

UZBEKISTAN – APRIL 1-30, 2020

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TOP NEWS OF THE PERIOD

A number of credit benefits to be provided during the quarantine period

During quarantine, when every citizen is asked not to leave their place of residence unnecessarily and to remain isolated, on the recommendation of the Central Bank, banks in Uzbekistan began to provide borrowers with credit holidays and take other support measures.

According to information provided by the chief economist of the Tashkent city administration of the Central Bank, Burkhon Musaev, a number of credit facilities have been identified for the quarantine period.

For example, NBU said that for all types of loans issued to individuals, the main debt will be evenly distributed over the remaining repayment schedule.

Uzpromstroybank announced that payments on the main loan debt for individuals were transferred to June 2020.

Asaka Bank provided a two-month deferment of payments for loans whose debts as of 1 April did not exceed 100 million soums. If quarantine is extended, then customers can contact the bank for an extension of deferred payments.

It should be noted that to date, more than 37,000 requests for credit vacations have been received. Applications are accepted only in an online format, based on the current situation.

Almost all banks reported a suspension of interest for late payment of interest.

Banks that provide credit holiday during the quarantine accept online applications. If it is not possible to submit an online application, we ask you to contact your bank within a few days after the end of the quarantine

If you have questions related to the actions of banks during quarantine, please contact the Central Bank's helpline.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

Google, Apple and Netflix to pay "Google tax" in Uzbekistan

Since Jan. 1, 2020, into the Tax Code has been inserted the provision on payment of VAT by foreign companies that provide e-services in Uzbekistan.

The Tax Committee designed a special website for VAT payment registration for such companies - www.tax.uz.

To date, 9 foreign companies have registered in Uzbekistan as taxpayers:

- Google Commerce Limited;
- Google Ireland Limited;
- Google Voice Inc.;
- Apple Distribution International Limited;

- Netflix International B.V.;
- Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.;
- Cleverbridge AG;
- Xsolla (USA), Inc.;
- Activision Blizzard International BV.

The first VAT payment was made by Google Commerce Limited. In Q1, the company paid 85 thousand euros.

Voluntary registration is evidence that foreign companies value their reputation and respect the laws of the countries where they provide their services.

Tashkent Times – tashkenttimes.uz

POLITICS AND LAW

Process of importing medicines to Uzbekistan being simplified

From now onwards, in the event of an epidemiological situation, medicines used for the prevention of dangerous infectious diseases are imported without state registration by the Ministry of Health.

This was announced on the website of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis.

At the March 30 session of the Lower House of parliament, deputies adopted a draft document on amendments to the law “On medicines and pharmaceutical activities” in the second reading.

The proposed bill provides for the timely provision of orphan devices used in the treatment of rare diseases and their diagnosis, drugs for the prevention of extremely dangerous infections.

It also increases the possibility of timely provision of the healthcare system with the prevention, treatment, diagnostic drugs and medical supplies of infectious diseases in epidemiological emergency cases.

For information, the import and sale of certain new medicines in Uzbekistan, in accordance with the current procedure, requires various complex negotiation and testing processes.

kun.uz

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

Excise tax is introduced on a number of tobacco products

The President’s resolution “On measures to further regulate the tobacco market” was adopted on 6 April 2020.

In accordance with the resolution, from 1 June 2020, excise tax is introduced on imported products with heated tobacco, smoking, chewing, snuff, sucking (snus) tobacco and for hookah, nicotine-free tobacco snus, nicotine-containing liquid.

In this regard, excise tax rates on excisable goods imported into Uzbekistan are supplemented by additional positions.

According to this, the amount of excise tax on a number of tobacco products has been established.

In particular, from 1 June 2020 an excise tax of US\$25 will be imposed on 1 kg of smoking tobacco.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

[Infinbank offers to buy a car on loan without being present in the bank](#)

For the first time in Uzbekistan, it is possible to obtain a loan to buy a car through the Infinbank mobile application without the need for a presence in the bank.

The loan rate depends on the paid down payment - the larger the down payment, the lower the interest rate on the loan.

Credits are issued for the purchase of Spark, Nexia, Lacetti, Tracker, Malibu, as well as Trailblazer cars.

Interest rate of 23.9% per annum for an initial payment of 35% of the amount of the following vehicles:

Spark 3 position AT - period of 24 months

Nexia 3 position AT– term 24 months

Lacetti 1 position - term 30 months

Lacetti 1 position with HBO - period 30 months

Trailblazer - period 36 months

For Tracker MT / AT and Malibu 1.5, the down payment is 25%, the loan term is 36 months.

