water entered Danstar Wah from Regulator-1 of the Lake, posing hundreds of villages to the inundation risk, on Tuesday. Hundreds of villages including Bobak city, Sehwan Airport Indus Highway were at deluge risk.

The water surged at the Lake's regulator-1 with protective embankments from Lake's Zero Point to RD-100 was withstanding massive pressure of water. The protective embankments from RD-80 to 86 and from 90 to 95 were facing overflowing water waves pressured by gale-force winds with fissures caused at over ten places under huge water pressure.

The Irrigation department officials were striving hard to plug them. Power supply from Sajawal Grid Station lay suspended for past 14 days now as the station was inundated. Badin's ground links with Karachi were cut off for past 14 days, as 12-km Highway between Sajawal and Dewan City came under water.

At least ten protective embankments of Manchar had been declared 'highly sensitive', where more than 1000 villagers had been positioned to inspect the bund. Manchar Lake overflowed from Regulator-1, exposing to risk of inundation hundreds of villages including Bobak city, Sehwan Airport and Indus Highway.

The overflow from various canals of the Lake left under water 52 villages and crops spanning over several acres of land. The people were still making mass exodus from the area, with evacuation caveats re-issued to the people in Union Council Dal, Bobak and Channa.

The ground links to Tehsil Juhi were still cut off on the ninth consecutive day today Published by HT Syndication with permission from South Asian Media Network. For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Manchar Lake situation worsens

Load-Date: September 16, 2010

End of Document

Breaches in Manchhar dykes: Decision taken after consulting experts: CM

Plus Patent News

September 17, 2010 Friday

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Length: 514 words

Dateline: HYDERABAD

Body

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah has dismissed charges of unnecessary delay in taking decision about breaches and said the decision to give passage to Manchhar Lake floodwater has been taken in consultation with technical experts and public representatives in order to minimise losses. Talking to journalists in Sehwan on Thursday, the chief minister said that although the lake's freeboard had been raised to 124 feet but water had started overflowing the embankments due to continuous wave-wash. Now, the lake water had taken its course towards the river and its discharge was being managed, he said.

He said that some union councils located in the way of water flow were likely to be affected and efforts were being made to evacuate people from there.

Some 10 to 15 per cent population was still reluctant to leave their houses and local administration was trying to persuade them to move to safe places but they would not be forced, he said.

He said that a large number of boats had been made available to evacuate the remaining people but the boats could be used at the moment because of low level of water. Arrangement for transport had also been made, he said.

Mr Shah said that keeping in view increasing level of water in the lake, "we decided to give alternate way to water to flow into the river by making another route bypassing Aral Wah Regulator but the inflow into the lake is greater than outflow and continuous wave-wash and strong winds have further worsened the situation".

He said that more water was yet to come from upper Sindh towards its natural route and "we will have to give (it alternate) way to minimise losses".

"We did not delay in taking decision on giving alternate way to floodwater but it was necessary to get experts' opinion and take all stakeholders on board," he said.

He said that all decisions had been taken within given timeframe and Wapda had been directed to strengthen the embankments of Indus link and ensure that nearby towns and villages were safe.

Later, the chief minister visited the site of breach in Manchhar Lake bunds at RD 11-12 near Bagh-i-Yousuf and was briefed by engineers about release of water and pressure on the lake's embankments.

Sindh Minister for Food Nadir Magsi, who is also member of the committee formed by CM for giving recommendations to give safe passage to the lake water, said that giving alternate way to raging waters was the only solution to avert this disaster.

"We have experienced this while saving Shahdaskot, Qambar, Naseerabad and other towns in upper Sindh," he said.

He said: "The more we resist the water the greater will be our losses. There is still a big quantity of water in upper Sindh and we cannot afford to let it stagnate there."

Breaches in Manchhar dykes: Decision taken after consulting experts: CM

He said that efforts were being made to reclaim the inundated land within shortest possible time. Sindh Minister for Finance Syed Murad Ali Shah, former district nazim Jamshoro Malik Asad Sikandar, Jamshoro DCO Samiuddin Siddiqui and other officers of irrigation department also accompanied the chief minister during his visit.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

End of Document

Threat to Manchhar lake

Plus Patent News

September 18, 2010 Saturday

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Length: 913 words

Dateline: Karachi

Body

THE devastating flood has endangered Manchhar Lake. Any breach in its embankment will spell disaster for the poor fishing community living around the lake and the rest of the population of Sehwan and Dadu taluka s.

The lake is set to receive floodwater from Qambar-Shahdadkot through the Hamal Lake and MNV drain in next few days.

On Thursday evening the level of the lake was 111.35RL (reduced level). The only way to ease pressure on t he lake's embankments is by disposing of its water in the Indus. But the mighty Indus, on the other hand, is surging ever since it was flooded upstream and is threatening the left bank. The lake has to be emptied through the Aral Wah upstream Kotri once it attains a level of 116RL, considered dangerous, provided the river is getting flows between 150,000-200,000 cusecs downstream Sukkur.

It is a normal exercise which is carried out under a formula throughout the year whenever it attains alarm in proportions. The formula was worked out after Hyderabad city and its suburbs had faced a water crisis in May-

June 2004. Around 42 people had died of consumption of contaminated lake water, released in the Indus when it was not having sufficient flows at that time. Then a formula was devised by water technologist Dr Mohammad Ahsan Siddiqui to be adopted, now mandatory, when the release of lake water in the Indus becomes unavoidable.

Water saline or otherwise, coming from Shahdadkot usually takes six to seven days to enter the lake through the MNVD (main nara valley drain). Daily effluent discharge from Balochistan and upper Sindh in the MNVD is 2200-2400 cusecs which is subsequently released in the Manchhar Lake.

Siddiqui claims that alarm bells start ringing among irrigation officials, responsible for regulating the lake, when it attains a level of 116RL. "What happens if a huge quantum of floodwater from Shahdadkot comes and the Indus doesn't recede to a comfortable level to release lake's water into it, is anybody's guess," he remarks.

Now a population of roughly 20,000-25,000 fishermen that lives in or around the lake is at high risk under the existing circumstances. Bubak, a town, is located in the vicinity of the lake and is threatened too. The situation has a potential risk for Sehwan and Dadu talukas.

But before that the MNVD itself can be a casualty if it fails to bear the pressure of floodwater from Shahdadkot and suffers breaches in its embankments that are in pretty bad shape. In that case, the areas of Khairpur Nathan Shah, Johi, Mehar and Dadu will be flooded too. There is also a threat to Sehwan taluka as well as the Indus Highway and railway tracks.

Irrigation officials count receding Indus through gauge of Dadu-Moro location -

centre point between Sukkur and Kotri barrages -

which was 132RL on Thursday. A drop of few decimals was noted in the last few days there and irrigation o

Threat to Manchhar lake

Officials are optimistic that it will be persistent.

According to Sehwan MPA Murad Ali Shah, the level of water at Dadu-

Moro needs to be 127RL to indicate safer limits for releasing the lake water in the Indus. "The quantum of water from Shahdadkot is huge which means a potential risk for MNVD first and then Sehwan," he says. He refers to a past precedent when the Manchhar was emptied at 120.5RL in 1995. "Given its current gauge lake can still consume five to six feet of water as its bund level is 123RL-125RL. It takes the lake five to six days to fill completely," he maintains.

But water expert Idris Rajput strongly disagrees, saying recession in water level upstream is not likely anytime soon. "Manchhar is set to face breaches in its embankments once water level increases by four to five feet. I foresee no chance of recession in the Indus downstream Sukkur at least in coming 15 days," he adds. It can only be emptied provided Sukkur downstream flows are between 150,000 and 200,000 cusecs. "And this is not the case right now," he argues.

Due to high tide in the Arabian Sea -

the ultimate destination of the current flash floods -

river water is slowly falling into the sea. High tide is directly linked with lunar month dates and the said phase is currently in progress as it was 15th of Ramazan on Thursday. Resultantly, it has resulted in breach of river embankments downstream Kotri despite flood fighting measures and vigil by authorities.

The fishing community leader Mohammad Ali Shah also sees high risk for the Manchhar. "The situation is too fluid," he believes and says that the level of river is high as compared to the lake's, making it hardly possible to release water into the Indus. "Even there is a possibility that the gushing Indus waters enter the Manchhar through the Aral Wah if attempt is made to empty it," he says. He fears inundation of the entire Bubak town and villages of fishermen in the surroundings of the lake if breaches are to occur in lake's bunds or overtops. The Indus is not going to show any decline at least in a week, he says and points out that either the Indus flows should start dropping rapidly or floodwater from Shahdadkot reaches the Manchhar late. "Otherwise the situation is fraught with danger," he asserts.

