



WHO'S WHO IN IRAD

2026-27

THIRTY-FIRST EDITION

THE TALAS HERALD

TALAS

WHO'S WHO IN IRAD

2026-27

*A biographical dictionary of notable Iradis
of the present day, with a Historical Section
of those whose deaths have been recorded*

THIRTY-FIRST EDITION

Compiled and edited by the staff of
THE TALAS HERALD

HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Thirty-first edition, revised to 1 October 2026

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PREFACE

Who's Who in Irad first appeared in 1995, when the Herald was two years old and the territory had a legislature, a governor and a great many new names that our readers wanted to put faces to. It has appeared every year since, with the single exception of 2007. This is the thirty-first edition.

Its purpose is unchanged: to give, in a small compass, the plain facts of the lives of men and women whose work or office makes them of public interest in Irad, wherever they live. Inclusion is decided by the editors alone. It is not bought, it cannot be refused, and it implies neither praise nor blame. The book records offices held; it does not judge how they were held.

Each June the editors send a questionnaire to everyone entered in the previous edition and to those proposed for the first time. Most entries are printed as the biographees returned them, shortened to the house style. Where no questionnaire came back, the editors have compiled the entry from public records, court lists, the Official Gazette and the files of the Herald; such entries are marked with a dagger (†) and are usually short. A biographee who wishes to correct or extend an entry is asked to write to the editors, and will receive a questionnaire in good time for the next edition. The facts are given as at 1 October 2026.

Entries are made under the name by which a person is known in public life. Where the Soviet registration of a surname differs, it is given after the date of birth. Those who use the patronymic form (*uulu,kyzy*) are entered under their own given name, so that BEKTUR Zhumabek uulu will be found among the B's. The letters *ı, ñ, ö* and *ü* are filed with *i, n, o* and *u*.

The **Historical Section** at the back of the book contains Iradis whose deaths have been recorded, from the founders of the modern state to the artists of the last century, together with those removed from the main list since the previous edition. The editors are always glad to hear of a death that has escaped them.

Portraits are reproduced from photographs supplied by the biographees or held in the Herald's library.

The editors thank the many readers, offices and institutions that sent corrections in the past year, and the staff of the Herald's library, without whom the book could not be made.

Elmira Beishenova, Editor, The Talas Herald
Talas, October 2026

ABBREVIATIONS AND SIGNS

ATR	Autonomous Tribal Regions
Cand. Sc.	Candidate of Sciences (Soviet doctorate)
D.Sc.	Doctor of Sciences
DPI	Democratic Party of Irad
DRI	Democratic Republic of Irad (2006–07)
F.C.	Football Club
IAC	Iradi Freedom Society (Iradin Azatlık Cemiyeti)
ISEZ	Iradi Special Economic Zone
ISSR	Iradi Soviet Socialist Republic
LL.M.	Master of Laws
q.v.	which see (an entry of that name in this book)
TSU	Talas State University (formerly Iradi State University)
†	entry compiled by the editors

HOW TO READ AN ENTRY

Each entry opens with the name in bold, the surname in capitals, followed by the present office or calling. Then come, where known, the date and place of birth, parents, marriage, children, education, career, publications or works, decorations, clubs and recreations, religion and an address for correspondence. Dates are given in full where the biographee has supplied them, and as a year where only the year is a matter of record. An address is not necessarily a residence.

The Herald regrets that it cannot forward letters to biographees, or say why a name does not appear. A name may be absent because its bearer has left public life, because the editors have not yet been able to confirm the facts, or because space is limited.

ABDRASULOV, Daniyar. Deputy Director, Customs Service, 2013–22. Born 1971. Customs officer, Chu Gate crossing, territorial period; in charge of the northern crossings and the Talas North Terminal, 2013–22; resigned 2022. Party: DPI. Address: Talas.

ABDYKERIMOV, Mar Narsai. Bishop of the Chatkal Highlands since 2010 (no fixed seat; visits the highland parishes on horseback, spring to autumn). Born Chatkal Highlands, 1962. Education: St. Ephrem Major Seminary, Iyık Janyl, 1992–97. Career: priest of the highland parishes from 1997. Address: Iyık Janyl.



Aikokul Tursunbek kyzy

AIKOKUL Tursunbek kyzy. Writer and teacher. Born Talas, 1985. Daughter of a teacher of Iradi in the Old City; her mother (1954–2014) was of the Kara-Unkur valley. Education: Talas State University (Iradi philology). Teacher of Iradi and Russian, Talas, since 2008; contributor to the culture pages of The Talas Herald since 2011. Publications: On Eki Chakrym (Twelve Kilometres), stories, Arsha Books, 2015 (English, 2016); "Bazaar Chubar", revised, 2019. Address: c/o Arsha Books, Talas.

AKMATALIEVA, Col. Asel. Director, Passport and Residence Service, Ministry of Internal Security, since 2016. Born Talas, 1972. Education: Talas State University (law), 1994. Career: passport desk, Talas city militia, from 1995; deputy head of the Service, 2008–16. Married; two children. Address: Passport and Residence Service, Talas.



Mrs. B. Akylova

AKYLOVA, Burulai. Secretary of Public Information since 2016. Born Talas, 1969. Joined IradOne at its creation, 1993; news editor, IradOne, 1994–2011; Deputy Secretary of the DPI, 2011–16. Address: Department of Public Information, Government House, Talas.

ALIMJANOV, Rustam. Banker; Lieutenant Governor of the Territory of Irad, 6 January 2003 – 9 December 2006. Born Iyık Janyl, 1958. Running mate of Governor Nurgul Abdrakhmanova, 2002 and 2006. Resident in Almaty since 2007. Address: Almaty.

ALMAZ Samat uulu. Freestyle wrestler; competes for Kazakhstan since 2019; medals at Asian level. Born Kara-Buura District, 1997.

AMANOV, Serik. Painter. Born Talas, 1965. Works shown at the Irad Palace of Art, autumn 2026. Address: Talas.

ARUUKE Temir kyzy. Singer; leader of Karakush (Kök Ay Media), formed Talas, 2018. Born Talas, 1999. Children's choir of the Irad Palace of Art. Recordings: "Ak Börü", 2021. Address: c/o Kök Ay Media, Talas.

ARYSTANOV, Marat. Sculptor. Born 1958. Works: Echoes of the Ancients, 1989 (Irad Palace of Art).

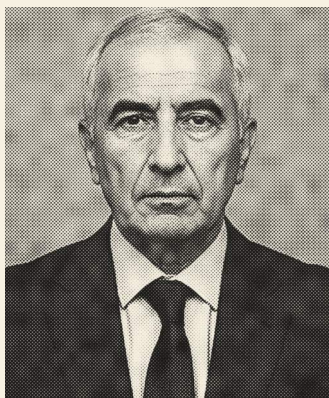
†ASAN, Begimai. Footballer (midfielder); captain of the women's national team since 2019. Registered Asanova. Address: Talas.

ASANALIEVA, Dr. Cholpon. Editor-in-Chief, Talas State University Press, since 2010. Born Talas, 1963. Education: Talas State University (philology), 1985; Cand. Sc., 1993. Career: lecturer in Iradi literature from 1986. Married; two children. Address: Talas State University Press, Talas.

ASANBAEV, Erkin. Mayor of Talas since 2015. Born Talas, 1967. Education: Frunze Polytechnic

Institute (architecture), 1989. Career: Talas city architecture and planning department from 1990; head of land and building permits, 2003–10; deputy mayor for construction, 2010–15. Liberty Boulevard redevelopment, 2016–19. Married; three children. Address: Talas City Hall, Talas.

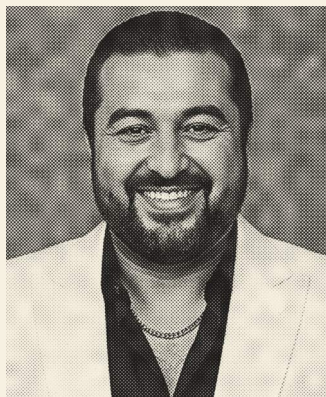
ASANBEKOVA, Nazgul. Executive Director, Anara Toktarova Children's Fund, since 2012. Born Talas, 1979. Education: Talas State University, 2001. Career: Talas city social welfare department, 2001–08; programme manager of the Fund, 2008–12. Married; two children. Address: 47 Liberty Boulevard, Talas.



C. Asanov

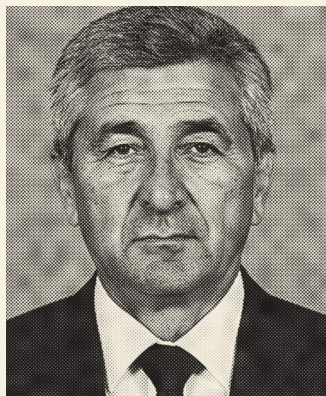
ASANOV, Chingiz. Minister of Natural Resources since 2016. Born 1963. Education: Frunze Polytechnic Institute (mining engineering). Sary-Bulak Antimony Works from 1985, chief engineer 2001; Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, 2009–16. Introduced the revised royalty schedule for stibnite concentrate, 2018. Address: Ministry of Natural Resources, Talas.

ATAKANOV, Maj-Gen. Ruslan. Chief of the General Staff, State Defence Corps, since 2020. Born 1968. Education: George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch, 2004. Address: General Staff, Talas.



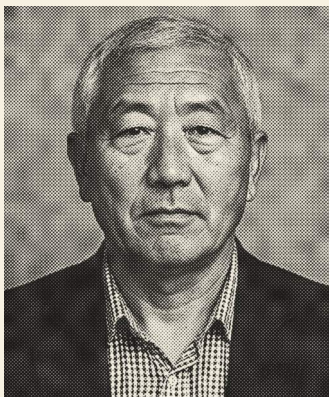
N. Baisalov

BAISALOV, Nurlan. Founder and Chief Executive, Jarysh Entertainment Group; known as "Nurik". Born Talas, 1979. Opened Club Doran, Talas, 2004; holiday sales, Antalya, and boxing promotion, Almaty; returned to Talas 2014; founded Jarysh Entertainment Group and the jarysh.com website, 2017; holds the entertainment concession at the Irad State Hippodrome (Aigyr Ulak Nights) since 2018. Address: Irad State Hippodrome, Talas.



T. Baitikov

BAITIKOV, Toktosun. General Director, Iraden-ergo, since 2016. Born Kobozev, 1962. Chief engineer, Toktogul Hydroelectric Complex. Address: Iraden-ergo, Talas.

**Z. Bakiev**

BAKIEV, Zamirbek. Farmer and organiser of farming cooperatives, Kara-Buura District. Born 1970. Education: Talas State University (history). Led the students' occupation of Central Square, Talas, January 1992; member, youth committee of the Provisional Government, 1992; Member of the Territorial Senate, 1994–2000; sponsored the university self-government act, 1996. Address: Kara-Buura District.