Interest rate of 18% per annum for an initial payment of up to 50% of the amount of the following vehicles, loan term of 24 months:

Spark 3 position AT - 50% down payment

Nexia 3 position AT– down payment 50%

Lacetti 1 item - down payment 50%

Lacetti 1 position with HBO - 50% down payment

Trailblazer - 50% down payment

The down payment for the Tracker MT / AT and Malibu is 40%.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

[CU Rewards online trading platform may be introduced in Uzbekistan](#)

Representatives of the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Malaysia, Export Promotion Agency of Uzbekistan and Malaysian Consumption Union Global Technology company discussed issues on introduction of CU Rewards online trading platform in Uzbekistan, Trend reports citing Uzbek media.

Consumption Union Global Technology company is developing special electronic platforms for e-commerce. The number of subscribers of the CU Rewards online trading platform is more than 10 million,

including more than 200,000 sellers. The platform will enable Uzbek exporters to sell their products to end consumers in Southeast Asia online.

The advantages of the electronic platform are its wide use by trading companies in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, China and other promising markets, the availability of contact details of the seller, allowing the buyer to directly contact the exporter, as well as the implemented Cashback system, which is attractive to importers. The site is available in many languages, including the Uzbek language in test mode.

As a result of the videoconference, the parties agreed to consider signing a cooperation agreement between the Export Promotion Agency and Consumption Union on the introduction of an electronic trading platform CU Rewards in the country, as well as joint development of e-commerce, the report said.

Prospects of introduction of electronic trading platforms of Consumption Union Global Technology company in Uzbekistan were discussed first time in January 2020, during the meeting between Chairman of Uzbekistan Exporters Association Mukhtor Umarov with high ranking representatives of Consumption Union Malaysia company in Kuala Lumpur.

Trend News Agency – trend.az

Business can pay taxes in installments

In accordance with the resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 19 March 2020 “On Priority Measures to Mitigate the Negative Impact on the Coronavirus Pandemic and Global Crisis Phenomena”, local government authorities are authorized to 6 months with deferral (installment plan) of payment of property tax, land tax and tax for the use of water resources without interest.

To do this, entrepreneurs should contact the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, khokimiyats of the regions and the city of Tashkent in the prescribed manner, including electronically through the personal account of taxpayers.

At the same time, applications sent through your personal account are submitted by the state tax authorities and the Interregional State Tax Inspectorate for large taxpayers in paper or electronic form.

These applications are considered in the manner prescribed by the Decree and with the conclusions of the relevant departments are submitted to the Jokargi Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Kengash of People’s Deputies of the regions and the city of Tashkent.

After a decision has been made by the Jokarga Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the Kengash of People’s Deputies of the Regions and the Tashkent City Kengash of People’s Deputies to grant a deferment (installment plan) for local taxes to the taxpayer and the relevant tax authorities, it is sent for execution.

The decision on deferment (provision of the installment plan) for the payment of local taxes shall enter into force on the first day of the month, the next month in which the decision is made, unless otherwise provided in the resolution.

Also, in accordance with the resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 3, 2020 “On additional measures to support the population, sectors of the economy and business entities during the coronavirus pandemic,” the following benefits are provided to microenterprises, small enterprises, and individual entrepreneurs.

In the case of suspension of its activities and (or) a decrease in revenue from the sale of goods (services) by more than 50 percent compared with the average monthly amount for the first quarter of this year, with a notification to the tax authorities:

- for sales tax without application to local government bodies, property tax, land tax, tax for the use of water resources, provided that they are paid in equal shares over the next 12 months;
- with regard to social tax - they can get the right to interest-free deferment (installment plan) until October 1, 2020 provided that it is paid in equal shares over the next 6 months.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

Uzbek business entities receive tax benefits

During the period of combating the spread of coronavirus infection in Uzbekistan to ensure social protection of the population, stability of economic sectors and support for enterprises in difficult economic situations, Presidential Decrees envisages a number of tax benefits and exemptions (UP-5969 and UP-5978). The State Tax Committee has accepted the tasks assigned to it and implements these innovations, the press service of the State Tax Committee informs.

In particular, 198 thousand individual entrepreneurs who were forced to suspend their activities due to quarantine stopped accruing a fixed amount of income tax on individuals and social tax in the amount of 541 billion soums.

1,764 taxpayers were exempted from paying land tax and property tax, among which are organizations of Uzbekistan Havo Yollari JSC, business entities engaged in tourism and also providing hotel services, the amount of their social tax was reduced from 12% to 1%. As a result, 136 billion soums remained at their disposal.

In addition, for 20,267 entities that have unused production facilities in their ownership, the calculation, collection of increased tax rates on land and property taxes, as well as interest for overdue days, totaling 1.1 trillion were suspended. soums.

The opportunity to pay taxes once a quarter was provided to 25.2 thousand entities whose monthly turnover does not exceed 1 billion soums and VAT payers who have completely switched to the use of electronic invoices - the amount of taxes of which amounted to 450 billion soums.

In addition, from the day of quarantine announcement - after March 16 of this year, 142 enterprises were promptly reimbursed (returned) negative amounts of VAT in the amount of 284.5 billion soums.

