

TURKMEN WEEKLY ENERGY REVIEW (TWER)

Issue : 6 (26) Date : 22.02.2010

TWER by turkmenlawyer@hotmail.com

Contents :

- ❖ Minara: new evidence of Turkmenistan's gas potential
- ❖ Enhancing potential of power industry
- ❖ An enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov congratulates compatriots on National Flag Day
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan received UN high-ranking official
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives top managers of Asian Development Bank
- ❖ Turkmenistan-ADB: a new vector of cooperation
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of Itera International Group of companies
- ❖ Turkmenistan's processing industry enhances its potential
- ❖ President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visits Mary Velayat
- ❖ Vice President of the United Arab Emirates arrives in Turkmenistan
- ❖ President of Turkmenistan receives top managers of Austrian OMV
- ❖ Meeting between Presidents of Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates
- ❖ Humanitarian assistance for Tajikistan
- ❖ Meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan
- ❖ Messages to President of Turkmenistan from Tatarstan President
- ❖ Messages to President of Turkmenistan from Tajikistan President
- ❖ Degree of President of Turkmenistan about State Support of Small and Medium Enterprises
- ❖ Business relations with Tatarstan
- ❖ Working meetings with Belarusian delegation
- ❖ On agenda - improvement of media activities
- ❖ Power supply to the Turkmen capital under discussion
- ❖ New shopping centres on Neutrality Avenue
- ❖ Parade of festive building premieres continues
- ❖ Along the path of unity and solidarity of Turkmen people
- ❖ Turkmen flag - a symbol of unity and independence
- ❖ Inexhaustible energy of common sense, lively source of spirituality
- ❖ Picture of the Week

Minara: new evidence of Turkmenistan's gas potential

The specialists of the Turkmengeologiya State Concern received a thick gas flow while testing well 1 in the Minara deposit in Yoloten Etrap, Mary Velayat. The geologists' success devoted to the National Flag Day symbolically coincided with the Turkmen leader's visit to Mary Velayat, where the President was attending the ceremonies of launching newly constructed facilities.

According to the Turkmengeologiya State Concern, testing well 1 was a stage of the complex activities carried on to determine well deliverability and complete it for commercial production. The daily flow rate received there through using the 20-mm connecting pipe made up over 1 million cubic metres that, according to experts, exceeds the production rate of the developed hydrocarbon pools.

The first success was achieved in the Minara field last year - while drilling the well produced a powerful gas flow with the absolutely free rate of 4.3 million cubic metres per day at a depth of exceeding 4,000 metres. According to geologists, this result along with those achieved last year convincingly evidence that the gas collecting mains discovered in the natural gas fields are high-yield and highly prospective.

It should be noted that taking into account the territorial closeness of the Minara deposit and the recently discovered Southern Yoloten-Osman deposit Turkmen and foreign specialists assume that a unique oil-and-gas accumulation region may exist in the Murghab Basin. The substantial natural gas accumulations discovered in Minara convincingly prove the most optimistic assessments of 'blue fuel' reserves in Southern Yoloten-Osman. As is known, the results of the audit conducted by the Gaffney, Cline & Associates firm last year classify this field among the four largest gas deposits in the world. The audit estimated the gas reserves in Southern Yoloten-Osman at the highest rate at 14 trillion cubic metres. The highest rate was based on the specialists' assumptions that it was the Minara deposit that contained substantial gas reserves.

The specialists of the Turkmengeologiya State Concern continue exploration works in the Southern Yoloten-Osman and Yashlar fields and the neighbouring areas including Gunorta Garakel, Garakel, Jurji, Gazanly, Gundogar Yoloten and Gunbatar Yandakly. These works give new evidence to Turkmen geologists that these deposits and highly gas prospective areas may form the largest oil-and-gas accumulation region in the world.

Thus, Turkmen geologists' discoveries convincingly prove the status of Turkmenistan as an energy power that guarantees long-term gas exports to all foreign partners.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=6&id=100219a

Enhancing potential of power industry

The ceremony of putting the Ahal gas turbine power station into operation in Ak Bugday Etrap continued the parade of building premieres to mark the National Flag Day. The cabinet ministers, the representatives of the sectoral ministries and departments, the top managers and specialists of the foreign companies, which had collaborated on the implementation of this large-scale investment project, the elders, the activists of the public organisations and journalists took part in the ceremony.

The Ahal gas turbine power station with the capacity of 254.2 MWt a year was built by the Turkish company Lotus Energy under the contract concluded with the Turkmenenergo State Corporation of the Ministry of Energy and Industry in accordance with the Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan.