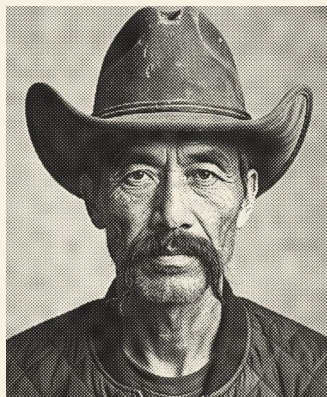
†**BAKIROV, Mar Yuhanna.** Archbishop of Ilyk Janyl, December 1992 – 2012, the first to be named since 1938; retired 2012. Address: Ilyk Janyl.

BEISHEMBIEV, Mirlan. Director, Irad Gidromet (Hydrometeorological Service), since 2010. Born Talas, 1958. Education: Leningrad Hydrometeorological Institute, 1981. Career: observer, later head, Talas weather station, 1981–91; deputy director, 1998–2010. Co-author, TSU–Gidromet study of the Talas climate, 2022. Married; two children. Address: Irad Gidromet, Talas.

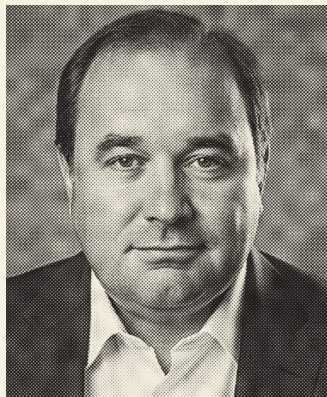
BEISHENOVA, Elmira. Editor, The Talas Herald, since 2009. Courts reporter, The Talas Herald. Address: The Talas Herald, Talas.

BEKBOLOTOVA, Cholponai. Director, Education Quality Agency, since 2020. Born Talas, 1972. Lecturer in pedagogy, Talas State University. Address: Education Quality Agency, Talas.

BEKMURATOVA, Gulzat. Chairman, Public Integrity Commission, since 2019. Born 1969. Formerly Registrar, Supreme Court. Address: Public Integrity Commission, Talas.

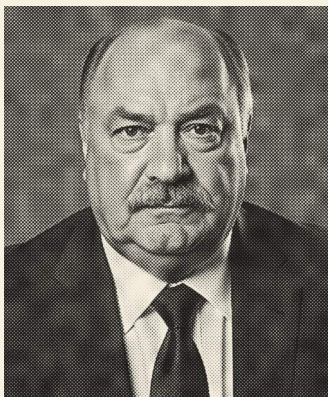
**Bektur Zhumabek uulu**

BEKTUR Zhumabek uulu. Hereditary biy of the Tanıp; spokesman of the Iradi Freedom Society. Born at a summer camp in the upper Kara-Suu valley, Talas Alatau, 15 August 1968; registered Bektur Zhumabekov. Son of Zhumabek Asanly uulu (1934–2001), herdsman and brigade leader of a state livestock farm, and Zuura Tashtan kyzy, of the Akjele. Children: Nurbolot (q.v.) and others. Education: Russian-language boarding school, district centre. Commanded the clan militias of the Popular Front of Irad, 2007; led the Iradi Freedom Society delegation at the Bilateral Reunification Summit, 2011. Prefers the style elchi (ambassador) or ortomchu (negotiator). Address: Upper Kara-Suu valley.

**E. Bekzatov**

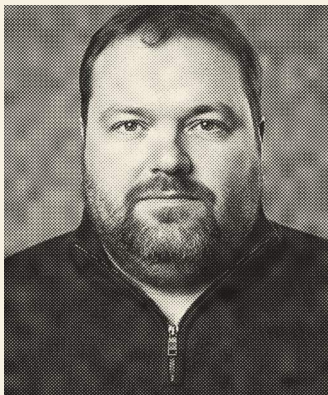
BEKZATOV, Emil. Executive Vice-President, NurGaz (pipeline logistics and Kazakh crude contracts). Born 1975. Eldest son of Kamran Bekzatov (q.v.). Education: Gubkin Institute, Moscow (petroleum economics), 1997. Joined NurGaz 1998; has run the Northern Export Feeder (85 km, Nurzhan to the KazTransOil net-

work near Shymkent) since its opening in 2000. Address: NurGaz, Nurzhan.



K. Bekzatov

BEKZATOV, Kamran. President, NurGaz (Nurzhan Oil and Gas Company), since 1993. Born Kobozev (now Nurzhan), 28 January 1951. Son of Rashid Bekzatov, chief engineer of the Kobozev Heavy Machine Plant (now Nurzhanmash), and Valentina Bekzatova, physician at the city polyclinic. Children: Emil, Rustam, Asel (all q.v.). Education: Russian-language schools, Kobozev; Gubkin Moscow Institute of the Petrochemical and Gas Industry (petroleum reservoir engineer), 1974. West Siberian oilfields, USSR Ministry of the Oil Industry, 1974–88; returned to the Kobozev field; President of NurGaz from its privatisation, 1993. Address: NurGaz, Nurzhan.



R. Bekzatov

BEKZATOV, Rustam. President, Neftchi Nurzhan F.C., since 2009. Born 1979. Son of Kamran Bekzatov (q.v.). Manages the road and rail tanker fleet of the Bekzatov group (refined fuel

to the ISEZ and southern Kazakhstan). Address: Neftchi Nurzhan, Nurzhan.



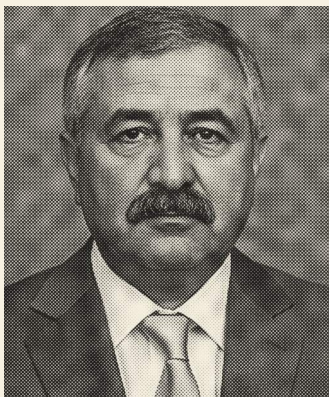
Miss A. Bekzatova

BEKZATOVA, Asel. Founder and Director, Nurzhan Contemporary Arts Foundation, since 2010 (scholarships for young musicians, a summer school, concerts in former industrial buildings of Nurzhan). Born 1983. Daughter of Kamran Bekzatov (q.v.). Address: Nurzhan Contemporary Arts Foundation, Nurzhan.



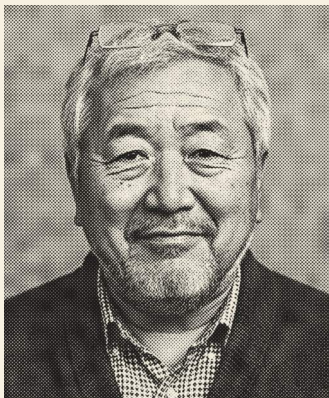
Biybolot Moldosh uulu

BIYBOLOT Moldosh uulu. Aksakal of the Karakoyun; gives the opening blessing (bata) of the Kurultai since 2015. Born Kara-Koyun Valley, 1944; registered Biybolot Moldoshev. Keeper of the clans' oral genealogies (sanjyra). Member of the Iradi Freedom Society delegation, Bilateral Reunification Summit, 2011; adviser to the tribal delegation, Joint Liaison Committee, Kara-Oi, since 2008; negotiated the release of three survey workers in the Kara-Koyun Valley, 2014; mediator of the settlement of the Long Kurultai, 2022. Address: Kara-Koyun Valley.

**D. Borubaev**

BORUBAEV, Daniyar. Chairman, Territorial Election Commission, since 2011. Born Talas, 1963. Formerly teacher of mathematics. Joined the Commission's staff 1996; Secretary of the Commission, 1998–2010. Address: Territorial Election Commission, Talas.

DANIYAR, Aigul. Journalist, Steppe Investigative Network, since 2014 (mining and pollution). Born 1979; registered Daniyarova. Address: Talas.

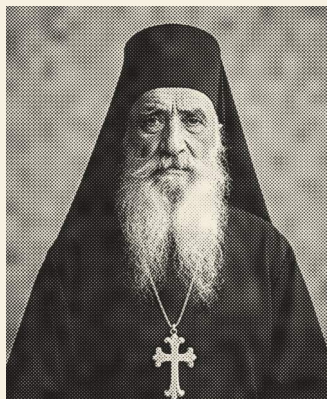
**B. Daniyar**

DANIYAR, Bolotbek. Managing Editor, Irad Times, since 2001. Born 1964; registered Daniyarov. Under his editorship the paper published the documents on the planned sale of state oil, grain and mining assets, December 2006 – January 2007, and printed the partition drafts in a special edition, 26 February 2007. Address: Irad Times, Printers' Lane 3, Talas.

†DÖÖLÖTBEK Ashym uulu. Bii of the highland Chubar; holds the clan's seat at the Kurultai. Born 1957. Religion: Christian. Address: Arslanbob.

DUISHENKULOVA, Gulnara. Deputy Speaker of the Mejlis since 2019; Member for Kara-Buura since 2011. Born Kara-Buura District, 1970. Education: Kyrgyz Agricultural Institute, Frunze, 1992. Career: agronomist, Kara-Buura district agriculture office, 1992–2011; chairman, Agriculture and Water Committee of the Mejlis, 2015–19. Party: DPI. Married; three children. Address: Mejlis, Talas.

DZHUMAGULOVA, Venera. Director, Irad Palace of Art, since 2011. Born 1968. Education: Talas State University (art history). Founded the Palace's Young Artists Grant, 2014. Address: Irad Palace of Art, Iyik Janyl.

**Mar Ephrem**

EPHREM, Mar. Archbishop of Iyik Janyl and Metropolitan of the Syro-Iradi Catholic Church since 2012. Born in the Talas valley, 1955. Ordained priest in secret, 1981. Studied at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, after 1992; Bishop of Talas, 2004–12; proposed by the Council of Hierarchs and appointed by the Holy See, 2012, in succession to Mar Yuhanna Bakirov (q.v.); enthroned at the Church of St. Janyl. Styled His Grace. Address: The Archbishop's House, Iyik Janyl.

ERMEK, Nazgul. Co-founder, with Talant Imanaliev (q.v.), of Arsha Books, Talas, 2009. Former teacher; registered Ermekova. Address: Arsha Books, Köhne Diz, Talas.

ERMEKOV, Kanat. President, Football Federation of Irad, since 2012. Born Talas, 1965. Defender, Tulpar Talas, 1984–99; national side. Youth coach, Tulpar Talas, 2000–08; General Secretary of the Federation, 2008–12. Married; three children. Address: Football Federation of Irad, Talas.

ESENOV, Mederbek. Founder, Kuble Soft, Talas (as the Kuble computing cooperative, 1988; private company from 1993). Education: Iradi

State University (mathematics). Author of most of Kuble's programs, among them Köch: The Road to Iyık Janyl. Address: Talas.

ESHMATOV, Kubanych. President, Irad Olympic Committee, since 2010. Born 1958. Formerly wrestler. Address: Irad Olympic Committee, TSU Stadium, Talas.

HENDRICKS, Margaret. Journalist; co-founder of The Talas Herald (1993) and its Managing Editor, 1993–2001. Born in the United States. Covered Operation Starlight and the siege of Talas for a Chicago newspaper, 1992.