Electronic notifications (letters) through personal accounts were sent to 2,442 entities that carried out foreign trade operations on the non-application of fines to them in the amount of 717 billion soums.

2,170 applications for the extension of the terms of payment of tax debt are under consideration. Their total amount is 682 billion soums.

During the quarantine, due to benefits and concessions (privileges), funds remaining in the accounts of business entities will become the basis for maintaining stability in their activities, overcoming economic hardships, as well as for timely payment of wages to employees.

Stable activity of only one enterprise affects the well-being of families of more than one hundred employees working on it.

The provision of taxpayers with benefits and the provision of other services is carried out remotely, in an online format. Along with ensuring the transparency of tax authorities, this is the most important quarantine rule during a pandemic - a factor in social distance.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

Authorities allow some economic activity

The Special Republican Anti-Coronavirus Commission of Uzbekistan has taken a decision to allow some trades to resume operations on Friday.

These are:

- retailers of building materials (area of at least 500 sq.m.);
- specialized stores of large manufacturers, where goods of own production are sold (sanitary norm - 10 sq.m. for each buyer);
- artisans and craftsmen. Sale of products is allowed in specialized stores, and not in the market;
- business entities that sell seeds and seedlings (regardless of ownership);
- banks cash desks;
- business entities that sell auto parts (regardless of ownership);
- car services and entities that provide services to agro- and construction machineries (area of at least 1000 sq.m.);
- dry cleaners;
- notary offices and insurance companies;
- subjects where investment projects and construction work were suspended.

The commission has also put forward special requirements.

In particular, the territory of the organization and construction sites should be closed to prevent unauthorized access. Responsible persons must also ensure the protection of facilities.

Employees should measure temperature at least twice a day. If someone has a high fever, dry cough and similar symptoms, then necessary measures must be taken.

Workers are required to comply with hygiene rules, social distance, change their mask every 2-3 hours, and also clean items that are often used (pens, switches, table, etc.) every 2-4 hours.

The commission recalled that the senior officials of the above entities shall be liable for their employees.

Tashkent Times – tashkenttimes.uz

Prospects for trade and economic cooperation with the EU discussed

On 7 April, a video conference was held with the participation of Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov and European Commissioner for Trade Phil Hogan, during which issues of bilateral trade were discussed - economic cooperation, as well as measures to assist the European side of Uzbekistan in the processes of the republic's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the elaboration of the trading part of the draft Agreement on expanded steam partnership and cooperation (SRPS) and joining the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP +).

The Commissioner noted the steady dynamics in strengthening cooperation between the European Union and Uzbekistan and the progress achieved in the implementation of joint initiatives, in particular - in the processes of coordinating the draft SRPS. In this direction efforts will be combined to accelerate the approval of the draft Agreement and adapt, if necessary, national legislation in order to harmonize it

with international standards. It was determined that the goal of the parties is to complete the approval of the draft Agreement before the end of this year.

The Uzbek side, in turn, announced a special importance that is attached to further strengthening bilateral trade, economic and investment cooperation with the countries of the European Union, including within the framework of "GSP +", the accession to which will create a solid basis for diversification and sustainable growth of foreign Republic trade with the EU.

The parties agreed to intensify joint actions to complete the necessary procedures prescribed in the framework of obtaining Uzbekistan the status of beneficiary of "GSP +" - the European Union is ready to assist the Uzbek side in the direction of the relevant application and the subsequent assignment of the status of beneficiary of the system "GSP +" by the end of this year.

Mr. Hogan also confirmed the readiness of the European side to provide comprehensive support to Uzbekistan in the process of accession to the WTO - a common understanding was reached on the need for accelerated promotion of the initiatives being developed in spite of the current epidemiological situation. In particular, joint actions were agreed to organize in the near future the 4th Session of the Working Group on Uzbekistan's accession to the WTO through video conferencing.

On the whole, following the results of the discussions, Phil Hogan emphasized the commitment of the European side to further strengthening interaction with the Uzbek side in all areas of trade, economic, financial, technical and investment cooperation.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

BUSINESS

IUT students create Smart Mask

The 4th-year students of the Computer and Software Engineering Faculty Doston Mardiyev and Aziza Abdurakhmanova have created a Smart Mask.

According to IUT, the development is a reusable mask with replaceable inserts. It is equipped with three different sensors that respond to a person's body temperature, cough and shortness of breath.

The mask connects to your phone via the mobile app. Sensors installed in the mask automatically send the recorded indicators to the smartphone. The app compares this data with the well-known symptoms of COVID-19. If there are matches, the app sends a signal.

COVID-19 has certain symptoms that differ from other viral infection: high temperature, dry cough, shortness of breath. If a person has a temperature of 38.5, coughs frequently and has difficulty in breathing, the app will signal that the owner of the mask has a suspicion of COVID-19.

The project is currently being finalized and tested.

