



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
School of International Affairs and Business

**AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD
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**AZERBAIJANI CULTURE IN DIASPORA:
A CONVERSATION WITH JEFFREY WERBOCK**

Below is an interview with Jeffrey Werbock, a distinguished performing artist based in the United States and Chairman of the Mugham Society of America (MSA), the sixth in the interviews Azerbaijan in the World has recently conducted with leading figures of Azerbaijani culture. The MSA's web page is at <http://www.mugham.net>.

Azerbaijan in the World: How did it happen that you began performing mugham? Was this a rational choice or rather something more contingent?

Jeffrey Werbock: This question touches on why I play mugham. One can love a certain kind of music and just listen to it; one doesn't have to learn to play it in order to enjoy it. But for me there was never any question, I had to apply myself to

learning to play mugham and I never asked myself why. From the first moment of hearing it played live, right in front of me; I was already thinking how to ask for lessons so I could learn to play it too. And at first I was only concerned about learning how to play mugham.

However, thanks to the curiosity of a few friends, I had cause to play this music for others even though I was just beginning my studies. They encouraged me to perform this music, unknown to all of us, as much as I can, so I took that advice to heart and soon after I arranged for a performance at UCLA (University of California in Los Angeles) and another one at Grinnell College in the State of Iowa. I noticed that being on stage performing for others didn't bother me or make me nervous, so I decided to arrange for more public demonstrations of mugham, as I understood it those early days.

Shortly after moving to New York City in 1974 I had my first public appearance there in the Gallery of Musical Antiquities at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The audience response was positive and showed me that public demonstrations of my fledgling ability to play mugham should become a parallel study, how to best present mugham to western audiences. I have been following that track ever since. Many years later I also came to realize there is only one way I can show Azerbaijanis just how much I venerate their great art music, which is to let them hear me play what I know. Only then will they understand my crazy heart.

AIW: What is mugham for you then?

Werbock: Mugham is the means through which I approach a transcendental state of mind. It is equivalent to meditation and is more like a spiritual experience than entertainment.

AIW: Has the subject matter of the mugham you perform evolved over time and what influences have affected you in this evolution?

Werbock: My first teacher, Zevulon Avshalomov, was originally from Daghestan. He lived in Baku for one year as a teenager learning to play Azerbaijani music on kamancha. His version of mugham was very simple, yet incredibly powerful, emotionally and spiritually. When I met him in Los Angeles in 1972, I had no knowledge of mugham; all I knew was that this man was able to speak directly to my innermost feelings with his music, in a way that is beyond the reach of language to describe. I studied his version of mugham for nearly 15 years. There were some technical challenges; the oriental scales rich with microtones unknown in western music, the meter free cadence, the bowed and fretless kamancha—I was formerly a guitarist. But the bigger challenge for me was being able to recreate the extraordinary atmosphere that my first teacher was able to generate with his music.

Then he passed away in 1987. Losing my first teacher was more than I could bear. We not only forged a close relationship akin to father and son; his presence was a very important part of my life and his music was necessary to me in a way that few people can understand. I could not understand it myself; all I knew was that I needed that music like a person needs air and the thought of living without him drove me to wish to find another teacher as soon as possible. One year passed like this when Zeynab Xanlarova came to the United States with her ensemble. I paid keen attention to her tar player Zamiq Aliyev and kamancha player Adalat Vazirov. Listening to those two master musicians made me realize that mugham is far more

complex than what I had been learning, and it was as if the 15 years I studied with my beloved first teacher and his inscrutable, mysterious music was merely a preparation for learning real mugham. Thus I endeavoured to travel to Azerbaijan to meet mugham masters and find a teacher.

I got a few lessons from both Zamiq and from Adalat, but because they lived in Baku and I lived in New York City, lessons were few and far between. On a few occasions, I was able to grab a few lessons from two tar players who visited the USA, Firuz Aliyev and Nisim Nisimov from Guba. Each time, they gave me a little more material to work with.

Then one day in the year 2000, 28 years after the first time I heard mugham, a young virtuoso kamancha player and graduate from the Azerbaijan Music Academy in Baku, Imamyar Hasanov had moved to Brooklyn, a suburb of New York City, and I took lessons from him once a week for 14 months. Imamyar taught me the basics of all the important mughams before he moved to Virginia and stopped teaching me. I diligently practiced what he taught me for several years until one day all the other versions of mugham that I had learned began to manifest in a kind of synthesis. One important factor that led me into a deeper understanding of mugham and its potential for improvisation was, having assimilated the basic structure of the major mughams, I was now in a position to appreciate what other musicians were able to do with mugham.

Over the course of the 40 years, I have been applying myself to learning mugham, I may be lucky in that I learned from three kamancha masters and two tar masters, which gave me an interesting perspective on mugham since they were all great musicians and all very different in their playing styles. Also, I am impressed with the way mugham is played on both eastern and western instruments at weddings where it appears that the strict rules of mugham are a bit looser and they render mugham in a way that calls to mind blues and jazz, more open and free to improvise. So I would say my mugham playing has evolved in that direction, a bit less strictly classical and a bit more open to the search for ever fresh ways of getting through a mugham and making the most of each passage.

AIW: Do you feel you represent Azerbaijan and its culture when performing mugham to international audiences, or do you rather feel your music is more cosmopolitan in terms of the message it seeks to communicate? What is the overall message?