J. Ilyasov

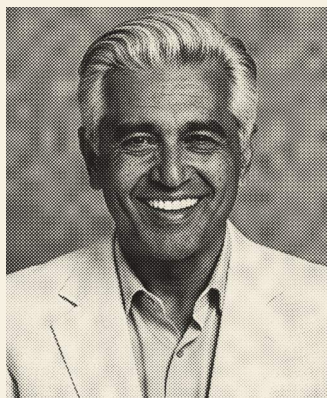
ILYASOV, Jason. Founder and Chief Executive, Tulpar Technologies; founder, Liberty Forum of Irad; commentator. Born Chicago, Illinois, 19 March 1988. Son of Marat Ilyasov, hydrologist, of Talas, and Dinara Ilyasova, nurse. Family returned to Talas 1989 and resettled in Chicago 1992. Panellist on IradOne opinion programmes since 2016; author of the blog The Steppe Frontier and of the Head Start column (2026); launched the Tulpar messaging and classifieds application, 2019. Address: Tulpar Technologies, Talas.

IMANALIEV, Talant. Co-founder, with Nazgul Ermek (q.v.), of Arsha Books, Talas, 2009 (poetry, stories and songs in Iradi, Russian and English). Former teacher. Address: Arsha Books, Köhne Diz, Talas.

IMANKULOVA, Cholpon. Head of the administration of Talas District since 2016. Born Talas District, 1968. Education: Talas State University (economics), 1990. Career: district finance office, 1990–2009; deputy head of the district administration, 2009–16. Married; two children. Address: District Administration, Talas.

IMASHEV, Taalaibek. Head of the administration of Sary-Bulak District since 2015. Born Sary-Bu-

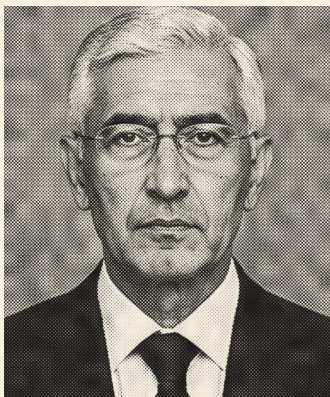
lak, 1960. Education: Frunze Polytechnic Institute (mining), 1982. Career: Sary-Bulak Antimony Works, 1982–2004 (mine section chief from 1994); Sary-Bulak town administration, 2004–15. Married; five children. Address: District Administration, Sary-Bulak.



Rev. N. Isabekov

ISABEKOV, Rev. Nathan. Founder and Senior Pastor, Faithful and True Church, Talas (1999), and Faithful and True TV. Born Nurlan Isabekov, Talas, 1967. Son of a driver at the city motor depot and a nurse. Family emigrated 1976 and settled in Chicago, 1977. Married Rebecca, of Texas. Children: three. Education: Bible college, Texas; ordained 1990. Missions to Irad from 1993; settled in Talas 1999; opened the church's auditorium (about 6,000 seats) on the Trans-Talas Highway, Easter 2006; presenter of The Rider Is Coming since 2002. Publication: The Mark Is Lifted, 2005. Recreations: breeding Akyel horses. Addresses: Faithful and True Church, Talas; Nineteen-Eleven Ranch, Bandera County, Texas.

ISAIEVA, Nazira. Glaciologist. Born Talas, 1976. Education: Talas State University (geography), 1998; Cand. Sc., Institute of Geography, Moscow, 2005. Career: Manas Peak observatory since 2006 (scientific head from 2016); lecturer, Talas State University. Married; one daughter. Address: Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences, Talas State University, Talas.

**D. Isakov**

ISAKOV, Dastan. Jurist; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Irad, 1999–2007. Born 1946. Education: Kazakh State University, Alma-Ata (law), 1969. State arbitration lawyer, Kobozev; one of the first justices of the Supreme Court, November 1992; Chief Justice from 1999; wrote the majority opinion in the Statutory Independence Ruling, December 2006. Retired from the court, 2007.

JUNUS, Kunduz. Linguist, Department of Iradi Language and Literature, Talas State University. Born Talas, 1962; registered Zhunusova. Recorded darbaza tili, the pidgin of the gates of Talas Air Base, 1999–2002. Address: Talas State University, Talas.

KADIR, Arman. Sculptor in bronze. Born Shymkent, 1960. Resident in Talas since 1993. Works: Defenders of Talas memorial, 1997. Address: Talas.

KADYRBEKOV, Ulan. Co-founder, Köch Audio, Bishkek, 2016. Born Talas, 1984. Sound engineer, IradOne radio, 2006–14. Resident in Bishkek since 2014. Address: Köch Audio, Bishkek.

KADYRKULOV, Nurbek. Chairman of the Management Board, Talasbank, since 2014. Born Talas, 1971. Education: Talas State University (economics), 1993. Career: Talasbank from 1994; head of cards, 2005–11; Finance Director, 2011–14. Married; two children. Address: Talasbank, Silk Road Financial Tower, Talas.

**Mrs. A. Kalbaeva**

KALBAEVA, Aikerim. Minister of Labour and Social Protection since 2021. Born Talas, 1969. Economist; State Pension Fund from 1996, later its deputy head. Address: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Talas.

KALMATOVA, Gulzat. Co-founder, Kuble Soft, Talas, 1988; managed the company; drew the pictures of Köch, 1990. Address: Talas.

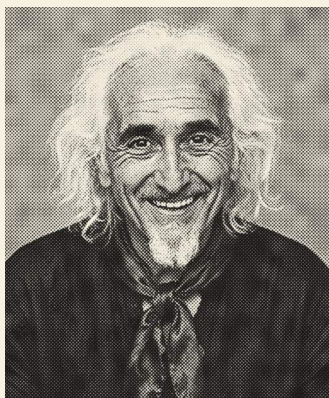
**Miss A. Kalysbek**

KALYSBEK, Aiperi. Chief Technology Officer, Tulpar Technologies. Born 1991; registered Kalysbekova. Education: Talas State University (computer science). Led the team of six graduates that wrote the first version of the Tulpar application, 2018–19; responsible for its Iradi interface, low-data mode (2025) and wallet. Address: Tulpar Technologies, Talas.

KAMCHIEV, Taiyr. Director, National Equestrian Sports Directorate, since 2012. Born Talas, 1963. Formerly ulak player and steward of the Irad State Hippodrome. Address: Irad State Hippodrome, Talas.

KANATBEK Niyaz uulu. Judge of customary law (adat), Chatkal Highlands; elder of the Autonomous Tribal Grazing Arbitration Tribunal. Born 1950; registered Kanatbek Niyazov. Settled the shared summer pastures dispute by a rotation agreement, 2016. Address: Chatkal.

†KANYBEK Asan uulu. Chairman of the Board, Talas Valley Milk Cooperative and Talas Dairy Processing Combine (Talas Süt). Farmer, Orto-Ayyıl. Address: Orto-Ayyıl.



B. Karimov

KARIMOV, Beknur. Film director and painter. Born Kobozev (now Nurzhan), 9 August 1941, of a family of oil-field engineers. Education: Kobozev art college (scenic painting); Higher Courses for Scriptwriters and Directors, Moscow, 1968–70. Set designer, Talasfilm Studios, from 1961. Films: Tuz (Salt), 1973; Zalmax's Dominion, 1977. Barred from film-making, 1983; video works since 1992. Address: Talas.

KASSYMOV, Arman. Chairman, Union of Afghan War Veterans of Irad, since 2015. Born Nurzhan, 1961. Paratrooper; wounded, Afghanistan, 1981. Address: Union of Afghan War Veterans, Nurzhan.

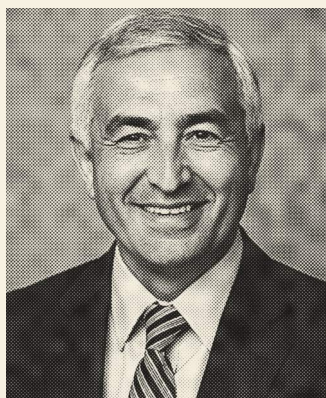


S. Kasymov

KASYMOV, Samat. Director-General, Attelkom, since 2013. Born 1968. Education: Kobozev Polytechnic Institute (now Nurzhan Polytechnic Institute), radio engineering. Joined Attelkom 1997 as an engineer on its first GSM network in Talas; Technical Director, 2008–13. Introduced 4G/LTE service in the three cities, 2016. Address: Attelkom, Talas.

KENESBAY, Dr. Damira. Paediatrician; leader of Taza Suu (tap-water testing, since 2021). Born Talas, 1979; registered Kenesbaeva. Children's polyclinic, outer districts of Talas, since 2006. Candidate for Governor, 2023 (third place). Address: Talas.

KENJEBEKOV, Fr. Gewargis. Rector, Cathedral of St. Janyl, Iyık Janyl, since 2014. Born Iyık Janyl, 1967. Education: St. Ephrem Major Seminary, 1990–95. Career: priest of the cathedral from 1995. Address: Cathedral of St. Janyl, Iyık Janyl.



N. Kenjeev

KENJEEV, Nathan. Director, External Relations Office, Office of the Governor, since 2008. Born

Chicago, 1962. Caseworker for Iradi émigrés in a Senate constituency office, Chicago, 1987–93; returned to Irad 1993; protocol officer, Office of the territorial Governor, 1994–2006. Address: Government House, Talas.

KHOLMATOV, Alisher. Head of the administration of Lower Naryn District since 2019. Born Tash-Kömür, 1971. Education: Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Melioration, 1993. Career: Lower Naryn water users' association, 1994–2011 (chairman from 2003); deputy head of the district administration, 2011–19. Married; three children. Address: District Administration, Tash-Kömür.

KHUDOIIBERDIEV, Navruz. Director, Heritage Protection Service, since 2010. Born Talas, 1963. Archaeologist, Talas State University; led the works at Rabat-i-Safed for the Silk Roads listing, 2014. Address: Heritage Protection Service, Talas.

KIM, Mar Yakob. Bishop of Nurzhan since 2013. Born Kobozev, 1966. Education: St. Ephrem Major Seminary, Iyik Janyl, 1993–98. Career: priest, Nurzhan, from 1998. Address: Bishop's House, Nurzhan.



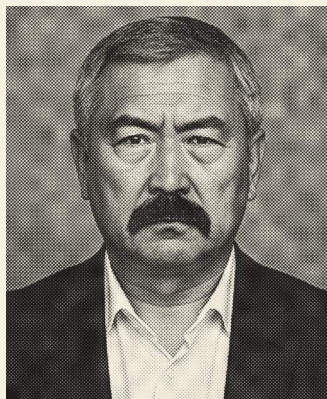
Klara Zhumabek kyzy

KLARA Zhumabek kyzy. Founder and leader, Ak Kiyiz felt cooperative (about thirty village workshops of the Talas Alatau). Born 1972. Daughter of Zhumabek Asanally uulu (1934–2001); sister of Bektur Zhumabek uulu (q.v.). Founded Ak Kiyiz in the upper Kara-Suu valley, 2005 (shyrdak carpets and felt goods, sold in Talas and to fair-trade importers abroad). Speaks for women's part in clan assemblies and against bride kidnapping. Address: Upper Kara-Suu valley.