Uzbekistan National News Agency – uza.uz

First combined-cycle plant commissioned at Takhiatash TPP

The first of two combined-cycle plants with a capacity of 280 MW was commissioned at the Takhiatash Thermal Power Plant (TPP) on Friday, the Ministry of Energy said.

The Takhiatash TPP modernization project with the installation of two combined cycle power plants with a total capacity of 580 watts is aimed at covering the electricity needs of households in Karakalpakstan and Khorezm province.

The new units are being built by a consortium of Hyundai Engineering and Hyundai Engineering & Construction. The gas turbines and two generators were supplied by General Electric.

After the completion of the US\$ 457 million project, the old units are expected to be decommissioned.

The capacity of five power units of the Takhiatash TPP is at 730 MW. The first power unit was commissioned in 1956, the last - in 1990.

Tashkent Times – tashkenttimes.uz

Online clinic launched in test mode

At the initiative of the Ministry of Health, together with AskDoctor, a single integrator of UZINFOCOM, a project for the electronic clinic “Ask a Doctor” has been launched, operating in Uzbek and Russian.

In order to use this service, you need to go to the website at www.askdoctor.uz and go through registration, enter contact details and confirm the phone number. Next, choose a doctor in the direction and method of communication: chat, audio or video session.

In advance, or during communication, you can download images of questionnaires, extracts, that is, information that will help the doctor in preparing recommendations. After the consultation, a message will be sent to the phone about the recommendation written to you, which can be downloaded in your account on the website. The appointment is purely advisory in nature, based on the nature of the project - online consultation. A remote doctor cannot perform manipulations, take an analysis, measure temperature, pressure or pulse.

The service is available for every citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan and is completely free for the period of quarantine events.

The platform is designed in such a way that it does not require the installation of special software and is accessible from any device that has an Internet browser (smartphone, tablet, laptop, personal computer). Please note that in your browser settings you must enable the site to use the microphone and webcam of the device.

Regarding quality and safety, all consultants are highly qualified doctors (including professors) who have undergone additional selection at the Ministry of Health. Soon, the function of connecting doctors who are at home and having the technical ability to provide medical advice will be implemented.

The site also has articles, recommendations and a medical encyclopedia. Before online consultation with a doctor, you can find answers to your questions.

It is very difficult to concentrate at the time of sudden pain or unpleasant symptoms, so register in advance at www.askdoctor.uz.

It is also necessary to remember that during a period of unfavorable sanitary and epidemiological situation in the country, consultations with doctors are free of charge, and dialogue with doctors should take place subject to a culture of communication, without insults and threats. Online consultation is not a complete treatment. If necessary, the consultant can call an ambulance or send an appointment with a doctor.

It is necessary to remind that the project is launched promptly and therefore will work in test mode for some time, therefore technical difficulties may arise, errors in the texts may be detected. It should also be noted that the number of doctors at the moment is not so large, and if there are no free consultants, then you should contact the service a little later.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

Telegram bot launched for direct communication of entrepreneurs with sector leaders

The State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on behalf of the head of state, developed the @SektorUzBot Telegram bot to directly contact business representatives to sector leaders and receive answers to questions of interest. This was reported by the press service of the State Tax Committee.

It is known that the territory of our entire country is divided into sectors for integrated socio-economic development. They are headed by the heads of khokimiyats (1st sector), heads of territorial prosecutor's offices (2nd sector), internal affairs bodies (3rd sector) and the State Tax Service (4th sector).

Sector leaders are responsible for solving the tasks of integrated socio-economic development of territories, including urgent problems of business and population.

With the new bot @SektorUzBot, developed by the STC, entrepreneurs have the opportunity to directly contact the head of their sector.

Information through the bot will go to a special portal, from where it will be received and reviewed by the leaders of the sectors of the corresponding region, responsible for resolving these issues.

To date, the period for consideration of the appeal is 3 working days. Currently, the system works in the Bayaut district of Syrdarya region and Turakurgan district of Namangan region. Starting this week, all regions of the republic will be covered.

If entrepreneurs have questions related to the solution of their requests through this bot, it is necessary to contact the head of the relevant sector.

Today, via @SektorUzBot, more than 300 appeals have been received from business entities, more than 90% of which have been reviewed.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

Uzbekistan announces first wind IPP tender

Uzbekistan has launched the procurement of an independent power producer (IPP) for a 100 MW wind farm project, which will be implemented with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Uzbek Ministry of Energy said Wednesday.

The ultimate goal of the energy project is to build several such wind power plants with a total capacity of 1 GW, the ministry said in a statement.

The invitation of the tender for the wind farm to be built in Karauzyak district of Karakalpakstan in northwestern Uzbekistan remains open until May 13 for independent private electricity producers.

The tendering will have two stages, namely pre-qualification and evaluation of technical and commercial proposals, according to the statement.

The project is part of a large-scale strategy to develop renewable energy resources with a total capacity of up to 3 GW in the next 10 years in order to meet the country's growing demand for electricity, the ministry said.

