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## President of Turkmenistan receives Special Envoy of South Korean President

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Lee Sang-deuk, a deputy of the National Assembly, Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of Korea, who had arrived in Ashgabat leading a representative delegation. Expressing gratitude for the cordial welcome extended in the Turkmen land, the guest conveyed the heartfelt greetings of President of the Republic of Korea Lee Myung-bak who had addressed the wishes of good health and new accomplishments in ongoing reforms and changes to the Turkmen leader. It was noted that it was the prudent, well thought-out policy pursued by Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the large-scale development programmes launched on his initiative that had enabled Turkmenistan to maintain the high rate of economic growth and rank among dynamically developing countries of the world despite global financial crisis.

Thanking for the kind words the leader of the Turkmen state said that Turkmenistan prioritizing comprehensive intensification of wide international cooperation viewed the Republic of Korea as a very important and promising partner with the profound potential and resources. During the meeting Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the Special Envoy of the President of the friendly country exchanged views on the prospects for Turkmen-Korean cooperation in a wide spectrum including the political, economic and humanitarian spheres.

Underscoring Turkmenistan's increasing role as one of the world's energy producers, the guest said that the Korean business circles, in particular the large companies, the top managers of which had been included in the accompanying delegation to Ashgabat, were keenly interested in establishing full-scale cooperation in oil and gas industry as a major segment of both economies. The priority fields included trade, ecology, construction, education, textile industry, transport and communications and many others in which cooperation was deemed most effective for complementarity in Turkmen and South Korean economies.

Lee Sang-deuk noted that the Republic of Korea ranking among the world's leaders in high technologies stood ready to offer its scientific and technological innovations and actively collaborate in ongoing national programmes in Turkmenistan as well as new joint projects at the national and regional levels and provide assistance in training highly qualified specialists with the view of supporting small and medium-sized businesses in the country.

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## President of Turkmenistan receives credential letters of Iranian Ambassador

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkmenistan Seyed Mohammad-Mousa Hashemi Golpayegani who presented the credential letters to the Turkmen leader.

Thanking for the opportunity of a personal meeting the diplomat conveyed the heartfelt greetings of IRI President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who had expressed the wishes of wellbeing and prosperity to the Turkmen people. The Ambassador said that Iran attached considerable significance to the development of relations with brotherly Turkmenistan that had been filled with a new content and quality in recent years through the goodwill of both countries.

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## President of Turkmenistan receives Advisor to UAE Deputy Prime Minister and CEO of Daewoo E&C

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Ali Atia Al Hashimi, Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Presidential Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and Jong-Uk Seo, CEO and President of Daewoo E&C.

Expressing gratitude to the leader of the Turkmen state for the opportunity of a personal meeting Ali Atia Al Hashimi said that the United Arab Emirates attached great importance to cooperation with Turkmenistan that was viewed as a dependable and reputable partner. In this regard the guest from the UAE noted that the vast opportunities to expand business contacts were conditioned by the large-scale reforms launched in Turkmenistan on the initiative of the President to promote the social and economic progress of the country.

In his turn Jong-Uk Seo said that he considered it great honour to be received by the leader of Turkmenistan and offer the expertise and innovation technologies of Daewoo E&C, which successfully operated on the UAE market and implement projects around the world, to dynamically developing Turkmenistan.

Reaffirming the commitment to mutually advantageous international cooperation, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that Turkmenistan adopted the best international practice and innovations in all sectors of the national economy to implement long-term development programmes.

Expressing keen interest in establishing business partnerships the guests put forward a number of the relevant proposals. In this context the CEO of Daewoo E&C briefed the Turkmen leader of the major activities of the company specializing in construction industry including such sectors as civil engineering and architecture, construction of energy and industrial facilities. Welcoming such a constructive, responsible approach to cooperation, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that the partners' proposals would be taken into consideration. Jong-Uk Seo emphasized that Daewoo E&C stood ready to offer the expertise and potential to Turkmenistan and collaborate in joint projects aimed at fostering Turkmenistan's economic development.

