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## East-West gas pipeline to guide regional development

The new gas pipeline East-West with the capacity of 30 million cubic metres per year will become an essential component of modern gas transportation system developed and modernized by Turkmenistan to meet the growing needs of the national economy and new realities that govern the global market for energy. To circle the network of major deposits in the country and ensure the efficiency of maneuvering gas export flows as well as to enhance gas supply reliability inside the country, the decision to construct the East-West gas pipeline 800-1000 km long was adopted on the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan. Construction of this new transnational gas pipeline will ensure supply of 30 billion cubic metres of gas from the richest deposits in the east of the country to the projected Caspian Sea and other possible gas pipeline network starting in the western region of Turkmenistan.

The Resolution of the President of Turkmenistan defines the period of construction and project implementers: the Turkmengaz State Concern and the Turkmennebitgazgurlusyk State Concern are to design and build the East-West pipeline. They are to launch the large-scale investment project on June 1. The gas main that will stretch from the Shatlyk gas compressor station (from the Dovletabat-Deryalyk pipeline) to the Belek gas compressor station in Balkan Velayat is to be built within five years.

The construction of this new gas route in the country will play a decisive role in fostering the development of the region at the pace set by the 2011-2030 National Social and Economic Development Programme of Turkmenistan. Construction and putting into operation of the East-West gas pipeline will enable to ensure effective operation of industrial facilities to be built on the gas route and implement a number of social and economic projects that have a critical impact on sustainable economic growth. So, the President's economic development programme provides for constricting and putting dozens of new enterprises, power stations and other important industrial facilities into operation and taking the measures to promote the leading sectors, first of all, power industry, meet the growing needs of the regions in 'blue fuel' and ensure energy exports. Therefore, the new line with the capacity of 30 million cubic metres per year must become an essential element of the gas transportation network under construction in the country that is to distribute gas flows in the right directions.

The new energy policy of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov assigns a special role to the East-West gas pipeline. It must become a key component of an extended gas infrastructure that is critical to meeting the domestic needs in 'blue fuel' as well as the needs of the transitional pipelines, both existing and new ones, able to ensure large-scale energy export.

As is known, the major priority of Turkmenistan's energy strategy is diversification of natural gas supplies to world markets. Turkmenistan as the largest 'blue fuel' producer in Central Asia ranks among the world's energy powers that have every requisite to increase natural gas production in the next few years. The national leader assigns the particular role in this short-range energy programme to integrated development of the existing huge reserves of hydrocarbon resources. The programme provides for a substantial increase in hydrocarbon production and processing, wide application of advanced technologies and expansion of cooperation with world's leading companies. In accordance with the programme for development of the oil and gas industry for the period till 2030, natural gas production will be increased to 250 billion tons per year and oil production to 110 million tons per year, and it is planned to rise up natural gas exports to 125 billion cubic metres per year.

Moreover, by diversifying the system of transportation of natural gas to world markets, our country can become one of natural gas exporter. These prospects are justified, first of all, by the huge reserves of natural gas of such giant fields as the Southern Yoloten-Osman and Yashlar estimated by Turkmen specialists and proved by the audit of the international expert firm Gaffney, Cline & Associates. The Southern Yoloten-Osman field will become the major fount of gas for the export gas pipeline East-West. Construction of field facilities and putting

this field in commercial production will significantly enhance Turkmenistan's energy potential. Moreover, Turkmen specialist explored the Minara field and discovered previously unknown reserves of natural gas. This field is situated 90 km from the Southern Yoloten-Osman field. At present, the concrete steps are taken to extract natural gas there. The tax credit provided by the China State Bank will be used to implement the first phase of the project aimed at using underground riches. The contracts with world-renowned companies were concluded for construction of relevant infrastructure, gas production and gas processing facilities with the capacity of 30 billion cubic metres per year in the Southern Yoloten-Osman field. Moreover, Turkmen specialists carry out prospecting work in the neighbouring fields such as Jurji, Gazanly, Gundogar Yoloten, Gunorta Garakel, Gunbatar Yandakly. It is quite possible that all these deposits can be the world's largest oil-and-gas accumulation region.

