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Turkmenistan to increase natural gas exports to Iran

Turkmenistan and Iran agreed to further increase Turkmen 'blue fuel' exports. It is stipulated by the supplement agreement to the continuing contract on 'blue fuel' supplies from Turkmenistan signed recently by the Turkmengaz State Concern and the National Iranian Gas Company. For this purpose Turkmen and Iranian experts will jointly draft the contract for supplying additional amounts of Turkmen natural gas to Iran.

The recent meeting between President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the high-ranking officials of the IRI Oil Ministry and the National Iranian Gas Company gave a powerful impetus to develop of Turkmen-Iranian gas cooperation. As was reported, the mutual readiness of Turkmenistan and Iran to maintain mutually advantageous cooperation in the oil and gas sector where the sides had accumulated the profound experience of collaboration was stated during the talks at the top level. The talks resulted in signing the Agreement between the gas companies of the two countries stipulating for a further increase in the supplies of Turkmen 'blue fuel' to the neighbouring country. In accordance with this agreement an additional amount of natural gas will be supplied via the second gas pipeline recently put into operation Dovletabad-Serahs-Hangeran gas pipeline to Iranian consumers.

As is known, the project on construction of the second gas pipeline to Iran was initiated by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov last July. Turkmenistan and Iran agreed that Turkmenistan would increase natural gas exports to the neighbouring country from 8 to 14 billion cubic meters starting from 2010 and up to 20 billion cubic metres a year in the future. For this purpose the Turkmen fuel and energy subdivisions of Turkmenistan built the 30.5-km Dovletabad-Serahs-Hangeran gas pipeline with the daily capacity of 12.5 billion cubic metres towards Iran in the southeast of the country in the shortest period of time. This January the leaders of the two countries attended the ceremony of commissioning the new gas pipeline that started to supply 'blue fuel' to the neighbouring country. A powerful resource and infrastructure potential of the Dovletabad deposit, one of the largest fields in Turkmenistan was engaged in transporting gas via this pipeline. The Korpedje-Gurtguyi supplies natural gas to Iran from a number of gas deposits in the western region of Turkmenistan including the Kopedje large field.

Together with the Korpedje-Gurtguyi gas pipeline operating for several years the Dovletabad-Serahs-Hangeran gas pipeline will supply up to 20 billion cubic metres of 'blue fuel' each year to Iran in the near future. Thus, the gas-main pipelines supplying Turkmen natural gas to Iran designed to ensure long-term gas exports enable Turkmenistan to enhance its gas export potential that will substantially contribute to implementing the national gas strategy aimed at stable and reliable transit of energy to world markets to achieve global energy security.

http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/_en/?idr=5&id=100620a

New evidence of gas riches of Turkmen land

New gas deposit explored in Bagtyyarlyk field

Testing the deep prospect well in the Agayry gas-bearing structure in Hojambaz Etrap, Lebap Velayat resulted in discovering a new gas pool. The gas-bearing structure that produced this commercial gas inflow is located in the Bagtyyarlyk contractual territory on the right bank of the Amu Darya River developed by the specialists of the Chinese National Oil and Gas Corporation International (Turkmenistan) under the Production Sharing Agreement signed with the State Agency on Hydrocarbon Management and Use under the President of Turkmenistan.

According to the State Agency on Hydrocarbon Management and Use under the President of Turkmenistan, the first prospect well 21 in the Agayry gas-bearing structure was drilled at a depth of over 4,000 metres. A thick commercial gas inflow with the daily flow rate of over 130,000 cubic metres was received at a depth of 3,731-3,703 and 3,646 – 3,578 metres in the connecting pipe 17 mm in diameter. According to the evaluations, the estimated total gas reserves in the Agayry gas-bearing structure makes up over 73 billion cubic metres that allows ranking it as one of the largest gas deposits. This vividly proves that the territory on the right bank of the Amu Darya River is rich in hydrocarbon reserves.

At the first stage of this investment project dozens of large-scale facilities ensuring uninterrupted supply of natural gas to the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline have been built in close collaboration between Turkmen and Chinese specialists. In particular, the large Samandepo deposit was developed and put into production, the first gas processing plant with the capacity of 5 billion cubic metres of tank gas a year was constructed. The second gas processing plant with the capacity of 8 billion cubic metres a year will be constructed in the Bagtyyarlyk contractual territory in the near future. After the plant is put into operation, it will supply gas extracted in newly developed fields on the right. It is planned to extract 13 billion cubic metres a year from gas natural fields located in the contractual territory. Along with drilling new production wells in the developed fields the Chinese contractors explore the contractual territory by using the advanced technology of volumetric prospecting seismology. According to the prospecting results, prospect and test drilling in gas bearing structures of the contractual territory is accelerated.

