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TÜRKMENISTAN: HEPDÄNIŇ WAKALARY

STATE NEWS AGENCY OF TURKMENISTAN



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OFFICIAL NEWS

The President of Turkmenistan got acquainted with the activity of the Unmanned Aircraft Center

On February 15, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov visited the Unmanned Aircraft Center (UAC), which is under the authority of the Interior Ministry.

The samples of various drones and their technical features were presented to the President of Turkmenistan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the country's Armed Forces.

At present, the Center has developed production of the fire alarm systems, which are installed in the residential houses of the Interior Ministry and at the objects of social and administrative purpose. The video about production and construction of technical fire-warning devices designated for provision of fire safety, as well as the materials used for their production, have been demonstrated to the head of state.

Buttressed by special drawings, images and other visual aids, detailed information about the remotely piloted aircraft manufactured at the Center was submitted to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the country.

The Center is also capable to manufacture any equipment on the basis of 3D-model devices and the relevant aids.

An officer of the State Border Service has presented information about the unmanned aircraft applied by the border troops, the advantages of drones' application for video monitoring of the frontier territory, as well as about operational characteristics of the remotely piloted aircraft. It was thereto noted that introduction of digital system enabled to enhance the efficiency of the Border Service's activity.

The projects of the facilities to be built in the frames of the General Plan of the UAC construction – hangars for aircraft and ground equipment, aircraft and robot planes automatic control department, air traffic observation tower, as well as a hothouse and power substation under the authority of Center – have been presented to the President of Turkmenistan for consideration.

Having made some remarks and corrections on the projects presented, the leader of nation Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted that advanced practice and innovative technologies are to be applied during construction of the within-named objects. The unmanned aircraft vehicles made in the Center are to be designated for effective use in various spheres.

Further, President of Turkmenistan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the country's Armed Forces Army General Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov

has held an offsite session of the State Security Council.

The report of the first speaker, Defense Minister B. Gundogdyev, covered the state of affairs in the structures answerable to him, implementation of the presidential assignments on steadfast improvement of the professional level of the military personnel.

Necessitating successful tackling of the tasks ensued from the exclusively defensive National Military Doctrine, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted that the work in this direction is to be carried out in tune with the times with wide spread adoption of digital technologies and innovative methods.

The Interior Minister M. Chakyevev has reported on the UAC activity, measures for its further modernization and training of the demand-driven high-qualified specialists for work in the Center. In addition, the information was presented about the activity of all structures of the Interior Ministry aimed at safeguarding public order, fire safety, and stable accident-free road traffic.

Pleased with high construction rates of the Ashgabat-Turkmenabat highway, the head of state has highlighted that with a glance to the Ashgabat-City mega- project, it is necessary to take care of road safety in the would-be highway artery, to actively set in motion the equipment on detecting technical state of vehicles and their impact on the environment effectively, and arrange proper control over the territory of that new large-scale construction object.

Chief Head of the State Border Service Ya. Nuryev has reported on the measures taken for the State Border reliable protection and wide spread adoption of advanced experience in the Service's activity, for turning the State Frontier into the border of friendship and fraternity.

Having listened to the report, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov focused on the importance of effective use in the activity of Service's divisions of modern digital technologies, organization of permanent video monitoring of the border. The presidential assignments were centered on raising efficiency of works ongoing in the Border troops.

Minister of National Security G. Annayev has reported on the situation in the divisions of the Ministry, having informed about fulfillment of the presidential assignments related particularly to ensuring cyber-security in the appropriate structures of the national economy.

Highlighting the importance of cyber-security in the light of the modern realities, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted that to make the work in the sphere efficient, it is necessary to actively use the world's best practice and innovations.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Chairman of the Supreme Control Chamber,

member of the State Security Council S. Berdymuhamedov was exhorted by the leader of nation to keep work going on advancement of digital technologies in the military and law enforcement agencies, like in all other spheres, to strengthen the logistics base of the sector in the context of international practice exchange, as well as to initiate the relevant proposals on modern technologies adoption.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministries, the State Security Council Secretary Ch. Amanov centered his progress report on the issues of wide spread adoption of digital systems in the activity of military and law enforcement agencies, on the staff-training system improvement, as well as on realization of the military reform.

Summing up the report, President of Turkmenistan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the country's Armed Forces Army General Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted the importance of keeping work going in the security structures in the frames of the "Concept of digital economy development in Turkmenistan in 2019 – 2025". To ensure efficiency of works ongoing and their compliance with the requirements of the times, the tasks of paramount importance included in the agenda of the present session are to be always in the center of attention, the head of state stressed.

The curricula of military and law enforcement educational institutions are to be consonant with spirit of the times, rely on international practice, scientific developments and digital technologies, the leader of nation has stressed in the assignments addressed to the officials concerned.

In this regard, the staff-training work in the Navy Institute of the Defense Ministry is to be upgraded; the Institute's graduates are to be high-class proficient specialists well versed in the electronics and have advanced knowledge in the sphere of modern technologies. In this regard, the work of electronic libraries is to be improved, and their accessibility for cadets is to be provided, the head of state highlighted.

In conclusion, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the country's Armed Forces Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov one more time stressed the importance of the military and law enforcement agencies' activity further improvement through wide spread adoption of the world's best experience.