The new gas turbine power station is the complex of the power production units including two General Electric gas turbine plants, each of which produces 127.1 MWt a year. The specialists of the Turkmengaz State Concern built the special gas outlet for the Ahal gas turbine power station. The complex also includes the automatic gas pressure reducing station and the 220\110\35 kV distribution plant that will supply electric power via power transmission lines.

The administrative building houses the managers' offices and the main control board supplied with state-of-the-art computer systems and various equipment and devices produced by the Siemens Company and the world's leading manufacturers.

Electric power produced by the new gas turbine power station is supplied to the power grid of Turkmenistan. Putting the Ahal power station into operation will allow increasing power supply to the capital that will provide the additional guarantees of accident-free operation of the power supply system of rapidly developing Ashgabat as well as ensure reliable power supply to Ahal Velayat for many years ahead. The Ahal gas turbine power station is a link in the power system being built around Ashgabat under the project aimed at improving electric power supply to the Turkmen capital.

Moreover, the Ahal power station will ensure an additional power generation capacity of Turkmen power industry that will allow improving electric power supply throughout the country. To enhance the reliability of its operation the electric power station will use liquid fuel. For this purpose the diesel fuel tanks with the necessary capacity are built in the territory of the energy facility that will ensure uninterrupted electric power production even if natural gas is supplied to the turbine plants irregularly.

These highly reliable technologies for operation of energy facilities using two types of fuel are applied at the gas turbine power stations in Balkanabat and Avaza, which will be put into operation this year. Putting the power station into operation in Ahal, Balkanabat and Avaza will enhance the potential of Turkmenistan's power industry that will enable to meet the growing domestic needs as well as increase electric power exports within the next five years. As is known, currently Turkmenistan exports electric power to Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=6&id=100218a

An enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov chaired an enlarged meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers, which anticipated the sitting with the participation of the Speaker of the Mejlis and the Vice Premiers devoted to the priority aspects of the national policy.

The participants heartily congratulated the Turkmen leader on the Diplomats' Day celebrated in Turkmenistan on February 18 and the coming National Flag Day and wished every success in the large-scale activity for the benefit of the country and the happiness of the people, to enhance Turkmenistan's prestige on the world arena to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Then President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov addressed the meeting. The Turkmen leader noted that today our country had entered the wonderful epoch - the epoch of new Revival, which was marked with the dynamic processes of fundamental reforms launched in all spheres of life of the state and society. Labour enthusiasm and creative drive could be seen everywhere, construction of large social, health care, industrial and other facilities was in full swing throughout the country. The look of towns and villages was renewed, newly constructed buildings were to serve the people for many centuries. In this regard, the Turkmen leader mentioned the fact that 677 large facilities totally amounted to US\$ 6.5 billion had been constructed and

put into operation in Turkmenistan in an extremely short period – for three years. These included the transnational gas pipelines Turkmenistan-China and Turkmenistan-Iran, the highway bridge across the Amu Darya River, new industrial enterprises, railway lines, the facilities in Avaza national tourism zone, the man-made Turkmen Lake and many other constructions.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100220a

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov congratulates compatriots on National Flag Day

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov congratulated compatriots on the National Flag Day. In the congratulatory address the leader of the Turkmen state wished everyone good health, long life and family wellbeing.

"Our sacred green flag has gone together with the country a glorious way of independent development honouring all our political achievements, labour feats and victories, scientific discoveries and cultural accomplishments with its sublime symbol. The glory and grandeur of the National Flag increases together with the prestige of our country which confidently advances along the path of social and economic progress," the statement says. "Today in an atmosphere of high inspiration and emotional upheaval our citizens are celebrating widely and solemnly the National Flag Day, which symbolizes the greatness and glory of our Fatherland, the unprecedented victories of the epoch of new Revival, which has become the epoch when the cherished desires and hopes of every citizen of Turkmenistan are coming true.

"This holiday strengthens even more the unity and cohesion of our society on a basis of the eternal values – statehood and love for the Motherland. The national flag of Turkmenistan is a symbol of the undying glory of many generations of our compatriots, who have contributed and contribute in a worthy manner to enhancing the strength of the Fatherland, its international prestige and maintain and replenish the wealth of country by their diligent labour."