The large-scale mutually advantageous project on gas prospecting and extraction in the Bagtyyarlyk contractual territory and construction of Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline that will facilitate implementing the energy strategy of the Turkmen state that substantially contributes to building the global architecture of energy security is a bright illustration of effective and fruitful international cooperation between Turkmenistan and other countries.

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President of Turkmenistan receives U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner, who had arrived in Ashgabat leading an official delegation to participate in the political consultations between Turkmenistan and the United States and the joint business forum.

Thanking for the opportunity of a personal meeting and the heartfelt welcome extended in the Turkmen land, the guests conveyed the hearty greetings of U.S. President Barack Obama, who had addressed a written message to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other members of the U.S. Government. The heads of the government delegation of the friendly country said that the United States attached particular attention to developing bilateral relations with dynamically developing Turkmenistan that was vividly illustrated by the American-Turkmen political consultations that were conducted in the Turkmen capital in compliance with the agreements reached during the bilateral meetings and talks held by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in New York where the 64th session of the UN General Assembly had taken place in September 2007.

Greeting the guests President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed the best wishes to the leadership of the United States focusing with satisfaction on the high dynamics of the intergovernmental dialogue built in the past years on a long-term, mutually advantageous basis.

In a traditionally friendly atmosphere the leader of the Turkmen state and the high-ranking officials of the U.S. Department of State exchanged views on the current condition and prospects for development of Turkmen-American cooperation in all critical fields in compliance with the priorities of the development strategies of both countries. Positively evaluating the profound experience of effective intergovernmental collaboration accumulated in the past years, the President and their guests confirmed the mutual readiness to intensify it further on the principles of equality and mutual respect that the annual political consultations that would become traditional were to contribute to. It was noted that this year's first consultations would focus on the key aspects of relationships between Turkmenistan and the United States including the Afghanistan problems, trade, economic, energy and humanitarian cooperation and partnership to achieve global security.

Highly evaluating the peace-loving foreign policy and the important international initiatives of Turkmenistan aimed in particular at stabilizing the situation in neighbouring Afghanistan that the Turkmen state had been providing substantial support to over the past years, Robert Blake and Michael Posner reaffirmed the intention of the government and business circles of the United States to establish fruitful contacts with Turkmen partners in all spheres without exception on a basis of an existing intense interest and the profound potential of mutually advantageous cooperation.

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President of Turkmenistan received leader of UAE delegation

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Prince of the United Arab Emirates, a cousin of the UAE President Sheikh Suroor Bin Mohammad Al Nahyan, who had arrived in the Turkmen capital leading a representative delegation.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity of a personal meeting and the heartfelt welcome extended in the Turkmen land, the guest conveyed the heartfelt greetings of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Halifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates Lieutenant-General Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to the Turkmen leader.

Thanking for the heartfelt greetings Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed the best wishes to the leadership of the friendly country noting that Turkmenistan highly valued and attached particular significance to development of the intergovernmental relations established in recent years. The Turkmen leader emphasized that this was best illustrated by the high dynamics of bilateral cooperation boosted positively by top level talks, exchange of visits at different levels and business meetings such as the Investment Forum of Turkmenistan, which had taken place in Abu Dhabi this February and substantially contributed in intensifying and enhancing trade and economic contacts between the two friendly countries.

In a businesslike, constructive atmosphere the President and his guest exchanged views on various aspects of bilateral cooperation expressing interest in intensifying further and strengthening a traditional fruitful dialogue between Turkmenistan and the UAE. The priority fields of mutually advantageous partnership included the fuel and energy sector where concerting efforts was deemed quite effective due to vast opportunities opened up by Turkmenistan's long-term strategy for developing the oil and gas industry and the enabling environment provided for potential foreign partners in the country.

Expressing intense interest of the business circles of the United Arab Emirates in expanding on the very promising Turkmen market, Sheikh Suroor Bin Mohammad Al Nahyan underscored the readiness of a number of large companies, the representatives of which had been included in the accompanying delegation to Turkmenistan, to actively collaborate on the ongoing national and regional projects. In this regard the guest said that the large-scale project of the Avaza national tourism zone launched on the initiative of the Turkmen leader on the Caspian seashore was of particular interest. The programme of the working visit of the UAE delegation included the visits to facilities in the Avaza national tourism zone.