The EBRD has welcomed the opening of the tender, saying that the project will help Uzbekistan achieve its plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and develop clean energy.

xinhua - xinhuanet.com

Uzbekistan introduces restrictions for export of raw materials for the production of medical products

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution "On the temporary restriction of the export of raw materials for the production of medical products and the import of cement products during the coronavirus pandemic."

The document introduced temporary restrictions for the export of raw materials, which are used for the production of medical products.

In connection with a sharp drop in demand for cement as a result of the stoppage of work at many construction projects of the republic, the Government also banned to import cement from 1 May to 31 December 2020.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction together with the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Uztukimachilik sanoat Association and the Uzpromstroy materialy Association, if necessary, make proposals on early cancellation of restrictions on foreign economic turnover of the above goods based on the situation on the foreign and domestic markets, as well as the progress of the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in the republic.

The Antimonopoly Committee in cooperation with the State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Uztuqimachilik sanoat Association, the Uzpromstroy materialy Association and the Almalyk GMK JSC will establish strict control over the prevention of artificial price increases for cement products and raw materials for the production of medical products in the domestic market.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

Navoi launches START UP UZ project

Navoi Regional Council of Uzbekistan Youth Union has launched START UP UZ project.

According to the Regional Council of Youth Union, the project is organized to form young people's knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship, support and implement their business initiatives.

The project is implemented in social networks taking into account quarantine requirements.

Uzbekistan National News Agency – uza.uz

Potato cluster to be created in Tashkent region

The potato cluster will be created in Tashkent region in accordance with the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Rich harvest in agriculture largely depends on the quality of seeds. In particular, farmers pay special attention to early ripening varieties in cultivation of crops. However, under current conditions, disease resistance is an important factor. In addition, getting a big crop from a small area is a great success for a farmer.

The government's resolution is aimed precisely at these goals. In particular, in the field of potato growing there is currently a great need for increasing seed potatoes based on in vitro technology. Scientifically based re-sowing is also used in this area. Local and foreign breeding, as well as creation and development of primary seed production of biotechnological varieties, cooperation with local and foreign organizations is a requirement of the time.

Uzbekistan National News Agency – uza.uz

[Uzbekistan plans to launch production of artificial lung ventilation apparatus](#)

The Ministry of Innovative Development will bring technologies for the production of artificial lung ventilation apparatuses (ventilators) and anesthetic machines. The project will be carried out in cooperation with Chirana Company (Slovakia) and partners from the Russian Federation.

Jamoliddin Babakhanov, the head of a department at the Ministry of Innovative Development, noted that the production of ventilators will begin in May of the current year. The construction of the production site in the Bektemir district of Tashkent is planned to be finished by September this year, with the plant will being put into operation in the same month.

At the first stage of production localization, foreign partners plan to invest \$3 million and create 30 jobs. At the second stage, the investments will increase up to \$5-6 million and around 100 jobs will be created.

It is noted that the goal of creating Chirana Asia is to produce high-tech medical equipment under the label "Made in Uzbekistan" that has no analogues in the country. Such production is carried out for the first time in Central Asia, which will accelerate import substitution in the medical industry. In addition, the company will create a powerful service center with spare parts for repair, conduct seminars on the use of mechanical ventilation and anesthetic machines which will be delivered by highly qualified foreign experts in the field of anesthesiology.

It is planned to sell products to Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan.

kun.uz

[How will the state support entrepreneurs in the difficult period associated with coronavirus?](#)

The President of Uzbekistan signed the Decree "On additional measures to support the population, sectors of the economy, and business entities during the coronavirus pandemic."

As noted in the document, tour operators, travel agents and tourism entities providing hotel services (accommodation services), Uzbekistan Airways JSC and its structural divisions, Uzbekistan Airports JSC and Uzaeronavigatsiya Center State Unitary Enterprise from April 1 to December 31, 2020 are exempt from paying land tax from legal entities and property tax of legal entities.

At the same time, it was established that the above entities pay social tax at a reduced rate of 1 percent. Until the end of 2020, payers of value added tax, the turnover on the sale of goods (services) of which does not exceed 1 billion soums per month and using electronic invoices, are entitled to calculate and pay value added tax on a quarterly basis.

According to the document, the procedure for applying increased property tax and land tax rates in relation to unused production areas, non-residential buildings, including those identified before April 1, 2020, as well as interest and penalties for collecting debts arising from the application of increased rates for specified taxes.

The calculation of a fixed amount of personal income tax and social tax is suspended for individual entrepreneurs who have been forced to suspend their activities for the period of quarantine measures, without having to submit a certificate of state registration, with notification of suspension of the activities of the state tax service through a personal taxpayer account.

