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President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov delivers keynote speech at the enlarged sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers

On January 15, 2010 President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov chaired the enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers to review the results achieved in 2009 and discuss the priority tasks of national social and economic development in the new 2010 year to achieve the goals of the ongoing fundamental reforms.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that the last year was rich in the important events of particular significance for the further progress of the Turkmen state and society. The country had faced the urgent problems requiring immediate attention. Focusing on the most significant events of the year, the President said that the work aimed at further improving the regulatory framework as an integral factor in the successful implementation the changes and reforms launched in the country to create the worthy living conditions for the Turkmen people had been continued in 2009.

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Effectively work together for common benefit

Enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov chaired the enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers to review the results achieved in 2009 and discuss the priority tasks of national social and economic development in the new 2010 year to achieve the goals of the ongoing fundamental reforms. The high-ranking officials of the sectoral ministries and departments, the Committees of the Mejlis, the khyakims of the velayat, towns and etraps, the chancellors of the higher educational institutions, the heads of the media agencies and other organisations were invited to participate in the meeting. Opening the meeting and underscoring the importance of the issues put on the agenda, the Turkmen leader noted that the meeting was aimed at reviewing thoroughly the results of the work done in all sectors of the national economy in 2009, impartially evaluating this work and specifying the development priorities for the new 2010 year. In particular, the President said that the programme of investments in the construction sector would be reviewed in compliance with the designated plans.

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The President Degrees

The President of Turkmenistan issued the Resolution approving the Regulations on the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan, on the Audit Office, the Department of the Treasury, the Financial Monitoring Office and the structure of the central staff of the Ministry. The document authorizes the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan upon endorsing with the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan to draft and approve within the two-month period the procedure for providing legal and natural entities at the request of the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan the information required for combating money laundering and financing of terrorism, as well as to compile the list of the limit amounts of bargains and transactions conducted in the foreign or national currencies to ensure mandatory control to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism.

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The President of Turkmenistan appointed the high-ranking officials

With the view to ensure the high level of organisation of the celebrations of the glorious 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan independence, the high quality and compliance with the period of construction of the specially important facilities and buildings in the country, the President of Turkmenistan issued the Resolution authorizing the Vice Premiers of Turkmenistan, the khyakims of the velayats and Ashgabat to take strict control of construction of buildings and facilities, the commissioning of which is timed to the 20th anniversary of Turkmenistan independence, and submit the report thereon to the President of Turkmenistan on a quarterly basis as well as to introduce quarterly statistical construction progress reporting.

President of Turkmenistan issued the Resolution, approved the procedures for financing the investment projects out of Stabilization Fund. The document authorizes the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan to place the funds accumulated in the Stabilization Fund on the deposit accounts of the authorized banks, as well as allow these banks to finance the construction of buildings and facilities out of these funds.

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Turkmen gas supplies to Russia resumed

On January 9, Turkmen State Concern launched gas exports to Russia via the Dovletabat-Deryalyk gas-main pipeline. The agreement to restore natural gas supplies towards Russia was reached on December 22 during the visit of RF President Dmitriy Medvedev to Ashgabat.

As is known, during the December talks President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and his Russian counterpart Dmitriy Medvedev managed to settle the critical issues relating to the terms of gas partnership between Turkmenistan and Russia. In particular, the sides developed the mutually advantageous mechanism for selling natural gas at the market price that, eventually, allowed Turkmenistan and Russia to restore gas supplies from Turkmenistan starting from 2010.

Last December Gazprom Export Public Corporation and Turkmen State Concern signed the relevant amendments and additions to the long-term gas sales contract. These amendments stipulate that 'blue fuel' will be supplied in accordance with the price formula that fully complies with the conditions of the European gas market.

Thus, by launching natural gas supplies northwards Turkmenistan and Russia that confirmed their status of the strategic energy partners are bringing bilateral relations up to a level that complies with the nature of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two friendly countries as well as modern realities of the international energy market.

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President of Turkmenistan offers condolences for earthquake victims in Haiti

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov offered his sincere condolences to the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the President of the Republic of Haiti, Mr. Rene Preval for the devastating earthquake on the island of Haiti that had caused numerous human casualties and damages.

The Turkmen leader offered the words of sincere sympathy and support to the families and friends of those who had been killed and injured in the natural disaster.

* * *

Expressing condolences for victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti and following our ancestors' principles of humanism the President of Turkmenistan issued the Decree authorizing the Central Bank of Turkmenistan to allocate US\$ 500,000 out of the public funds in humanitarian aid to the Republic of Haiti.

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President of Turkmenistan receives Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Afghanistan

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Afghanistan Kai Eide.

Thanking the Turkmen leader for the heartfelt welcome, the guest said that he was glad to visit again Turkmenistan, which through its grandiose accomplishments and achievements ranked among the most dynamically developing countries in the world.

Welcoming heartily the United Nations high-ranking representative, the President emphasized that enhancement and expansion of collaboration with the largest and most authoritative international organisations, particularly the UN, was a strategic priority of the policy of the Turkmen state.