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## President of Turkmenistan receives German businessmen

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received top managers of the well-known German companies Jurgen Grossmann, Chairman of the Management Board of RWE AG, Stefan Judisch, CEO of RWE Supply and Trading and Rudi Lamprecht, Director of EWC East West Connect GmbH & Co. KG in official residence Serdar in Ashgabat.

Thanking for the opportunity of a personal meeting the guests congratulated the leader of the Turkmen state on the Turkmen Horse Day, which was widely celebrated throughout the country. To mark this national holiday the final of the contest for the most beautiful Ahalteke horse initiated by the President of Turkmenistan had been held at the State Hippodrome. The guests informed that they had watched this bright, enchanting show and expressed sincere admiration with the beauty and grace of magnificent horses esteemed in Turkmenistan as the wealth and age-old pride of the Turkmen nation.

Taking an opportunity the guests congratulated President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on the success of the International Gas Congress in Ashgabat, which drawn attention world business elite. It was noted that the representation at the Ashgabat forum, which had brought together the heads of the largest oil and gas companies and firms from all over the world, became the best evidence of an interest of foreign including German business circles in establishing full-scale, long-term partnership with Turkmenistan.

Underscoring the vast opportunities opened up to establish closer cooperation on a number of key aspects of development of Turkmen fuel and energy sector including modernization as a priority goal of the state policy, the President and his guests focused on the importance and significance of the Memorandum on Long-Term Cooperation signed between the Government of Turkmenistan and the German Concern RWE AG last April that determine to a larger extent the future of mutually advantageous cooperation in the energy sector.

As is known, in accordance with the agreement the German company is to provide assistance in training and raising professional skills of Turkmen specialists, conducting geological survey, developing pipeline infrastructure and studying the possibilities of transit of Turkmen gas to world markets. Furthermore, RWE intends to develop hydrocarbon deposits in offshore block number 23 in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea under the Production Sharing Agreement concluded with the State Agency for Hydrocarbon Resources Management and Use under the President of Turkmenistan. During the meeting the German businessmen informed the Turkmen leader of the work done in the period and the concrete measures taken to fulfill the designated tasks. In particular, these included the opening of the RWE office in Ashgabat that had symbolically coincided with the International Gas Forum.

Commenting on the report Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov highly evaluated the company's constructive approach to building cooperation and expressed belief that in mutually advantageous partnership would be intensified. Thanking for the confidence granted to the company the guests assured that they would spare no effort to carry out the President's instructions and further contribute actively to implementing the large-scale reform programmes in Turkmenistan of the epoch of new Revival.

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## President of Turkmenistan makes working trip round Ashgabat

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov made a working trip round the capital to see the progress of construction of important facilities and improvement of the city. The trip was made at the request of Vice Primer D. Orazov, who was in charge of the construction sector, and Ashgabat Khyakim Sh. Durdlyev.

The focus of attention was the progress of construction of facilities in the centre of Ashgabat, at the intersection of Galkynysh Avenue and Saparmurat Turkmenbashi Avenue, where a monumental architectural ensemble was being formed to beautify even more the white-marble capital of Turkmenistan.

The President visited the construction site of the Nisa Hotel to see the progress of reconstruction, construction of facilities, replacement of road surface and improvement of the adjacent territory including laying pavement, lighting and landscaping. One of the components of the future architectural ensemble is the office building of the Emergency Management Centre. There, on the construction site Vice Premier D. Orazov, Ashgabat Khyakim Sh. Durdlyev and Minister of Defence J. Berdyev reported in detail on the ongoing work and the progress of improvement of this part of the city including reconstruction of road surface. After the Turkmen leader visited the construction site, he noted that the exterior and architectural design of the future building should comply with the design idea of the fundamental architectural ensemble being formed in the city centre.