President of Turkmenistan received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On February 16, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov received the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

to Turkmenistan Irfan Ahmed, who presented his credentials to the President of Turkmenistan.

During the meeting, lengthy opinion exchange was held on a broad range of issues related to the long-term productive cooperation, notably in the fuel and energy sector, transport and communications.

Particular attention was paid to furthering implementation progress of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) transnational gas pipeline construction project.

Reaffirming Pakistan's high interest in accelerating construction of the TAPI gas pipeline and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan power transmission and fiber-optic communication lines, the Ambassador expressed confidence that the implementation of the ambitious project would contribute to the development of economic interaction at the regional and international level.

Particular attention was paid to the effective unleashing of the untapped potential of the trade-economic relations. In this regard, an important role is assigned to the Intergovernmental Turkmen-Pakistani Commission, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov said.

The interlocutors were unanimous in the opinion that the traditional humanitarian ties were and remain a dominant ingredient of bilateral relations, strengthening of which is largely facilitated by various systemic contacts in the field of culture and art, joint Days of Culture, scientific and creative forums, etc.

The President of Turkmenistan received the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

On February 17, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov, who arrived in our country on a working visit.

In the course of conversation, the sides have exchanged opinions on the topical issues of the regional and global agenda, which the two countries are interested in. It was mentioned that successfully interacting in the bilateral and multilateral formats, our countries demonstrate a similarity or coincidence of views on many problems of the times. In this regard, high level of trust and mutual support in the international arena was welcomed, and the desire for strengthening interaction within the framework of the authoritative international structures, including the UN, CIS, International Fund for the Aral Sea, and others, has been affirmed for the sake of peace, stability and progress.

Cooperation in the issues of regional security and stability and accordingly – rendering of assistance to neighboring Afghanistan, were a separate topic of discussion. The sides have

agreed that cooperation in this direction would be continued on both the bilateral and multilateral basis, as well as on the international arena.

Continuing the meeting, along with political and diplomatic subjects, the sides have discussed the possibilities of expanding the bilateral economic and investment partnership, the main aspect of which is joint activities in the gas, energy, transport-communication industries, trade, agri-industrial, and other spheres.

It is appropriate to mention that the trade turnover between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan increased by 8.6 percent in 2020.

In this context, positive assessment was given to the activity of the Intergovernmental Turkmen-Uzbek Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation, as well as to the “Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan” Business Council, the first meeting of which was held in the online format on October 7 last year.

The importance of fruitful interaction in the humanitarian field, which is based on the age-old affinity of cultural and spiritual traditions that have united the peoples of two countries for centuries, was also emphasized.

In this regard, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted that a large Uzbek Diaspora in the Dashoguz velayat lives in friendship and brotherhood with Turkmen people. Together, they make a huge contribution to the prosperity of our country. A corollary to it is the fact that by results of special contest, S.A. Niyazov etrap of Dashoguz velayat was announced as the winner of the contest in 2020.

The opening in the city of Tashkent of the street and alley named after the Turkmen poet, philosopher and classic of literature Magtymguly Fragi, a bas-relief with his image, and “Ashgabat” Park is yet another symbol of friendship, unity and cultural proximity of the peoples. In turn, Ashgabat has the Alisher Navoi Street and the namesake monument installed in the “Ylham” Alley of the capital.

The sides have avowed a number of proposals for further development of the cultural-humanitarian dialogue. In particular, the Turkmen leader has noted that a park named «Tashkent» would be built in Ashgabat.

In addition, the President of Turkmenistan and his guest were unanimous in their opinions to continue with successful practice of holding regular meetings of creative and scientific workers, Days of Culture, exhibitions, concerts, festivals, which contribute to the preservation of common heritage and strengthening of the ties of friendship between the Turkmen and Uzbek peoples. In this context, not the least important is to organize joint anniversary festivities in honor of outstanding personalities who left their traces in world history and culture, including the great statesman, poet

and writer of Uzbekistan Zakhiriddin Muhammad Babur.

In conclusion, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov have expressed confidence that in the years ahead the relations between the two states will develop successfully for the benefit of the two fraternal nations.

The President of Turkmenistan received the head of the “LUKOIL” Company

On February 18, President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov received the head of “LUKOIL” Company Vagit Alekperov.

During the meeting the sides exchanged views on the partnership-favored prospects and ample opportunities for cooperation in the light of large-scale programs and infrastructural projects carried out in the oil/gas industry of Turkmenistan.

Lengthy consideration was given to the Caspian region – a strategically important center, notable for its huge economic, energy, transport-logistic potential. In this context, particular emphasis was placed on the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on joint exploration and development of hydrocarbon resources of the “Dostluk” offshore field in the Caspian Sea.

Signing of this historical document has become a landmark event from the point of view of strengthening and development of the Turkmen-Azeri cooperation in the Caspian energy resources sphere. In addition, new opportunities are opening for joint work and additional stimuli are created for attraction of big foreign investments to the region on the long-term basis.

As a consequence, we welcome “LUKOIL” intentions to take part in the development of “Dostluk” field and are ready to consider concrete investment proposals on implementation of the project, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov said.

Having noted that “LUKOIL” is famous for its great experience of work in the Caspian as well as in the Baltic offshore deposits, Vagit Alekperov has expressed gratitude to the leader of nation Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov for placing credence in the Company and has assured the head of state that the Company will make every effort to cope with the tasks related to implementation of such important project as “Dostluk”.