Floodwater is being diverted towards the Hamal Lake and the FP bund locations simultaneously to break its flow. But ultimately, experts say, it has to fall in the Manchhar Lake. Efforts are under way to prevent damages to the lake's embankments. Machinery and material are being dispatched there with required work for ce.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

Manchar leaks lead to mass migration from Bhan Saeedabad

Plus Patent News

September 21, 2010 Tuesday

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Length: 637 words

Dateline: SUKKUR

Body

Reports of breaches in protective embankments of the Manchar Lake on Sehwan side created panic among the residents of Bhan Saeedabad city and led to their mass migration to safer places on Monday. The reducing water level in Manchar suddenly started to enhance and reached 120 RL due to inflow from the Ural Canal. Cuts were made in the canal but instead of the water flowing to the barren areas entered the Manchar Lake, increasing its water level and causing leaks in protective embankments on the Sehwan side. The irrigation officials made 11 more cuts in the Larkana-Sehwan bund on Monday to increase the flow of floodwater from the Manchar into Indus River. The GOC Hyderabad, while reviewing the flood situation, directed the Army team to plug the leaks in dykes of the Manchar and also strengthen the Indus-Link canal.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah took an aerial view of the flood situation by helicopter of Bobak, Tullti, Dul, Channa and Sehwan Tehsil. The area is still submerged under 6-7 feet floodwater and reports are that till now around 3,000 houses have collapsed. The displaced people of Kashmore have established their makeshift tents on the banks of the Faiz Bakhsh Canal in Kot Diji, and on Monday a child, Sajjad drowned into the canal, while local divers rescued another Ghulam Shabbir.

About 35,000 people from five union councils of Sehwan are living in the open along the Indus-link canal and the Larkana-Sehwan embankment between Abad village and Karampur. They have complained that they have no tents and no relief goods have reached them till now.

Reports said that the floodwater, after inundating 200 villages of five Sehwan UCs, was rapidly moving towards Bhan Saeedabad. Two watercourses on RD-5 and RD-8 have been closed after they were broken. Around 2,000 houses in Ali Murad, Ghihalpur, Waris Marri, Babar, Haji Alam Jeho, Pir Bukhsh Brohi and Koro Khan Brohi villages have collapsed or damaged by the deluge. The rescue operation of the Army and the Navy continued in Sehwan Tehsil. At least 1,500 persons were relocated from various areas to relief camps. The floodwater started to recede and people are returning to Mehr and Khairpur Nathan Shah.

During a visit to different towns of Sanghar district, this scribe discovered that the water supply ponds had dried up and filled up with algae due to the absence of freshwater. The residents of Khipro town complained that with the start of the flooding, the irrigation authorities had shut down the major canals, supplying agricultural and drinking water to more than a dozen districts. They said on return they are faced with acute water shortage and forced to consume contaminated water. The residents of Mirpurkhas, Umer Kot and Badin are also facing the same problem. Nazir Ahmed Mirani of Mangria village said that 15,000 people were marooned in villages of Talti area, add

Manchar leaks lead to mass migration from Bhan Saeedabad

ing that new breaches had hit Abad and 24 other villages. An irrigation official said it would take about 35 days for the excess water in the Manchar Lake to be discharged into the Indus. Executive Engineer Zahid Hussain Shaikh said the water was flowing into the Indus from Karampur, Aral head, Aral tail and Danistar canals. Land access to the inundated Bajara town from Sehwan has been restored, but the road to Jhangara, Chinni and Shah Hassan is still cut off. The water level along the embankments of Mehar, Dadu, Johi and Mehar has dropped.

Irrigation department's Executive Engineer Habibullah Chandio said the threat to Juhi and Mehar towns had been averted. He said the level in the MNV drain was also dropping and a weak left embankment between Mehar and Dadu was being strengthened. Moreover, the National Database and Registration Authority has not yet started registration work in Dadu and Jamshoro districts.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

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Stagnating floodwater hampers DPs return

Plus Patent News

September 26, 2010 Sunday

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Length: 363 words

Dateline: DADU

Body

About 12 to 15 feet deep floodwater is still stagnating in 260 villages between Bhan Syedabad and Sehwan towns in Bubak, Dal, Pakka Channa, Talti and Sehwan-1 union councils, hampering displaced villagers' attempts to return to their homes. Majority of displaced persons of Sehwan taluka are compelled to beg because they have not so far been provided relief goods.

The floodwater is flowing into the Indus river through Aral head, Aral tail, Danistar canal and 10 cuts in Larkana-Sehwan bund at Karampur village, reducing water level in Manchhar Lake to 119.9-

RL on Saturday as water from Tori bund breach, MNV drain and Hamal Lake continues to flow into the lake. Situation in 55 villages in Jhangara and Chhinni union councils is returning to normality after drop in water level in the areas to the west and south of Manchhar Lake and residents of Jhangara, Bajara and Chhinni towns have started returning to their homes. Eight breaches in Manchhar Lake embankment from RD-92 to RD-

100 and another breach in MNV drain at zero point have widened to 800 feet each but the work to plug them has not been started yet. Water level is receding along Indus Link drain and MNV drain from Mehar to zero point of Manchhar Lake and at the ring bunds around Sehwan, Johi and Mehar towns.

Electricity has been restored to Khairpur Nathan Shah town, which is still under eight feet water.

Meanwhile, flood-

affected people from the villages of Soomar Shahani, Kando, Shafi Thullho, Aribi Rasool Bux Jamali of Sehwan taluka held a demonstration on the Indus Highway at Bhan Syedabad in protest against non-provision of relief goods.

They said that about 12 to 15 feet deep water was still standing in their homes, most of which had collapsed, while the district administration and PPP leaders were distributing relief goods and tents among their favourites and the poor people of these areas were still living under open sky.

A large number of people held a demonstration in Khairpur Nathan Shah in protest against health department's failure to provide medical facilities to hundreds of people who were still living in the town.

They were also facing food shortage, they said.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

Manchhar Lake receding

Plus Patent News

September 28, 2010 Tuesday

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Length: 240 words

Dateline: DADU

Body

Water level in Manchhar dropped further on Monday to 118.6 RL despite continuous flow of floodwater from MNV drain and FP bund into the lake while participants of a procession called for cutting railway track and Indus Highway between Sehwan and Bhan Syedabad to ensure smooth flow of lake water to the river. At present, floodwater and lake water are flowing into the Indus through Aral Head, Aral Tail, Danistar canals and 10 cuts in the LS bund.

About two feet water dropped along the Indus link canal as well but the Indus Highway near Bhan Syedabad and railway track are hindering flow of lake water at a number of places.

A large number of flood affected people and activists of Sindh United Party took out a procession in Sehwan in protest against the administration's failure not to make cuts in railway track in Sehwan taluka.

Local SUP leaders Roshan Buriro and Syed Ghulam Hadi Shah who led the protest said that the railway track was creating hindrances to smooth flow of lake water to the river. It was need of the hour to make cuts in the tracks and the Indus Highway between Sehwan and Bhan Syedabad, they said.

About one and a half feet water dropped along ring embankment of Johi, sending a wave of happiness among the townspeople. A large number of people took out a rally in Johi town to celebrate the drop in water level. They danced to drum beats as they marched in the town's streets and distributed sweets.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

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Uzbek leader reiterates his opposition to Tajik energy project

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

October 6, 2010 Wednesday

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Length: 585 words

Body

On 6 October, Uzbek TV's first **channel** broadcast a one-hour special programme on Uzbek President Islom Karimov's visit to the northwestern constituent republic of Qoraqalpogiston.

During his visit to Qoraqalpogiston on 5 October, the president familiarized himself with socioeconomic development there, the report said.

Karimov met farmers and young people in Kegeyli District and discoursed on the **Aral** Sea problem, the programme added. "The fate of the **Aral** Sea means the fate of Qoraqalpogiston. If we **fight** for the **Aral** Sea it means that we **fight** for Qoraqalpogiston. It is the fate of millions of people... When I was speaking from a platform [at the UN Millennium Goals Summit] I said that the **Aral** Sea problem was a problem of millions of people, it was above all, a problem of the people in Qoraqalpogiston, and I said that I would **fight** for this and give my soul if need be," the head of state said.

Speaking of the project to construct the Roghun power plant in Tajikistan, Islom Karimov said that Uzbekistan would firmly fight against the project. "I would like to add a couple of words to explain my words with regard to the fight for our life, for the Aral Sea and Qoraqalpogiston. We started the fight against the foolish project [to construct the Roghun power plant] five years ago. I personally started it as the president of Uzbekistan... The important thing is that if one builds such plant he cannot deal both with issues of irrigation and energy, and you know it well. These are opposite things. If one wants to build a power plant he should forget about irrigation issue. If a 350m-dam is built, it will take eight years to fill it [a reservoir]. Water will be accumulated during eight years. And will we, who are at the lower reaches [of the River Amu Darya], wait for eight years?

"What will people in Qoraqalpogiston, Xorazm and, in general, the Uzbek people in areas near the River Amu Darya, do? How we will live and grow crops? There will be no irrigation. It was estimated by, let us say, big states that 6-7bn dollars are required to complete this project. About 3-5 years ago, it [Tajikistan] started activities saying that it would find funds and start the project. Who opposed this issue? Only Uzbekistan did.