KLYMENKO, Bohdan. Member of the Mejlis for Nurzhan (civic list) since 2023. Born Nurzhan, 1975. Design engineer, Nurzhanmash. Address: The Mejlis, Talas.

KOVALENKO, Nadezhda. Head, State Tax Service, Ministry of Economy, since 2017. Born Kobozev, 1966. Education: Novosibirsk Institute of National Economy, 1988. Career: accountant, Kobozev city finance department, 1988–93; auditor, territorial revenue office, 1993–2008; head of audit, State Tax Service, 2009–17. Widow; one son. Address: State Tax Service, Talas.

KOZLOV, Artem. Chief Engineer, Chatkal Chemical Smelting Complex, since 2014. Born 1970. Education: Nurzhan Polytechnic Institute (metallurgy), 1992. Joined the Complex 1993; directed the rebuilding of its roasting furnaces and the sulphur-dioxide capture unit, commissioned 2018. Address: Chatkal Chemical Smelting Complex, Sary-Bulak District.



Kubanychbek Toktobolot uulu

KUBANYCHBEK Toktobolot uulu. Secretary (katchi) of the Chancellery of the Iradi Freedom Society since 2016. Born 1954, in the Talas valley. Co-founder, with Tilek Sharshenov (q.v.), of the Jer-Suu Party, Talas, March 1995 (banned 2008). As secretary heads a staff of some forty clerks, interpreters and couriers and convenes the Kurultai on the Aksay Plateau. Address: Aksay Plateau.

**Dr. J. Kubatova**

KUBATOVA, Dr. Jamila. Minister of Health since March 2025. Born Talas, 1967. Education: Kyrgyz State Medical Institute, Frunze, 1990. Paediatrician, Regional Hospital, Talas, from 1990, through the siege of 1992; in charge of its children's wards to 2007; Deputy Chief Physician from 2014. Address: Ministry of Health, Talas.

KUDAIBERDI, Elnura. Novelist. Born 1979; registered Kudaiberdieva. Publication: *Siege Winter*, New York, 2005. Resident abroad.

KUDAIBERGENOV, Col. Marat. Head, Corrections Directorate, Ministry of Internal Security, since 2018. Born Kobozev, 1965. Career: officer, Talas colony, from 1992; governor of the colony, 2006–10; deputy head of the Directorate, 2010–18. Married; two children. Address: Corrections Directorate, Talas.

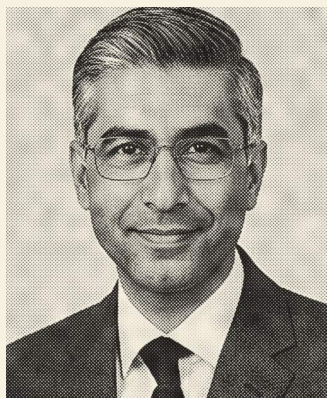
KURMANALIEVA, Aidana. Head, Digital Services Directorate, Department of Infrastructure and Communications, since 2021. Born Talas, 1986. Education: Talas State University (computer science), 2008. Career: programmer, Kuble Soft, 2008–14; Attelkom, 2014–21. In charge of the e-Irad pilot (2026). Address: e-Government Service Centre, 14 Liberty Boulevard, Talas.

**Mrs. S. Kuznetsova**

KUZNETSOVA, Sofya. Director of Energy since 2019. Born Kobozev, 1968. Education: Moscow Power Engineering Institute, 1991. Dispatch engineer, Toktogul; deputy chief, National Dispatch Centre, Iradenergo. Address: Department of Energy, Talas.

LANZETTI, Mgr. Ottavio. Apostolic Delegate in Irad since 2021. Born Italy, 1958. Diplomatic service of the Holy See. Address: Apostolic Delegation, Talas.

LISITSYN, Gennady. Director, Ak-Kyr Cement Works, since 2012. Born Kobozev, 1962. Address: Ak-Kyr Cement Works, Sary-Bulak District.

**A. Maksat**

MAKSAT, Aidar. Lieutenant Governor of the Irad Special Economic Zone since 25 November 2019. Born Kobozev (now Nurzhan), 3 November 1980; registered Aidar Maksatov. Son of Bolat Maksatov, metallurgical engineer, later chief metallurgist of the Chatkal Antimony Processing Mill, and Saule Maksatova, teacher of chemistry at the

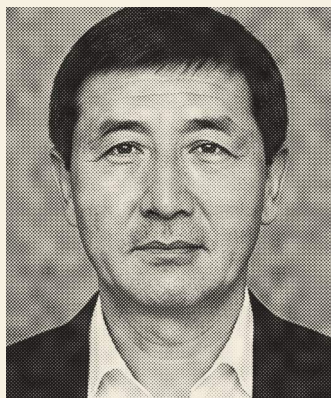
mill's technical lyceum. Married 2008 Zara Toktarova (q.v.). Education: Talas State University (civil engineering), 2002; London School of Economics (M.Sc. Public Policy and Administration), 2005, on a territorial scholarship. Municipal infrastructure, Talas, from 2005; directed the reconstruction of the city's water-treatment works; member of the regulatory board for Attelkom. Elected on the Governor's ticket, 2019. Party: DPl. Address: Government House, Talas.

†MAMADALIEV, Abdumalik. Head of the elders' council (aksakal kengeshi) of the lowland Chubar. Born 1952. Walnut trader, Bazar-Korgon. Led the lowland Chubar into the ISEZ by the Bazar-Korgon declaration, August 2007. Religion: Muslim. Address: Bazar-Korgon.

MAMATOVA, Aizhan. Director-General, Irad Pochtasy, since 2014. Born Kobozev, 1968. Communications engineer. Address: Irad Pochtasy, Talas.

MAMBETALIEV, Gen. Talant. Minister of Internal Security since 2012. Born 1963. Soviet militia; territorial police; brigade commander, Republican Gendarmerie, 2007; general of the Gendarmerie. Address: Ministry of Internal Security, Talas.

MAMYTBKOVA, Judge Asel. Judge, Talas District Court, since 2014. Born Talas, 1975. Education: Talas State University (law), 1997. Career: public defender, Talas, 1998–2008; Legal Defense Guild, 2009–14. Married; two children. Address: Talas District Court, Talas.



A. Medetov

MEDETOV, Arstan. Director of Infrastructure and Communications since 2021. Born Talas, 1975. Education: Talas State University (physics), 1997. Network engineer, Attelkom, 1998–2012; Deputy Director of the Department from 2012; Acting Director, 2019–21. Address: Department of Infrastructure and Communications, Talas.

MIRONENKO, Oleg. General Director, Nurzhandorstroy (Nurzhan Road Construction). Born Kobozev, 1966. Roads engineer, NurGaz, to 2010. Address: Nurzhandorstroy, Nurzhan.

MOLDOEV, Rabban Sargis. Superior General, Order of St. Janyl the Hermit (men's and women's branches; motherhouse below Cathedral Hill and ten dependent houses), since 2011. Born 1955. Entered the Order, 1993; novice master, 2000–11. Address: The Motherhouse, Iyik Janyl.

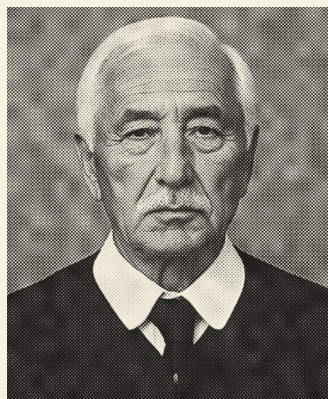
MOLDOKMATOV, Dr. Kalys. Director, Talas State University Press, since 2009. Born 1956. Formerly editor, Ilim. Address: Talas State University Press, Talas.

MUKANOV, Aidos. Sculptor. Born 1951. Works: The Great Khan (sandstone), 1996 (Irad Palace of Art).

MUKASHEV, Uzakbai. Director, Talas River Hydrological Monitoring Service, since 2013. Born Bazar-Korgon, 1970. Hydrologist; led the glacier inventory of 2014–18 with the World Glacier Monitoring Service, Zurich. Address: Talas River Hydrological Monitoring Service, Talas.

MURATBEKOVA, Eliza. Chess player; Woman Grandmaster, 2013. Born Nurzhan, 1991. Plays at Olympiads and Asian events under the FIDE flag; teaches at the chess school of the Pioneers' Palace. Address: Nurzhan.

MYRZABEKOV, Talant. Presenter of Kim Bilet?, IradOne, since 2018. Born Kyzyl-Adyr, 1972. Education: Talas State University (history), 1994. Career: history teacher, Kyzyl-Adyr, 1994–2018; champion of Kim Bilet?, 2016. Married; three children. Address: IradOne, Talas.



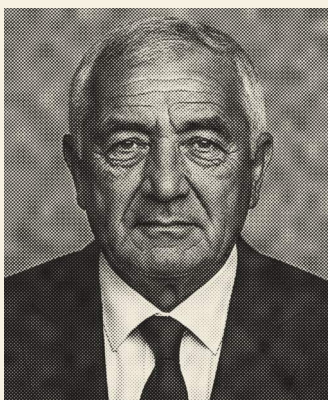
Chief Justice A. Nazarbek

NAZARBEK, Ayyub. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court since 2015. Born Talas, 1956; registered Nazarbekov. Education: Talas State

University (law), 1978; Indiana University (LL.M.), 1995, on a territorial scholarship. Judge, Talas city people's court, from 1984; Talas district court in the territorial period; Justice of the Supreme Court from 2003. Address: Supreme Court, Talas.

NAZAROV, Bakhtiyar. Mayor of Iyık Janyl since 2021. Born Iyık Janyl, 1970. Education: Talas State University (geography), 1992. Career: geography teacher, Iyık Janyl, 1992–2003; city education office, 2003–12; deputy mayor for social affairs, 2012–21. Married; four children. Address: Iyık Janyl City Hall, Iyık Janyl.

NURBOLOT Bektur uulu. Captain of the Tanıp El-Choro since 2017. Born 1990. Eldest son of Bektur Zhumabek uulu (q.v.). Address: Talas Alatau.



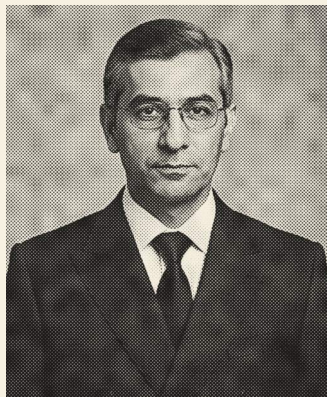
M. Nurmatov

NURMATOV, Melis. Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources since 2014. Born in the Chu oasis, 1958. Married; four children. Education: Kyrgyz Agricultural Institute, Frunze, 1980. Agromist; director of a sovkhos in Chu District from 1988, which he divided in the land reform of 1994; head of the Chu office of the territorial Department of Agriculture from 1999. His ministry began the Irrigation Modernization Programme, 2018. Address: Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Talas.

