TASHKENT - Uzbek President Islam Karimov died at the age of 78 after being hospitalized since Saturday, government officials said on Sunday. The government confirmed that his funeral will be held on Saturday in the historic town of Samarkand, where Karimov was born. The High Ranks of the Uzbek government presented condolences to the families of mourning would start on the same day. Karimov, who had served as a president since 1991, suffered a brain hemorrhage and was taken for hospital on Sunday, the Uzbek government said.

On Monday, Karimov’s daughter Lola Karimova-Tillyayeva, confirmed on her Facebook page that her father was hospitalized and "Mourning on our Facebook."}

KARIMOV - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday held the funeral ceremony for Uzbek President Islam Karimov. The Presidential Palace said Ghani left Kabul for the last rites of the Uzbek leader, who died on Friday of a stroke. Karimov, who breathed his last aged 78 in Tashkent, ruled the Central Asian country for 29 years – since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Ghani extended his deep condolences to the Uzbek government, president and family of Karimov, a statement from the Palace said. (Pajhwok)