"If the River Amu Darya does not flow into the Aral Sea, [changes tack] the River Syr Darya has dried up at its upper reaches. At present, water of the River Syr Darya does not reach the Aral Sea. If you ask me what feeds areas near the Aral Sea, it is water flowing from the River Amu Darya. At a time when the Aral Sea is drying up, should we not firmly keep the Amu Darya River saying that 'you will not reduce its water even to one gram'?" Islom Karimov told the farmers.

The meeting with the head of state also discussed issues related to the agriculture sector in the republic, as well as reforms in the fields of healthcare, science and culture, the programme said.

Uzbek leader reiterates his opposition to Tajik energy project

It went on to praise construction work in the centre of Nukus town. President Islom Karimov visited a newly commissioned building of Qoraqalpogiston's parliament and spoke about the construction of the town's centre, the report said.

Video showed Karimov meeting farmers and young people, him speaking in a cotton field; visiting a sausage plant, a parliamentary building in the town of Nukus and the Nukus branch of the Tashkent University of Information Technologies; giving instructions to officials and talking to students.

Source: Uzbek Television First Channel, Tashkent, in Uzbek 1500 gmt 6 Oct 10

Load-Date: October 6, 2010

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KAZAKHSTAN: STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION WITH THE HELP OF THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION

US State News

October 21, 2010 Thursday 10:52 PM EST

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Length: 627 words

Body

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 18 -- The United Nations Economic and Social Council's Economic **Commission** for Europe issued the following news release:

The two-day national seminar on the "UNECE **Water** Convention and its role in international law" opened today in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to discuss the place of the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary **Watercourses** and International **Lakes** (**Water** Convention) in facilitating the transboundary **water cooperation** of Kazakhstan and the promotion of **cooperation** over shared **water** resources in the Central Asian region.

In particular, the seminar focuses on analysing the mechanisms for transboundary **water cooperation** provided for in the **Water** Convention in the context of specific examples of such **cooperation** by Kazakhstan: on the Irtysh, Ural and Tobol **Rivers** with the Russian Federation; on the Black Irtysh and Ili **Rivers** with China; in the **Aral** Sea basin shared by the five Central Asian states; and in the Chu and Talas **River** Basins shared with the Kyrgyz Republic.

A Party to the Water Convention since 2001, Kazakhstan is largely dependent on transboundary waters. In an averagely water rich year, transboundary rivers bring around 44 per cent of the total volume of water resources available in the country. This places transboundary water cooperation high on Kazakhstan's agenda and calls for its active role in promoting cooperation over shared water resources in the whole Central Asian region, where the challenges of climate change and the expected increase in water use due to demographic trends and economic development is a challenging background for developing long-term solutions for cooperation over shared waters.

The Guide to Implementing the Convention, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2009, will be presented to the participants at the seminar. The Guide is a comprehensive commentary that provides explanations of the Convention's legal and technical requirements, as well as providing examples illustrating good practices in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region.

Participants will also have an opportunity to learn about the experience of well known joint bodies for water cooperation, such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. Other issues to be discussed include State responsibility for transboundary pollution, monitoring and data exchange for transboundary rivers, adaptation to climate change and payments for ecosystem services.

Representatives of the secretariats of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will also participate in the meeting, in order to strengthen synergies in the common work to achieve sustainable management of water resources in the region.

KAZAKHSTAN : STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION WITH THE HELP OF THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION

The seminar is being organized by UNECE and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with organizational support from the Regional Environmental Center of Central Asia, in the framework of the programme "Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management in Central Asia". The programme is financed by the Government of Germany through Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in the framework of the Berlin Water Process.

For further information please visit: http://www.unece.org/env/water/cadialogue/water_seminar_Almaly.htm or contact: Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to UNECE Water Convention, tel.: +41 (0)22 917 2463, water.convention@unece.org For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: October 21, 2010

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Delegation of Ecologic movement of Uzbekistan visits USA

UzDaily (English)

October 27, 2010 Wednesday 10:12 PM GMT

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Length: 934 words

Dateline: Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com)

Body

A delegation of Ecologic Movement of Uzbekistan paid a visit to the United States and held negotiations with the US environment non-governmental organizations, Congress members and the State Department.

During the meeting with the representatives of US Congress and State Department, the Uzbek delegation briefed the US side on mission and activity of the Ecological Movement and its MPs group in parliament on development of ecological legislation and control over execution of environment and health laws. The Uzbek delegation also provided information on cooperation with international organizations on solving trans-boundary environment problems, including Aral.

The Uzbek side also drew attention to negative consequences of construction of hydro power station at Amudarya upper course - Rogun hydro power station - for states and peoples of the region. The delegation also attracted attention to pollution of Surkhandarya region territory with industrial emissions of Tajik Aluminum Plant (TALCO).

Representatives of the US Congress and the State Department agreed with opinion that single approach on use of water resources of trans-boundary rivers of Central Asia could bring to fatal consequences and the state should act on trans-boundary rivers in line with international norms and conventions of the UN. It was said that both Tajikistan and the World Bank should not concede unreasoned movements. The US side drew attention to accident at aluminum plant in Hungary in October 2010, which polluted large territory of Dunai basin, Ecologic movement's press service said.

Michel Gu, head of the Committee on Energy Independences and Global Warming of the US Congress Representative House, said that it is better to finance small projects on development of renewable energy rather than giant hydro power stations.

US Congress and State Department representatives noted that Ecologic Movement is unique non-governmental organization, possessing fraction in parliament of the country. MPs represent all regions and they are specialists in various industries, which allows to solve ecological problems at professional level. It was said that it is important that Ecologic Movement is not limiting with national frame, but also works in the Central Asian region. Uzbekistan accumulated interesting experience of interaction between NGOs with legislative and executive powers of the

Delegation of Ecologic movement of Uzbekistan visits USA

country. It was said that opportunity to solve issues at parliamentary level opens new perspectives for effective solving environmental problems and smoothening consequences of climate change and trans-boundary ecological problems. It was noted that existence of Ecologic Movement's MPs group at parliament opens new opportunities and US Congress will support these efforts.

The Uzbek delegation also held a meeting with the representatives of the World Bank and participated at the sessions of the Annual World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

World Bank representatives underlined progress on solving ecological problems, achieved by the Ecological Movement for last two years on interaction with public. It was said that statement of the Ecological Movement and parliament of Uzbekistan on trans-boundary problems has special meaning. Now, the World Bank returned to consideration of issues related to Rogun power station construction project.

Deputy chairperson of the Executive Committee of Central Council of Ecologic Movement of Uzbekistan Mr Sanginov said that the World Bank positively rated request of the Ecologic Movement on holding open tender on selection of international experts and the World Bank should participate in control over works of experts and their work should be financed directly by the bank.

Mr Sanginov said that it seems World Bank position on investing to hydro power station changed and the bank gingerly approaches to project analysis and their expertise and take into account position of Uzbekistan on these issues.

He emphasized that representatives of the civil society criticized policy of the bank in energy sphere at the annual session of the World Bank. In the result, the World Bank representatives said they will change strategy and increase investments to development of small hydro power stations and renewable energy.

During the visit to the US, the delegation also visited representatives of local NGOs, including National Democratic Institute, Control over Food and Water, Center international ecological law and others.

It was noted that it is necessary to develop international cooperation in solving problems related to Aral Sea drying and nature degradation in Aral Sea Basin, as well as possible consequences of construction of gigantic hydro power stations at upper course of rivers in Central Asia.

The Uzbek side presented information on pollution of environment in the result of activity of Tajik Aluminum Plant (TALCO), its impact to health of Surkhandarya region's population. The Uzbek side also expressed their concerns with the plans of Tajik plant, which will further aggravate difficult environment situation in this region.

The US NGOs expressed great interest to presented information and activity of the Ecologic Movement on development of partnership of international organization, in particular on regional problems. They supported position of Ecologic Movement on issues related to use of resources of trans-boundary rivers of Central Asia and non-admission of construction of large hydro power stations. They also expressed interest in cooperation with the Uzbek movement in solving trans-boundary ecological problems in the region.

Load-Date: February 1, 2011

Deal With a Dictator

The Atlantic

October 27, 2010

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Section: THE MILITARY

Length: 720 words

Byline: Joshua Kucera

Body

IMAGE CREDIT: ALEXANDER NATRUSKIN/REUTERS/CORBIS

THE CITY OF TERMEZ , on the banks of the *Amu Darya River* separating Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, has two distinctions: it is very strategic, and very, very warm-with summer temperatures over 120 degrees, which explains why the Greeks who *settled* it in the days of Alexander the Great named it, like *thermos*, after the Greek word for "hot."

Termez last saw prominence in 1979, when Soviet tanks and *troops* massed there before crossing the so-called Friendship Bridge on their way into Afghanistan. A decade later, it was on the route of the Soviets' final, ignominious retreat.