Summing up the working visit the President underscored the need for a well thought-out, integrated approach to achieving the goals of the large-scale urban development programme that stood as an essential aspect of the concept of the development of the main city of the country. Touching upon buildings and facilities under construction, which should blend well with the contemporary architectural ensemble of Ashgabat, the Turkmen leader said that the major requirements were the high quality of work and a combination of the traditions of the national art of building and advanced achievements of world architecture and engineering thought. The national leader said that high technologies must be used to build transport and communication infrastructure and create green zones in compliance with the best landscape design practices.

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## President Degree

With the view to increase the effectiveness of public administration through organizing interdepartmental data exchange, ensuring the effective use of information and communication technologies, enhancing data protection and security, the President of Turkmenistan issued the Resolution authorizing the Ministry of Economy and Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications to establish the unified framework to introduce information and communication technologies in public administration. The document authorizes the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan to establish the fiber-optic telecommunications networks between the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan and the ministries and sectoral departments in order to establish this framework. The document approves the plan of action for 2010 on the introduction of information and communication technologies in public administration and the membership of the coordinating board to be established.

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## Afghani delegation visits Ashgabat

A delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan led by Ghulam Kadyr Akbar, Senior Advisor of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan, Chairman of the Herat Chamber of Commerce and Industry is on a visit to Ashgabat during these days.

During the visit to the Turkmen capital the guests held a series of talks at the national ministries and departments to exchange views on the ways to further expand Turkmen-Afghani cooperation. In particular, the meetings were held at the Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan.

During the talks the Afghani government officials expressed keen interest in intensifying mutually advantageous partnership in the trade and economic sphere, the fuel and energy and other sectors.

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## New step to enhance cooperation

A ceremony of opening the German Library Fund created with the assistance of the RWE AG Company to help Turkmen students about the history of Turkmen-German relationships was conducted at the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. The high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the representatives of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the top managers of the RWE AG Company, Institute teachers and students took part in the ceremony.

The German Library Fund was opened on the initiative of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with the support of the RWE AG Company, which ranked among Turkmenistan's old partners. It was noted that this action would be an important step to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between two countries and promote education and culture.

The ceremony participants noted that friendly relations between Turkmenistan and Germany facilitated versatile partnership the profound potential of which should be used to improve the welfare and prosperity of the two nations. The Turkmen leader's visit to Germany in November 2008 offered powerful incentives to foster cooperation. A series of the important meetings and talks held in Germany during the visit had opened up new opportunities expand and intensify traditional partnership.

The key aspects of bilateral relations included cooperation in the spheres of education and science. Training of young highly qualified specialists is a priority of the policy of the Turkmen state in the epoch of new Revival. Adopting advanced international standards in the national education system Turkmenistan closely collaborated with the UN, the EU member states, the leading research and educational centres across the world in the humanitarian sphere. The practical results of this collaboration included the projects implemented within the framework of the programmes such as TEMPUS, TACIS, DAAD.

The study of foreign languages plays an important role in training experts in international affairs. The English, Russian and German languages are taught at the Institute of International Relations of Turkmenistan. In particular, the foreign experts cooperating with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provide profound assistance to the Institute students in studying the German language.

The German Library Fund includes over 3,500 books, methodological manuals, special literature, belletristic, encyclopedias and electronic collections of various educational programmes. The classrooms designed for the Library Fund are supplied with state-of-the-art equipment with access to the Internet.

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## Turkmenistan-IBD: towards enhancing cooperation

The presentation of the specialized organisations of the Islamic Development Bank was held during the visit of the IDB delegation to Turkmenistan. This meeting brought together the representatives of the sectoral ministries and departments, the banking institutions and journalists in the conference hall of the State Bank for Foreign Economic Relations of Turkmenistan.

The representatives of the Islamic Development Bank made the presentations on the activities, largest structural organisations and special programmes of the Bank and the major principles and lines of financing. As is known, the IDB was founded by the first conference of Finance Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1973. The Bank's main goal is financial cooperation to promote social and economic development of the IDB member countries.