The right is granted for interest-free deferment (installment plan) of taxes for a period up to October 1, 2020 with notification of tax authorities to micro-firms, small enterprises and individual entrepreneurs who have suspended their activities and (or) whose proceeds from the sale of goods (services) are reduced by more than 50 percent compared with the monthly average for the first quarter of the current year: without submitting an application to local government bodies on turnover tax, property tax, land tax, water tax resources - with their subsequent payment in equal shares within 12 months; social tax - with its subsequent payment in equal installments within 6 months.

The current excise tax rates on alcohol, alcohol, including wine and beer, as well as excise tax on the sale of gasoline, diesel fuel and gas to the final consumer are maintained until the end of this year. Starting from April 1, 2020, the mandatory requirement for legal entities to make prepayments for gas and electricity will be reduced to 30 percent.

UzDaily – Uzdaily.com

[Uzbekistan launches tender for 100 MW wind power plant](#)

Uzbekistan Energy Ministry launched on April 16 a tender process for a new 100 MW wind power plant. The tender is part of Uzbekistan’s renewable energy strategy aimed at generating a quarter of all electricity from renewable sources, by 2030, the ministry said.

“In these difficult times for the world economy, we are delighted to be working with the EBRD and the Government of Japan on this new wind power project,” Uzbekistan’s Deputy Energy Minister Sherzod Khodjaev said. It is the first project in an ambitious programme to meet increasing demands for energy and at the same time achieve a more sustainable and affordable energy ecosystem for Uzbekistan,” he added.

The new 100 MW plant and associated infrastructure will be located at a site in the Qorao’zak district of Karakalpakstan in the north-west of the country. Potential private sector partners have therefore been invited to submit an Expression of Interest to develop, finance, construct and own the project.

Uzbekistan’s Energy Ministry said it plans to develop the broader area with total wind power capacity of 300 MW, and a subsequent tender to procure the remaining 200 MW is expected to be issued shortly.

The project is supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Government of Japan. Other donors are providing technical assistance as part of an overall program to develop 1 GW of wind power in the country through public-private partnerships.

This tender announcement represents the first project of the 1 GW plan and involves the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade and the Public-Private Partnership Development Agency under the Ministry of Finance.

The Uzbek government said it is committed to the general goals of policy for improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy in the country’s energy balance in line with the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

New Europe - neweurope.eu

[First platform for conducting e-tenders to appear in Uzbekistan](#)

Ministry of Finance is launching the country's first digital platform for electronic tenders and public procurement, the press service of the Finance Ministry reported.

It is noted that public procurement is not only an instrument of economic regulation but also an important factor in the development of business, attracting investments and ensuring transparency in the use of budget funds.

In order to ensure the targeted spending of funds and increase the efficiency of their use, from April 2020, a phased implementation of the electronic form of procedures for tendering and competitive bidding in the field of public procurement is planned.

Under the Ministry of Finance, a new electronic public procurement operator "XT - XARID TEXNOLOGIYALARI" has been organized in the form of a joint venture, and an information system has been developed for conducting an e-tender for budget and corporate procurement.

The system serves to competitive and tender bidding using the point method and the lowest price method. Customers are given the opportunity to independently choose one of the two recognized assessment methods in the world, determine the criteria by which the proposals of the applicants will be evaluated. Criteria based on quantitative indicators (number of specialists, work experience on the market, price, delivery time, etc.) will be evaluated by the system automatically, without involving human resources. Qualitative (expert) criteria will be evaluated by members of the tender commission, who will be able to work remotely.

Particular importance in the development of the system was paid to ensuring transparency and competition in tenders, combating corruption, conflicts of interest and other offenses.

The central portal of public procurement, which is the main platform of the system, is available through the address xarid.mf.uz, along with a special system for conducting e-tenders tender.mf.uz.

Currently, the Ministry of Finance is developing a schedule for the phased conversion of tender and competitive bidding by all budget and corporate customers into electronic form.

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TOURISM AND CULTURE

Bakhriddin Chustiy to publish a book about world-famous Uzbek bread

It is impossible to imagine the Uzbek table without freshly baked bread. National bread, like pilaf, is the intangible cultural heritage of our people since it also has its own history. Tourists visiting Uzbekistan always appreciate the taste of Uzbek bread and often take it with them.

A famous Uzbek cook Bakhriddin Chustiy wrote and prepared for publication a book about the famous Uzbek bread.

The national bread is baked in each region of Uzbekistan in its own way. Therefore, Bakhriddin traveled to the regions of the country to further enrich his knowledge about recipes and cooking methods of Uzbek bread and put them into one book.

According to Chustiy, the book contains recipes for more than 50 types of bread and 10 dishes, in the preparation of which it is used.

“Among them, there are long-forgotten, traditional and experimental recipes. The book contains all the information about the culture and traditions of baking bread and cooking dishes from it, as well as everything related to the bread,” the cook said.

Initially, the book will be published in Uzbek, later it is planned to be published in Russian, English and Turkish languages. A large team of professionals worked on preparing the book about an Uzbek bread for publication.

The book is almost ready for printing and will soon be published.