Today, Termez is again a staging ground. This time, it is the key node in the Northern Distribution Network, which the Pentagon has built to reduce NATO 's reliance on dangerous supply routes through Pakistan. The United States now ships about 35 percent of its Afghanistan matériel via Termez, and so far not one convoy has been attacked.

But this new route has its own pitfalls: it brings the United States uncomfortably close to one of the planet's most brutal dictators, Uzbekistan's president, Islam Karimov, whose 21-year rule has been marked by massacres of civilian protesters, widespread torture, and the imprisonment of thousands of political prisoners.

Termez's dusty freight yards show little evidence of a U.S. presence, which is exactly Washington's intention. The Pentagon is using, as much as possible, local freight companies to ship goods. This subcontracting dovetails neatly with what Uzbekistan wants. While some countries, like Georgia and Azerbaijan, see the distribution network as a way to strengthen their security ties, Uzbekistan has made clear that its primary interest is in making money, says Andrew Kuchins, a scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Uzbek officials "want to see much more happening on local procurement and us being more flexible on that," he says.

"Business and state power are basically the same thing here," says one journalist based in the capital of Tashkent who is well connected within the government and also friendly with the country's beleaguered opposition. He talked freely with me about various internal intrigues, but when I asked about who might be profiting from the freight business, he clammed up. "You have to ask the Americans," he said. "All I can tell you is, it's impossible to do business clean here. And this transit is filling the budget of Uzbekistan." A partial list of local operators, provided by the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, includes Fifth Millenium Networks, a former subsidiary of Zeromax, a huge holding company for state-owned businesses that is believed to have close ties to Karimov's daughter.

Deal With a Dictator

Uzbekistan's national railroad company has a \$120 million contract to build a railroad from Termez to Mazar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan, where U.S. and NATO soldiers protect the company's workers. That business has further implicated the United States in Karimov's abuses. The National Security Service, Uzbekistan's successor to the KGB and the government's strongest instrument of repression, demands a huge bribe for each railcar that passes along the railroad to Termez, says Nigara Khidoyatova, a human-rights activist in Tashkent. Khidoyatova knows firsthand how brutal the government can be: her husband was shot and killed in 2005, and she holds the Uzbek security services responsible.

Khidoyatova told me she still counts the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent as one of her strongest allies, and credits its diplomats for winning the release (in November 2009) from prison of one of her allies, Sanjar Umarov. Yet she also says that the Americans have become "passive" about the human-rights situation in Uzbekistan since the new freight route started up, and that the embassy's cooperation with nongovernmental organizations has declined.

But like many liberals in Uzbekistan, Khidoyatova is afraid of undue Russian influence, and of the potential for radical Islam to spill over from Afghanistan; both are checked by the U.S. military presence. "I understand that the situation in Afghanistan is very difficult. And we don't want the U.S. to leave Central Asia," she says. "They have different priorities in Uzbekistan now, but maybe in the future our time will come again."

Load-Date: November 19, 2010

End of Document

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Australian

November 16, 2010 Tuesday

1 - All-round Country Edition

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Section: FEATURES; Pg. 13

Length: 2113 words

Body

TALKING POINT

We must respect limits set by drought and flood

IN your Inquirer special ("The drought breaks", 13-14/11) my father, Lewis Ronald East, is pictured straddling the Murray River near Nyah in 1923 when he was an engineer with the Victorian State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. He warned irrigators and others frequently about taking too much water from the Murray. Talk now of balancing the various demands on the river is a mistake. The future economic and social well-being of the people of the Murray-Darling basin depends upon the environmental health of the Murray being maintained.

We should take a warning from the irrigation systems of the past that dried up in the Middle East and Central America. The Aral Sea in Central Asia, the world's fourth biggest inland sea and a rich source of income for four countries, is now practically dried up and its surroundings saline, because too much water was taken from it for industry and cotton-farming.

We must accept we are limited by our land and water, and the swings of drought and flood, or we die greedy.

Valerie Yule, Mount Waverley, Vic

YOUR "The Drought Years" timeline ("Coming to terms with the reality of a land burnt dry", Inquirer, 13-14/11) reveals a couple of disturbing trends.

First, since 1945 (65 years) we have experienced no "major droughts" -- they have been either "less severe" or "devastating". Compare this with seven "major droughts" in the preceding 81 years. This suggests that Australia has moved into a period of critical rainfall shifts.

Second, in the 94 years to 1958, Australia experienced only one "devastating drought" lasting nine years. In the 52 years since then, Australia has experienced four such droughts, lasting a total of 28 years. This suggests that drought is not only more common but also more severe.

Together, these trends suggest that Australia can only expect more of what we've experienced over the past 50 years or so, and that it's likely to get worse. There has to be a message in there somewhere.

Alan Turpie, Burleigh Waters, Qld

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DROUGHT is, by definition, a period of abnormally low rainfall. That

makes nonsense of the figure which classifies 62 per cent of years since 1864 as drought years of varying severities. We can instantly reduce the incidence of drought by adopting a more realistic classification. Adjusting our behaviour and expectations to the prevailing climate takes longer.

Eric Lockett, Lindisfarne, Tas

WITH all the anguish being expressed by Murray-Darling basin farmers over the proposed drastic cuts to their water rights, it's suprising that no attention is being paid to the waste of water through irrigation. This can amount to 30 per cent.

It would be far more of a win-win situation, if instead of spending millions buying back water rights, government spent some of the money in helping farmers minimise water loss. Reducing the loss to zero would save as much water as is proposed with the cuts to farmers' present allocations.

John Penhallurick, Fraser, ACT

THE empirical evidence of a dry

Murray River at Kerang, Victoria (the Federation drought), at Renmark, South Australia (in 1914) and Nyah, Victoria (in 1923) present historical evidence of the periodic lack of environmental flows. As such, this inconvenient truth begs the question: is the ensuring of environmental flows down this river by the Murray Darling Basin Authority yet another artificial tampering with our largest river?

Given that the diversity of biota in the Murray survived these periodic dry spells, should we beggar the irrigators of this river system, and spend billions of taxpayer dollars to ensure a consistent flow of water? I suppose this big-picture, environmental concept is, like the NBN, above the scrutiny of a cost-benefit analysis by the Productivity Commission?

Evan Evans, Lindisfarne, Tas

OECD joins voices of caution over the NBN

PAUL Kerin of the Melbourne Business School has succinctly exposed the economic alchemy that underpins the National Broadband Network ("NBN cost-benefit analysis needed", Business, 15/11).

On the one hand, we are told by the government that the benefits of a super-fast broadband network are unimaginable. By then refusing to submit the proposal to the Productivity Commission for a cost-benefit analysis, the government uses the justification that the NBN is such a "transformative technology" that the commission wouldn't be able to assess those benefits.

So it seems the benefits are, indeed, unimaginable, perhaps illusory. Even the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is in on the act now, warning the Gillard government against putting all its eggs into one basket ("OECD sees dangers in NBN haste", 15/10).

If someone can point to benefits for the average retail consumer of a 100 megabits-per-second connection other than the faster downloading of movies, I'm all ears. Ninety-nine per cent of retail consumers need nothing better than is presently available. The public is being conned by a quick-fix plan concocted by Stephen Conroy and former prime minister Kevin Rudd on a short plane trip in order to advance Labor's electoral interests.

Edward Davidson, Graceville, Qld

THE OECD and Blind Freddie can see what the government cannot.

Fibre-to-the-home may offer fast movie downloads, but this is hardly a \$43 billion life-critical problem. What if I had a heart monitor that was

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

linked by FTTH to the ambulance service. Would I want the \$43 billion spent on transmitting a heart-attack signal milliseconds faster, or would these vast resources be better spent on improving road infrastructure to get the ambulance to my home vital minutes sooner?

Can anyone out there put on their vision goggles and come up with a useful service the National Broadband Network will provide to their home that slower broadband won't? Blind Freddie can't.

John Cosco, Balmain, NSW

THERE seems very little to surprise us in the latest Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development survey ("Gillard told to raise GST, avoid mining splurge", 15/11). What puzzles me is that our government, after a costly and protracted study (Ken Henry's tax review), almost completely ignored the advice it offered.

Perhaps I have missed something but I have yet to see any attempt by Wayne Swan to explain just why the GST could not be reviewed.

Peter Arlidge, New Farm, Qld

Listen to Suu Kyi

AT this crossroads in Australian politics when voters and politicians alike are publicly wondering just what our political parties actually stand for, a great opportunity beckons: invite Burma's pro-democracy champion, the just-released Aung San Suu Kyi, to address our federal parliament to remind us of what we take for granted and trail in the dust.

The world acclaims this remarkably brave and determined woman. Burma's military regime might never allow her to leave the country (or re-enter it) but such an invitation would signal a real mark of esteem that very many Australians would endorse.

Such champions are few and far between, and as such, they need to be cherished before they're gone.

Brian Haill, Frankston, Vic

Spry's weakness

I WAS intrigued to read that a major point of contention about our film I, Spry raised in the article by the anonymous retired ASIO officer ("Aunt's sneering aside, ASIO effectively kept communists in check", Inquirer, 13-14/11) was our "unwarranted trashing" of Charles Spry's reputation by portraying him as an alcoholic.