It was noted that Turkmenistan and the Islamic Development Bank maintained constructive and fruitful cooperation. Long-term partnership had resulted in implementing a number of successful joint projects in such fields as transport, health care, construction and education and the programmes aimed at promoting private sector development.

The recent large-scale projects launched in Turkmenistan with the assistance of the IDB included construction of the Bereket-Etrek section of the Gyzylgaya-Bereket-Etrek railroad that was a part of the North-South transnational corridor. As is known, this project was launched on the initiative of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Underscoring the significance of ongoing economic reforms in Turkmenistan, the IDB experts highly evaluated the high pace of development of Turkmen economy, the increasing potential of which provided the reliable guarantees of further expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation.

The foreign specialists briefed the participants on the activities of the Institute for Research and Training, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation affiliated in the IDB group.

During the roundtable with the Turkmen businessmen the representatives of the Islamic Corporation for the private sector development discussed a possibility to draft a joint programme to encourage small and medium-sized businesses in Turkmenistan through IDB's financing.

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## **Turkmenistan-EBRD: presentation of new strategy**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development made the presentation of the Strategy for Turkmenistan for 2010-2013, which was approved by the EBRD Board of Directors this March. The heads and specialists of the state and joint-stock commercial banks, the ministries and departments and journalists took part in the ceremony organized by the EBRD in Turkmenistan.

The participants said that the past three years in Turkmenistan had been marked by the adoption of the important decisions aimed at enhancing the economic strength of the country, increasing the standards of living of the Turkmen people and laying the reliable foundation for the progress of the Turkmen state for many years ahead. The large-scale changes launched in the financial and economic system had allowed guaranteeing balanced and sustainable development of all sectors of the national economy in the period of transition towards a market-oriented economy.

As is known, a key aspect of the strategy of progressive reforms initiated by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was to build a new national economic model meeting modern requirements. The participants noted that the financial and banking reforms including the unification of the exchange rate, guarantees of internal convertibility of the national currency

unit, the establishment of the Stabilization Fund, denomination of Turkmenistan manat and adoption of the important legislative acts aimed at improving the work of financial institutions were the determining factors in enhancing Turkmenistan's financial sustainability. All these measures taken to modernize the national economy were welcomed and encouraged by the authoritative international financial institutions.

The presentation focused on the EBRD's activities and the Strategy objectives. Turkmenistan became a EBRD member and shareholder in 1992. The EBRD provided the financing package to the key projects in our country aimed particularly at enhancing the potential of textile industry, the fuel and energy sector, developing transport and communication infrastructure, etc. which totalled over 530 million euros. 113 projects in the private sector were funded through the credit line provided by the EBRD for small and medium-sized businesses under the guarantee of the Government of Turkmenistan.

It was noted that the major objectives of the new Strategy for Turkmenistan included facilitation of the private sector growth in Turkmenistan. For this purpose the EBRD intended to consider a possibility to create a private sector bank with specific focus on micro, small and medium-sized businesses by enhancing their access to commercially-based finance and direct funding. Furthermore, the EBRD is planning to provide a separate credit line for several banks in Turkmenistan to fund private sector projects without state guarantee.

The essential factors included technical assistance provided to business entities as advisory services. In this context, the EBRD expressed the readiness to cooperation further under the TAM/BAS Programme, which helped private enterprises to adapt to the demands of a market economy, and assist in advanced training of local personnel. As is known, the study of the expertise of the largest banks including the European banks and introduction of advanced management techniques in the financial sector are of particular importance for Turkmen specialists in the context of the ongoing large-scale economic reform.

Constructive cooperation with the EBRD would be continued through providing support to the Government of Turkmenistan to improve the investment climate by optimizing the regulatory framework for financial institutions. The EBRD underlined the readiness to implement the projects on modernization of transport infrastructure in Turkmenistan, which played an important role in the region, jointly with other international organisations.