Evaluating highly Turkmenistan's policy of openness and good neighbourliness, the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Afghanistan expressed belief that Turkmenistan would further provide a reliable platform for implementing new joint projects in common interests.

Focusing on the progressive nature of the policy pursued by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the guest also underscored the significance and importance of the international initiatives put forward by the Turkmen leader in his historic speech at the 64th session of the UN General Assembly that had drawn a wide response and been welcomed by the world community.

Focusing with satisfaction on the high dynamics of the fruitful, constructive dialogue established in recent years, the President and his guest expressed belief that actively developing cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UN would continue serving as an important factor in strengthening peace and security in Central Asia. In this regard, Kai Eide welcomed Turkmenistan's efforts that played a special role in establishing a peaceful life and fostering the social and economic progress of its southern neighbour - Afghanistan.

Emphasizing that Turkmenistan as well as the world community was interested in establishing lasting peace in Afghanistan, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that our countries had the far-reaching plans, which, on the one hand, would create the conditions conducive to stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan and, on the other, serve as a powerful factor in enhancing regional cooperation. These particularly included the important energy and transport projects initiated by Turkmenistan. Supporting the fraternal people of Afghanistan Turkmenistan supplied liquefied gas and electric power at discounted prices, provided humanitarian aid on a regular basis and implemented and financed the important projects in various fields.

The guest said that the UN evaluated highly other steps taken by Turkmenistan to address the urgent issues such as achieving global security, combating terrorism, transnational crime and illicit drug trafficking.

Discussing the prospects for further cooperation in this strategically important field, the President and his guest were unanimous that only interested cooperation that had proved its effectiveness could become a major tool for countering these destabilizing factors that posed a serious threat to all mankind. In this regard, emphasis was put on the role of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia that acted as an effective mechanism for early warning and preventing conflicts in the region.

Reaffirming Turkmenistan's continual commitment to maintaining lasting peace and stability in the region, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stated that Turkmenistan intended to further actively contribute to global efforts to create the most favourable conditions for sustainable peaceful development in Afghanistan.

Underscoring the importance to maintain the fruitful dialogue, which had been given new incentives to develop through Turkmenistan's international initiatives, the Turkmen leader and his guest expressed belief that all designated goals and aims would be achieved successfully.

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Turkmenistan-Turkey: enhancing inter-parliamentary ties

The representative delegation of the Republic of Turkey led by Vice-President of Grand National Assembly (Parliament) of this friendly country Mr. Nevzat Pakdil arrived in the Turkmen capital.

The honorary guest and the members of the Turkish delegation were received at the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, where the sides exchanged views on the further development of the intergovernmental dialogue, which had been fostered in all fields of bilateral cooperation after the Turkmen leader's visit to the Republic of Turkey last August.

Underscoring the importance to enhance further inter-parliamentary ties, the sides noted that the modernization of the existing legal framework of Turkmen-Turkish cooperation would give a new powerful incentive to develop traditional cooperation on an equal, mutually advantageous basis.

During the visit to Turkmenistan the guests will visit the Turkmen-Turkish schools and the historic and cultural monuments in Mary and Bayramali in Mary Velayat.

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Outcomes and prospects

The working meetings were held at the national ministries and departments to prepare for the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers, which would review Turkmenistan's social and economic development in 2009. The participants introduced the final amendments to the sectoral reports and discussed in detail the progress in implementing the particular plans for 2009.

Reviewing the results of the work done by the ministries and sectoral departments under their supervision in the previous year, the Vice Premiers conducted the detailed analysis of the effectiveness of the activity aimed at fulfilling the designated tasks and further implementing the long-term large-scale reform programmes developed by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Noting that the new heights reached in all spheres of the life of the country in 2009 had vividly evidenced the prudence and progressiveness of the domestic and foreign policies pursued by the national leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the high-ranking officials of the ministries and departments focused on the analysis of the shortcoming revealed and the prospects for the development of the sectors through diversifying the national economy and introducing the best international practice and advanced technologies in practice.

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President of Turkmenistan takes part in ceremony of commemorating defenders of Geoktepe fortress

On January 12, the state flags were lowered to half-mast in Turkmenistan to mark Memory Day. The Memory Day events were held throughout the country - the prayers for the repose of the souls of the valorous defenders of the Geoktepe fortress were offered up to Almighty.

On that day the traditional memorial service was held at the magnificent Geoktepe mosque built in honour and memory of those, who had fought till the last drop of blood for freedom of the native land. The words of the prayers acquire the heart-moving sounding and power in the Mosque for the fierce battle was given on that place. During the last, decisive assault on the Geoktepe fortress its defenders including civilians, women, elderly, children, who were much weaker than their enemy, showed up outstanding courage and fortitude and died a hero's death in the unequal fight. However, they did not sink into obscurity. They found immortality in the memory of their grateful descendants. The sacred memory of our ancestors' heroism that became a symbol of selfless and high patriotism passed down from generation to generation, by word of mouth.