Also, Turkmenistan has several other deposits with substantial hydrocarbon reserves. At present, the Turkmengaz State Concern develop about 30 gas and condensate fields including such fields as Dovletabat and Shatlyk, the large deposits of Malay, Kerpikli, Garassyzlygyn 10 yylygy, Gazlydepe, Bagaja, Yolguyy and others. The stock of production well includes about 1000 units. It is clear that in the future the new gas pipeline will unite these gas fields in the gas transportation system that will supply ecologically pure Turkmen gas in the European as well as easterly directions.

It should be noted that Turkmenistan has considerably enhanced its export potential in recent years. Along with the traditional gas routes to Russia and Iran, the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline with the estimated capacity of 40 billion cubic metres per year was built and put into operation. The Dovletabat-Sarakhs-Hangeran gas pipeline put into operation this January enabled to nearly double gas exports to the neighbours. Abiding by the principle of diversification of natural gas supplies, Turkmenistan carries out the work to promote new gas pipeline projects including construction of the Caspian gas pipeline with the participation of three countries - Turkmenistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline.

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## President of Turkmenistan received Chinese Defense Minister

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Liang Guanglie, Defense Minister of the People's Republic of China. Expressing gratitude for the opportunity of a personal meeting, the guest emphasized that he was glad to pay the first visit to Turkmenistan that he had heard much about before. Expressing sincere admiration with what he had seen in the country, General Liang Guanglie said that China watched the progress of the modern Turkmen state where grandiose reforms aimed at ensuring sustainable economic growth and building a democratic society were successfully implemented under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Thanking for the kind words, the Turkmen leader noted that Turkmenistan highly valued the centuries-old ties of friendship and mutual understanding with brotherly China viewing cooperation with this friendly country as a foreign policy priority. This was illustrated in particular by the large-scale joint projects completed in recent years including the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline put into operation last December and recognized as the longest one in the world.

During the meeting President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and his guest focused on the great prospects for deepening and expanding partnership between Turkmenistan and China based on the existing profound potential and the plans for further mutually advantageous cooperation harmonized by the leaders of the two states during the recent meeting in Shanghai in the framework of the Turkmen leader's state visit to the People's Republic of China.

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## **President of Turkmenistan reviews progress in modernizing material and technical basis of frontier troops**

President of Turkmenistan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan General of the Army Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov reviewed the progress in modernizing the material and technical basis and providing the frontier troops with new specialized military equipment. As is known, the issues related to enhancing the defensive capacity and modernizing the armed forces are in the focus of attention of the Turkmen leader since he assumed office. The aspects of the military reform launched on the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan includes provision of the law enforcement agencies with state-of-the-art military equipment and machines, creation of the favorable conditions of life, service and recreation of military servants including construction of military settlements and frontier posts, training highly qualified military personnel. The President of Turkmenistan keeps the issues related to providing military servants with uniform, food and housing under strict control.

It should be noted that the Military Doctrine of independent neutral Turkmenistan as the unalterable law governing the strategy for developing the armed forces of the country is purely defensive convincingly evidencing the commitment of the Turkmen state to the ideals of friendliness and good neighbourliness as the fundamental policy principles. The major task set to the national army and frontier troops is to improve the activity in order to ensure a happy life and constructive labour of the Turkmen people, peace and cohesion in the native land, preserve the inviolability of the sacred borders and advancement of the Fatherland along the path of prosperity and progress. The President drove to the military aerodrome in Akdepe where the high-ranking law enforcement and military officials greeted him. Head of the Frontier Service of Turkmenistan M. Yslamov reported to President of Turkmenistan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan General of the Army Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

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## **Turkmenistan-India: new chapter in history of intergovernmental relations**

### *Turkmen-Indian top-level talks in New Delhi*

In New Delhi President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov held the talks with Prime Minister of the Republic of India Manmohan Singh and had a meeting with President of the Republic of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil that confirmed the commitments of the two countries and peoples to the traditions of friendship and fruitful cooperation. Based on the common deep historical, spiritual and cultural roots the Turkmen-Indian dialogue was brought to a qualitatively new level reflecting modern realities and meeting mutual interests.

In the morning the President's cortege headed for the Presidential Palace Rashtrapati Bhawan where the official greeting ceremony took place. President of the Republic of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Prime Minister of the Republic of India Manmohan Singh heartily greeted President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in the territory of the palace complex.