The Hope royal commission heard from numerous ASIO officers who said the only way to get a promotion was to answer the summons to attend the director-general's office at the end of the day and to take part in marathon whisky-drinking sessions.

A former officer, interviewed for the film, noted: "It was visible, all right. He'd send one of the most highly paid officers in the building out to get extra bottles of scotch. He would be visibly drunk and wander round. On at least two occasions I saw him when he was incoherent."

If Spry had not been the head of Australia's security service, his abuse of alcohol would be nobody's business. But as the ASIO officer in the film states, it was simply "hypocritical" because ASIO was charged with preventing public servants with similar "character weaknesses" from having access to classified information.

No Australian public servant had more access to classified information than the officers of ASIO and no Australian individual had more access than Spry during his 20-year tenure as director-general of ASIO.

Peter Butt, (Director of I, Spry)

Lilyfield, NSW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A RETIRED ASIO officer has attacked the film I, Spy and my comments in it by claiming that my criticism of ASIO "may be better understood when his past is known". I have never hidden my former membership of the Communist Party of Australia in the 1970s and 80s, nor do I regret it. As a historian of the Cold War, I base my views on facts and evidence. But instead of dealing with the merits or demerits of these, the retired ASIO officer uses an old-style red-baiting smear to score a point. Extraordinarily, he repeats another smear: that the anti-Vietnam war and anti-apartheid movements in Australia were under CPA control.

He also ignores two important things. First, all through the Cold War, the size of the CPA was shrinking. By contrast, the power and size of ASIO increased. Second, ASIO's preoccupation with so-called subversion meant it overlooked its own penetration by the KGB.

How typical of a former ASIO officer to make accusations while operating under a cloak of anonymity.

David McKnight, Associate professor, University of NSW

LAST POST

I presume all the nice things Barack Obama said to Julia Gillard will feature prominently in his memoirs?

Roseanne Schneider, Yeronga, Qld

Good to see the Victorian Liberals showing some integrity with their decision not to preference the Greens ("Liberal decision will hurt Greens", 15/11). Winning doesn't mean winning at all costs -- particularly if it entails catching fleas as the price.

David Edwards, Chapel Hill, Qld

For sound economic reasons customers should switch from banks to building societies or credit unions. For moral and ethical reasons shareholders should dump bank shares. Not to do so is to condone greed.

Bruce Mullinger, Kurnell, NSW

Since tries are only faintly relevant to rugby scores, when one thinks of the high salaries paid to Wallabies players, it is truly pathetic that they can't even kick goals.

Art Raiche, Killara, NSW

My mother hates watching sport with a passion. However, she is convalescing at the moment and on Saturday I asked her why she was watching the Australian Masters golf tournament. She said she wanted to be satisfied that Tiger Woods wouldn't win. Says it all.

Steve Barrett, Glenbrook, NSW

I think I've got this right. In Australia, 19 out of every 20 people who want a job have got one and that is wonderful. But in the US, only 18 out of every 20 people who want a job have got one and that is unequivocally dreadful. Eh? Can you just run that past me again a bit more slowly?

Scott Sturgess, Goomboorian, Qld

The world rejoices at the release, after 388 days, of Paul and Rachel Chandler by their Somali captors. Can we please work harder for the release of Gilad Shalit, who has been held hostage by his Palestinian captors for 1605 days?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helen Bersten, Roseville, NSW

So Peter Beattie takes ``full responsibility" for the Gordon Nuttall affront to all Queenslanders (``Crimes breached our trust", Inquirer, 13-14/11). Does that mean Peter is offering to share some gaol-time with Gordon? What typical sanctimonious twaddle.

David Mapleston, Paddington, Qld

The negative effects of fast food can be clearly demonstrated without having to undertake extensive medical research. One look at the rubbish strewn by the roadside and constantly littering our footpaths is surely more than sufficient evidence that consumption of fast food leads to the loss of any sense of responsibility, public hygiene and consideration

for others.

Elizabeth Harrington, Milton, Qld

LETTERS

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Load-Date: November 15, 2010

Tajik commission says Uzbekistan "secretly" built 75 reservoirs

BBC Monitoring Central Asia Unit

Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

November 18, 2010 Thursday

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Length: 195 words

Body

Text of report by opposition Islamic Rebirth Party affiliated Tajik newspaper Najot on 15 November

The international commission for investigating large dams in Tajikistan or TajCOLD has announced that Uzbekistan secretly built 75 reservoirs without consulting with the Aral Sea basin countries.

According to the Radio Liberty's Tajik service, Homid Orifov, secretary of the TajCOLD national commission, told a news conference that those reservoirs of Uzbekistan were filled by water from the rivers, Sir Darya and Amu Darya, to irrigate arable lands of the country.

In the meantime, Uzbekistan has lately increased its pressure on Tajikistan by holding up Tajikistan-bound trains on its territory and dramatizing the situation around the Roghun hydroelectric power plant project.

The Uzbek authorities have not yet commented on the statement of the TajCOLD national commission on large dams. However, it is said that the Uzbek authorities intend to hold an international conference on environmental issues in the middle of November. This international conference will be held at the initiative of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

Source: Najot, Dushanbe, in Tajik 15 Nov 10

Load-Date: November 18, 2010

CENTRAL ASIAN STATES FINALIZE THE THIRD ARAL SEA BASIN PROGRAM

States News Service

December 17, 2010 Friday

Copyright 2010 States News Service

Length: 639 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: GENEVA, Switzerland

Body

The following information was released by the United Nations Economic **Commission** for Europe (UNECE):

On 15 December 2010 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Board of the International Fund for Saving the **Aral** Sea (IFAS) reviewed the draft of the Third **Aral** Sea Basin Programme and submitted it for approval at the highest political level to IFAS member States. The Programme is a regional action plan for 2011-2015 to alleviate the environmental and socio-economic consequences of the **Aral** Sea disaster and to facilitate progress towards integrated **water** resources management and sustainable development in the **Aral** Sea Basin.

The mandate to develop the new Programme came from the IFAS Summit (28 April 2009, Almaty), where the Heads of Central Asian States expressed their firm commitment to strengthen institutional and legal frameworks for regional water resources management and tasked the Executive Committee of IFAS to develop the new Aral Sea Basin Programme. Since then, a series of meetings of the five Central Asian countries and their regional organizations took place to discuss the needs and priorities for the new Programme. The Executive Committee also established regular coordination with international organizations and donors to ensure support by the international community. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) project "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia", financed by the Government of Germany through Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH in the framework of the Berlin Water Process, assisted the IFAS Executive Committee in implementation of the Summit's decisions.

Last week, efforts to prepare a well-structured, effective and realistic action plan culminated in the adoption of the Statement by the Donors and Implementing Agencies on the Occasion of the Presentation of the Third Aral Sea Basin Programme. The Statement confirms that donors fully support the Programme and are ready to work together with the Executive Committee of IFAS and the Governments of IFAS member States in its implementation.

The new Programme covers four areas: integrated water resources management; environmental protection; socio-economic issues and institutional and legal strengthening of water management in the region. It is expected to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, improve preparedness to address new challenges, including climate change, and foster integrated water resources management at the national, river-basin and regional levels.

For further information please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/cadialogue/cadwelcome.htm> or contact: Mr. Marton Krasznai, UNECE Regional Adviser on Central Asia, tel.: +41-22-9172760, marton.krasznai@unece.org

CENTRAL ASIAN STATES FINALIZE THE THIRD ARAL SEA BASIN PROGRAM

Notes for editors:

The International Fund for saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) was established in early 1990s by five Central Asian States - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - to implement in a coordinated way the practical measures and programmes to overcome the impacts of the Aral crisis and to improve environmental and socio-economic conditions in Aral Sea Basin.

Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, which supports the German Government in achieving its development-policy objectives.

The Berlin Water Process was launched at the first "Water Unites" conference (Berlin, 1 April 2008). The Process is an important part of the water and environment pillar of the European Union's Central Asia Strategy. The Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme is implemented by GTZ under the Berlin Water Process to optimize cooperation in the Central Asian water sector and improve the lives of people in the region.

Load-Date: December 17, 2010

End of Document

Being Afghani

South Asia

December 31, 2010 Friday

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Section: Vol. 14; No. 12

Length: 635 words

Byline: Manam Iqbal

Body

A country ravaged by 30 years of civil wars, foreign invasions and raids by terrorist factions stands today in the rubble of its past glory, amid destroyed monuments, broken homes and battered faces weary of an unending war.

Afghanistan's troubles began some three decades ago when the Mujahideen were created to oust the Russian forces whose tanks rumbled along the Amu Darya River and entered the country in order to restore stability following a coup brought by a Leninist-Marxist group.