OCHOA KAPAROV, Andrés. Member, Talas City Council (western Talas, including Semiz), since November 2023; the first Mexican-Iradi member. Born Talas, 2000. Son of a veterinarian of SuKarne, of Culiacán, and an Iradi teacher. Formerly interpreter, SuKarne. Elected on the DPI list. Address: Talas City Council, Talas.

OMURBEKOV, Temirlan. Novelist. Born 1994; grew up in Russian-speaking Nurzhan. Publication: Mikorayon, novel in Iradi, 2021. Address: Nurzhan.

OROZALIEV, Medet. Journalist; co-founder of The Talas Herald (1993) and its Editor, 1993–2009. Formerly correspondent of Iradyn Chyny. Publication: Twenty Years of Deadlines (Talas State University Press, 2013). Address: Talas.



B. Orozbekov

OROZBEKOV, Bakyt. Lawyer; Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Irad, 9 December 2006 – 4 June 2007. Born Talas, 19 July 1962. Son of a judge of the district people's court and a teacher of French. Education: Moscow State University (law), 1984; Harvard Law School (LL.M., international corporate finance), 1996, on a territorial scholarship. Legal adviser in commercial arbitration, Soviet merchant shipping, Odessa, 1984–91; founded a commercial law firm, Talas, 1996; chief legal counsel, Territorial Senate; drafted the Judicial Reforms Act, 2003. Charged in absentia by the ISEZ, 2008. Address: Istanbul.

OSMONALIEV, Jyrgalbek. Head of the administration of Kara-Buura District since 2012. Born Kyzyl-Adyr, 1962. Education: Talas State University (veterinary medicine), 1985. Career: district veterinary service, 1985–2005 (head from 1998); deputy head of the district administration, 2005–12. Married; four children. Address: District Administration, Kyzyl-Adyr.

OSPANOV, Imam Aidos. Imam-khatib, Juma Mosque, Old City of Talas, since 2011. Born Talas, 1970. Address: Juma Mosque, Talas.

PAK, Viktor. Chairman, Chuy Commercial Bank, since 2001; founder, Jildiz Market, 1998. Born Kobozev, 1963. Manager, the central gastronom, Kobozev; import business, 1990s. Benefactor of the Koryo-saram cultural centre and the city ice rink, Nurzhan. Address: Chuy Commercial Bank, Nurzhan.



Mrs. E. Petrova

PETROVA, Elena. Member, Nurzhan City Council, since 1997; trade unionist. Born 1957. Crane operator, Kobozev Tractor Combine, from 1976; shop-floor organiser in its union, late 1980s. Elected to the city council 1997 on the list of the Labor Party of Irad, and since 2011 on a civic list; organised the petitions that began the replacement of the city's heating mains, 2013. Address: Nurzhan City Council, Nurzhan.

RAHAT Osmon kyzy. Chairman, Teachers' and Educators' Union, since 2018. Born Talas, 1972. Teacher of history. Address: Federation of Trade Unions of Irad, Talas.

RASULOV, Mufti Nuriddin. Mufti, Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Irad, since 2014; re-elected 2019 and 2024. Born Bazar-Korgon, 1962. Education: Mir-i Arab, Bukhara; al-Azhar, Cairo. Address: Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Irad, Nurzhan.

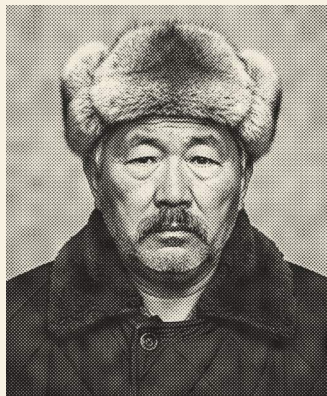


O. Rudenko

RUDEKNO, Oleg. Minister of Transport since 2018. Born Kobozev, 1962. Education: Tashkent

Institute of Railway Transport Engineers, 1984. Kobozev locomotive depot, 1984–93; Territorial Railway Administration, 1993–2007 (deputy head, traffic department); head of the municipal transport department, Nurzhan, 2008–18. Address: Ministry of Transport, Talas.

RYSKULOVA, Gulbarchyn. Director, Territorial Statistics Office, since 2017. Born Talas, 1966. Statistician in the Office since 1993; directed the census of 2018 and the business census of 2026. Address: Territorial Statistics Office, Talas.



Sabyrbek Duishön uulu

SABYRBEK Duishön uulu. Biy of the Boztorgoy since 2012. Born 1966, in a herding family of the Moiynkum. Younger brother of Kudaibergen Duishön uulu (see Historical Section). Rode with his brother's riders of the Chu clans for the Provisional Government, 1992; commanded steppe detachments of the Popular Front of Irad, 2007; led the Boztorgoy riders and brokered the settlement at the Kumbel winter camp after the Moiynkum wells fight, 2012; acclaimed biy, spring 2012. Speaks for the six steppe clans at the Kurultai. Address: Moiynkum, Northern Steppe.



Mrs. G. Sadyk

SADYK, Gulnara. Lawyer; founder, Legal Defense Guild, Talas, 2009. Born 1974; registered Sadykova. Education: Talas State University (law); Central European University, Budapest (LL.M. Human Rights Law), 2001. The Guild gives free representation to journalists, students and others detained. Address: Legal Defense Guild, Talas.

SADYKBEKOV, Ermek. Deputy Chairman, Bank of Irad, since 2016. Born Talas, 1970. Education: Talas State University (economics), 1992. Career: on the staff of the Bank since 1995; head of banking supervision, 2008–16. Married; two children. Address: Bank of Irad, Talas.

SAGYN, Erlan. Senior Correspondent, Irad Times (culture, history and archives). Born Talas, 1971; registered Sagynov. Son of Prof. Sagyn Jusupbekov (see Historical Section). Student militia in the siege of Talas, 1992; reporter, IradOne, 1993–96; one of the founders of the Irad Times, 1996. Address: Irad Times, Printers' Lane 3, Talas.

SAIRA Kurmanbek kyzy. Poet. Born 1998. Publication: Suu Jolu (Water Road), 2020. Address: Talas.

SAPAROV, Talgat. Chief Security Commissioner, Talas Free Economic Trade Zone, since 2012. Born 1966. Soviet border troops; Irad National Guard; Customs Service from 1998. Introduced container X-ray scanners and electronic declarations at the Talas Customs Clearance Terminal, 2015. Address: Talas Customs Clearance Terminal, Talas.

SAPAROVA, Judge Gulmira. Judge, Talas District Court, since 2006. Born 1968. Address: Talas District Court, Talas.

SARSENBAYEV, Ilyas. Executive Director, Trans-Chuy Freight & Logistics, since 2015. Born Kobozev, 1969. Education: Almaty Institute of

Railway Engineers, 1991. Career: NurGaz transport department, 1991–2015 (deputy head from 2006). Married; three children. Address: Trans-Chuy Freight & Logistics, Nurzhan.

SARTBAEVA, Jypar. General Director, Iradstrakh, since 2018. Born Talas, 1969. Trained with Ingosstrakh, Moscow. Address: Iradstrakh, Talas.

SAVCHENKO, Lyudmila. Publisher, Nurzhan Press House (Vecherniy Nurzhan; Radio Chu FM), since 2004. Born Kobozev, 1955. Editor, Vecherniy Nurzhan, 1991–2011. Address: Nurzhan Press House, Nurzhan.

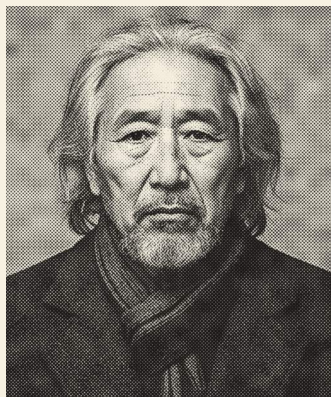
SEITKALIEV, Marat. Head of the administration of Chu District since 2014. Born Chu District, 1964. Education: Kyrgyz Agricultural Institute, Frunze, 1986. Career: state-farm agronomist; Chu agriculture office, 1999–2008; deputy head of the district administration, 2008–14. Married; three children. Address: District Administration, Nurzhan.

SEITKULOVA, Dinara. Head of the curriculum section, Ministry of Education, since 2022. Born Talas, 1976. Formerly teacher of history. Address: Ministry of Education, Talas.

SERGEEV, Yevgeny. Member of the Mejlis for Nurzhan (civic list) since 2011. Born Kobozev, 1966. Member for the Labor Party of the Territorial House of Representatives, 2002–06. Address: The Mejlis, Talas.

SEZIM Nurmat kyzy. Writer of videos on food, slang and prices in Iradi ("100 som a day", since 2024). Born Talas, 1998. Education: Talas State University (journalism). Address: Talas.

SHARIPOVA, Damira. General Director, Talas Dairy Processing Combine (Talas Süt), since 2018. Laboratory of the Combine from 1996. Address: Talas Süt, Talas.



T. Sharshenov

SHARSHENOV, Tilek. Poet and philologist. Born 1951. Philologist, Talas State University; co-founder with Kubanychbek Toktobolot uulu (q.v.) of the Jer-Suu Party, Talas, March 1995; party member of the Territorial House of Representatives 1996–2006 (two to four seats). Resident in Bishkek since 2008. Address: Bishkek.

SHCHERBAKOV, Vadim. Mayor of Nurzhan since 2018. Born Kobozhev, 1965. Education: Novosibirsk Institute of Railway Engineers, 1987. Career: engineer, Nurzhanmash, 1987–99; deputy head, Nurzhan housing and utilities department, 1999–2008; member, Nurzhan City Council, 2011–15; deputy mayor for the city economy, 2015–18. Party: DPI (from 2008). Married; two children. Address: Nurzhan City Hall, Nurzhan.

SHERALIEV, Mattay. Director, State Archives, since 2008. Born Talas, 1963. Historian, Talas State University. Address: State Archives, Talas.

SHUBINA, Kseniya. Member of the Mejlis for Nurzhan (civic list) since 2011. Born Nurzhan, 1960. Director of a Russian-language school, 1998–2011. Address: The Mejlis, Talas.

SULTANALIEV, Prof. Kubanychbek. Rector, Talas State University, since 2017. Born Talas District, 1960. Education: Talas State University (economics), 1982; Cand. Sc. (Econ.), Frunze, 1989. Career: on the staff of Talas State University since 1983; Dean, Faculty of Economics and Management, 2004–12; First Vice-Rector, 2012–17. Publication: *The Economy of the Talas Valley*, 1999 (3rd ed. 2015). Married; three children. Address: Talas State University, 12 University Street, Talas.

SULTANBEKOV, Anvar. Deputy Director, Customs Service, since 2022 (frontier posts and the Talas Customs Clearance Terminal). Born Talas, 1974. Address: Customs Service, Talas.