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President of Turkmenistan receives IRI Oil Ministry officials

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Seyyed Massoud Mirkazemi, Oil Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Javad Ouji, Deputy Oil Minister, Chief Executive of Iran's National Gas Company. Expressing gratitude to the Turkmen leader for the opportunity of a personal meeting, the guests conveyed the heartfelt greetings of IRI President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Noting that Iran took pride in brotherly Turkmenistan's accomplishments, the guests expressed the wishes that the plans aimed at enhancing the economic strength and wellbeing of the country would be fulfilled.

Thanking for the kind words, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed the best wishes to the Iranian leader noting that Turkmenistan viewed Iran as a good neighbour and dependable partner. The Turkmen leader expressed profound satisfaction with the high dynamics of the dialogue between the two friendly countries noting that it was transparent, mutually respectful and purposeful. The sides exchanged views on a number of the priority fields of bilateral collaboration based on the profound economic and resource potential of the two countries as well as the historical and cultural affinities of the brotherly nations. Emphasis was put on the mutual readiness of Turkmenistan and Iran to maintain the fruitful dialogue in mutual interests particularly in the oil and gas sector where substantial experience of fruitful partnership had been accumulated.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that consistently pursuing the policy of good neighbourliness and wide international cooperation Turkmenistan intended to strengthen further traditional Turkmen-Iranian partnership that had resulted in implementing a number of the large-scale joint projects including the Dovletabad-Serahs-Hangeran gas pipeline - the second energy route laid towards Iran. In this context the issues related to supplies of Turkmen natural gas to Iran were considered. In conclusion the heads of the oil and gas ministry of the neighbouring state reaffirmed that Iran stood ready to enhance and expand bilateral energy cooperation further and expressed belief that traditional partnership based on the positive experience of long-term cooperation had great prospects. IRI Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Turkmenistan Mohammad-Mousa Hashemi Golpayegani attended the meeting.

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A meeting with Javad Ouji, Deputy Oil Minister, Chief Executive of Iran's National Gas Company took place at the Turkmengaz State Concern. The supplementary agreement to the contracts for supplies of Turkmen 'blue fuel' to the neighbouring country was signed between the Turkmengaz State Concern and the Iranian Gas Company during the meeting. In accordance with this agreement an additional amount of natural gas will be supplied via the Dovletabad-Serahs-Hangeran gas pipeline to Iranian consumers. For this purpose Turkmen and Iranian experts will carry out the joint work to draft a supplement gas sales contract providing for increased supplies in the future.

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President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of Turkmen-US Business Council

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Eric Stewart, Executive Director of the Turkmenistan U.S. Business Council, who had arrived in the Turkmen capital to participate in the joint business forum. Greeting heartily the leader of the Turkmen state and thanking of the opportunity of a personal meeting, Mr. Eric Stewart stated that the U.S. business community was intensively interested in intensifying mutually advantageous contacts with Turkmenistan - the country with the profound economic and resources potential that took a constructive approach to intergovernmental partnership.

Thanking for the kind words, the leader of the Turkmen state Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that Turkmenistan was always open for mutually advantageous cooperation built on an equal basis and stood ready to maintain the fruitful dialogue with all partners interested including the U.S. companies that could offer profound expertise and advanced technologies in various spheres. During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the issues put on the agenda of the coming Turkmen-US business forum. Underscoring the existing profound potential and prospects for developing bilateral partnership, the President of Turkmenistan and his guest discussed the possibilities of intensifying collaboration in the critical spheres such as the trade and economic, fuel and energy, agricultural, transport and communications sectors.

The guest noted that the delegation represented the U.S. leading companies willing to actively collaborate on the large-scale national projects implemented in Turkmenistan on the initiative of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. In this regard, Mr. Eric Stewart said that the U.S. business circles showed keen interest in the projects launched in the Avaza national tourism zone the U.S. partners intended to visit during their trip to Turkmenistan.

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President of Turkmenistan receives Boeing Vice President

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received the top manager of the world-renowned company Boeing, Vice President for Middle East and Africa Sales Marti Bentrrott, who arrived in the Turkmen capital with the U.S. delegation to take part in the business forum, at his residence at the Serdar Hotel in Ashgabat.

Expressing profound gratitude to the Turkmen leader for the opportunity of a personal meeting, the guest conveyed the heartfelt greetings and best wishes of the leadership of the American company underscoring profound satisfaction with the high dynamics of cooperation established with Turkmenistan in these years. Greeting the top manager of the world's largest company that ranked among Turkmenistan's dependable and responsible partners for many years, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov focused on Turkmen partners' interest in maintaining and steadily intensifying fruitful cooperation with the U.S. largest aircraft manufacturer that invariably met its obligations, in particular to deliver modern airplanes meeting international standards according to schedule.