With the covert backing by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States the mujahideen or jihadists accomplished their task of ousting the alien forces in 1989. In the absence of the enemy, warlords turned the guns against each other and a long civil war ensued breaking the country into small fiefdoms. The Taliban seized power in 1996 but their government lasted only a few years when it was toppled by the American campaign launched formally in Afghanistan on 26th of September 2001 coded "jawbreaker".

Different regimes brought about various levels of hardships for the common people. During the Taliban rule, for instance, the daily lives of people were circumscribed to a huge extent especially women who were forced to wear burqa or shadier and not leave the house without the assistance of a male relative. Their roles as professionals were marginalized like never before and they were denied their right to education. Even today, extremist factions frequently bomb female educational institutions and there are many security concerns in the minds of the parents who send their girls to study.

However, the populace has seen worse times and for many, the installation of the Taliban regime - with all its restrictions - was a breath of fresh air.

What succeeded the Taliban was far worse than the loss of music and kite-flying: Kabul dwellers had spent four years in the grip of a vicious civil war when the city was shelled by various warlords. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was prime minister when he rained rockets on his own capital. Ahmed Shah Massoud was Defence Minister when he unleashed similar atrocities.

"We used to get up every morning and call around to friends and relatives, see who was still alive," recalls Nasimi thinking of his teenage years. "We wanted an end to the warlords, and we wanted national unity. The Taliban gave us that."

However, not much has changed since the arrival of foreign troops who trumpeted the development of Afghanistan's economic, political and social fabric when they entered in 2001. Locals are losing their faith in the

Being Afghani

alien army because of slow reconstruction process and growing civilian casualties thus evoking suspicion about the recent troop surge by the Obama Administration.

"We know they don't intend to kill civilians but we don't believe they are doing enough not to. If it continues we will see a lot more people joining the fight against the foreigners. It's inevitable," says Ahmad Zia, a jeweler in Kabul's busy bazaar.

A nation with the life expectancy of 44, where one in five children dies before his/her first birthday and most women - particularly in rural areas - are never seen by a health professional during pregnancy and childbirth; where only 22% of the population has access to clean drinking water; and where more than half the populace lives below poverty line; Afghanistan is a country in dire need of a much faster development of which the United Nations and NGO's are doing only a fraction.

With a corrupt government, unrepentant and unconcerned foreign forces and the conservative Taliban, the Afghans don't know what to hope for anymore, with the decision of withdrawal of foreign troops by July 2011.

The writer is a communications student at the University of Karachi and holds a special interest in socio economic issues in the region.

Load-Date: November 23, 2011

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Easier Said Than Done

Business World

January 3, 2011

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Length: 559 words

Byline: Anilesh S. Mahajan

Body

Think of it as the New Silk Route: a gas pipeline from the *Amu-Darya* Basin in Turkmenistan, near the ancient town of Daulatabad (which is on the other side of the fence in Iran) to the sleepy town of Fazilka on the Sutlej *river* in Punjab (India). Covering 1,680 km, it will pass through a beautiful green belt in Turkmenistan, enter Afghanistan and run along with the newly constructed Kandahar-Herat highway. From the desert of south Afghanistan, it enters Pakistan near Quetta, touches the green pastures in Multan before finally reaching Fazilka. Romantic as it sounds, it will probably remain in the imagination.

The *agreement* for the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (Tapi) project has been signed between the partners for laying the pipeline and sale of gas, but the logistical and security concerns seem insurmountable. In south Afghanistan, the Taliban is still active. Baluchistan and south Punjab in Pakistan are disturbed areas with *threat* from fundamentalist. The Afghan government is deploying 7,000 security personnel along the route, and Pakistan has made similar assurances, but trust is hard to come by.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) chief Haruhiko Kuroda said the project would be hard to complete. Security and high-quality construction work is mandatory for funding by the finance institutions. But there are others who have a great interest in its success. Tapi is also a dream for the US, to be able to bring gas out of Central Asia without going through Russia or China (Turkmenistan already has gas supply pipelines to Iran, Russia and China). In theory, this offers some comfort in security terms. Turkmenistan is important to world energy markets because it contains over 100 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves.

For Afghanistan, the economic benefit - roughly \$1.4 billion in transit fees from India and Pakistan - could be huge. The pipeline is expected to cost \$3.3 billion, with an annual throughput of 33 billion cubic metres of gas. India may sign a gas purchase agreement with Turkmenistan in February 2011 when their oil minister Bayramgeldi Nedirol visits Delhi.

But the costs for India may be too high. Officials at the petroleum and natural gas ministry estimated the landed cost in Punjab at \$10 per unit, compared to around \$7-8 that customers pay for gas from Reliance Industries' KG Basin, though less than the \$12 some buyers pay for imported liquefied natural gas. Besides, current agreements have a commitment of 13.4 billion cubic metres of gas that would be provided regardless of circumstances.

Cost aside, the government is confident there will be no security risk - as was with the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline. Tapi is backed by the US and the ADB. Despite that, India has pushed for an inter-government agreement, to have clarity and ensure a minimum supply.

But there is a trust deficit in governments, especially in relation to Pakistan. The IPI has almost been shelved since the Mumbai attacks. There is an embargo on any talks with Pakistan currently. Memories of how the Myanmar-India

Easier Said Than Done

pipeline was stopped by the Chinese - who have considerable influence with the military junta - are still fresh. So here's the question: should we continue to invest time and money into the project, or give it up as a lost cause?

(This story was published in Businessworld Issue Dated 03-01-2011)

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End of Document

Pakistan's water experts to salvage Central Asian States from water woes

Plus Patent News

January 12, 2011 Wednesday

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Length: 627 words

Dateline: ISLAMABAD

Body

In a positive and unique development, Pakistan's water experts will provide resolution of the water woes the Central Asian States are facing since long because of the fast shrinking Aral Sea. Sustainable Development Policy Institute [SDPI], Islamabad to this has established working group on saving Aral Sea which will focus only on Tran- boundary-

water management, environmental, economic and energy issues of Central Asia.

The working group will comprise water, energy and environmental experts, eminent politicians and media personnel of Pakistan.

A premier think tank in Pakistan, SDPI acts as both a generator of original research on sustainable development issues and as an information resource for concerned individuals and institutions.

SDPI's function is thus two-

fold: an advisory role fulfilled through research, policy advice and advocacy; and an enabling role realized through providing other individuals and organizations with resource materials and training.

The mandate of the working group is to evaluate the shrinking of the Aral Sea, a phenomenon to have simultaneous impacts on the region's economic and environmental stability. The ecological consequences of the shrinking Aral Sea will not respect any political boundaries and are bound to adversely affect the region.

The working group thus will strive to critically review and assess the current environmental and water governance dynamics of the Aral Sea Basin to formulate an unbiased, independent, non-political expert recommendation to all central Asian and other stakeholder countries.

Invoking the issue of Aral Sea is an endeavor to highlight the need for equitable distribution of water resources based on international laws and best practices. Embracing the benefits of shared water resources must not undermine regional harmony and seek to promote environmentally sound practices in shared water management. SDPI has done extensive work on shared water management has been notable in the South Asian region where exhaustive studies have been undertaken.

Additionally, the urgent need to rehabilitate/refill the Aral Sea is crucial for the stabilization of the regional and global climate in addition to maintaining peace and security in Central Asia. SDPI's drive is in line with the global initiative undertaken to reduce sea level-

rise, which is one of the most severe threats being posed by climate change. SDPI will provide innovative, win-

win solution to refill the Aral Sea which will considerably diffuse the increase in global sea levels. In pursuit of this task, a special unit has been created within SDPI being led by Arshad H Abbasi.

The need for a working group on the subject was also reinforced after the devastating flood in Pakistan when westerly weather system collided with the monsoon weather system during the last week of July 2010 causing unprecedented flash floods in Pakistan. The technical part of the Working Group will make assessments

Pakistan 's water experts to salvage Central Asian States from water woes

of the state of environment in central Asia and plausible impacts on climate of Pakistan and region as a whole. The formation of working group also reflects the pursuit of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), a strategic methodology to achieve a substantial reduction in hydrological disasters. The working group will also examine the glaciers of central Asia-

the Glacial melting in Central Asia poses severe environmental and security risks for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Glaciers presently contribute up to 70% of the water flow in the major river systems of the region during hot, dry summers. It is predicted that between 64% and 95% of the glacial area over large parts of Central Asia will be lost as a result of melting by 2100.

Load-Date: September 13, 2012

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Pakistan: Pakistan's water experts to salvage Central Asian States from water woes

Right Vision News

January 13, 2011 Thursday

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Length: 659 words

Dateline: ISLAMABAD

Body

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 13 -- In a positive and unique development, Pakistan's water experts will provide resolution of the water woes the Central Asian States are facing since long because of the fast shrinking Aral Sea.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute [SDPI], Islamabad to this has established working group on saving Aral Sea which will focus only on Tran- boundary-water management, environmental, economic and energy issues of Central Asia.

The working group will comprise water, energy and environmental experts, eminent politicians and media personnel of Pakistan.