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=4&id=100219a

President of Turkmenistan received UN high-ranking official

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Aleksey Tikhomirov, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity of a personal meeting the guest congratulated the Turkmen leader on the coming National Flag Day and expressed the best wishes to the President and people of Turkmenistan. A. Tikhomirov said that for the past few years Turkmenistan had achieved the impressive results on the chosen path of fundamental reforms and changes that illustrated the correctness and uncontestable success of the social and economic development strategy implemented under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The foreign policy strategy pursued by the Turkmen leader in compliance with the status of positive neutrality as well as Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's constructive international initiatives on maintenance of global peace, security and stability and intensification of mutually advantageous cooperation put forward at the session of the UN General Assembly had won worldwide support and recognition. "I am glad of an opportunity to take part in the celebrations in honour of the remarkable date," Aleksey Tikhomirov said noting that the recent festive building premieres symbolized the rapid progress and prosperity of the country.

Thanking for the congratulations and heartfelt wishes Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that Turkmenistan attached great importance to the development of the effective dialogue with the United Nations and its agencies. This dialogue having a number of the successful joint projects in its assets met the strategic goals of the policy of the Turkmen state including the ultimate one - the people's wellbeing. In this regard the President underscored with satisfaction the growing dynamics of bilateral cooperation built on along-term basis and filled with a new quality and content.

In conclusion the Turkmen leader and his guest expressed belief that Turkmenistan-UN partnership would be successfully developed in the interests of global peace and sustainable development.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100219e

President of Turkmenistan receives top managers of Asian Development Bank

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received a delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by President Haruhiko Kuroda. The delegation consists of Executive Director Ashok Lahiri and Vice President Xiaoyu Zhao.

Thanking for the opportunity of a personal meeting the guests heartily congratulated the Turkmen leader on the coming National Flag Day and wished good health, prosperity and every success in implementing the ongoing large-scale reforms aimed at guaranteeing the progress and prosperity to the country for many years ahead.

Greeting the top managers of one of the largest regional and international financial institutions, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that Turkmenistan always stood ready for a constructive and mutually advantageous dialogue with foreign partners. Noting with satisfaction that the Asian Development Bank ranked among the long-term and dependable partners actively collaborating on the implementation of a number of joint projects, the Turkmen leader said that all necessary prerequisites existed today to intensify traditional cooperation.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100219c

Turkmenistan-ADB: a new vector of cooperation

The ceremony of signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Asian Development Bank on the financing of construction of the northern section of the Bereket-Gyzylgaya-Uzen railway of the North-South transport corridor took place in Ashgabat. The high-ranking officials of the sectoral ministries and departments and the largest banks of Turkmenistan and the members of the delegation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) led ADB President Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda participated in the ceremony.

This interest of the international financial institutions, in particular the Asian Development Bank, in collaboration on the large-scale project on construction of the North-South transnational transport corridor initiated by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov is quite natural. For the advantageous geo-strategic location of our country, which is called 'the crossroads of the seven roads' from ancient times and the accelerated development of transport infrastructure in Turkmenistan gains more prospects as business partnership between Turkmenistan and many countries of the world expands.

Turkmenistan joined the ADB in 2000, and the agreement on the opening of the ADB Resident Mission Office in Turkmenistan was signed earlier this year that became a new step to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Today, the major fields of Turkmenistan-ADB partnership include the transport sector. Signing the Memorandum is a new step to implement the large-scale transport and communication infrastructure project on construction of the railway across the territories of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Iran. Connecting Europe with South Asia and laying the shortest route to the Persian Gulf ports this railway will promote regional trade. Furthermore, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasizes that the implementation of this project will increase the effectiveness of international as well as domestic railway traffic and will become an efficient instrument for economic and social progress of Turkmenistan.

In accordance with the document, US\$ 225 million will be allocated for construction of the 200-km section of the new railway line from the Bereket station to the Turkmen-Kazakh state border. The total length of this railway line is 466 km. In accordance with the Memorandum, the funds will be spent to build the railway line, including stations, railway sidings, auxiliary lines, buy locomotives and equipment and pay for project management and monitoring services.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=5&id=100220a

President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of Itera International Group of companies

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received of Igor Makarov, CEO of Itera International Group of companies.

The guest heartily congratulated the Turkmen leader on the National Flag Day and wished good health for many years, wellbeing and every success in achieving the lofty goals of the epoch of new Revival. The businessman noted that the celebrations launched during these days all over the Turkmen land symbolized an decisive advance of the country along the path of progressive changes and reforms being implemented under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan for the benefit of the Turkmen people. Underscoring the Itera's interest in maintaining cooperation with Turkmenistan, Igor Makarov reaffirmed the company's intention to expand on the Turkmen market through collaboration in new large-scale projects initiated by the Turkmen leader as well.