It was noted that aircrafts built by this world-known company that replenished the air fleet of the Turkmenhowayollary State National Service on a regular basis were used on both domestic and international routes that extended geographically with every passing year due to the open door policy pursued by Turkmenistan and its strategy for establishing wide international cooperation. Exchanging views on the future of cooperation developed in mutual interests, the President and his guest discussed the possibilities for expanding further

traditional partnership initially built on a mutually advantageous, long-term basis. Evaluating highly the quality and reliability of Boeing aircrafts, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that Turkmenistan intended to renew the civil air fleet with high-class airplanes of latest modifications. However, the Turkmen leader emphasized that all airplanes delivered to Turkmenistan must satisfy the requirements including particularly passengers safety and comfort.

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President of Turkmenistan receives Caterpillar Regional Manager

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received William Ginti, Manager for Europe, Africa and Middle East for Caterpillar, who had arrived in the Turkmen capital to participate in the Turkmen-U.S. business forum.

Thanking the Turkmen leader for the opportunity of a personal meeting, the guest who was on the first visit to Ashgabat, expressed sincere admiration with the beauty and architecture of the modern Turkmen capital. Mr. William Ginti emphasized that the leadership of caterpillar attached paramount attention to partnership with Turkmenistan that it was proud of and intended to develop. The guest said that his company was happy that its machines was engaged in such a grandiose project as construction of the Turkmen Lake in the centre of the Karakum Desert and effectively operated on constructions sites throughout the Avaza national tourism zone.

Greeting heartily the guest, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov emphasized that having launched large-scale economic development programmes, Turkmenistan gave preference to high technologies, industrial parks and equipment meeting international standards. Caterpillar high-powered machines and equipment had earned good reputation in the country and became dependable helper for Turkmen machine operators and builders, the President said noting the major requirement set to Caterpillar machinery was compliance with the soil and climatic conditions of Turkmenistan. Exchanging views, the leader of the Turkmen state and the top manager of the world-renowned company considered the aspects of cooperation in the context of large-scale contraction programmes launched in Turkmenistan.

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President of Turkmenistan receives top manager of Honeywell International Inc

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Edwin van den Maagdenberg, Vice President and General Manager for Honeywell Process Solutions in Europe, the Middle East and Africa for Honeywell International Inc., who had arrived in the Turkmen capital to participate in the Turkmen-US business forum.

Greeting heartily the leader of the Turkmen state, Mr. Edwin van den Maagdenberg thanked for the opportunity of a personal meeting and said that he was very glad to be in Turkmenistan that advanced along the path of social and economic progress implementing progressive reforms. The guest noted that it was his first to Ashgabat, and he was greatly impressed by the scale of ongoing changes forming a new, modern look of the Turkmen capital.

Noting that abiding by the strategy for diversifying and modernizing the national economy Turkmenistan consistently expanded international cooperation, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that particular attention was given to adopting the best international practices and advanced technologies in all spheres. In this regard the Turkmen leader stated that a number of the large US companies were the dependable partners of our country for many years and actively collaborated on the large-scale national programmes. In his turn, Mr. Edwin van den Maagdenberg noted that Honeywell International Inc ranked among the world's leaders in the field of development and adoption of advanced aerospace and aircraft construction technologies and specialized in designing new materials and modernizing power plant control systems. The Honeywell Company operating in dozens of countries of the world stood ready to offer its profound expertise and a broad spectrum of services to Turkmenistan, the guest said. Noting that he had held a series of fruitful business talks for two days in the Turkmen capital, Mr. Edwin van den Maagdenberg highly evaluated the constructive role of the Turkmen-US Business Council in enhancing mutually advantageous business contacts.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the prospects for Turkmenistan-Honeywell cooperation, in particular partnership in the basic sector of Turkmen economy as well as cooperation in training high qualified specialists in various fields, first of all, high-tech sectors.

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President of Turkmenistan receives Senior Vice President of ConocoPhillips

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Larry Archibald, Senior Vice President of Exploration and Business Development for ConocoPhillips, who had arrived in our country to participate in the Turkmen-US business forum.

Greeting the Turkmen leader the businessman expressed gratitude for the opportunity to discuss the aspects of mutually advantageous cooperation during a personal meeting. In this regard Mr. Larry Archibald said that ConocoPhillips sought establishment of long-term business contacts with Turkmenistan that was conditioned by the high potential of the Turkmen market and the conditions conducive to cooperation created in the country. Sharing his impressions from visiting Turkmenistan, the guest expressed sincere admiration of Ahalteke horses that the Turkmen leader's book "Ahalteke Horses - Our Pride and Glory" was devoted to.