A premier think tank in Pakistan, SDPI acts as both a generator of original research on sustainable development issues and as an information resource for concerned individuals and institutions.

SDPI's function is thus two-fold: an advisory role fulfilled through research, policy advice and advocacy; and an enabling role realized through providing other individuals and organizations with resource materials and training.

The mandate of the working group is to evaluate the shrinking of the Aral Sea, a phenomenon to have simultaneous impacts on the region's economic and environmental stability. The ecological consequences of the shrinking Aral Sea will not respect any political boundaries and are bound to adversely affect the region.

The working group thus will strive to critically review and assess the current environmental and water governance dynamics of the Aral Sea Basin to formulate an unbiased, independent, non-political expert recommendation to all central Asian and other stakeholder countries.

Invoking the issue of Aral Sea is an endeavor to highlight the need for equitable distribution of water resources based on international laws and best practices. Embracing the benefits of shared water resources must not undermine regional harmony and seek to promote environmentally sound practices in shared water management. SDPI has done extensive work on shared water management has been notable in the South Asian region where exhaustive studies have been undertaken.

Additionally, the urgent need to rehabilitate/refill the Aral Sea is crucial for the stabilization of the regional and global climate in addition to maintaining peace and security in Central Asia. SDPI's drive is in line with the global initiative undertaken to reduce sea level-rise, which is one of the most severe threats being posed by climate change. SDPI will provide innovative, win-win solution to refill the Aral Sea which will considerably diffuse the increase in global sea levels. In pursuit of this task, a special unit has been created within SDPI being led by Arshad H Abbasi.

Pakistan : Pakistan 's water experts to salvage Central Asian States from water woes

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CITY (Complex range of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems emerged: Experts)

Pakistan Press International

January 20, 2011 Thursday

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Length: 1026 words

Body

It was unanimously **agreed** during the meeting that **diversion** of **water** from two major **rivers** Amudarya and Sirdarya feeding **Aral**, for multipurpose is the most significant cause of its drying that was started in 1960s during Soviet era. A complex range of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems emerged, of international character in terms of origin and the level of implications being one of the most crucial global ecological catastrophes u drying of the **Aral** Sea .

Participants of the Working Group on Saving **Aral** Sea for Sustainable Development met at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute here on Thursday.

The participants present in the meeting were Syed Jamaat Ali Shah, Former Commissioner Indus Water, Shafaqat Kaka Khel, Former Ed, UNEP, Tahir Shamshad, CDA, Prof Dr Ali Sajid, UET, Lahore, Naveed Akbar, ACE, Norway, Niaz Ahmed, Lawyer, Amir.H Malik, COMSATS, Khalid Mustafa, The News, Dr Nazr-e-Huder, Senior Economic Advisor,SDPI, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay , Head, Climate Change Study Centre, SDPI and Arshad H Abbasi, Advisor, Water and Energy SDPI.

The group adopted the following statement on environmental crisis in the Aral Sea region and measures to rehabilitate, refill and mitigate its negative impacts.

The Working Group also proposed studies at multiple impacts on local and global environment. It also suggested that hydroelectric projects being initiated on rivers falling in the catchments Area of Aral Sea should be inline with decisions of International Court of justice- an organ of United Nations- to ensure ecology and environment of region in the larger interests of globe.

The peculiar cause is Gabcikovou Nagymaros hydropower project, a case between Hungary and Slovakia over trans-boundary river, (ICJ Reports, 1997, p. 7, at p. 67, para.112) is the best precedence and it is a global obligation for countries. It was also urged to conduct trans-boundary EIA of all hydropower projects before their physical executions to save regional ecological balance.

While developing any hydroelectric power project on Trans-boundary rivers, the declaration of the UN Conference on Human Environment ("Stockholm Declaration") made in 1972, and Rio Declaration on Environment and Development ("Rio Declaration"), adopted in 1992, present general principles of international law that are applicable for project having trans-boundary environmental impact.

The Stockholm Declaration, in particular, has proven greatly effective in the field of international environmental law, as it was the first "widely accepted effort to set forth basic concepts and principles," and certain Stockholm

CITY (Complex range of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems emerged: Experts)

principles are indeed considered customary international law. Rio principles are accepted as customary international law and are therefore binding for all central Asian Countries.

All the hydropower projects having dam of height more than 15 meters, as demand and obligation of ICOLD needs independent scrutiny for structural stability and EIA expert groups and international organizations and to be inline with the conventions on protection and use of trans-boundary waterways and international lakes (1992) and on the right of unnavigable use of international waterways (1997) and the precedents set by ICJ.

In case of all such projects, concerns of all the states in the region have to be taken into consideration in order to abide by rational water management and avoid adverse impacts on the water flow to low riparian countries, environment , ecology, health of the Central Asian countries population.

Need of data sharing was also highlighted during the discussions all the countries are requested to cooperate and share their individual studies conducted in this regard. This study must also focus on the technical issues. Track III intervention can prove to be helpful in this regard.

It was pointed out that there is need for conducting studies on; existing hydro power potential in the region, river diversion for agricultural usage and collection of climatological data. Working Group also proposed exploration of renewable energy sources for economic prosperity of all five central Asian countries for regional harmony and inline with international laws of environments.

The Working Group invites international donor and sponsors, including international organizations, financial institutions, foreign countries and other donors, to participate in implementation of the Projects focused on mitigation of climate change implications in the Aral Sea area.

The need for a working group on the subject was also reinforced after the devastating floods in Pakistan when westerly weather system collided with the monsoon weather system during the last week of July 2010 causing unprecedented flash floods in Pakistan .

The technical part of the Working Group will make assessments of the state of environment in Central Asia and plausible impacts on climate of Pakistan and region as whole. The formation of working group also reflects the pursuit of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), a strategic methodology to achieve a substantial reduction in hydrological disasters.

Pakistan has numerous hydropower potential, especially its northern Areas, Gilgit-Baltistan and KPK has more than 40000MW technically, financially and run-of-river based hydropower potential that is 100% environment friendly. 50% of this hydropower would help to bring economic revolution in neighbouring Central Asian Countries. This is win-win solution proposed by group.

During the course of discussion some other proposals included the need of assessing Caspian Sea convention that can serve as an example and that requires conducting factual studies in the beginning, then respective positions of all the littoral states, its impact over the resources of the sea.

A very important point that was brought forward was that a scoping study is needed that will make use of all the body of knowledge.

Another point to be taken into due consideration is the trans-boundary issue and impact on the neighbouring countries. It was also identified that the scope of work needs to be focused and data integrity in this regard is extremely important.

Load-Date: September 16, 2011

SDPI Working Group adopts resolution on environmental crisis in Aral sea region

Pakistan Press International

January 21, 2011 Friday

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Length: 723 words

Body

Working Group on Saving **Aral** Sea for Sustainable Development met at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) adopted a **resolution** on environmental crisis in the **Aral** Sea region and measures to rehabilitate, refill and mitigate its negative impacts.

The meeting of the Working Group (WG) held at SDPI and it was unanimously **agreed** that **diversion** of **water** from two major **rivers** Amudarya and Sirdarya feeding **Aral**, for multipurpose is the most significant cause of its drying. A complex range of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems emerged, of international character in terms of origin and the level of implications being one of the most crucial global ecological catastrophes u drying of the **Aral** Sea.

In 1960, the Aral Sea was the fourth-largest inland water body in the world, but the size has slashed to about 7.7 per cent of the original. It has raised the salinity of the area's soil, reducing the amount of arable land, causing irreversible losses in flora and fauna and depriving millions in neighbouring countries of critical sources of income.

The situation in the Aral Sea region is under peril of rapid and considerable deterioration if inflow of water resources decreases and becomes imbalanced in future. Coupled with inefficient use of water resources this can contribute to expansion of disaster area, increase area of saline lands, unsuitable for agricultural cultivation and living, deprive millions of people of employment and income and cause further losses in flora and fauna of the Aral Sea region and life quality of local population. Prevention of aggravation of the Aral Sea area situation is an integral part of economic, social, environmental and other aspects of regional security both for Central Asian countries and their neighbours.

The Working Group also proposed studies at multiple impacts on local and global environment. It also suggested that hydroelectric projects being initiated on rivers falling in the catchments Area of Aral Sea should be inline with decisions of International Court of justice- an organ of United Nations- to ensure ecology and environment of region in the larger interests of globe. The peculiar cause is Gabcikovou Nagymaros hydropower project, a case between Hungary and Slovakia over trans-boundary river, (ICJ Reports, 1997, p. 7, at p. 67, para.112) is the best precedence and it is a global obligation for countries. It was also urged to conduct trans-boundary EIA of all hydropower projects before their physical executions to save regional ecological balance.

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Load-Date: September 16, 2011

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Working group adopts resolution on environmental problems in Aral Sea region

Plus Patent News

January 21, 2011 Friday

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Length: 603 words

Dateline: ISLAMABAD

Body

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In 1960, the Aral Sea was the fourth-largest inland water body in the world, but the size has slashed to about 7.7 per cent of the original.