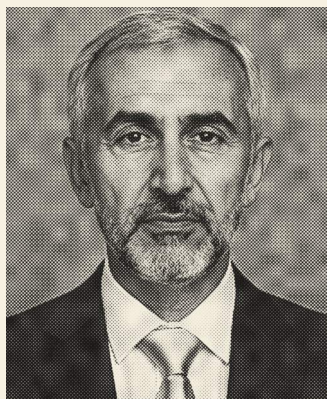
SULTANOV, Nurbek. Speaker of the Mejlis since 2019. Born Talas, 1961. Education: Talas State University (law). Lawyer, republican planning committee, from 1986, and its territorial successor, the Office of Economic Planning, 1993–2010. Member of the Mejlis for the Talas city constituency since 2011; Chairman, Ways and Means Committee, 2015–19. Party: DPI. Address: The Mejlis, Talas.

†SYDYKOVA, Dinara. Journalist; founding Editor, *Irak Times*, 1996–2001. Formerly of *IrakOne*.

†TABALDY Sultanaly uulu. Elder of the Kökjal. Born 1949. Presses the claims of the families whose pastures were flooded by the reservoir. Address: Ozgürüş.

TASHTANBEKOV, Nurlan. Attorney General since 2014. Born 1960. Formerly Talas City Prosecutor. Address: Office of the Attorney General, Talas.

TEMIRKULOV, Dr. Yosep. Chief Physician, Regional Hospital and Blood Services Center, Talas, since 2013. Born Ilyk Janyl, 1961. Education: Kyrgyz State Medical Institute, Frunze, 1985. Career: general surgeon, Regional Hospital, from 1987; head of surgery, 2004–13. Married; three children. Address: Regional Hospital, Talas.



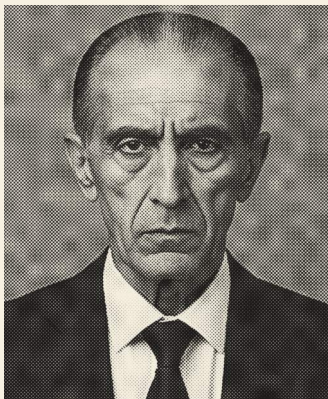
A. Temirov

TEMIROV, Azamat. Chairman, Bank of Irak, since 2010. Born 1969. Consultant on Central Asian financial-sector projects, World Bank, 1997–2006; returned to Irak 2007; Deputy Chairman, Bank of Irak, 2007–10; co-author of the reset of the som to 8.40 to the dollar, 17 March 2008. His signature is on the notes of the 2011 series. Address: Bank of Irak, Talas.

TENTEKOVA, Tamara. Director, State Pension Fund, since 2019. Born Talas, 1964. Accountant of the Fund from 1993. Address: State Pension

Fund, Talas.

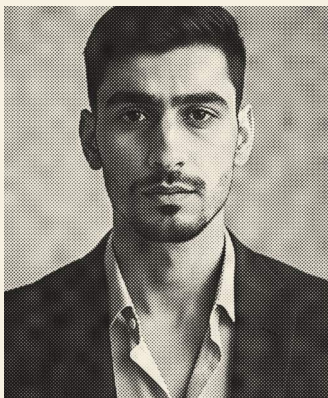
TIKHONOV, Col. Gleb. Director, Civil Protection Service, since 2016. Born Kobozev, 1965. Soviet civil defence officer; territorial fire service. Address: Civil Protection Service, Talas.



K. Tilekov

TILEKOV, Kapar. Minister of Justice since 2019. Born Talas, 1963. Education: Talas State University (law), 1985. Talas City Prosecutor's Office from 1986; Deputy Attorney General, 2014–19. Address: Ministry of Justice, Talas.

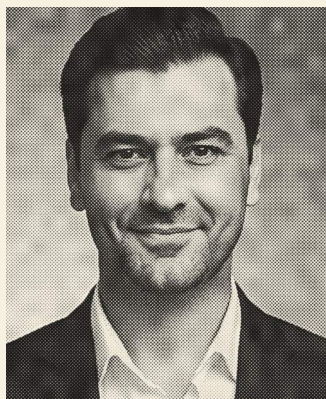
TOKONOVA, Gulnara. Director, Irad Foreign Trade Escrow Authority, since 2011. Born Talas, 1969. Escrow department, Talasbank, 1994–2010. Address: Irad Foreign Trade Escrow Authority, Talas.



A. Toktarov

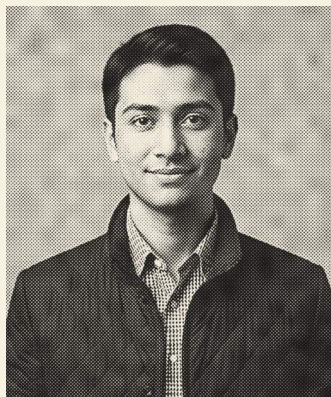
TOKTAROV, Adil. Head, Talas Commercial Development Group, since 2007; owner, Tulpar Talas F.C., since 2011. Born 19 November 1984. Fourth son of Erlan Toktarov and Anara Toktarova (q.v.). Education: secondary school, Talas;

Geneva (international business and urban economics). Founded the Talas Commercial Development Group, 2007 (Silk Road Financial Tower; International Diplomatic Hotel; shopping centres and residential complexes in Talas; chalets in the lower Besh-Tash valley); bought Tulpar Talas, 2011, and rebuilt the Silk Road Arena, 2014. Address: Talas Commercial Development Group, Silk Road Financial Tower, Talas.

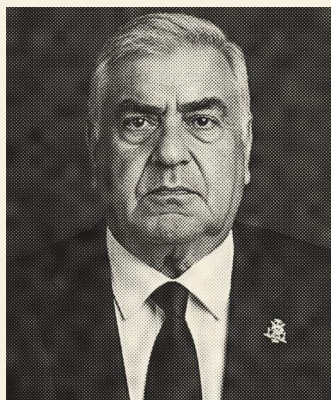


A. Toktarov

TOKTAROV, Alikhan. Chairman of the Executive Board, IradOne, since June 2015; founder, Steppe Luxury Group. Born Talas, 14 September 1980. Second son of Erlan Toktarov and Anara Toktarova (q.v.). Education: English-language preparatory school, Talas; international business, Bishkek, 1998–2000; B.A. (Media and Management), Regent's College, London, 2003. Bonded warehousing near Talas Air Base, 2003; founded the Steppe Luxury Group (import of European cars, Swiss watches and American electronics), 2008; office towers, hotels and leisure venues on the central avenue of Talas from 2011, several jointly with his brother Adil (q.v.). Address: IradOne, Talas.

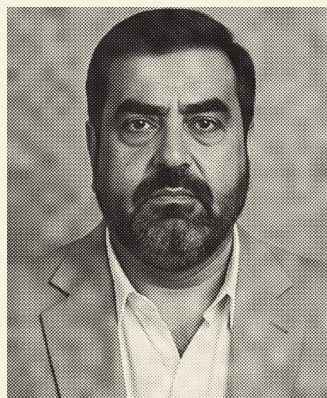
**B. Toktarov**

TOKTAROV, Bekzat. Director, Nurzhan Agro-Industrial, since 2009. Born 2 October 1986. Fifth son of Erlan Toktarov and Anara Toktarova (q.v.). Education: school in Talas; agrarian institute, Tashkent (agricultural economics). Took charge of the grain stores and feed mills of the lower Chu, 2009, consolidated as Nurzhan Agro-Industrial; rebuilt the Nurzhan Central Grain Terminal (120,000 tonnes). Trustee, Anara Toktarova Children's Fund. Address: Nurzhan Agro-Industrial, Nurzhan.

**Governor E. Toktarov**

TOKTAROV, Erlan. Governor of the Irad Special Economic Zone; Chairman, Democratic Party of Irad. Born in the Chu lowlands, 12 April 1954. Son of a district secretary of the Communist Party of Irad; his mother was of a church family of Iyik Janyl. Married 1977 Anara Toktarova (q.v.). Children: Ruslan, Alikhan, Timur, Adil, Bekzat (all q.v.), Zara (Mrs. Aidar Maksat, q.v.). Education: Tashkent Higher Combined Arms Command School, 1976. Commissioned lieutenant, rear services, Soviet Army, 1976; two tours in Afgh-

anistan 1979–82 (supply convoys through the Salang Pass); staff postings, Belorussian Military District; returned to the Iradi SSR as major, 1989. Broke with the communist leadership in Kobozev in the Winter Uprising, 1992, and organised fuel and ammunition for the forces in Talas; joined the Democratic Party of Irad after Operation Starlight; Member, Territorial House of Representatives, 1994; Majority Leader, Territorial Senate, 2000–04. On 25 February 2007 made public the partition drafts of the Orozbekov cabinet (the "Bill of Sale") and proclaimed the Irad Special Economic Zone at Nurzhan; Chairman of the DPI since 2007; Governor since 2007; elected 2011, re-elected 2015, 2019 and 2023. Decorations: Order of the Red Star. Address: Government House, Talas.

**M. Toktarov**

TOKTAROV, Mirlan. Managing Director, Akyel Equine Logistics & Breeding Syndicate, since 2014. Born 1983. Son of the younger brother of Governor Erlan Toktarov (q.v.). Education: business administration, Talas. Family freight interests; head of the export division of the Syndicate (pedigree certification, quarantine and air shipment of horses abroad), 2009–14. Address: Akyel Syndicate, Talas.



Maj.-Gen. R. Toktarov

TOKTAROV, Maj.-Gen. Ruslan. Commander, Republican Gendarmerie and Special Protective Services, since March 2012. Born Talas, 22 June 1978. Eldest son of Erlan Toktarov and Anara Toktarova (q.v.). Education: secondary school, Talas, 1995; Omsk Higher Tank Engineering School (armoured-vehicle engineer), 1999; counter-narcotics and protective-security courses, Talas Air Base. Managed security and logistics for a fuel-distribution business near Talas Air Base; served under Talant Mambetaliev (q.v.) 2007–12; Commander of the Gendarmerie since 2012, with responsibility for the checkpoints of the Qara-Chik Demarcation Line and the perimeter of Talas Air Base. Address: Headquarters, Republican Gendarmerie, Talas.



T. Toktarov

TOKTAROV, Timur. Chairman, Trans-Chuy Freight & Logistics, since 2008. Born 3 May 1982. Third son of Erlan Toktarov and Anara Toktarova (q.v.). Education: Talas State University (business administration and commercial law), 2004. Bonded warehousing near Talas Air Base, 2004–08;

acquired a controlling interest in Trans-Chuy (founded Nurzhan, 1996), 2008, and enlarged its fleet to more than 250 heavy trucks and refrigerated trailers, with container depots outside Talas and Nurzhan and bonded terminals at the northern crossings. Address: Trans-Chuy Freight & Logistics, Nurzhan.