First of all, the talk is about the accuracy and efficiency of work, as well as about the ecology-associated aspects. We know that the Caspian Sea is a fragile system, therefore we intend to maximum set in motion the advanced and economically profitable technologies, the businessman said.

Having noted that exploration of new deposits would be carried out simultaneously with the within-named project, the head of “LUKOIL” has highlighted that the Company would do its utmost to realize the project in tune with ecological requirements and scheduled timeframes.

During the meeting, consideration was also given to the issues of the oil/gas industry, wide spread adoption of innovative technologies and digital system, as well as to expansion of the entire range of bilateral relations.

Session of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan

On February 19, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov held a regular online session of the Cabinet of Ministers to discuss the focal issues of the state life and the drafts of some documents.

Opening the session, the leader of nation gave the floor to Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers G. Mushshikov. The Vice-Premier reported on the Plan of works and activities in 2021, which was based on the analysis of outcomes of the February’s sectoral working sessions in the light of the last year’s results, presidential assignments, and the tasks set by the leader of nation.

The Plan includes the measures for provision of intensive development and modernization of the national economy, reformation of the branches and in-full use of their production capacities, wide spread adoption of digital technologies, and full-scale implementation of the investment policy.

In addition, the Plan includes regular analysis of financial-economic conditions of core structures and improvement of their activity in tune with the times, streamlining of the social sphere advancement, and opening of new workplaces.

In this context, the Ministry of Finance and Economy in association with ministries, sectoral departments, khyakimliks of velayats and Ashgabat City has carried out the relevant work. By results of that work, 33 state-owned facilities were proposed to be privatized on a competitive basis.

Summing up the report, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has highlighted the importance of showing the integrated and well-thought approach to solution of the tasks on the innovative reform-based development of the national economy. In this regard, transition to market relations and digitization, introduction of efficient modern organizational and management methods are among the directions of top priority.

On approval of the Resolution, the head of state has redirected the document to the Vice-Premier via the electronic document workflow system, having thereby exhorted Deputy Chairmen of the Cabinet of Ministers to exercise unremitting control over implementation of all works and

activities in the branches of the economy in the frames of the Plan-2021.

Proceeding to privatization of the state-owned objects, the leader of nation has insisted on speeding up of the process through further upgrading of the relevant mechanisms, in order to facilitate realization of the private sector’s significant potential in the production and service spheres. In general, it would promote diversification of the national economy and enhancement of its competitiveness.

In this regard, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has highlighted the importance of steadfast realization of the Strategy for managing and reforming the facilities with the state participation in Turkmenistan in 2021-2025, having addressed a number of concrete assignments to the officials concerned.

In his progress report, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Sh. Abdrahmanov has placed emphasis on the measures taken for wide spread adoption of digital technologies in the structure of central offices of State Concerns “Türkmengaz” and “Türkmennebit”.

The President of Turkmenistan has focused on the tasks of further steadfast development of the oil/gas industry and bringing it in tune with the times.

In this context, the leader of nation Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has pointed to the potentially-awarding prospects of using in the oil/gas sector of modern IT- technologies including the management system, the projects of digital development of wells and deposits, digital capital construction in the sector.

Development of recommendations on the oil/gas complex innovative development, as well as on their implementation, are to become key trends of the activity of new structures in the industry, the head of state said in the instructions he addressed to the Vice-Premier.

Further, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers E. Orazgeldiyev has reported on the implementation progress of seasonal agri-works including preparations to the spring-sowing campaign.

At present, according to the schedule, sowing of potato, onion and other vegetable crops is ongoing in velayats of the country. Scientists and experienced agrarian specialists consult local producers on the issues of wide spread adoption of modern technologies in cultivating and farming the crops.

Having listened to the report, the President of Turkmenistan has ordered to concentrate attention on provision of agricultural fields with sufficient water for irrigation.

Not the least important is to analyze the condition of the country’s water reserves, inspect all rivers and water ways, clean and deepen them as appropriate, the leader of nation highlighted. It

is also necessary once again to thoroughly inspect the readiness of agri-machinery and equipment for the coming sowing campaign, which should be held in the shortest possible timeframes, as well as to provide qualitative care of winter crops, Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted in the instructions he addressed to the officials concerned.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Sh. Durdyliev's report has covered the measures taken for efficient unleashing of the country's industrial complex untapped potential, for increasing production volumes of the demand-driven high-quality construction materials manufactured from the local raw materials.

In the comments on the report, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted the necessity to regularly study consumer demand and, by its result, take measures for scaling up the range and production volumes of the home-made competitive products. To try to find good ways to get exposure to foreign markets is no less important a question, the head of state said, having assigned the dignitaries concerned to continue the integrated work in this direction.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers B. Ovezov has reported on the measures taken for revamping and modernizing of the logistics and software base of the "Altyn Asyr" cellular network provider.

The "Türkmenaragatnaşyk" Agency has announced international tender for expansion of computerized payment services (billing) through "Altyn Asyr" cellular network and the winner has been determined, the reporter said.

Commenting on the report, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has necessitated studying of the best foreign practice in this sphere, including the management, protection of digital networks, staff-training issues.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Ch. Gylyjov has reported on the draft Resolution related to selling to the Textiles Ministry of Turkmenistan various types of cotton fiber for industrial processing.