It is worth noting that this publication will serve to further popularize the gastronomic culture of Uzbekistan. Undoubtedly, it will contribute to the development of gastronomic tourism.

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Aziz Abdukhakimov: Online tourism will be developed in Uzbekistan

The State Committee for Tourism Development and the National PR Center under the committee are working on the launch of a new website (online-tourism.uz) that allows people to make virtual tours in Uzbekistan.

What is being done today in the field of tourism and sports during the period of stagnation associated with the coronavirus?

This question was answered by Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the State Committee for Tourism Development Aziz Abdukhakimov.

According to Aziz Abdukhakimov, the State Committee for Tourism Development is currently working to develop “online tourism”, support entrepreneurs and startups. At the same time, the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports has already been actively developing “distance sports” and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

“Currently, the State Committee for Tourism Development and its National PR Center are working on the launch of a new website that allows people to make virtual tours in Uzbekistan. This will be the first platform to offer virtual tours across Uzbekistan.

According to the plan, this site will mainly cover three areas:

For tourists. It allows people to make virtual tours throughout Uzbekistan.

Today, we are working in cooperation with museums and other tourist facilities in order to launch virtual tours. We would like to take this opportunity to involve our talented specialists working in this field, with whom we can set up online activities.

For representatives of the tourism industry. Cooperation with hotel owners and managers, tour operators, guest houses, guides, etc. will be strengthened, and work will be done to further develop the industry. Webinars on news and online observations, online guidelines will be presented. Their employment will be ensured during the crisis and beyond it.

For startups who want to implement new projects related to tourism. Here, information on new tourism development projects, startups, online consulting, etc. will be accumulated. It is planned to allocate grants to people with creative ideas to implement projects,” the chairman of the State Committee for Tourism Development said.

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Uzbekistan Railways launches high-speed freight service to Afghanistan

Uzbekistan Railways has launched the regular movement of a high-speed freight train to the Hairaton station in Afghanistan, the company said. Part of the train is reportedly formed in Tashkent, and along the way it is supplemented by freight cars sent from provinces.

While, goods are delivered in an express mode: if the previously shipped carriage reached Afghanistan in 5-6 days, now it gets to the Hairaton station in two days. A high-speed freight train will run 3 times a week.

The first high-speed freight train with 14 wagons was sent from Tashkent to Afghanistan on April 16. Along the route, 36 additional wagons with export cargo were added to it. To date, 4 trains have already been sent to Afghanistan, which together makes up 218 wagons.

Tashkent Times – tashkenttimes.uz

Aziz Abdukhakimov told how tourism business will cope with the consequences of the pandemic

The State Committee for Tourism Development has developed urgent measures to reduce the negative impact of restrictions on the tourism market of Uzbekistan and sent them to the Cabinet of Ministers. This was reported by Deputy Prime Minister Aziz Abdukhakimov.

According to him, after the quarantine in Uzbekistan ends, it is planned to subsidize startup projects in the tourism sector, including innovative business ideas, especially those of youth, and programs aimed at creating amenities for tourists.

Also, the “Discover Your Land” project will be implemented which includes involvement of local population in the process of collecting audio, photo and video materials, and on this basis registering settlements with the status of “Touristic Village”, “Touristic Mahalla” and “Touristic Neighborhood”.

“In addition, the “Plan a Travel” campaign is expected to be carried out, and the committee, together with tourism entities, takes measures to stimulate electronic systems to widely promote proposals among the population and accept online applications related to traveling in Uzbekistan after the pandemic,” Abdukhakimov said.

It is planned to hold an online contest “New business ideas for tourism”, as well as to organize the “Impressions from Uzbekistan” campaign among foreign tourists on the social networks and the “My Journey” survey among local tourists, he added.

Programs such as “Local Lore” and “Young Tourist” will also be prepared in cooperation with the National Television and Radio Company and with the assistance of guides and other specialists.

In addition, it is planned to introduce new benefits to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic.

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Single e-ticketing system to be introduced in Uzbekistan

Measures will be taken to introduce a single e-ticketing system in Uzbekistan.

The draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers “On measures to introduce a single electronic ticketing system in the Republic of Uzbekistan” has been published for discussion.

The following proposals submitted by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Transport and the State Committee for Tourism Development will be approved:

- a) creation of a single electronic ticketing portal (SETP);
- b) approval of an action plan for the establishment of a single e-ticketing portal and the creation of a national system of passenger transportation services;
- c) establishment of a single operator of SETP in the form of a limited liability company.

It was noted that the Fund for Development of Culture and Arts under the Ministry of Culture and the Single Republican Processing Center LLC are the founders of the Operator and participate in the charter capital with shares of 49% and 51%, respectively.

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Uzbekistan Airways prolongs suspension of its international flights

Uzbekistan Airways announced the cancellation of regular international flights until June 30, 2020, Trend reports citing Uzbek media.