Thanking for the congratulations and heartfelt wishes Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that Itera had earned the reputation of one of Turkmenistan's dependable partners, which whom our country had accumulated the profound experience of cooperation, in particular in the energy sector.

In this context the Turkmen leader and the CEO of the holding harmonized the short-term cooperation plans, discussed the ways to intensify mutually advantageous business contacts. Reporting on the progress in implementing the projects in Turkmenistan, Igor Makarov assured the Turkmen leader that Itera would strictly comply with its partnership obligations.

Upon concluding the meeting the businessman expressed sincere gratitude to the Turkmen leader for the confidence granted to the company and emphasized that Itera would spare no effort to use effectively the existing potential of cooperation in mutual interests.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100219b

Turkmenistan's processing industry enhances its potential

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov attends ceremony of putting cotton spinning mill into operation in Geoktepe

The ceremony of putting a cotton spinning mill into operation took place with the participation of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in the Kopetdag valley on the eve of the National Flag Day. The modern textile enterprise in the administrative centre of Geoktepe Etrap of Ahal Velayat extended the production infrastructure of Turkmenistan's processing industry. This event is a new important step to implement the strategy initiated by the Turkmen leader to develop one of the most profitable, export-oriented sectors of the national economy and increase production of high-quality products, which were in high demand on world markets.

The high-tech factory is built in immediate proximity to the Geokdepe textile complex. Thus, a town of textile enterprises blending well with the architectural landscape being formed against the background of the Kopetdag Mountains has sprung up in Geoktepe.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of Turkmenistan the project on turnkey construction of the industrial facility amounted to US\$ 70 million was implemented by the Turkish company Kotam Enterprises LTD - one of Turkmenistan's leading partners on construction of textile factories. The total area of the facility including the engineering and administrative buildings and two cottages for local workers is 12 hectares. The adjacent area is planted with conifer and deciduous trees, ornamental plants and shrubs, which are adapted well to local soil and climatic conditions. There are the wonderful fountains built on the square in front of the building.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100218b

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov visits Mary Velayat

On the eve of the national holiday - Flag Day the ceremonies of opening two newly built facilities - the buildings of the State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan and the local history museum and laying the foundation stone of the velayat library took place in the administrative centre of Mary Velayat with the participation of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The fact of construction of the educational and cultural establishments not only in the capital but also in the regions of the country testifies to the success of the policy progressive reforms and large-scale changes aimed at establishing the new standards of living of the Turkmen people, creating the conditions conducive to improving in their welfare and improve cultural standards. The Speaker of the Mejlis, cabinet members, the high-ranking military and law enforcement officials and the velayat khyakims greeted the Turkmen leader at the airport. The bouquets of flowers were presented to the President. The elders offered bread and salt to the leader of the Turkmen state. The mullahs offered up the prayers for the Turkmen leader's health, and the wellbeing of the native land. The art group from Mary Velayat performed the wonderful national songs and inflammatory dances.

Thanking for the heartfelt welcome and congratulating the elders on the coming holiday - the National Flag Day of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov talked to them about the working and living conditions of local people, their everyday concerns and plans for the future as well as the measures taken in the region to foster local social and economic development. The President emphasized that the Government would further provide overall support and assistance to the regions of the country and increase the welfare of every family, every citizen. The Turkmen leader said that the ceremonies of opening the new buildings of the State Energy Institute and the local history museum and laying the foundation stone of the velayat library would take place on that day. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that in the future the similar facilities would be built in all regions of the country and become the centres of culture and science.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100216c

Vice President of the United Arab Emirates arrives in Turkmenistan

Vice-President of the United Arab Emirates, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum arrived in Turkmenistan.

Vice President, Minister of Foreign Affairs R. Meredov greeted the distinguished guest at the airport in Mary on the instructions of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

As is known, during the recent official visit to the United Arab Emirates Turkmen leader visited Dubai, where he had a meeting with the Vice-President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. During the talks, which focused on the ways to enhance and develop mutually advantageous cooperation based on the imperishable traditions of friendship and fraternity between two peoples, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov invited Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum to visit Turkmenistan.