The Vice-Premier has reported that in compliance with presidential assignments, the Ministry's facilities plan to buy 145,557.5 tons of cotton fiber in 2021 – 8,500 tons of fine-fiber and 200 tons of short-fiber cotton, and 200 tons of cotton wool for processing.

Summing up the report, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has highlighted that Turkmen textile is steadily improving its competitiveness not only in local but also in foreign markets due to the rapid development of the industry on the basis of advanced technologies and application of the best national and world practice.

Due to its huge resource potential, the textile industry has become an example of the processing

sector's dynamic development in Turkmenistan's economy.

Having noted that the produced cotton is bought and processed at the textile facilities of the country, the Turkmen leader focused attention on the importance of timely construction and commissioning of new textile facilities, notably – the textile complex in Kaahka etrap, Akhal velayat (3,650 tons of cotton yarn annually); textile complex in Babadayhan etrap, Akhal velayat (3,300 tons of fine fiber cotton yarn annually). Opening of the facilities will create 2,450 new workplaces.

Having signed the Resolution on selling various types of cotton fiber to the Textiles Ministry for industrial processing, the President of the country directed the document and instructions on implementation of the Resolution to the Vice-Premier via the electronic document workflow system.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers M. Mammedova has reported on preparation to the coming holiday events and opening of social and cultural facilities in March.

Various creative and festive events are planned to be held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Turkmenistan's independence, proclaiming 2021 as the Year "Turkmenistan – Home of Peace and Trust", in honor of International Women's Day, and 140th anniversary of the city of Ashgabat.

Highlighting the importance of cultural diplomacy, the head of state has ordered to pay special attention to participation of representatives of the country's cultural community in the international activities, which enrich relations of Turkmenistan with foreign states with new content and promote strengthening of friendship and multidimensional cooperation, as well as wide popularization in the world of the Turkmen nation's spiritual heritage.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers M. Geldinyazov has reported on the draft Program of cycling sport development in Turkmenistan in 2021-2025, as well as on keeping work going for development of the Action Plan for implementation of the Program.

The program of cycling sport development for the next five years includes multi-lateral work for making conditions for improvement sport proficiency of Turkmen athletes and prestige of cycling in the country and around the world.

Pending the subject, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has focused on the solution of primary tasks on further development of mass physical-culture and sports movement and record-high sports, including preparation to the large international sport tournaments, notably the World Track Cycling Championship to be held in Ashgabat in the running year.

Having added some advises and recommendations to the draft Program, the head of state has highlighted the importance of its improvement in tune with the times.

In this regard, the leader of nation Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted the appropriateness of taking measures aimed at: the formation of the material-and-technical base of cycling sport in the country; construction of bicycle parking lots; opening of specialized shops, workshops, parking zones in the shopping centers; construction of cycling paths as well as training of technicians for maintenance of bicycles; opening of bicycle rental shops in the parks for children and adults; and construction of cycling tracks in parks.

These requirements are to be taken into consideration in the future, during construction of social and residential zones, the head of state said, having highlighted that the cycling sport is a good way to achieving healthy life style.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Foreign Minister R. Meredov has reported on further development of cooperation between Turkmenistan and specialized structures of the UN.

In the context of furthering the established multidimensional cooperation, the Project of cooperation in the health sphere, which is planned to be implemented together with the UN Office on Project Servicing (UNOPS), has been presented to Turkmenistan for review.

For practical implementation of the Project and expansion of bilateral partnership, the UN Under-Secretary General, Executive Director of the UNOPS has addressed a proposal to the Turkmen side to open the UNOPS Representative Office in our country.

In the frames of his report, the Vice-Premier, Foreign Minister has also submitted to the head of state the proposals on supply of the made-in-Turkmenistan production to Astrakhan Oblast (The Russian Federation) as a sign of friendship and good neighborliness.

In this regard, the relevant proposals were developed on supply of national production to Astrakhan Oblast of the Russian Federation. The delivery of goods and commodities manufactured by the facilities of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Textiles Ministry, Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Union is planned to be implemented by the vessel of Merchant Marine of Turkmenistan from Turkmenbashi to Astrakhan.

Summing up the report, the head of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov was pleased to note the constructive character of partnership with the UN, which over last years has entered on a qualitatively new level.

Having approved the project and proposals presented to the Turkmen side on opening of the UNOPS Representative Office in our country,

the leader of nation has exhorted to carry out the issue-related work.

Speaking of the subject of Turkmen-Russian relations, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has highlighted that the peoples of both countries are united with historical long-standing traditional relations, which are based on the principles of goodwill, mutual trust and fraternal support. Development of direct efficient contacts with the regions and entities of Russia is one of the main directions of the constructive interstate dialog, which has received new content in the modern age.

Astrakhan Region of the Russian Federation is a close neighbor of Turkmenistan in the Caspian Sea, with which fruitful cooperation in different spheres has been established, the head of state said. Having approved the proposals on delivery of production made in our country to this region of the Russian Federation and noted that it would become yet another display of invariably friendly and goodwill character of the Turkmen-Russian relations, the leader of nation has signed the relevant Resolution and redirected the document and instructions on its implementation to the Vice-Premier, MFA Minister.

The Mejlis Speaker G. Mammedova has informed about the activity of the Parliament on further improvement of the country's legislative base.