Underscoring Turkmenistan's commitment to the policy of wide international partnership, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov reaffirmed that Turkmen stood ready to develop fruitful collaboration with the leading US companies whose profound expertise and advanced technologies could be used in various sectors of the national economy. During the meeting the President and his guest exchanged views on the prospects for cooperation open up due to the large-scale reforms and changes taking place in the fuel and energy sector in particular. In this regard the businessman briefed the Turkmen leader on the major fields of the activity of ConocoPhillips that ranked among the world's largest oil companies specializing in petroleum exploration, 'black gold' extraction, transportation and delivery of oil products as well as gas extraction and processing and petrochemical industry.

Underscoring the high pace of development of the oil and gas industry of Turkmenistan that the huge reserves of hydrocarbon resources, Mr. Larry Archibald said that ConocoPhillips was keenly interested in cooperation with Turkmenistan and the company stood ready to offer its expertise and advanced technologies to Turkmen partners.

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President of Turkmenistan receives Exxon Mobil managers

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Phil Mulhall, Exploration Manager for, Europe and North Africa and Adviser Steven Mann, who had participated in the Turkmen-US business forum in Ashgabat.

Greeting the Turkmen leader, the guests thanked him for the opportunity of a personal meeting and noted that their visit to Turkmenistan was very fruitful in the context of the meetings and talks held in the Turkmen capital. Mr. Phil Mulhall said that the company intended opening a representative office in Ashgabat that would certainly promote mutually advantageous cooperation and let Exxon Mobil become a long-term partner for dynamically developing Turkmenistan that effectively implemented the new energy strategy combined with diversification of transit of energy.

Greeting the guests, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov reaffirmed that Turkmenistan stood ready to enter into long-term cooperation with the company that had the profound expertise and productive potential in the oil and gas sector and had earned the reputation as a global technology leader. The Turkmen leader said that wide application of innovative technologies and scientific and technological advances in practice was a major aspect of the development strategy of present-day Turkmenistan that aimed at fundamentally modernizing the leading sectors of the national economy. Focusing on an interest of Exxon Mobil, a world-renowned company, in collaborating on the large-scale programmes aimed at further development of Turkmen fuel and energy sector, the guests expressed belief that the business meeting in Ashgabat could enrich and increase the effectiveness of the mechanism of Turkmen-US partnership build on the principles of equality and mutual confidence and benefit.

Exchanging views the leader of the Turkmen state and the Exxon Mobil managers discussed the major aspects of cooperation for the next years taking growing attractiveness of the Turkmen market for foreign investments.

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President of Turkmenistan receives John Deere manager

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received David Colquhoun, John Deere Vice President Continental Europe and Central Asia, who had arrived in the Turkmen capital to take part in the Turkmen-US business forum. The meeting took place at the Turkmen leader's residence at the Serdar Hotel.

Thanking the President of Turkmenistan for the opportunity of a personal meeting the businessman expressed gratitude for entrusting the company to collaborate on the joint projects aimed at modernizing the agricultural sector. The guest noted that Turkmenistan aroused intense interest among the US business circles due to the favourable investments climate and large-scale reforms launched in the country.

Greeting the guest, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov stated with satisfaction that John Deere ranked among Turkmenistan's dependable and long-term partners on deliveries of state-of-the-art agricultural machines. The Turkmen leader said that these machines, in particular John Deere harvesters were actively engaged in the harvest campaign launched in the country that vividly illustrated fruitful bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting Mr. David Colquhoun informed the President of Turkmenistan of the progress in implementing the projects by the company in Turkmenistan and put forward the proposals on further intensification of cooperation on training highly qualified agricultural specialists in particular. Thanking the leadership of the company for a businesslike, constructive approach to partnership, the national leader expressed satisfaction with the work carried out by John Deere to equip a classroom of the Turkmen Agricultural Institute in Dashoguz and highly evaluated the conditions created for training Turkmen students. Emphasizing that the major aspects of the agricultural reforms included technology modernization of the sector, the Turkmen leader focused on the existing broad prospects for further cooperation in this field.

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President of Turkmenistan receives GE Managing Director for Caspian Sea Region

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Josef Carelli, GE Executive Director for Caspian Region at his residence in the Serdar Hotel.

Thanking the Turkmen leader for the opportunity of a personal meeting, the businessmen emphasized that the GE leadership attached particular attention to effective cooperation established with Turkmenistan that the company intended to develop further. In this regard Mr. Josef Carelli highly evaluated the role of the Turkmen-U.S. business forum taking place in Ashgabat in these days aimed at giving new incentives to intensify bilateral partnership.