Upon arriving at the Mary airport the UAE Vice-President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai expressed profound gratitude to the Turkmen leader for the invitation and an opportunity to visit Turkmenistan emphasizing that he considered it great honour.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100217a

President of Turkmenistan receives top managers of Austrian OMV

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who was in Mary Velayat, received Wolfgang Ruttendorfer, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Austrian company OMV and Peter Seitingner, Vice President for Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and Caspian Region for OMV Exploration & Production GmbH.

Greeting the Turkmen leader the businessmen expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity of a personal meeting, which became possible despite of the Turkmen leader's busy working schedule. Congratulating Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on the coming holiday - National Flag Day, which had been marked by the ceremonies of putting two large-scale industrial facilities into operation and laying the foundation stone of the velayat library, Mr. Wolfgang Ruttendorfer said that the Austrian oil and gas company was greatly interested in establishing close cooperation Turkmenistan.

The Turkmen leader emphasized that implementing the strategy for technology modernization of the fuel and energy sector and diversification of transit of energy to world markets Turkmenistan intended to build an active dialogue with foreign partners on an equal, mutually advantageous basis noting that the profound economic and resource potential of the country with huge reserves of hydrocarbon resources opened up the vast opportunities. In this regard the President provided an example of the Southern Yoloten-Osman field with huge reserves of natural gas proved by the results of the independent audit.

Exchanging views on the prospects for fruitful collaboration the guests stated that the Austrian company, which was specialized in hydrocarbon production and petrochemical industry, intended to collaborate in joint fuel and energy projects and put forward a number of the concrete proposals on cooperation.

Upon concluding the meeting the businessmen thanked President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for the detailed, substantive conversation and assured the Turkmen leader that the OMV Company would spare no effort to establish long- term cooperation with Turkmenistan, which was viewed in Austria as a dependable and very promising partner.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100216b

Meeting between Presidents of Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates

In the afternoon on February 15, President of the United Arab Emirates His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrived in the administrative centre of Mary Velayat.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov greeted heartily the distinguished guest at the airport decorated with the national flags of Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates.

The leaders of the two states exchanged the heartfelt greetings. President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov accompanied the honorary guest to the VIP-hall, where the leaders exchanged views on a wide spectrum of the issues of mutual interest over a cup of tea.

Underscoring with satisfaction the steady tendency to intensification of bilateral relations Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan expressed belief that the important agreements reached during the Turkmen-Arab summit would foster and enhance the dialogue built on the principles of friendship, mutual benefit and confidence.

Discussing the prospects for interstate cooperation the sides were unanimous that the recent official visit of the President of Turkmenistan to the UAE had given strong impetus to mutually advantageous partnership. In this regard the leader of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov thanked his honorary guest Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the heartfelt welcome extended in the country to the Turkmen delegation. Exchanging views on various aspects of cooperation of mutual interest, the sides focused on the commitment of Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates to intensify the fruitful dialogue, the key to the success of which were the political will and the existing profound economic and resource potential of both countries.

Highly evaluating the prospects and confirmed the mutual willingness to further expand business partnership based on the traditional ties of friendship and mutual understanding, the Presidents of Turkmenistan and the UAE underscored the mutual readiness to strengthen collaboration in both bilateral and multilateral formats, particularly in the framework of the international institutions and organisations.

Thanking for the hospitality extended in the Turkmen land, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan reiterated that the United Arab Emirates fully supported and welcomed the policy of the Turkmen leader, who confidently led his people along the road of wellbeing and prosperity.

In conclusion the leaders of Turkmenistan and the UAE expressed belief that bilateral cooperation would be further dynamically developed in the interests of the two friendly and brotherly peoples.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100216a

Humanitarian assistance for Tajikistan

With the view of further developing and enhancing the good neighbourly relations between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Tajikistan and due to recent severe frosts and abnormally severe weather as well as abiding by our ancestors' principles of generosity and humanity the President of Turkmenistan issued the Decree authorizing the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan and the Turkmenbashi complex of oil refineries to provide textile articles and diesel fuel in the approved amount as humanitarian assistance to the people of the neighbouring country.

This act of goodwill of the leader of the Turkmen state is a new vivid illustration of Turkmenistan's commitment to the traditions of good neighbourliness and mutual assistance that contributes to enhancing the traditionally friendly and fraternal relations between the two neighbouring states.

As is known, the peoples of Turkmenistan and the Republic of Tajikistan are bound with the age-old ties of fraternity and spiritual kinship. The rich experience of economic and cultural partnership is an important factor in the successful development of cooperation in the bilateral and regional formats.