Upon concluding the ceremony the President of Turkmenistan visited the memorial complex Raj Ghat - the memorial to India's independence movement leader Mahatma Gandhi. Paying tribute to the outstanding son of the Indian people the Turkmen leader laid a wreath of flowers to the memorial and stood one minute's silence in remembrance of Mahatma Gandhi. The leader of the Turkmen state wrote an entry to the Book of Honorary Guests in commemoration of this event.

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## President of Turkmenistan concludes state visit to the Republic of India

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov concluded the state visit to the Republic of India. As was reported, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov held the talks with Prime Minister of the Republic of India Manmohan Singh and President of the Republic of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil in New Delhi. The bilateral top-level talks convincingly confirmed the readiness of two friendly countries to enhance full-scale cooperation on a long-term mutually advantageous basis. The summit resulted in signing the package of bilateral documents aimed at giving a new impetus to develop the fruitful dialogue between Turkmenistan and the Republic of India and foster effective partnership in priority fields.

In the morning the President's cortege headed for the Palam International Airport where President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov bade heartfelt farewell to the Indian officials. A few hours later the President's plane landed at the airport of the Turkmen capital. The Chairperson of the Mejlis and cabinet ministers heartily greeted President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the airport and congratulated him on the success of the state visit to the Republic of India.

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## For a happy childhood of future generations of epoch of great Revival

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov attended the ceremony of opening new children's health improvement centres in Geokdere. Young citizens of Turkmenistan received a wonderful present at for the summer school holidays. The ceremony of opening two children's health improvement and recreation centres, which were added to the necklace of children's centres, took place in the picturesque resort locality of Geokdere 30 kilometres far from the Turkmen capital. This event vividly evidenced the unceasing concern of the Turkmen state for the younger generation. The President's car stopped at the entrance to the Demiryolcy children's health improvement centre built at the request of the Ministry of Railway Transport of Turkmenistan.

In his greeting speech President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that the festivities would take place in Geokdere settlement, one of the most picturesque localities of our country, would take place on the occasion of opening two new health improvement centres built at the request of the Turkmengaz State Concern: the Demiryolcy recreation centre for 475 children and the Cesme recreation centre for 550 children. The Turkmen leader heartily congratulated those present on the opening of these centres and the coming international holiday the Universal Children's Day and III International Children's Art Festival "Avaza - the Land of Friendship" that had brought together young talents from dozens of countries worldwide in the Turkmen land.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that two facilities - the Dayanc children's recreation centre for 400 children and the Arzuw children's recreation centre for 900 children would be opened on the Caspian seashore in sunny Avaza on June 1 to mark the Universal Children's Day. The President said that about 5,000 children could recreate and improve their health at the children's centres in Geokdere during the first month of the summer holiday season. This summer the children's health improvement centres throughout the country would receive about 24,000 young holidaymakers.

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## Turkmen leader's views and ideas in focus of attention of world community

*Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's article "Turkmenistan's economic strategy: with the people, for the people" enter the international scene*

The publication of the article of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with the name that is informative in its essence and fundamental in its nature: "Turkmenistan's economic strategy: with the people, for the people" drew a tremendous response. The leading foreign publishing houses, news agencies, newspapers and journals immediately responded to the publication of this deeply substantiated, thoroughly reasoned theoretical work of Turkmen leader translated into the Russian, English, Arabic and other languages.

The article was published as a scientific paper by the International Informatization Academy in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Lincoln University, one of the leading research and educational centre in the United States, as well as a booklet in Azerbaijan, Afghanistan and other countries. Many publications contain the portraits and biographies of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and are illustrated with the state symbols of Turkmenistan.

The article setting forth the concept of Turkmenistan's social and political, economic and cultural development in the new historical epoch spotlights the essence of the national idea of new Revival made the front pages as the focal point of the issue of such popular journals as Turkmenistan published in Moscow and America and the World (NY Pressa publishing house). The newspapers including Economics (United Arab Emirates), The Economic Observer and Balochistan Today (Islamic Republic of Pakistan), National Cohesion and Daily Afghanistan (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) dedicated a special issue to the Turkmen leader's work. This fact testifies to not only a heightened interest of political scientists, economists, representatives of the research circles and general public in the events taking place in dynamically developing Turkmenistan, but also a growing respect of the world community for the opinion and ideas of the Turkmen leader, whose progressive reform activities and constructive foreign policy policies have won the country the high international prestige.