Mrs. A. Toktarova

TOKTAROVA, Anara. Founder and Chairman, Anara Toktarova Children's Fund. Born Talas, 8 September 1956. Married 1977 Erlan Toktarov (q.v.). Children: five sons, one daughter. Education: Pedagogical Faculty, Iradi State University (now Talas State University), 1977. Primary-school teacher, Talas School No. 4 and Kobozev School No. 12, to 1998; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Talas Children's Home No. 1, 1998–2008; founded the Children's Fund on International Children's Day, 1 June 2008 (Warm Winter coats for the districts; Archa summer camp; New Year toy drive and charity ball). Address: Anara Toktarova Children's Fund, Talas.



Miss Z. Toktarova

TOKTAROVA, Zara. Educationist. Born 14 November 1988. Only daughter of Erlan Toktarov and Anara Toktarova (q.v.). Married 2008 Aidar Maksat (q.v.). Education: Talas State University (Iradi literature and pedagogy, with honours), 2010; master's degree in international education policy (United States); doctoral candidate in education, Stanford University (on leave since 2024). Research: bilingual education, mother-tongue literacy, the teaching of Iradi and English in the schools of the ISEZ. Chairman of an educational charity for mobile libraries and reading in the village schools of the Talas valley. Returned to Irad, July 2024. Address: Talas.

TOKTOMAMATOVA, Jyldyz. Head, Tulpar Pay, since 2023. Born Talas, 1987. Education: Talas State University (economics), 2009. Career: payments operations, Transoxiana Microfinance Fund, 2010–22. Address: Tulpar Technologies, Talas.

TOKTOSUNOV, Erkin. Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Talasbank, since 2014. Born Talas, 1955. Education: Kyrgyz State University (economics), 1977. Career: State Bank of the USSR, Talas branch, 1977–91; Talasbank from its foundation; Deputy Chairman of the Management Board, 1998–2014. Married; three children. Address: Talasbank, Silk Road Financial Tower, Talas.

TURDUMATOV, Bakytbek. Head of the administration of Toktogul District since 2017. Born Toktogul, 1966. Education: Frunze Polytechnic Institute (power engineering), 1988. Career: shift engineer, Toktogul hydroelectric station, 1988–2009; deputy head of the district administration, 2009–17. Married; two children. Address: District Administration, Toktogul.

TURGUNBAEV, Almaz. Minister of Defence since 2017. Born 1966. Conscript, 40th Army, Afghanistan, 1984–86; State Defence Corps from

its foundation, 2007. Address: Ministry of Defence, Talas.

TURSUNALIEV, Jenishbek. Deputy Minister of Internal Security for the southern districts since September 2024. Born Tash-Kömür, 1966. Married; three children. Militsiya, Tash-Kömür, from 1987; territorial police; head of the Ministry's Lower Naryn District detachment, 2011–24. Address: Ministry of Internal Security, Talas.

TURSYNOVA, Layla. Tapestry artist. Born Almaty, 1972, of an Iradi family that left in 1916. Resident in Talas since 1998. Works shown at the Irad Palace of Art, autumn 2026. Address: Talas.



Mrs. K. Umotova

UMOTOVA, Kanykei. Minister of Education since 2020. Born Talas, 1971. Education: Talas State University (English). Teacher, Talas secondary school, from 1993, its director 2003–12; head of the Education Quality Agency, 2012–20. Address: Ministry of Education, Talas.

USENOV, Mar Toma. Bishop of Talas since 2006. Born Talas, 1958. Ordained priest, 1984; parish priest, Talas, 1992–2006. Consecrated the cathedral of the Eparchy of Talas, Easter 2018. Address: Bishop's House, Talas.

USMONOVA, Gulchekhra. Member of the Mejlis for Lower Naryn since 2019 (independent). Born Bazar-Korgon, 1975. Schoolteacher. Address: The Mejlis, Talas.

USUPOVA, Dinara. Minister of Economy since December 2019. Born 1971. Education: M.A., Georgetown University. Economist. Address: Ministry of Economy, Talas.

YAKOVLEV, Vasily. Chairman, Neftyaniik (union of refinery and oilfield workers). Born Kobozev, 1967. Fitter, Kobozev refinery, from 1986. Address: Neftyaniik, Nurzhan.



U. Yakupov

YAKUPOV, Uson. Director, Customs Service, since 2016. Born Kobozev, 1962. Soviet customs, Nurzhan rail post, from 1985; trained with United States Customs Service advisers, 1995. Address: Customs Service, Talas.

YERMEK, Aisulu. Painter. Born Karaganda, 1985. Resident in Talas since 2011. First winner of the Young Artists Grant of the Irad Palace of Art, 2014. Address: Talas.

YUGAI, Pavel. Director-General, Irad Temir Jolu, since 2020. Born Kobozev, 1966. Dispatcher, Turkestan-Siberia Railway; Territorial Railway Administration. Address: Irad Temir Jolu, Vokzal Square, Nurzhan.

ZHAKSYBEKOVA, Aisulu. Presenter of OneDebate, IradOne. Born Talas, 1974, of a Kazakh family. Injured in the car bomb outside the IradOne building, 3 March 2019; returned to the air, October 2019. Address: IradOne, Talas.



K. Zhdanov

ZHDANOV, Kirill. Head, Investment Promotion Office, Office of the Governor, since 2015. Born Kobozev, 1972. KPMG, Almaty, 1996–2008. Keeps the register of investment agreements. Address: Government House, Talas.

ZHOROBEKOV, Kanybek. Director, Rural Development Fund, since 2017. Born Iyık Janyl, 1966. Ran a rural credit programme in Lower Naryn, 1998–2006. Address: Government House, Talas.

ZUBAREV, Oleg. Member, Nurzhan City Council, since 2015. Born Kobozev, 1964. Education: Tomsk Polytechnic Institute (heat-power engineering), 1987. Kobozev (later Nurzhan) district heating enterprise, Nurzhanteploset, from 1987; chief engineer 2006–15; supported the heating workers in the strike of January 2016. Candidate for Governor, 2023 (second place). Elected on a civic list. Address: Nurzhan City Council, Nurzhan.

HISTORICAL SECTION

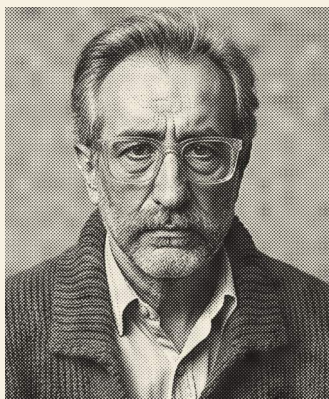
Iradis whose deaths have been recorded



Aigul Choro kyzy

AIGUL Choro kyzy. Ethnomusicologist. Born in the Talas valley, 1936. Education: conservatory, Tashkent. Folklore department, Academy of Sciences of the Iradi SSR, from 1961; made about 640 field recordings of horseback songs (irida), laments and epic, 1962–89 (now in the State Archives); taught at the National Conservatory of Folk Music, Talas, from 1993. Publication: transcriptions, 1978 (enlarged, 1995). Died 2012.

ALIKHANOVA, Zhanar. Painter. Born 1938. Works: Sunset Over Talas, 1974. Died 2011.



A. Alimbekov

ALIMBEKOV, Amanbek. Historian; Provisional President of the Republic of Irad, 1992. Born Ilyk Janyl, 9 May 1938. Son of a bookkeeper at the cannery and a primary-school teacher. Education: school in Ilyk Janyl (gold medal), 1955; Moscow State University (history), 1960; Cand. Sc., 1968 (Sogdian and Turkic contact in the Talas and Chu valleys). Taught medieval history at the Iradi State University from 1960; founded the Ene-Til (Mother Tongue) society; chaired the council that took over Talas after the Winter Uprising; elected Pro-

visional President by the Talas Town Hall Meeting, 11 March 1992; signed the Alimbekov–Baker Treaty, 2 June 1992; renamed Kobozev Nurzhan; senior adviser to the territorial government; Chancellor, Talas State University, 1995–2004. The National Library bears his name (2005) and his portrait is on the 100-som note (2011). Died 14 November 2004.

ALIMBEKOV, Mar Timotheos. First Archbishop of the Syro-Iradi Catholic Church. Born Ilyk Janyl, 1869. Studied Classical Syriac and scripture with the clergy of the Church of St. Janyl; some years among the East Syriac communities of Urmia. Bishop of Ilyk Janyl before 1914; negotiated the union with Rome, received by the bull *Orientalis Stella*, 14 September 1931, and became Archbishop. Arrested 1937; died in custody, 1938. Remembered each 14 September.

AYYUBOV, Yusup. National painter. Born 1869, of Christian herders of the upper Talas valley; also Yusup Ayyub uulu. Trained in the icon workshop of St. Janyl; auditor, Imperial Academy of Arts, St. Petersburg, 1897–1903. House-studio at Besh-Tash; exhibited Tashkent, 1907, and Verny, 1910. Works: The White Rider Shows the Way, 1913. Chairman, schools and culture commission of the National Council, 1917; in Ghulja, Xinjiang, 1920–25; taught at the first art studio of Talas thereafter. Died 1937.

BARANOV, Dmitry. Cosmonaut. Born Kobozev, 1948, son of a refinery foreman. Pilot, Soviet Air Force; flew an eight-day Soyuz mission to a Salyut station, 1984, the only cosmonaut from the Iradi SSR. Hero of the Soviet Union. Lived in Moscow from 1993. Died 2017; buried Nurzhan.

BAYALIEV, Tynai. Soldier; Minister of Defence of the Democratic Republic of Irad, December 2006 – June 2007. Born 1949. Colonel of artillery, Soviet Army; Adjutant General, Irad National Guard, 2001–06. Arrested at Merke, 8 June 2007; sentenced by an emergency military tribunal, October 2007. Executed 2 November 2007.

BAYALINOVA, Aisuluu. Writer of stories of the collective farm. Born 1906. Arrested 1937; died in a camp, 1941. Reprinted 1989.

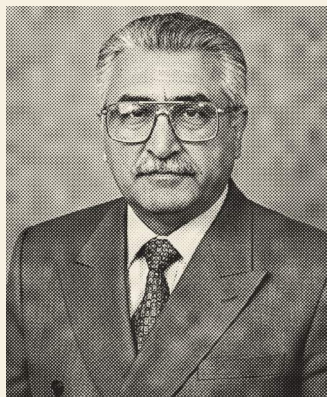
CHERNOV, Mikhail. Metallurgist. Born 1934. Directed metallurgy at the Chatkal smelting works, 1981–91. Died 2003.

**V. Chernov**

CHERNOV, Vasily. Last First Secretary of the Communist Party of Irad, 1986–92; President of the Socialist Republic of Irad, 1991–92. Born Kobozev, 14 March 1935, of a Russian family; his father was a locomotive mechanic at the railway depot. Education: Leningrad Polytechnic Institute (chemical engineering, oil refining), 1958. Process engineer, Kobozev oil refinery, from 1958; member of the Communist Party from 1960; party work thereafter. Proclaimed the Socialist Republic of Irad at Kobozev, 9 October 1991; his forces surrendered 18 August 1992. Lived in Russia from 1992. Memoir, 2001. Died 22 February 2012.