In accordance with the Decree of the President the Ministry of Textile Industry and the Turkmenbashi complex of oil refineries are authorized to send children's clothing and diesel fuel amounted to over US\$ 500,000 as humanitarian aid to the Republic of Tajikistan.

The ancient tradition to maintain and develop friendly relations with neighbouring peoples and if necessary extend a helping hand exists among the Turkmen people for centuries handed down from generation to generation. Humanitarian aid will be sent to the neighbouring country within the next few days on the instructions of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100215a

Meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov chaired a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers to review the outcomes of the official visit to the United Arab Emirates, the issues related to organizing and holding the Flag Day celebration and other important issues of the current state policy.

The cabinet ministers heartily congratulated the Turkmen leader on the great success of the visit and talks in the UAE, the coming holiday in honour of the glorious green banner of the Motherland and the third anniversary of electing Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov President of Turkmenistan emphasizing that this remarkable date was indissolubly interrelated with the epoch of new Revival and historic reforms in the Motherland.

Vice Premier, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan R. Meredov reported on the outcomes of the official visit of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to the United Arab Emirates. It was noted that this visit and talks in Abu Dhabi had become an important event in the history of the relations between Turkmenistan and the UAE and aroused keen media interest across the world. R. Meredov also reported that the work to establish the joint intergovernmental commission, which would contribute to fostering mutually advantageous partnership, had been launched.

Reporting on the results of the third meeting of the Turkmen-Indian intergovernmental commission for trade, economic and technological cooperation the Vice Premier said that the specific proposals to enhance fruitful collaboration with the profound potential had been put forward during the meeting. An important step in this field was the Memorandum on the establishment of the Turkmen-Indian Centre for Information Technologies between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India.

Underscoring the significance of the agreements reached during the talks in the UAE and the importance of consistent implementation, the Turkmen leader said that Turkmenistan would further the constructive dialogue with the United Arab Emirates based on the traditions of friendship and fraternity between two peoples and meeting mutual interests.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100214a

Messages to President of Turkmenistan from Tatarstan President

President of the Republic of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiev sent a message to the Turkmen leader. He wrote that cooperation of the Republic of Tatarstan and Turkmenistan in the framework of Russian-Turkmen partnership had the positive dynamics in recent years. The countries expanded trade and economic, scientific and cultural relations.

The President of Tatarstan informed that in September 2009 with the view of implementing the agreement on cooperation between Turkmenistan and Tatarstan he had issued the Decree on the plenipotentiary representation of the Republic of Tatarstan in Turkmenistan and appointed Kamil Ramazanovich Galiev Plenipotentiary Representative. Establishing the mission was another evidence of a new quality of bilateral relationships that had become possible due to the efforts of the Turkmen leader, Mintimer Shaymiev noted in his message. The leader of Tatarstan expressed profound gratitude to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and great hope for further mutual understanding and the unity of efforts to preserve the historical and cultural ties between our peoples. In conclusion Mintimer Shaymiev noted that he highly valued the relations with Turkmenistan and was glad of new meetings in the hospitable land of Tatarstan ".

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100213c

Messages to President of Turkmenistan from Tajikistan President

President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon sent a message to the President of Turkmenistan.

The Tajik leader wrote that the people of Tajikistan highly valued the centuries-old relations of friendship and mutual respect with the fraternal people of Turkmenistan.

Emomali Rahmon noted with satisfaction that in recent years the Tajik-Turkmen relations had the tendency to consistent development in the whole spectrum of cooperation in compliance with the fundamental interests of our countries and peoples.

The Tajik leader said that the similar geopolitical, socio-economic and geographical conditions in the epoch of globalization urged to jointly develop the adequate forms of cooperation at the intergovernmental level to use more effectively the existing profound potential of bilateral relations.

President Emomali Rahmon invited President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to pay a state visit to Tajikistan on March 18-19 this year to exchange views on the conceptual aspects of future cooperation between the two countries.

In conclusion the Tajik leader expressed belief that the results of the visit would give new impetus to the relations between the two countries and contribute to further consolidation of the efforts to strengthen peace, stability and good neighbourly relations in the region.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100213b

Degree of President of Turkmenistan about State Support of Small and Medium Enterprises

In accordance with the Law of Turkmenistan "On the State Support of Small and Medium Enterprises" with the view of maintaining the high rates of social and economic growth of Turkmenistan, encouraging entrepreneurial activity in various sectors of the national economy, broadening the range and increasing the output of production of small and medium enterprises, enhancing their competitiveness in the foreign markets and creating new jobs the President of Turkmenistan issued the Resolution authorizing to establish the State Commission to support small and medium enterprises in Turkmenistan. The document approved the Regulations on the State Commission for Small and Medium Enterprises and its membership.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=1&id=100213a

Business relations with Tatarstan

A delegation of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation consisting of the representatives of the ministries, organisations, research institutions and industrial enterprises led by Minister of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Tatarstan Ravil Zaripov visited Ashgabat.