At present, a number of bills are under development; the relevant documents have been developed in connection with establishment of the two-chamber Parliament.

The Mejlis systematically cooperates with the UN specialized structures and other international organizations and takes part in their activities.

The head of National Parliament has also informed about keeping work going in the context of implementation of social policy, in particular it relates to the state support of families with many children, maternity and childhood. In this regard, the work was accomplished on determining the candidates of women with 8 or more children to be nominated for awarding the honorary title "Ene Myahry" on the occasion of the countrywide celebrated International Women's Day.

The deputies conduct regularly the meetings with electorate, carry out awareness-raising and advocacy work on explaining of the importance of the year proclaimed under the slogan «Turkmenistan – Home of Peace and Trust», key trends of the home and foreign policy pursued by the head of state; they also participate in various events organized on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the country's independence.

President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has highlighted the importance of furthering the law-making activity in the light of solution of current objectives aimed at the dynamic promotion of social and economic reforms, democratization of

the Turkmen society, innovative development of the country, and improvement of wealth of the people.

Speaking of awarding the mothers with many children, the President of Turkmenistan has highlighted the necessity of organizing the awarding ceremonies in solemn atmosphere.

Further, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, the State Security Council Secretary Ch. Amanov has reported on the work for improvement of social and living conditions of the personnel of military and law enforcement agencies.

In the last year's autumn, a residential complex of the Interior Ministry was opened in the Choganly residential zone (Bagtyyarlyk etrap, Ashgabat), which was named after Myalikguly Berdymuhamedov. At present, the construction of other 40 comfortable cottages is ongoing.

Construction of residential buildings for the personnel of security structures is also ongoing in Byuzmeiyn etrap of the capital and in Anau, Akhal velayat.

Summing up the report, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has noted that the state would continue to create proper conditions for service and life of the personnel of military and law enforcement agencies, as well as for their families.

In this context, the President of Turkmenistan has noted the importance of integrated construction of social infrastructure.

Successfully implementing the exclusively defensive Military Doctrine of independent neutral Turkmenistan, we would continue work in this direction, the leader of nation said, having addressed the relevant instructions to the Vice-Premier, the State Security Council Secretary.

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Chairman of the Supreme Control Chamber, member of the State Security Council S. Berdymuhamedov has reported on preparation to the opening ceremony of the hothouse for vegetable and cucurbitaceous production in G. Atabayev Daikhan Association in Kaahka etrap, Akhal velayat. The modern 8-hectare hothouse for cultivation of eco-friendly production is provided with advanced technologies.

Having listened to the report, President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has highlighted that provision of food abundance in the country is the issue of top priority of the state's socioeconomic policy.

Focusing attention on construction of anniversary facilities, the head of state has noted the importance of scientific approach to the development of architectural projects and provision of their investment competitiveness. In this regard, the leader of nation has strongly advised to exercise control over the quality of construction works and completion of construction in the scheduled timeframes.

Continuing the report, the Vice-Premier has informed about taking measures for the activity improvement of the International Association «Türkmen alabaý itleri». Samples of badges «Türkmenistanyň at gazanan işsynasy» and «Türkmenistanyň halk işsynasy», as well as of the medal «Ýylyň türkmen edermen alabaýy», have been presented to the head of state for review.

Commenting on the report, the President of the country has highlighted that preservation and popularization of the national historical-cultural heritage in the world are the main priorities of the state policy. Development of the Turkmen Alabay dog-breeding craft and increase of the unique breed population are the important aspects of work in this direction.

After lengthy acquaintance with the presented samples of badges and medal, the President of Turkmenistan has approved them, regarding the decorations as a display of respect for the dog-breeding traditions of our ancestors, which are continued in the measures taken in the modern age for further improvement of the Alabay dog breed, the leader of nation noted and addressed concrete instructions to the Vice-Premier.

In the course of session, a number of other urgent issues were considered and the relevant Resolutions were adopted.

ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS REVIEW

- The President of Turkmenistan signed the Resolution on approving the Plan of works and measures prescribed for execution in the branches of the national economy in 2021.

- The President of Turkmenistan signed the Resolution on authorizing the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection to sell at the appropriate prices to the Textiles Ministry the established volumes of various types of cotton fiber for industrial processing.

- The President of Turkmenistan signed an Order, having prescribed to the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, the Textiles Ministry and the Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Union to gratuitously donate the appropriate medicines and medical supplies, food products and goods to the Astrakhan Oblast of the Russian Federation as a gesture of friendship and good neighborliness.

- The President of Turkmenistan has signed an Order on sending Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs R. Meredov on a business to the city of Ankara, the Republic of Turkey, on February 22-24, 2021, to hold the Turkmenistan-Turkey foreign ministerial-level consultations and participate in the Turkmenistan-Turkey-Azerbaijan trilateral foreign ministers' meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

* The President of Turkmenistan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has passed a Resolution on appointing Adviser of Justice **Begmyrat Meretdurdyevich Begmyradov** as Deputy Prosecutor General of Turkmenistan and Head of the Chief Directorate.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Online meetings with foreign partners

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in association with the Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) held an online briefing for the media community to discuss the achievements of Turkmenistan in the implementation of the "Plan for providing the country's readiness to promptly counteract and respond to the acute infectious diseases".