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## Meeting of intergovernmental Turkmen-Iranian commission

A regular, seventh meeting of the intergovernmental Turkmen-Iranian commission for consular, customs and border issues was conducted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan. A representative delegation of the neighbouring country led by Hassan Kashkavi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Consular, Parliamentary and Civic Issues had arrived in the Turkmen capital to participate in the meeting. The delegation consisted of the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Customs Service, the Border Guard Service and the deputies of the Iranian Parliament.

During the talks that spotlighted the mutual interest in maintaining full-scale cooperation the sides exchanged views on the progress in implementing the agreements and the measures taken to improve the mechanism for collaboration between the consular, customs and border guard services of the two friendly countries.

The meeting participants expressed belief that the concrete steps under discussion would directly contribute to expanding interstate trade and economic cooperation that had been actively fostered in the past years. It was noted that the high dynamics of Turkmen-Iranian cooperation was vividly illustrated by a steady increase in bilateral trade in the past few years that played a significant role in ensuring sustainable social and economic development of Turkmenistan and Iran.

Focusing on the important role of regular intergovernmental consultations in identifying and harmonizing key fields of further joint activity, the meeting participants expressed belief that the fruitful dialogue established in these years between the neighbouring countries and their fraternal peoples bound with the centuries-old spiritual, historical and cultural affinities would be successfully developed further.

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## Applying Germany's environmental expertise

A meeting with a representative delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany led by Jurgen Keinhorst, Head of Division for CEE and NIS of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety was held at the Mejlis of Turkmenistan.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on a wide range of urgent environmental issues, the ways to improve the management of protected areas, efficiently use water and land resources, strengthen the relevant regulatory framework and enhance bilateral cooperation to exchange experiences in environment protection. In this context the prospects for developing constructive partnership on a regular and long-term basis, in particular for the use of latest techniques and advanced technologies to address the problems of environmental security were discussed.

The visit programme included the talks at the national ministries and departments including the Ministry of Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Nature Protection, the National Desert, Plant and Animal Life Research Institute and the State Committee for Sports and Tourism.

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## Enhancing mutually advantageous partnership

A delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan led by Faruh Hamraliev, Minister of Economic Development and Trade is on a visit to Ashgabat.

The Tajik government delegation held the bilateral talks with the Government of Turkmenistan and at the sectoral ministries and departments to discuss the ways to foster trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in accordance with the agreements and in the light of new prospects. The talks spotlighted an intense interest of the Tajik partners in enhancing and expanding mutually advantageous contacts with Turkmenistan in a wide spectrum of fields. Reaffirming the mutual readiness to enhance Turkmen-Tajik cooperation, the sides called for strengthening and expanding fruitful business contacts.

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## EXCHANGE NEWS

32 transactions is the result of the auctions held at the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan last week.

The businessmen from the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, the United States, Iran, the Netherlands, the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas bought for the foreign currency liquefied gas, A-92 and A-95gasoline, SN-180 base oil and slop wax produced at the Turkmenbashi complex of oil refineries. Stove gasoline produced at Seidi refinery was bought by the businessmen from the United Kingdom and Afghanistan, liquefied gas from the Nayip terminal was bought by Afghani buyers. Grade technical iodine (Turkmenhimiya State Concern) was the choice of the buyers from Russia and China. The transactions in the foreign currency were concluded for cotton yarn, gray cloth, cotton waste and caramel. The buyer-countries are Turkey and United Arab Emirates. The transactions concluded in the foreign currency totalled over US\$ 92.668 million. The transactions in deposit manats were concluded for agricultural products. The businessmen from India, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates bought goat wool, cattle skin, raw silk, Karakul wool. The buyers from the United Arab Emirates bought laundry soap. The transactions concluded in the deposit manats totaled over 3.76 million manats.

The Turkmen businessmen bought polypropylene produced at the Turkmenbashi oil refinery, cotton fibre and dyed terry articles, including napkins, towels and bed sheets. The transactions were concluded the sum of over 188,000 manats.

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Picture of the Week