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## EXCHANGE NEWS

57 transactions were concluded at the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan last week.

The businessmen from the United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Russia and Kazakhstan concluded the transactions in the foreign currency for gasoline, diesel fuel, liquefied gas and polypropylene produced at the Turkmenbashi oil refineries. Liquefied natural gas from the Nayip terminal was bought by the businessmen from Afghanistan. The buyers from Afghanistan the United States bought carbamide and technical iodine (Turkmenhimiya State Concern). The transactions in the foreign currency were concluded for ginned cotton, cotton cloth and yarn, cottonseed oil, knitted articles, bed linen, curtains, gray knitted cloth, liquorice extract, clothing and furniture wool. The buyer-countries: Russia, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Uzbekistan, Belize, Panama, Kazakhstan, and the Virgin Islands. The transactions concluded in the foreign currency totalled over US\$ 131.959 million.

The businessmen from Switzerland bought Turkmen handmade carpets; China, the UAE, Belize, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Hong Kong - cattle skin; Turkey - gray cloth and cotton waste, regenerated fibre; the Seychelles - kaolin for ceramic products; the United Kingdom - chewing gum for deposit manat. The buyers from Kyrgyzstan concluded the transactions for dyed terry articles. The transactions concluded in deposit manats totalled over 3.919 million manats.

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## President's welcoming statement

The President of Turkmenistan addressed the welcoming statement to participants of III International Festival of the Turkmens of the World "The Turkmen Land - the Country of Reforms"

"Dear brothers participating in the Festival, I would like to heartily congratulate you on the opening of III International Festival of the World Turkmen in the hospitable Turkmen land, in Ak Bugday Etrap, Ahal Velayat," the welcoming statement said. "I would like to wish a fruitful and active work to the international forum that contributes to fully introducing the wealth and imperishable value of the richest stratum of the national spiritual heritage, age-old traditions and customs that became an important contribution to the treasury of human civilization!

"The ongoing fundamental comprehensive reforms in independent neutral Turkmenistan reflecting the deeply humanistic essence of the epoch of new Revival and grandiose changes are aimed at guaranteeing happiness and wellbeing to the present and future generations.

"Along with the steady economic growth the humanitarian sphere is developed intensely, the significance of age-old traditions and customs is enhanced and heightened, and our national holidays are enriched with a new meaning and content. The wise and deeply humanistic principles, traditions, customs, rites that have come through the millennia old experience are our national heritage vividly testifying to the high spirituality of the Turkmen society. In the epoch of new Revival this heritage becomes even more important reflecting the high spiritual and moral essence of our contemporary achievements. "Preservation, study, further development of the system of national cultural values of our people, establishment and expansion of mutually advantageous cooperation in the spheres of science, education, culture with the Turkmens who reside in different regions of the planet are the priority aspects of the ongoing humanitarian policy which is based on our profound positive experience.

"This is evidenced vividly by the international festivals that are held on a regular basis bringing together the Turkmens from all over the world in one of the most picturesque parts of our country dressed in wonderful attire of spring blossom with the aim of further cementing the spiritual unity of the Turkmen nation, reviving and promoting its unique culture across the world and demonstrate the unshakable solidarity and spiritual unity of all Turkmens all over the world. "It is pleasant to note that in the Turkmen families from Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, the Russian Federation and Germany as well as all the regions of our country, who standing steadfast to the principles of true friendship, kindness, humanity maintain and replenish the glorious traditions and customs of our forefathers, actively participate in this year's festival that became some kind of a hymn for peace, friendship, brotherhood, harmony and understanding among all peoples of the world.

"During several days the remarkably bright festivities will be arranged in large Turkmen yurts in a wonderful village of the Festival located at the picturesque foothills of the Kopetdag Mountains where participants will cook delicious dishes of the traditional Turkmen cuisine, present bright folk performances which used the whole palette of national holidays, customs, rites, games, crafts and performed musical, songs and dances that lend wings to the soul.

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### Pictures of the Week