The delegation was received at the Government of Turkmenistan, held the working meetings and business consultations at the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, the Ministry of Motor Transport, Turkmenobahyzmat Association and Ashgabat Khyakimlik. The specialists from Tatarstan visited the industrial enterprises where they discussed the potential fields of cooperation including adoption of know-how, modernization and optimization of manufacturing process.

It was noted that partnership between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Tatarstan was based on the intergovernmental agreement on trade and economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. The representatives of Tatarstan put forward the proposals to enhance cooperation in the high-tech and education sector, power, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, health care, machine building and shipbuilding.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=5&id=100213a

Working meetings with Belarusian delegation

A delegation of the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus led by Deputy Minister of Architecture and Construction Sergei Lastochkin is on a visit to Turkmenistan. The delegation consists of the specialists and engineers of the leading enterprises and institutions of the friendly country.

During the visit to the Turkmen capital the members of the Belarusian delegation held the working meetings at the Government, the sectoral ministries and departments including the Ministry of Railway, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, the Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry and Mineral Resources and the Ashgabat Khyakimlik.

During the meetings the partners noted that a qualitatively new level of the Turkmen-Belarusian dialogue became a result of the summit between Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and

Aleksander Lukashenko talks during the Turkmen leader's official visit to Belarus this January. The top level talks resulted in signing the bilateral documents aimed at enhancing effective partnership in a wide range of fields including chemical industry, industrial and civil construction, energy, transportation, communications and telecommunications sectors. The meetings in Ashgabat will specify the ways of collaboration of the Belarusian construction and design organisations on construction and complex modernization of a number of the enterprises in the Turkmen capital and in the regions of Turkmenistan.

The visit of the Belarusian delegation will last till February 16.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=5&id=100212b

On agenda - improvement of media activities

The issues of legal regulation of media activities in the CIS member states and Europe were put on the agenda of the roundtable which was held in the capital. The forum was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under President of Turkmenistan (TNIDHR) in collaboration with the British Embassy in Turkmenistan. The meeting organized in the framework of the Programme on Legal Cooperation between Turkmenistan and the UK brought together the representatives of the Mejlis, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture and Broadcasting, TNIDHR, the Institute of State and Law under President of Turkmenistan, the Institute of International Affairs and Magtuguly Turkmen State University and journalists.

The participants noted that improvement of mass media, which played an important role in the world and aimed its activities to meet the tasks of social, political and democratic development and modern requirements set by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, was a major priority of the policy of the Turkmen state. It was noted that the essential aspects of modernization of mass media in the country was the study of the best international practice and implementation of universally recognized international norms and standards in the national media legislation.

The international experts from Great Britain, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Lithuania and Bulgaria made the presentations on the major principles of media activities and the legislation regulating media activities in the CIS member states and Europe. The presentation of the BBC Foundation aroused particular interest among the roundtable participants.

The agenda of the forum, which was held in the conference hall of the Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under President of Turkmenistan, focused on the issues of legal regulation of broadcasting, print media as well as advanced training of media workers and journalists. Also, the forum participants learnt about the principles of electronic publishing including internet publishing.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=5&id=100212a

Power supply to the Turkmen capital under discussion

The urgent measures to be taken to fulfill the tasks set by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov to implement the complex programme on the development of Ashgabat were discussed during a meeting which was conducted at the Ashgabat Khyakimlik. The meeting brought together the cabinet ministers, the representatives of the khyakimliks of Ashgabat and its etraps, sectoral ministries, departments, communal service enterprises and institutions and public organisations.

As is known, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov recently made the working trip round Ashgabat to see the progress in implementing the important projects on urban development and further improvement of urban environment in the city and its suburbs. During this trip the President reviewed the final draft project aimed at enhancing reliability of power supply to the capital developed by the consortium of companies Enx process engineering SA (Belgium) and Schneider Electric (French Republic) on the instructions of the Turkmen leader. The Ministry of Energy and Industry of Turkmenistan and the consortium signed the agreement on the implementation of this project upon the results of the Turkmen-French talks in Paris during the Turkmen leader's official visit to the French Republic.

