



# Kazakhstan News Bulletin

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*Say it in Kazakh:*

*Around town:*

*How do I get to  
downtown? ---*

*Kalanyn*

*ortalygyna kalai  
zhete alamyn?*

*Is there a park*

*there? --- Ol  
zherde sayazhai  
bar ma?*

*Is there a taxi*

*stand? --- Ol  
zherde taxi turagy  
bar ma?*

## **Ethanol Production a Priority for Kazakhstan**

The Government of Kazakhstan, a country rich in oil and gas, and with large uranium reserves, has set its sights on developing yet another energy source, ethanol.

Prime Minister Daniyal Akhmetov visited a BioKhim (BioChem) plant in North Kazakhstan on August 10. It is expected to be commissioned by the end of September and start producing ethanol soon after.

North Kazakhstan is one of Kazakhstan’s three largest grain producing regions and has been since its lands were plowed under the Virgin Lands program in the 1950s. The 11.5 billion tenge BioKhim plant, co-financed by Kazakhstan’s Development Bank, will be processing the region’s abundant grains into ethanol. (US\$1=119KZT)

“The key importance of what is being done here is a harmonious transition from the primary production for a higher added value,” PM Akhmetov said. He said Kazakhstan will see dozens of new facilities like BioKhim operating within a few years.

The BioKhim plant includes a grain elevator with a capacity of 50,000 tons of grain, a mill capable of processing 910 tons of grain per day, workshops to produce gluten, for fermenting and distilling, as well as storage for 4,500 tons of liquid ethanol.

## **Third Kazakh Tanker Sets Sail for Caspian**

The third Kazakh tanker, the 12,000 ton *Aktau*, was commissioned on the Baltic Sea August 10, joining *Astana* and *Almaty* of the same class as the nucleus of Kazakhstan’s fledgling commercial fleet on the Caspian Sea.

*Aktau* was built in less than eight months at Vyborg, Russia.

Its deadweight allows it to travel from the Baltic to the Caspian via the rivers of European Russia.

It is expected the *Aktau* will be used to ship crude oil from *Aktau* on the Caspian shore to Baku in Azerbaijan as part of the *Aktau-Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan* oil transportation system.

Kazakhstan officially joined the ABTC system in June 2006 with the signing of a bilateral access agreement with Azerbaijan.



**Oleg Maskaev set for Vegas  
bout on Aug 12. See page 2**

## **“Better Be Active, Than Radioactive”**

Children in Almaty commemorated the anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings on August 6 and 9 with a drawing contest in a central park followed by the feeding of doves.

The event, “Better Be Active, Than Radioactive”, was organized by The Choice of the Young, a nongovernmental organization seeking to educate young people on important issues of the day. Its activists also pasted colorful “No Nuclear Weapons” stickers all over Almaty urging people to remember the tragedy in Japan and think of the problems of nuclear weapons today.

Kazakhstan will commemorate its own grim nuclear weapons legacy on August 29, the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in eastern Kazakhstan. The Soviet Union detonated 456 nuclear and thermonuclear devices there damaging the lives of 1.3 million people.

## **Law Enforcement Battles Drug Trafficking**

Kazakhstan’s law enforcement agencies have seized almost 6,700 kilograms of drugs in the first half of this year, including 106 kilograms of heroin, reflecting the growing problems of both domestic and Afghanistan based drug trafficking. The news was made public by the Committee on the fight against drug trafficking in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Police have disrupted the activities of eight criminal groups, and uncovered 120 cases of contraband. More than 3,700 people, including 200 foreign nationals, were charged with crimes related to drug trafficking during this period. Overall, 5,070 drug related crimes were registered.

## **New Orthodox Cathedral, Mosques, and Palace of Peace As Second Religious Congress in Astana Nears**

The construction of the Cathedral of St. Andrew the First Called is nearing completion in Ust-Kamenogorsk, the administrative center of the East Kazakhstan Region.

The construction project launched in 2000 is estimated at 168 million tenge. There was only one other Russian Orthodox Church in East Kazakhstan until recently, the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Semipalatinsk. The region also has a monastery and a convent.

At the same time, two new mosques are being raised in East Kazakhstan near Semipalatinsk. The mosques are being financed by the private contributions.

Meanwhile, the Palace of Peace, a tall glass and concrete building is nearing completion in Astana. It will be the scene of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions next month. The first congress in September 2003 brought together 120 leaders from 17 different religions, including Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, and Shinto.

## **Things to Watch:**

- Kazakhstan born Oleg Maskaev, now of Staten Island, NY, will take on Hasim “The Rock” Rahman of Baltimore, MD, for the boxing heavyweight championship in an August 12 bout at Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The bout will be broadcast on HBO’s Pay-Per-View.
- The first monument to The Beatles in the former Soviet Union will be dedicated in Almaty on September 8, 2006. A group of Kazakh fans initiated the idea which has since received the support of the surviving Beatles, the British Council, and Kazakh authorities.
- The 2nd Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana on September 12-14.

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