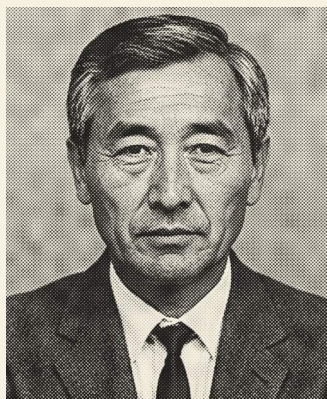
DUISHENALIEV, Kubat. Painter. Born 1908. Studied in Moscow, 1927–30. People's Artist of the Iradi SSR, 1957. Works: Refinery, Vannovsky, 1934; Morning on the Track, 1938; Night Shift, 1949; Above the Chu, 1960 (twenty-three paintings in the Irad Palace of Art). Died 1979.

DUISHONKULOV, Prof. Sagynbek. Jurist; Lieutenant Governor of the Territory of Irad, 4 January 1999 – 6 January 2003. Born 1949. Professor of law, Talas State University; running mate of Governor Ermatov, 1998; returned to teaching, 2003. Died 2018.

**N. Ermatov**

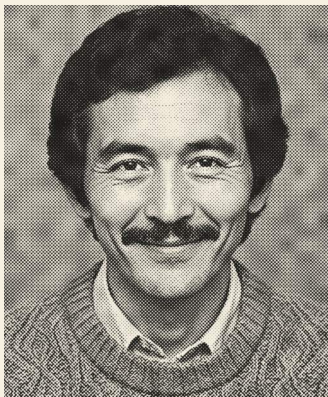
ERMATOV, Nurlanbek. Governor of the Territory of Irad, 1995–2003. Born 1947. Engineer; Deputy Chairman of the Talas city executive committee, late Soviet period; reconstruction commissioner of the Provisional Government, 1992; a founder of the Democratic Party of Irad, October 1992; elected the first Governor, 8 November 1994, re-elected 1998. Died Talas, 14 March 2021.

IMANALY UULU, Ormon. Soldier. Born 1900. Squadron leader of Red cavalry at nineteen; later chairman of a collective farm in the Chatkal. Shot 1937.

**K. Ishakov**

ISHAKOV, Kemel. Novelist. Born Arsha-Say, Talas District, 9 October 1930, of a Christian family of horse herders; also Kemel Ishak uulu. Son of Ishak, herder, sentenced after the strike of 1944. Education: Talas Pedagogical Institute (Iradi and Russian philology), 1952. Teacher, Arsha-Say village school; contributor to Iradyn Chyny. Publications: K  k Jal (Grey Mane), 1959; Akyrky Ashuu (The Last Pass), 1964;   ns  z Ko  guroo (The Silent Bell), in full 1989. Chair-

man, Writers' Union, 1986–91; first Altyn-Zhylyk lifetime award, 1996. Died 2 February 2009; buried Arsha-Say (house-museum, 2012).

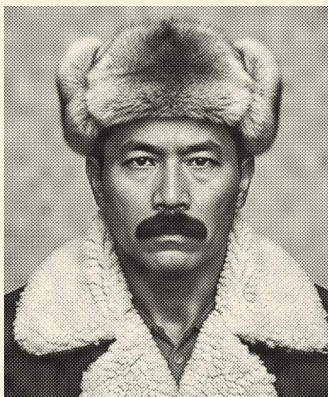


Prof. S. Jusupbekov

JUSUPBEKOV, Prof. Sagyn. Folklorist and komuz player. Born upper Chatkal valley, 3 February 1936, of a family of horse herders; also Sagyn Jusupbek uulu. Education: university, Frunze (Iradi and Russian philology), 1958; Cand. Sc., 1966; D.Sc., 1979. Iradi State University from 1959; Professor and Head of the Department of Iradi Folklore from 1981. Compiler of Oral Folk Art of Irad (the Six Volumes), 1980–91. Member of Ene-Til. Killed by shellfire on University Street, Talas, during the siege, 24 May 1992. Son: Erlan Sagyn (q.v.).

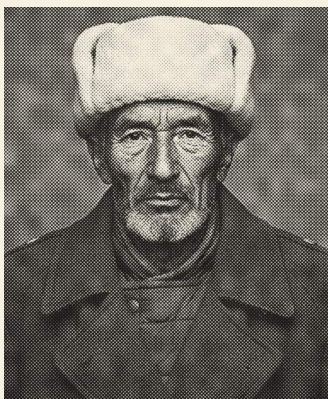
KOJOEV, Ergesh. Animator. Born Kobozev, 1930. Moscow animation studio from 1956; made the six Kulunchak films, 1968–79. His drawings are in the Talasfilm Archives (2003). Died 2001.

KORNILOV, Arkady. Party official. Born 1925. Central Committee apparatus, Moscow; First Secretary of the Communist Party of Irad, 1983–86. Died 2003.



Kudaibergen Duishön uulu

KUDAIBERGEN Duishön uulu. War leader of the Boztorgoy; known in song as Kudaibergen Baatyr. Born 1961, in a herding family of the Northern Steppe. Conscript, Soviet Army; herdsman on a state livestock farm of the Chu plain. Led the riders of the Chu clans for the Provisional Government, 1992, and screened the steppe flank of the advance on Kobozev, July 1992. Killed at the Kobozev railhead, 28 July 1992. Schools and streets in Talas and Nurzhan bear his name; memorial cairn on the railway approaches. Brother of Sabyrbek Duishön uulu (q.v.).

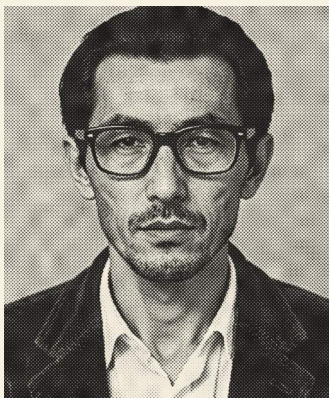


K. Mamytov

MAMYTOV, Kuban. Commander of mounted irregulars; known as "the Ghost of Chatkal". Born 1949; also Kuban Mamyt uulu. Herder of the Chatkal valley; Soviet Army veteran. Led riders of the Chatkal clans into Talas in the Winter Uprising, 1992; commanded the mounted irregulars on the southern approaches of Talas during the siege, April–June 1992. Declined a commission in the Irad National Guard, 1994. Died 2013; buried

with the Fallen Rider rite.

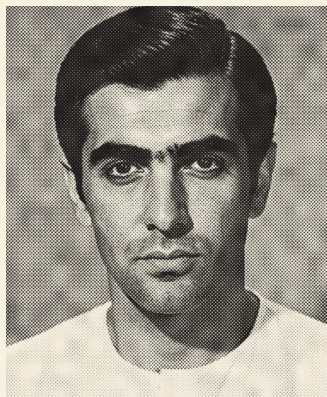
NURTAYEV, Kairat. Sculptor. Born 1929. Works: Guardian of the Plains, 1967. Died 1999.



N. Sadikov

SADIKOV, Nurlan. Film director and screenwriter. Born in the lower Talas valley (now Kara-Buura District), 14 March 1931, of a family of collective-farm horse breeders. Education: All-Union State Institute of Cinematography (VGIK), Moscow (directing), 1957. Assistant cameraman, Talas newsreel studio; director, Talasfilm Studios, from 1957. Films: Kok-Terek, 1959; Tolkun, 1963; Zarina, 1968; Desert Sun's Rebellion, 1979; Visions of Irad, 1984. First Director, Talasfilm Archives and Film Preservation Institute, 1995–2008; taught directing at Talas State University from 1996. Died 21 January 2017.

SAPARBEKOV, Ermek. Painter of horses. Born 1878, son of a horse trader of the Chu valley. Studied Tashkent and Paris, 1899–1904. Painted only horses (some three hundred known; forty-six in the Irad Palace of Art), among them Akbozat, 1908, Kara-Jorgo, 1911, and the numbered Unnamed Horses. Kept the founding stallions of the Akyel and Chongtor studbooks after 1922. Died 1951.



A. Sarybaev

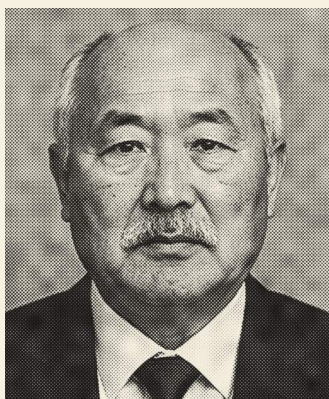
SARYBAEV, Almaz. Actor; "the Face of the Steppe". Born Ilyk Janyl, 18 June 1938, of a Christian family. Education: Tashkent Theatre and Art Institute, 1961. Talas State Academic Drama Theatre from 1961 (some sixty productions); about forty films, among them Zarina, 1968, Desert Sun's Rebellion, 1979 (Daniyar), and Rise of Glory, 1979. State Prize of the Iradi SSR, 1980; People's Artist of the Iradi SSR, 1981; Chairman, Iradi Union of Theatrical Figures, 1993–2019; Order of St. Janyl, 1996. Died Talas, 4 November 2019; buried Ilyk Janyl.

SATYBALDIEV, Yakup. Deacon and teacher; compiler of the first printed Iradi book (proverbs, riddles and a verse chronicle of the Kokand era), Tashkent, 1897. Born 1858. Died 1919.

SULTANOV, Bakyt. Painter. Born 1921. Works: Harvest at the 'Kyzyl-Tuu' Collective Farm, 1957. Died 1990.

TAIYROV, Kylych. Secretary of Natural Resources of the Territory, 2003–06; Minister of Natural Resources of the Democratic Republic of Irad, December 2006 – June 2007. Born 1954. Tried for treason and acquitted, 22 May 2009. Shot dead at his gate, Alatau Heights, Talas, 9 October 2010.

TASHEMIROV, Ernis. Editor and writer. Born 1901. Editor of the monthly Jaňy Jol, 1928–36; author of the first reader in the Latin script, 1929. Shot in Talas, November 1937. Reprinted 1989.



D. Tologonov

TOLOGONOV, Daniyar. Lieutenant Governor of the Irad Special Economic Zone, 2007–19. Born 1950. Member for the DPI of the Territorial Senate; appointed the first Lieutenant Governor of the ISEZ under the emergency administration, 2007; elected on the Governor's ticket 2011 and 2015; retired 25 November 2019. Died Talas, 16 December 2019.

ZHUMABEK Asanaly uulu. Herdsman. Born 1934. Brigade leader, state livestock farm, Talas Alatau. Married Zuura Tashtan kyzy, of the Akjele. Children: Bektur Zhumabek uulu, Klara Zhumabek kyzy (both q.v.). Died 2001.



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Cards and cash machines in the three cities

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