The participants discussed the plan of actions aimed at implementing this large-scale project that would allow renewing completely the power supply system in Ashgabat. Emphasis was put on the measures to be taken to ensure strict control of the quality and compliance with the period of construction.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=6&id=100206a

New shopping centres on Neutrality Avenue

The parade of building premieres continues in the Turkmen capital on the eve of National Flag Day. Six three-storey shopping centres opened the doors for customers on Bitarap Turkmenistan Shayoly (Neutrality Avenue) that becomes 'a shop-window' of the city and the country. These are the World of Electronics shop and Gadamy shoe shop constructed at the request of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan. The Parahat shop of manufactured products and the Maksat furniture shop are built at the request of the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan. The Altyn Yupluk textile shop and the Korpeler shop were constructed at the request of the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=7&id=100215c

Parade of festive building premieres continues

By tradition, on the eve of the national holiday - Flag Day the festive parade of building premieres began in the Turkmen capital. Six apartment houses opened the doors for over 300 families in Ashgabat.

The dynamics of changes taking place in the architectural look of the main city of the country during these days impress with grandiosity. The streets and avenues of our white-marble capital transforms before our eyes. The ceremonies of opening shopping centres, social facilities and high-rise apartment house were held in Ashgabat during the past two days. A new apartment house was constructed at the request of the Turkmenhimiya State Concern in the southwest of the Turkmen capital on the intersection of Bitarap Turkmenistan Avenue and Oguz Khan Street. In this rapidly developing part of the city apartment houses are build in the neighbourhood of the trade establishments and social facilities. The new shops Belent, Ceper and Haly are built nearby the new apartment house. In the near future the Gul Zaman Fashion and Flower Centre will be constructed in front of the chemical workers' house in accordance with the Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=7&id=100215b

Along the path of unity and solidarity of Turkmen people

The forum was organized at the Mekan Palace in Ashgabat to mark the third anniversary of the nationwide election of Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov President of Turkmenistan. The forum was organized by the Humanitarian Association of the World Turkmen.

It has become a good tradition to conduct the meetings with foreign compatriots on the eve of the national holidays and remarkable dates. On that day our compatriots from different countries, the representatives of the public organisations of the Galkynysh National Movement, journalists, scientists and cultural workers, the high-ranking officials and specialists of the national ministries, departments and higher educational establishments of Ashgabat - the collective members of the Humanitarian Association gathered in the conference hall of the Mekan Palace.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=7&id=100215a

Turkmen flag – a symbol of unity and independence

An amazing stability of the particular symbols, which played a very important role in the life of our ancestors for 3,000-4,000 years, can be found in the heraldic signs of the Turkmen people.

It was the traditions and the respect for them that helped the people, who settled throughout the East in the Middle Ages, to preserve the national identity and ethnicity.

The most popular symbol among the Turkmen people was the star in combination with the crescent that means the sun. The most sophisticated solar symbol - the eight-pointed star schematically conveyed the image the ancient Turkmen deity - Tangry.

The lunar symbol was widely spread in Turkmenistan in antiquity. This is evidenced by the findings of the stamps depicting the three-headed dragon and a snake in the sickle moon (Margush, II millennium BC) and the golden head of the bull with a turquoise crescent on its forehead (Altyn-Depe, II millennium BC). This cult is associated with the ancient cults of the East. The bull's head with a crescent moon on its forehead, which was found in the sanctuary, allows assuming that the cult construction in Altyn-Depe is a temple of the moon. This assumption is supported by a mosaic plaques with the lunar crescent found there

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=8&id=100215b

Inexhaustible energy of common sense, lively source of spirituality

Three years have passed since Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was elected and inaugurated as President of Turkmenistan. These dates - the 11th and 14th of February being symbolic are nevertheless of special significance for the people of Turkmenistan. The events marking these three years that rapidly flew by had launched the contemporary historical epoch - the epoch of new Revival of the Turkmen nation. From whatever viewpoint they are reviewed, they all reflect of the renown of the Turkmen leader's personality and the scale of the reforms he launched.

Peace, progress and creativity - having expressed the essence and fundamentals of Turkmenistan's advance in these notions President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has showed the society a vector of further development: by preserving the national identity, adopting the best international practices and using the national experience accumulated during the years of independence to gain the leading positions in the economic, social and humanitarian spheres and thus take the place in the world community worthy of the people with the glorious five-thousand-year history and culture.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=2&id=100218a

Picture of the Week