Greeting the guest President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed satisfaction with the results of cooperation with the General Electric Company that ranked among Turkmenistan's long-term partners in the energy sector. As is known, gas-turbine units produced by this world-renowned company are installed at newly built electric power plants in our country. The Turkmen leader noted that the good prospects for maintaining mutually advantageous cooperation in mutual interests existed today.

In this context President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and his guest discussed the possibilities for expanding mutually advantageous in compliance with the programmes aimed at modernization of energy infrastructure of Turkmenistan through using widely advanced technologies and state-of-the-art equipment that conditioned in particular by the growing energy needs of dynamically developing Turkmen economy.

Emphasizing that GE was proud of its long-term cooperation with Turkmenistan that had earned the reputation of a dependable business partner on the world arena, Mr. Josef Carelli reaffirmed the company's readiness to actively collaborate in ongoing large-scale reform programmes in Turkmenistan. The businessman assured that the company would spare no effort to intensify further cooperation with Turkmenistan that it was keenly interested in.

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President of Turkmenistan receives top manager of Chevron

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Jay Jay Pryor, Chevron Vice President for Corporate Business Development, who had arrived in the Turkmen capital to participate in the Turkmen-US business forum.

Thanking for the hospitality and heartfelt welcome extended in the Turkmen land, the guest said that he was very glad of an opportunity to visit again Turkmenistan, the country that changed beyond recognition with every passing day. Mr. Jay Pryor said that he had received evidence of it during the recent trip to Mary Velayat where the top manager of the Chevron Corporation had visited the largest gas field Shatlyk and the new Velayat museum presenting the unique collection of rarities.

Underscoring a keen interest of the business circles across the world, in particular the United States, in ongoing fundamental changes taking place in nearly all vitally important spheres, the businessman took an opportunity to congratulate the leader of the Turkmen state on putting a number of important facilities, children's health improvement centres into operation to mark the International Children's Day in the Avaza national tourism zone created on the initiative of the Turkmen leader. Mr. Jay Pryor said that the ceremonies had coincided symbolically with III International Children's Art Festival "Avaza - the Land of Friendship" that had been held on the Caspian seashore with the participation of Haitian children who had survived the devastating earthquake. Greeting the top manager of the world-renowned energy corporation, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that he was very glad to see the representative of the world business elite that showed a greater interest in establishing long-term cooperation with hydrocarbon-rich Turkmenistan among the forum participants.

During the meeting the President and his guest discussed the prospects for mutually advantageous cooperation and considered the possibilities for collaborating on joint projects implemented by Turkmenistan in compliance with the priorities of development of the fuel and energy sector and national interests. In particular, Mr. Jay Pryor said that the Chevron Corporation stood ready to offer their expertise and services in nearly all fields including gas and oil exploration and extraction, processing and transportation, petrochemical production, offshore operations.

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President of Turkmenistan receives CEO of Case New Holland, International SA

President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov received Franco Fusignani, Senior CEO of Case New Holland, International SA at his residence at the Serdar Hotel.

Greeting the Turkmen leader, the top manager of the American company expressed gratitude for the opportunity to discuss priority aspects of mutually advantageous cooperation during a personal meeting. Putting emphasis on intense interest of the U.S. leading companies in establishing mutually beneficial contacts with Turkmen partners, the guest said that the world business circles actively sought long-term cooperation with dynamically developing Turkmenistan. Mr. Franco Fusignani said that he could make sure of it during the business forum that had taken place during the Turkmen leader's official visit to Italy last November.

Showing satisfaction with this information, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov expressed gratitude to the leadership of the U.S. largest company operating successfully in Turkmenistan for many years for its responsible approach to implementing the projects in the country and reaffirmed the readiness to continue fruitful partnership.

Exchanging views on the current condition and prospects for cooperation, the businessman reported on the progress in implementing a number of joint projects to the Turkmen leader. Focusing on his company's intention to expand on the very promising Turkmen market, Mr. Franco Fusignani put forward the proposals on maintenance services and training highly qualified engineers.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov noted that Turkmenistan implemented the comprehensive agrarian reform program through studying best international practices and using state-of-the-art equipment. In this regard the development of fruitful contacts with the Case Company as one of the world's leading agricultural equipment manufacturers was deemed quite promising.

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President of Turkmenistan participates in meeting of Council of Heads of the SCO Member States

On June 11, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov left for the Republic of Uzbekistan where he participated as honorary guest in the summit of the on the invitation of the leaders of the SCO Member States. The Chairperson of the Mejlis and the cabinet ministers bade farewell to the Turkmen leader at the international airport in Ashgabat.