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Activities of UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy evaluated highly

The United Nations Security Council highly evaluated the work of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) for a profound contribution to establishing a constructive dialogue among the countries of the region to address common challenges.

Upon reviewing the information presented by UN Secretary-General's Special Representative Miroslav Jenca on the UNRCCA's activities, the UN Security Council expressed its full support for the efforts taken by the UN Regional Centre to enhance effective cooperation with the Central Asian governments and the regional and international organisations operating in the region.

Underscoring the importance of the tasks set to the UN peacemaking structure, which was opened in Ashgabat in 2007 on the initiative of the Government of Turkmenistan, the members of the UN Security Council expressed belief that relying on Turkmenistan's peacemaking potential and profound experience in collaboration with the United Nations, the Centre for Preventive Diplomacy would further serve as an effective instrument of early warning and conflict prevention and settlement of disputes and crisis situations in the region where new incentives to promote sustainable development and economic cooperation were urgently called for.

For Turkmenistan that attaches primary significance to intensification of collaboration with the United Nations the opening of the UNRCCA headquarter in Ashgabat marked a new stage of long-term effective partnership with this authoritative international organisation that proclaimed achievement of peace and wellbeing throughout the world its main goal.

Thus, the high evaluation of the activities conducted by the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia could be regarded, first of all, as the recognition of the active position of our country that had put forward a number of the important initiatives in recent years including particularly achievement of water and energy security, promotion of an enabling environment to address urgent problems and challenges in the region, development of the most effective, mutually acceptable approaches to cooperation in the interests of global peace and sustainable development.

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Cotton growers' winter concerns

Turkmen cotton growers celebrated the new 2010 year by returning the selfless labour for the concern that President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov - the initiator of the fundamental agricultural reform pays to agricultural workers. According to the Turkmenpagta State Concern, 35 cotton-cleaning plants throughout Turkmenistan have processed over 500,000 tons of raw cotton of the 2009 harvest.

It should be noted that on the eve of the New Year's holidays the receiving points of the Ak Altyn Cotton Trading Enterprise settled the accounts with cotton producers to the sum of over one billion manats.

Today, cotton growers are engaged in taking care of new cotton plantations to lay the foundation for future rich 'white gold' harvests: under-winter ploughing to water soil and nourish it with mineral salts as well as protect plantations from weeds and plant pests.

Thus, the real outcomes of introducing the new economic relations in rural areas established among agricultural producers, relevant departments and processing enterprises are obvious. In 2010 Turkmen cotton growers are planning to actively contribute to implementing the President's agricultural reform through taking a responsible approach to fulfilling the designated tasks, increasing production of valuable industrial crops, thus enhancing the prosperity and wellbeing of the Motherland.

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Celebrating the 350th birth anniversary of Nurmuhammet Andalib

The 350th birth anniversary of a classical poet of XVII-XVIII centuries Nurmuhammet Andalib will be celebrated in Turkmenistan in 2011.

The President of Turkmenistan issued the relevant Resolution approving the membership of the organizing committee. The document orders to hold the celebrations at the international level, the relevant ministries and departments, research and educational institutions, print periodicals, television and other mass media agencies to develop and conduct the anniversary activities with a view to studying the rich literary heritage of Nurmuhammet Andalib whose works are included in the golden fund of the oriental literature and introducing his poetic world to the international scientific and literary community.

In particular, the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan is authorized to publish Nurmuhammet Andalib's works in the Turkmen and foreign languages, prepare and publish the scientific works about the poet's life and works, organize the research expeditions to the regions of the country and abroad to collect his literary and spiritual heritage in 2010-2011. The Ministry of Culture and Broadcasting is authorized to create the documentary films and prepare a series of the programmes dedicated to Andalib's life and literary heritage in 2010-2011.

The Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Culture and Broadcasting of Turkmenistan and Dashoguz Velayat Khyakimlik are authorized to conduct the international scientific conference "Nurmuhammet Andalib and the Literary and Cultural life of the East in XVII-XVIII Centuries" on March 10-12, 2011.

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Symbol of people's feat

People come here to commemorate heroes...

The Geoktepe National Museum of the history of the Geoktepe fortress and its defenders was opened on the territory of the memorial complex over six months ago. In the architectural ensemble of the memorial complex immortalizing the true legend about the heroes - the defenders of the fortress the Museum became a monument to the heroic feat of the Turkmen people, a symbol of patriotism and high spirit of the Turkmen nation, who had had lots dramatic pages in their history.

Nobody is forgotten, nothing is forgotten ... These lofty words underlay the idea of establishing the museum that told the contemporaries about the events of the winter of 1881, the courageous and brave of the leaders of the defenders and the heroism of civilians, women, old people, children, who fought fearlessly against the aggressors. Each metre of the land there is stained with blood of the best sons and daughters of the Motherland, and thousands of people from different regions of our country come there on January 12 each year to bow down before the sanctuaries of military valour and bravery, to keep forever in the memory of their hearts the immortal heroism of the defenders, who fought till the last drop of blood for freedom of the native land!

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Pictures of the Week (Ashgabat - TURKMENISTAN)