The UNICEF Representative in Turkmenistan Ms. Christine Weigand has emphasized that the current meeting is an opportunity not only to analyze the implementation of the President-approved Plan, which meets international standards, but also to mobilize the resources available for the Plan's further successful implementation and intensify advocacy of disease prevention measures.

The current event is a part of the within-named national Plan. The event is the third meeting organized by the WHO and UNICEF Office for Turkmen journalists, dedicated to mobilizing the capabilities of media in combating the spread of infectious diseases and promoting healthy lifestyle.

The main topic of the briefing is in raising awareness of journalists about the workable ways of releasing information on prevention of infectious diseases among the population, first of all, among the youths.

As was noted, one of the key challenges of effective informing about risks is the ability to identify the target audiences and concrete challenges they may face in understanding the danger of infection, and then take the necessary preventive measures and behavioral practices.

The briefing participants got acquainted with the world's best practice and regional experience in this area, and also discussed the development of a special handbook (reference book).

The cooperation experience between the UNICEF and the State Committee on Television, Radio Broadcasting and Cinematography in the development of videos and animated films about hygiene demonstrates the efficiency of measures taken to inform the population about

the importance of preventive actions. It was noted that this work would continue, as the preventive measures, as before, continue to be an effective protection means against infections.

The representative of the WHO Country Office shared new facts and data on the COVID-19 pandemic with participants of the meeting, having once again emphasized the necessity for observing the respiratory etiquette, social distancing, and hygiene.

The II Turkmen-Korean Health Forum in the online-TV-bridge format was held in the International Scientific-Training Center of the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry with the participation of leading Korean scientists, professors, leaders and representatives of the Turkmen government agencies, as well as medical scientific-clinical centers.

The Korean experts welcomed the intensive development of the health system in Turkmenistan, where a special part is assigned to President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, Professor, and Doctor of Medical Sciences.

Having imitated the bilateral Turkmen-Korean dialogue in the health sphere, the Turkmen leader orients it towards wide spread adoption of innovations and advanced technologies in the national medicinal practice, as well as the latest methods of intrauterine diagnosis.

In the course of meeting, its participants have assessed the work accomplished in this direction, discussed the steps taken to provide accessibility of the population to medical services in the context of countering COVID-19 and on the whole – on the preparedness for and response to the emergencies, as well as on tackling the tasks in the post-pandemic rehabilitation period.

In this context, it was stated that the Turkmen leader set new tasks to the national pharmaceutical industry on providing the population with medicines and medical supplies to increase the effectiveness of measures taken in the fight against infectious and non-infectious diseases and for their prevention.

During the meeting, consideration was also given to the issues of enhancing the bilateral cooperation through scientific diplomacy and creating conditions for regular exchange of views between the medical scientists, experts and specialists.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an online meeting on the trade-economic issues with the representatives of Great Britain led by the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Turkmenistan Ms. Emma Nicholson.

From the Turkmen side, the meeting was attended by the heads and representatives of the

Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Central Bank, the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs, the State Committee for Water Resources Management, the Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Union.

During the meeting, particular accent was placed on the issues of cooperation with “JCB Sales Limited”, which is interested in procurements of special machinery and equipment to Turkmenistan.

Consideration was also given to the issues related to investing and other aspects of joint projects.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan hosted the online Turkmen-Kazakh political consultations with the participation of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan M. Tleuberdi.

The parties expressed satisfaction with the positive experience of cooperation between the two countries within the framework of international and regional structures, in particular the UN, CIS, ECO, and others. In this context, the parties expressed mutual willingness to continue joint work both in the bilateral and multilateral formats.

Particular attention during the meeting was paid to the Caspian Sea. The parties exchanged views on the possibilities for expanding partnership, in particular, in the transport-transit sector with the use of port infrastructure.

The meeting participants discussed also the preparatory work for the next consultative meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States. The parties evinced interest in developing of joint initiatives on efficient unleashing of the great untapped potential of Central Asia and neighboring regions.

The diplomats considered the issues of deepening cooperation in the fuel and energy, transport, logistics and industrial sectors. An interest was expressed in developing partnerships in science, education, healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

By results of the meeting, the 2021-2023 Program of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Turkmen-Uzbek briefing in the diplomatic high education school

The Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan hosted an online briefing dedicated to the 538th anniversary (from the date of birth) of the poet-philosopher and politician Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur, whose creative legacy was included in the world literature fund.

Representatives of diplomatic missions, heads of high education schools, teachers and students of the two countries, as well as journalists were invited to the meeting.

As was noted, the peoples of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are the keepers of the cultural and historical heritage of ancient civilizations that had a huge impact on the world history. The peoples, who have managed to preserve their identity, religion, language, original cultural and spiritual values accumulated by previous generations, can rightfully be proud of their glorious and rich past.

The participants of briefing discussed the chronicles, which preserved many evidences that in many regions of the East, as well as in India, the historical and cultural ties of Turkic peoples and Indians, tracing back to the ancient times, can be considered not only in the historical aspect. Mutual influence of the cultures of these two ancient peoples continues to develop successfully in the third millennium.

The talented writer left the immortal story of his life «Babur-name» - a magnificent sample of prose and a valuable historical source that has entered the treasury of world culture.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan A. Kuchkarov and Rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan K. Karimov delivered the online speeches.