Pursuing the strategy of wide constructive cooperation, independent neutral Turkmenistan effectively develops fruitful partnerships in both bilateral and multilateral formats including in the framework of the authoritative regional and international organisations. Being an active player in international affairs, the Turkmen state stands for a fruitful dialogue aimed at achieving global peace, security and sustainable economic and social development that is a key aspect of the foreign policy strategy initiated by President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Turkmenistan's invariable commitment to this progressive strategy is illustrated by the Turkmen leader's participation in this year's meeting of the Council of Heads of the SCO Member States. In August 2007 the leader of the Turkmen state participated as honorary guest in the SCO summit, which took place in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek. These facts vividly evidence the high international prestige of Turkmenistan and worldwide recognition of its progressive foreign policy based on the principles of positive neutrality, friendliness, good neighbourliness and equal mutually advantageous cooperation. The Uzbek officials greeted the President of Turkmenistan at the Tashkent-2 International Airport. From the airport the President's cortege headed for Kuksaroy where the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation would take place. The heads of the SCO Member States including President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao, President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev and President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon had arrived in Tashkent to participate in the summit. The Kyrgyz Republic was represented by Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Ruslan Kazakbaev.

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and President of Mongolia Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, who have observer status in the SCO, participated in the summit. President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai was invited as honorary guest to the summit.

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Turkmenistan to chair CIS Interstate Council for Standardization, metrology and Certification

Electing our country Chair of the Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (ISC) of the Commonwealth of Independent States for 2010-2011 became substantial evidence of an increasingly enhanced international authority of Turkmenistan and worldwide recognition of its achievements on the path of progressive development. This decision was unanimously adopted at the 37th meeting of the Interstate Council that had taken place recently in Odessa (Ukraine) with the participation of the heads of the relevant agencies from the CIS member states. The traditional symbol of the Interstate Council was handed over to Turkmenistan as the presiding country that will host a regular meeting of the Interstate Council in 2011.

As is known, the CIS Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification is an intergovernmental body of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the high-level body of which is the Interstate Council members meeting. The Council aims its activity at promoting fruitful international economic, scientific and technical and commercial cooperation among commodity producers on the vast common goods market, eliminating technical barriers to trade, increasing competitiveness of goods and in this context facilitating effective partnership in the field of standardization, metrology, certification and quality. These aspects were reflected in the agenda of the meeting conducted in Odessa with the participation of the representatives of the authoritative international and regional organisations for standardization, metrology, certification and accreditation. These included ISO, CEN-CENELEK, COOMET, PTB, ASI (Austria), BSI (United Kingdom), DIN and GTZ (Germany), AFNOR (France), PKN (Poland), UNMS (Slovakia), TACIS and others. The discussion focused on the issues such as developing modern interstate and interregional standards and norms, assuring the uniformity of measurements, protection of consumers from bad-quality goods, use of advanced technologies and state-of-the-art laboratory equipment by the standards agencies.

Also, this autumn Turkmenistan will host the 16th meeting of the scientific and technical committee of the CIS Interstate Council focusing on state regulation and analysis of compliance with standards and norms and design of appropriate methodology.

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Ambassador of the State of Qatar accredited to Turkmenistan

On the instructions of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan A. Nurberdyeva received the credential letters of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar in Turkmenistan Ibrahim bin Abdul Rahman Al-Moghaisib. On behalf of the Turkmen leader the head of the national Parliament congratulated the guest on the appointment to the important diplomatic post and wished every success in strengthening the ties of friendship and intensifying cooperation between the two countries.

Thanking for the cordial wishes, the Ambassador in his turn conveyed the hearty greetings of the leadership of his country to the leader and people of Turkmenistan noting that a visit of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was looked forward to in Qatar. During the meeting the diplomat was informed of the social and economic reforms launched in the Turkmen state on the initiative of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the ongoing large-scale projects aimed at improving the welfare of citizens of Turkmenistan and increasing the standards of living.

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Ambassador of Morocco accredited to Turkmenistan

On the instructions of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan A. Nurberdyeva received the credential letters of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco in Turkmenistan Mohammad Lotfi Aouad. On behalf of the leader of the Turkmen state the head of the national Parliament congratulated the guest on appointing to the important diplomatic post and wished every success in the work aimed at strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. In his turn, the diplomat expressed the heartfelt greetings and best wishes on behalf of King of the Kingdom Morocco Mohammed bin Al-Hassan bin Mohammed bin Yusuf to President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. During the meeting the guest was briefed on the large-scale national projects and programmes implemented in various sectors of the national economy under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Focusing on the tasks set to Turkmen parliamentarians, the Chairperson of the Mejlis emphasized that the national Parliament aimed its activity at building the reliable regulatory framework for the reforms launched in Turkmenistan to ensure the progress of the state and society.