"Return of air tickets for canceled flights of Uzbekistan Airways is carried out at the places of their purchase," the message said.

In addition, the Uzbekistan's Special Republican Commission for the preparation of a program of measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the country will make a decision on the organization of charter flights for the transfer of fellow citizens from abroad.

All airports in Uzbekistan have suspended their work, and air services was stopped from March 30.

The final decision on the opening of airports and the resumption of air service will also be taken by the Special Commission.

Earlier, within measures taken by the Government of Uzbekistan to support the economy and population of the country in the conditions of coronavirus pandemic, Uzbekistan Airways was exempted from property and land taxes. The social tax rate for the company has been reduced to one percent.

Trend News Agency – trend.az

Coronavirus significantly affects Uzbek tourism in 1Q2020

The number of foreign citizens who visited Uzbekistan for tourism in the period from January through March 2020 decreased by 12 percent compared to the same period of 2019, Trend reports citing the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan.

The number of tourists who visited Uzbekistan in the period from January through March 2020 amounted to just over 1.2 million people, the report said.

The most tourists came from the CIS countries - 1.1 million people (95.6 percent of the total), and only 53,600 people (4.4 percent) came from non-CIS countries.

The largest flow of foreign citizens to Uzbekistan was observed from the following countries: Kazakhstan - 397,600 people (32.8 percent of the total number of all arrivals), Tajikistan - 332,700 people (27.4 percent), Kyrgyzstan - 298,100 people (24.6 percent), Russia - 64,700 people (5.3 percent), Turkmenistan - 60,600 people (five percent), Azerbaijan - 2,000 people (0.2 percent) and Belarus - 1,200 people (0.1 percent).

Significant tourist flows from non-CIS countries were observed from Turkey - 13,500 (1.1 percent), South Korea - 5,200 (0.4 percent), China - 3,700 (0.3 percent), India - 3,600 (0.3 percent), Japan - 1,300 (0.1 percent) and France - 900 (less than 0.1 percent).

The inflow of tourists from abroad to Uzbekistan significantly declines due to the spread of coronavirus in the world, the report said.

Trend News Agency – trend.az

New airport of Tashkent to be located at 9 kilometers to the south

Measures will be taken to develop a draft master plan for the development of Tashkent until 2041.

The draft presidential resolution “On measures to develop a draft master plan for the development of Tashkent until 2041” has been published for discussion.

Tashkent city khokimiyat, “ToshkentboshplanLiti” SUE, “Kentsel Yenileme Merkezi A.S.” (Turkey) developed concepts of the master plan for the development of Tashkent until 2041.

In order to develop a master plan for the development of Tashkent until 2041, the main provisions of the concept will be approved by the Tashkent city khokimiyat, based on the proposed concepts and clarifying the basic indicators.

According to the main provisions of the master plan, in the long run, it is planned to locate the new Tashkent airport at 9 km to the south of the city (at 24-25 km from the city center) to improve the environment and ensure the security.

The current existing area of the airport (at 5-6 km from the center) will be reserved for partial use in the future.

kun.uz

Guest House and Hostel Owners Association established in Uzbekistan

The Guest House and Hostel Owners Association of Uzbekistan has been created to expand the activities of guest houses, hostels and other recreation areas in the country, to increase their level of professionalism, as well as to facilitate the accelerated development of the industry by enhancing the exchange of experience between them.

According to Tourism Development Committee of Uzbekistan, the main objectives of this new structure are implementation of projects and programs aimed at improving the financial, legal and information-technological literacy of family guest houses and hostels in the country; participation in development of regulatory documents and programs for regulation of guest houses and hostels; improvement of skills of the population, especially youth, in organizing and managing guest houses and hostels, as well as promoting the development of private and family entrepreneurship, which will contribute to the rapid growth of youth employment and income.

Uzbekistan National News Agency – uza.uz

Bukhara: Tourist village to be created in Vobkent

Activities on creating a tourist village are carried out in Shirin village of Bukhara’s Vobkent district.

Vobkent is one of the richest districts of Bukhara region with a high tourism potential. It is located 20 km from the city of Bukhara, along M-37 international highway.

The working group led by Deputy Khokim of the region Botirjon Shakhriyurov visits districts of the region with high tourism potential and monitors activities carried out to improve the quality of non-traditional tourism services for both foreign and local tourists.

Responsible persons are tasked to create an exemplary ethno-tourism center, organize additional tourism services and develop a 1-3-day tourist package for this village to demonstrate rural life to tourists.

In addition, work is underway in the center of the village to build Shirin Tourism Complex, which includes a supermarket, pharmacy, beauty salon, information center, sewing shop, tour operator service, post office, air ticket office, gift shop, electrical workshop, barber shop, pastry shop, family guest house, shoe repair shop, clothing store, tea house, bicycle rental and bakery. Construction activities are carried out in accordance with quarantine rules.

Uzbekistan National News Agency – uza.uz