It was emphasized that the interstate dialogue was based on the agreements reached during regular contacts between the Presidents of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and had been marked by the intensification of multifaceted cooperation in the trade, economic, investment, cultural, humanitarian and other fields over recent years.

Speaking about the poet Zahiriddin Muhammad Bobur, the meeting participants have underlined that his legacy is of great importance not only for the Turkic peoples, but also for all mankind. His like-minded people, great Turkmen poets and politicians, Bayram Khan and his son Abdurahim Khan, are a symbol of friendship and brotherhood between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In conclusion of the briefing, the sides expressed hope for further fruitful cooperation and for the next meetings in Ashgabat and Tashkent.

IN RUN-UP TO THE ELECTIONS

Nomination of candidates is in full swing

The pre-election work is picking up speed. In the frames of the important political campaign – election of members to Halk Maslkhaty Milli Gengeshi, the nomination of candidates is in progress.

In compliance with the Election Code, the number of candidates is unrestricted. The candidates nominated are the hard-working persons, who enjoy great authority; many of them are the experienced organizers, specialists – agri-workers, tenants, representatives of education and culture, health and social security spheres, industry, construction, communication, etc.

Last week, for 48 mandates of Halk Maslkhaty Milli Gengeshi members, the Halk Maslakhaty of velayats, etraps, and towns nominated 81 candidates, distributed as: 15 – Akhal, 15 – Balkan, 9 – Dashoguz, 16 – Lebap, 15 – Mary velayats, and 11 – Ashgabat City.

Nomination phase will be ongoing until March 2, registration – until March 7.

Monitoring of the election process is implemented by national observers in the frames of their authorities.

SOCIETY

The country's best etrap is awarded the prize of the President of Turkmenistan

On the past week, Bagtyýar zaman village hosted the ceremony of awarding the US \$1million prize of the President of Turkmenistan to the S. A. Niyazov etrap, Dashoguz velayat – the winner of the contest for the country's best etrap in 2020.

The celebrations were attended by the heads of the National Center of Trade Unions, the regional and district administrations, representatives of social organizations, tenants, foremost employees of various spheres, and honorary elders.

S.A. Niyazov etrap is one of the large agrarian centers of the northern velayat. Last year, the etrap produced over 41.5 thousand tons of raw cotton, about 32 thousand tons of wheat, significant harvests of potatoes and other vegetables.

Workers of the etrap are actively developing gardening and livestock farming. The Agricultural Joint Stock Company named after Sadulla Rozmetov is known for its successes far beyond the region.

Modern secondary schools and kindergartens, stadiums and sports schools, houses of culture, healthcare institutions have been opened in the etrap, many kilometers of roads, power grids, and water pipelines have been built and reconstructed in the frames of the National Rural Development Program. In the territory of the Jumaniyaz Khudaybergenov gengeshlik, a new village, Bagtyýar zaman, with a developed infrastructure and enhanced-comfort conditions (maximum approximate to urban ones) has been built.

Private structures play a significant role in the economy of etrap. Thus, representatives of business community have built the greenhouses, some of which are now exporting their products.

There is a large 500-herd livestock complex in etrap designed for production of a wide range of meat and dairy products. The entrepreneurs are building poultry farms, fish-breeding ponds, and the region's first private warehouse for storage of agricultural produce.

The participants of the awarding ceremony have congratulated the residents of etrap on the meritorious high title of the winner of contest, having noted that the award would inspire them for new labor victories.

FORUMS

Conference on the occasion of the country's Diplomacy Workers Day

The Institute of International Relations of the Foreign Ministry of Turkmenistan hosted the scientific conference "Diplomacy of Turkmenistan – History, Present, Future", which was timed to Diplomacy Workers Day of the country.

The conference was attended by chief heads and staffers of the national diplomatic service, heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to Turkmenistan, rectors, teachers and students of higher educational institutions. Representatives of social organizations, local and international mass media were also invited to the conference.

In the Address to the forum participants, the President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov has expressed confidence that the conference would give wide opportunities for the contentious opinion exchange on the positive practice of our foreign policy and diplomacy of our state, as well as on its special contribution in strengthening of peace.

It was highlighted during the conference that under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov our country steadily pursued the constructive foreign-policy course aimed at expansion of multidimensional international cooperation, consolidation of efforts of the world community for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the regional and global scale. The leader's forward-looking strategy and constructive initiatives receive universal approval and support.

Effective implementation of foreign policy of our independent and neutral state and protection of its national interests are the main criteria of work of the national diplomatic service. In this context, the participants have also noted an important contribution of Turkmen diplomacy to strengthening of friendship, good neighborliness, understanding and trust on the regional and global levels.

Due to the President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov's strong support, the equipment and facility base of Turkmenistan's diplomatic

service is systematically improved, and its infrastructure is modernized. The «Türkmenistanyň ussat diplomaty» decoration was instituted in the running month by the Resolution of the head of state.

Year after year, the network of diplomatic missions and consulate departments of our country is expanded abroad, dynamically developing relations and beneficial cooperation with neighboring countries and with the countries located in other regions of the planet, initiating and implementing major infrastructural projects with foreign partners.

Given the by-now realities and requirements of the times, a qualitatively new impulse has been given to the development of the national diplomatic school where the priority role is assigned to the staff-training aspects. In this context, not the least significant is to open new specialties, actively adopt advanced digital technologies and innovative methods in the educational process, and intensify the mutuality-based experience exchange with leading foreign high education schools.