Focusing with satisfaction on the mutual interest in intensifying bilateral partnership, the Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan and the Moroccan diplomat underscored the existing profound potential of collaboration that would be implemented for the benefit of the two countries. Emphasis was put on the role of developing inter-parliamentary contacts as an essential factor for enhancing the constructive intergovernmental dialogue. Focusing on the intense interest of his country in developing trade, economic and cultural cooperation with Turkmenistan, Mr. Mohammad Lotfi Aouad expressed belief that relations between Turkmenistan and the Kingdom of Morocco would be brought to a higher level meeting modern realities and mutual interests in the near future.

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Visit of PRC delegation to Turkmenistan

Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau, head of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee He Guoqiang had a meeting with Chairperson of the National Parliament A. Nurberdyeva at the Mejlis of Turkmenistan. Underscoring the high dynamics of Turkmen-Chinese relations filled with a new content with every passing year, the head of Mejlis and the high-ranking official of the People's Republic of China called for expanding inter-parliamentary contacts as an essential factor for enhancing the instructive dialogue in the new historical period. He Guoqiang had a meeting with Vice Chairperson of the Mejlis of Turkmenistan, First Secretary of the Political Council of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan K. Babaev. The proposal to intensify bilateral inter-party contacts was put forward during the meeting. He Guoqiang and the members of the Chinese delegation visited the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) office in Turkmenistan. As is known, the China National Petroleum Corporation develops the Bagtyyarlyk contractual territory on the right bank of the Amu Darya River under the Production Sharing Agreement signed with the State Agency on Hydrocarbon Management and Use under the President of Turkmenistan. Chinese specialists have built facilities in the Samandepi field on the contractual territory including the gas processing plant that supplies tank gas to the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline. Construction of the second gas processing plant with the capacity of 8 billion cubic metres a year will be launched in late 2010. After the plant is put into operation in 2012, supplies of 'blue fuel' to the TransAsian gas pipeline will be increased.

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EXCHANGE NEWS

36 transactions were concluded at the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan last week. The businessmen from Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Iran bought hydrotreated diesel fuel, low sulphuric stove fuel, gasoline of various types and lighting kerosene produced at the Turkmenbashi oil refineries. Diesel fuel produced at Seydi oil refinery was bought by the businessmen from the UAE and the Virgin Islands. The transactions were concluded in the foreign currency for ginned cotton, licorice, cattle skin, gray yarn, refined cottonseed oil and men's felt boots. The buyer-countries: Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom, Turkey, South Korea, Singapore, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. The transactions concluded in the foreign currency totalled over US\$ 131.974 million.

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New book about ancient Turkmen art published in Italy

"Hellenistic Sculpture of Old Nisa" is the name of the book of an Italian archeologist, art historian, Professor Antonio Invernizzi published in Florence by the Turin Center of Archeological Research and Excavation in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Broadcasting of Turkmenistan

The book presents the in-depth analysis from the viewpoint of art criticism of the collection of marble sculptures discovered 60 years ago in Old Nisa, the outstanding historical and cultural monument situated nearby Ashgabat. As is known, two Parthian fortresses - Old Nisa and New Nisa were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007 due to the large-scale work carried out by Turkmen specialists and international experts under the patronage of President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The discovery of antique sculptures in the royal treasury along with famous rhytons caused a world scientific sensation. Many generations of researchers attempt to unravel a mystery of the origin of these rarities, determine their place and role in artistic heritage of Turkmenistan since then. Parthia was the great empire where local cultural traditions tightly intertwined with the Greco-Roman world. The pieces of Parthian architecture and sculptures brightly illustrate this synthesis.

Like the characters featured on famous rhytons the marble statuettes discovered in Nisa depict the popular heroes of the ancient Greek myths. In his monograph A. Invernizzi dedicated a chapter to each of these finds. In particular, these include sea-born Aphrodite- the goddess of love and beauty. The second chapter describes Hecate - the goddess of magic and sorcery, her statute adorns the cover page. The other personages are Dionysus - the god of wine, fruitfulness, and vegetation leaning on Satyr, Artemis - the virgin goddess of the hunt and some more impressive marble fragments depicting the personages difficult to recognize. The author put forward the hypotheses and suggested the Asian lineage of these inhabitants of the Greek Olympus. Professor A. Invernizzi is one of the prominent experts in antique art. He became well known for the excavations carried out in the Parthian cities in Iraq in the 1960s. In 1991 he led the Italian archeological mission to Old Nisa in Turkmenistan. At present, the excavations are continued there under the supervision of A. Invernizzi's successor Dr. Carlo Lippolis.

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Picture of the Week