It has raised the salinity of the area's soil, reducing the amount of arable land, causing irreversible losses in flora and fauna and depriving millions in neighboring countries of critical sources of income.

The situation in the Aral Sea region is under peril of rapid and considerable deterioration if inflow of water resources decreases and becomes imbalanced in future.

Coupled with inefficient use of water resources this can contribute to expansion of disaster area, increase area of saline lands, unsuitable for agricultural cultivation and living, deprive millions of people of employment and income and cause further losses in flora and fauna of the Aral Sea region and life quality of local population.

Prevention of aggravation of the Aral Sea area situation is an integral part of economic, social, environmental and other aspects of regional security both for Central Asian countries and their neighbors.

The Working Group also proposed studies at multiple impacts on local and global environment. It also suggested that hydroelectric projects being initiated on rivers falling in the catchments Area of Aral Sea should be inline with decisions of International Court of justice- an organ of United Nations- to ensure ecology and environment of region in the larger interests of globe.

It was pointed out that there is need for conducting studies on existing hydro power potential in the region, river diversion for agricultural usage and collection of climatological data.

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Water experts ponder over saving

Plus Patent News

January 22, 2011 Saturday

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Length: 716 words

Dateline: ISLAMABAD

Body

Participants of the working group on saving Aral Sea for sustainable development met at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute here on Thursday and discussed modus operandi to bring the Central Asian (CA) states out of the environmental crisis that has aggravated because of fast depleting Aral Sea and measures to rehabilitate, refill the Aral sea and mitigate its negative impacts.

The participants agreed that diversion of water from two major rivers Amudarya and Sirdarya feeding Aral is the most significant cause of its drying up that began in 1960s. In 1960 the Aral Sea was the fourth-largest inland water body in the world, but its size has slashed to about 7.7 per cent of the original. It has raised the salinity of the area's soil, reducing the amount of arable land, causing irreversible losses in flora and fauna and depriving millions in neighbouring countries of critical sources of income. The situation will further deteriorate if inflow of water resources decreases. Coupled with inefficient use of water resources this can contribute to expansion of disaster area, increase area of saline lands unsuitable for agricultural cultivation and living, deprive million of people of employment and income and cause further losses in flora and fauna. Prevention of aggravation of the Aral Sea area is an integral part of economic, social, environmental and other aspects of regional security both for Central Asian countries and their neighbours.

The working group proposed studies into multiple impacts on local and global environment. It also suggested that hydroelectric projects being initiated on rivers falling in the catchments area of the Aral Sea should be in line with the decisions of International Court of Justice to ensure ecology and environment of region in the larger interests of globe. The peculiar cause is Gabčíkovo-

Nagymaros hydropower project, a case between Hungary and Slovakia, over trans-boundary river (ICJ Reports, 1997, p. 7, at p. 67, para.112) is the best precedence and it is a global obligation for countries. It was also urged to conduct trans-boundary EIA of all hydropower projects before their physical execution to save regional ecological balance.

While developing any hydroelectric power project on trans-boundary rivers, the declaration of the UN Conference on Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration) adopted in 1972, and Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio Declaration), adopted in 1992, presenting general principles of international law that are applicable to project having trans-boundary environmental impact.

The Stockholm Declaration, in particular, has proven highly effective in the field of international environmental law, as it was the first "widely accepted effort to set forth basic concepts and principles", and some of these principles are indeed considered customary international law. Rio principles are accepted as customary international law and are therefore binding for all Central Asian countries.

Need of data sharing was also highlighted during the discussion and it was also pointed out that there is

Water experts ponder over saving

need for conducting studies on the existing hydropower potential of the region, river diversion for agricultural usage and collection of climatic data. The participants also proposed exploration of renewable energy sources for economic prosperity of all five Central Asian countries for regional harmony and in line with international laws of environments.

The need for a working group on the subject was also reinforced after the devastating floods in Pakistan when westerly weather system collided with the monsoon weather system during the last week of July 2010 causing unprecedented flash floods in Pakistan. The technical part of the Working Group will make assessments of the state of environment in Central Asia and plausible impacts on climate of Pakistan and the region as a whole. The formation of working group also reflects the pursuit of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), a strategic methodology to achieve a substantial reduction in hydrological disasters.

Pakistan has tremendous hydropower potential, especially in the Northern Areas, Gilgit-Baltistan and KPK to produce more than 40000MW of electricity that is 100% environment-friendly.

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Measures to resolve environmental crisis in Aral sea region

Daily The Post

January 22, 2011 Saturday

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Length: 567 words

Dateline: ISLAMABAD

Body

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In 1960, the Aral Sea was the fourth-largest inland water body in the world, but the size has slashed to about 7.7 per cent of the original. It has raised the salinity of the area's soil, reducing the amount of arable land, causing irreversible losses in flora and fauna and depriving millions in neighboring countries of critical sources of income. The situation in the Aral Sea region is under peril of rapid and considerable deterioration if inflow of water resources decreases and becomes imbalanced in future. Coupled with inefficient use of water resources this can contribute to expansion of disaster area, increase area of saline lands, unsuitable for agricultural cultivation and living, deprive millions of people of employment and income and cause further losses in flora and fauna of the Aral Sea region and life quality of local population. Prevention of aggravation of the Aral Sea area situation is an integral part of economic, social, environmental and other aspects of regional security both for Central Asian countries and their neighbors. The Working Group also proposed studies at multiple impacts on local and global environment. It also suggested that hydroelectric projects being initiated on rivers falling in the catchments Area of Aral Sea should be inline with decisions of International Court of justice- an organ of United Nations- to ensure ecology and environment of region in the larger interests of globe. It was pointed out that there is need for conducting studies on existing hydro power potential in the region, river diversion for agricultural usage and collection of climatological data. Working Group also proposed exploration of renewable energy sources for economic prosperity of all five central Asian countries for regional harmony and inline with international laws of environments. The need for a working group on the subject was also reinforced after the devastating floods in Pakistan when westerly weather system collided with the monsoon weather system during the last week of July 2010 causing unprecedented flash floods in Pakistan. The technical part of the Working Group will make assessments of the state of environment in Central Asia and plausible impacts on climate of Pakistan and region as whole. The formation of working group also reflects the pursuit of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), a strategic methodology to a

Measures to resolve environmental crisis in Aral sea region

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Working Group on saving Aral Sea for sustainable development meets

The Frontier Post

January 23, 2011 Sunday

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Section: Vol. II; No. 402

Length: 854 words

Byline: F.P. Report

Body

A meeting of the Working Group on Saving *Aral* Sea for Sustainable Development unanimously *agreed* during the meeting that *diversion* of *water* from two major *rivers* Amudarya and Sirdarya feeding *Aral*, for multipurpose is the most significant cause of its drying up which started in 1960s during Soviet era. The group meeting, held at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, adopted the following *statement* on environmental crisis in the *Aral* Sea region and measures to rehabilitate refill and mitigate its negative impacts.

A complex range of environmental, socio-economic and demographic problems emerged, of international character in terms of origin and the level of implications being one of the most crucial global ecological catastrophes - drying of the *Aral* Sea. In 1960 the *Aral* Sea was the fourth-largest inland *water* body in the world, but the size has slashed to about 7.7 per cent of the original. It has raised the salinity of the area's soil, reducing the amount of arable land, causing irreversible losses in flora and fauna and depriving millions in neighbouring countries of critical sources of income.

The situation in the Aral Sea region is under peril of rapid and considerable deterioration if inflow of water resources decreases and becomes imbalanced in future. Coupled with inefficient use of water resources this can contribute to expansion of disaster area, increase area of saline lands, unsuitable for agricultural cultivation and living, deprive millions of people of employment and income and cause further losses in flora and fauna of the Aral Sea region and life quality of local population. Prevention of aggravation of the Aral Sea area situation is an integral part of economic, social, environmental and other aspects of regional security both for Central Asian countries and their neighbours.

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Working Group on saving Aral Sea for sustainable development meets

All the hydropower projects having dam of height more than 15 meters, as demand and obligation of ICOLD needs independent scrutiny for structural stability and EIA expert groups and international organizations and to be inline with the conventions on protection and use of trans-boundary waterways and international lakes (1992) and on the right of unnavigable use of international waterways (1997) and the precedents set by ICJ. In case of all such projects, concerns of all the states in the region have to be taken into consideration in order to abide by rational water management and avoid adverse impacts on the water flow to low riparian countries, environment , ecology, health of the Central Asian countries population. It was pointed out that there is need for conducting studies on; existing hydro power potential in the region, river diversion for agricultural usage and collection of climatologically data.

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Pakistan: Water experts ponder over saving

Right Vision News

January 23, 2011 Sunday

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Length: 749 words

Dateline: ISLAMABAD

Body

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The participants **agreed** that **diversion** of **water** from two major **rivers** Amudarya and Sirdarya feeding **Aral** is the most significant cause of its drying up that began in 1960s.

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Pakistan : Water experts ponder over saving

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