In the light of the present-day realities, new functions and forms of the diplomatic activity appear. In the last years, our country initiated the development of such actual directions of diplomacy as economic, transport, energy, ecological, water, cultural and spot diplomacy.

Special attention is paid to unleashing of the preventive diplomacy potential, efficient application of such instruments as regulation of disputes and conflicts by political-diplomatic instrumentalities, peace- and trust-favored measures.

Today, in the light of the complicated global situation, which was caused by coronavirus pandemic, the full-scale startup of the channels of scientific and medical diplomacy is one of the priorities. The proposal of President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov on establishing of the mechanisms of profile cooperation under the UN aegis and its specialized structures, the World Health Organization, is aimed at the solution of this objective.

By tradition, on the occasion of the professional holiday, an awarding ceremony was held of decorating young officers of the diplomatic service and the graduates of the Institute of International Relations with the relevant diplomas of the Foreign Ministry.

In the frames of the forum, the thematic exhibition was held in the Institute of International Relations of the Foreign Ministry timed to Diplomacy Workers Day of the country, the 30th anniversary of independence, 25th anniversary of permanent neutrality of the Motherland, and the running year of 2021 proclaimed under the slogan “Turkmenistan – Home of Peace and Trust”.

COMMODITIES EXCHANGE NEWS

Last week, 66 transactions were registered at the State Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange of Turkmenistan.

In the foreign currency, entrepreneurs from Russia, the UAE, and Afghanistan made the contracts for purchasing of the polypropylene and low sulfur residual oil, produced at the Turkmenbashi Refinery Complex. Businessmen from the UAE, Scotland, Afghanistan, and Singapore made the deals for purchasing of ECO-93 gasoline, liquefied gas and technical sulfur (“Türkmengaz” State Concern).

Besides, the contracts in the foreign currency were made for purchasing of the one-colored and jacquard terry textiles, and cotton yarn. The deals were made by representatives of business circles from the Russian Federation, China, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan. The sum total of the deals exceeded US \$110,672 thousand.

In local currency, representatives of business circles from the UAE, Turkey, and Pakistan bought the cotton yarn, licorice root extract, and other medicinal products. The sum total of transactions was over 65, 764, 000 manats.

For the domestic market, local businessmen purchased co-extrusion polypropylene film produced at the Turkmenbashi Refinery Complex (over 16 million manats).



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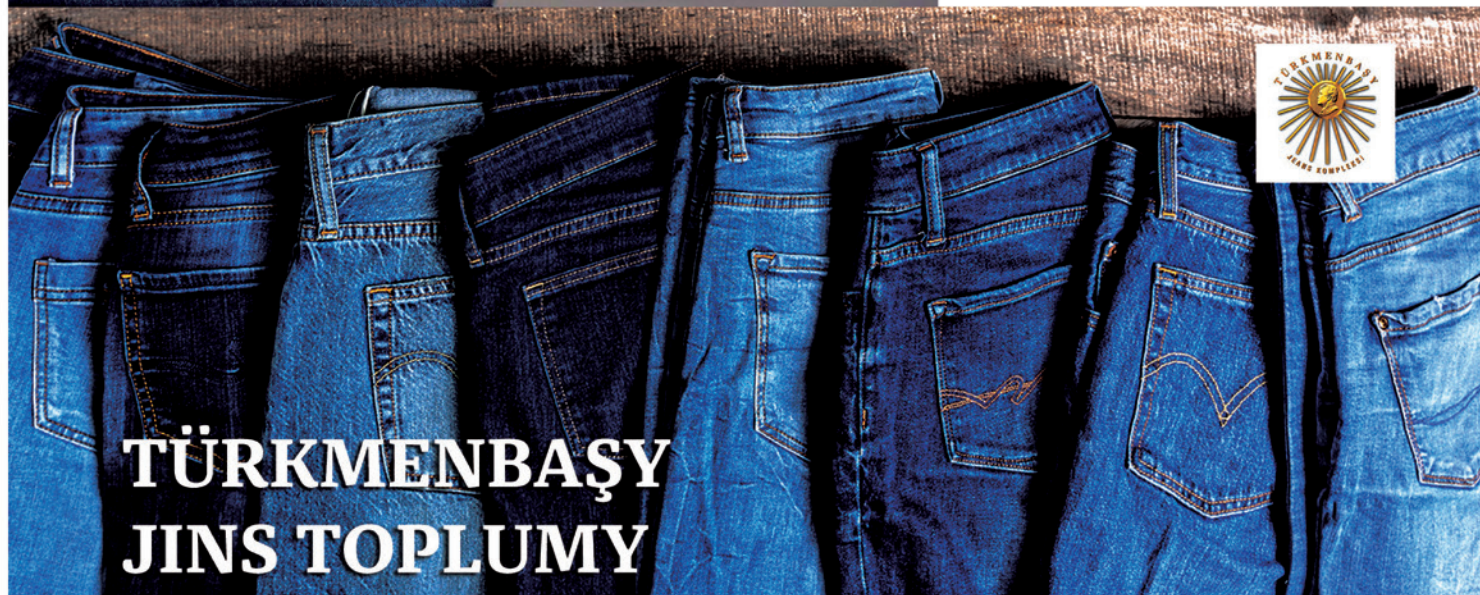
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