Werbock: For the first 30 years of my studying instrumental mugham, I was obsessed with authenticity. The people who invite me to perform and speak about mugham deserve to have an authentic experience and because I am not Azerbaijani, I need to concern myself with this. It must sound and feel like mugham and not some interpretation of it, through the filter of some foreign culture. But the overall message is something, which goes beyond the questions of authenticity or provenance. Of course mugham belongs to Azerbaijan; the people of Azerbaijan are the creators and inheritors of mugham, so they deserve to get the credit that is their due for being the source country of such a remarkable and extraordinary form of musical art. But Azerbaijan belongs to the world, and the world belongs to the universe, so the overall message is that Azerbaijan is the conduit through which this utterly cosmic music has appeared on this earth.

AIW: You mentioned your obsession with authenticity in earlier years of your

involvement with mugham. In what ways, if any, do you think you (and your music) are different from *Azerbaijani* artists performing mugham?

Werbock: I worked very hard over many years to sound correct and so far no one has told me I play mugham incorrectly. That said, I have to admit that I do not put in the many hours of daily practice that a professional musician of any genre ought to. I have to support myself and my family, so I must work at a normal job, and play as much mugham as I possibly can as time permits. I started listening to mugham very late, when I was already 21 years old, so I needed many more years than an Azerbaijani student should need to develop the capacity to play this music as it should be played. Perhaps the single most important aspect of learning mugham for a musician is the milieu, the environment of learning, surrounded by other struggling students, comparing playing styles, talking about the structure and meaning of mugham in groups. I was not able to avail myself of the support that the Azerbaijani student of mugham can take for granted. That didn't stop me, but it certainly slowed me down.

My repertoire is not as extensive as professional musicians. I focus almost exclusively on mugham and as a result have learned only a few dozen songs out of the hundreds of traditional tunes in the repertoire of Azerbaijani folk music. Since I mostly perform as a soloist demonstrating various mughams on tar, kamancha and oud, I have the luxury of dwelling on mugham. Without at least a percussionist, there is really no point in demonstrating song and dance music. In any case, my mission is about mugham. Those who come to my program of mugham can listen to other musicians and singers too, of course. I make sure everyone knows about the MSA website, www.mugham.net, where they can listen to the professional Azerbaijani musicians and singers, which I personally enjoy the most, and those links can also take them to hear samples of the rhythmic repertoire of traditional Azerbaijani music as well.

Another point of departure between my style of mugham music and many professional musicians is that I am not particularly interested in music technically. My interest is in the depth of feeling that mugham alone is capable of bringing audiences into. I lose interest when musicians feel obliged to show how fast they can play and how complicated they can render some of the passages. No one who I perform for seems to be interested in watching someone play another version of *Flight of the Bumblebee* or some other technical challenge resembling a NASCAR race. What I and my audiences hunger for is the incredible depth of mugham, how deep it reaches into the human imagination and evokes an effect there, which is unprecedented and not found in any other music I know of.

Also, please bear in mind that virtually all Azerbaijani professionals play in ensembles, so they must practice with other musicians and play in a way that is stable and recognizably the same from performance to performance. By contrast, soloists do not need to be concerned with that as much, so it does offer more freedom to just let whatever is in one's heart at that moment to be made manifest.

Most of my performances are actually lecture demonstration programs inside classrooms at colleges, universities, academies and museums. Even on those occasions when I am invited to perform in a nice concert hall, I try to be true to the general aims of the Mugham Society of America, which is to also educate, not just entertain. That has a definite effect on the nature of the experience and the way the music is presented.

AIW: You mentioned the Mugham Society of America of which you are Chairman. When and how was the Society established and what is its primary agenda? What kinds of activities are carried out under the Society's realm?

Werbock: MSA was formed in 2002. Its one and only mission is to promote mugham and increase awareness about Azerbaijan and its traditional art culture. The activities are two, one is performing and lecturing, the other is documentary filmmaking.

AIW: How do your international audiences respond to your presentations of mugham? What kind of questions do people normally ask?

Werbock: The responses are uniformly positive. I am always amazed at the degree of attentiveness of western audiences listening to mugham, many of them for the very first time. Of course, first time listeners do not understand everything about mugham, but when they are invited to listen carefully, they will feel what we feel, which I like to characterize as a pause from the daily concerns and an entry into an entirely new way of feeling, a more cosmic feeling, for lack of a better word. Sometimes their questions will reflect that euphoric uplifting feeling, sometimes their questions are prosaic, such as, what kind of wood is the tar made from, what is that skin on the face of the instruments, why is the bridge on the kamancha at such an angle, and so forth. Musically inclined listeners sometimes ask technical questions about the scales of mugham, the microtones, the unusual way the notes are clustered and what effect they have. Sometimes audience members ask surprisingly sophisticated questions like, "You explained to us that mugham is a system of music based on the idea of using musical scales to have a profound effect on human consciousness. What is going on in your consciousness when you are playing mugham, rather than just listening to others play?" To this unusual and intriguing question, I explained that a mugham musician must partition his or her consciousness, so that one part remembers which mugham is unfolding and where in the progression of the mugham we are, while the other part is undergoing the incredible euphoria, the uplifting feeling of being transported to a mystical realm that all attentive listeners must surely experience.

AIW: Have there been instances of, or are there plans for, collaboration between yourself and other artists from Azerbaijan or indeed elsewhere?

Werbock: Over the years, some professional musicians and singers from Azerbaijan have been very kind and generous with me, allowing me to perform with them in various venues both in Azerbaijan and elsewhere. I hope to continue to be invited to perform more with my music colleagues in Azerbaijan who play mugham at the professional level.

AIW: Which of your concerts do you consider a particular success?

Werbock: None of them. I have yet to feel that what I was able to do in this realm so far was worthy of the word "success."

AIW: What is your assessment of the current state of the music scene in Azerbaijan? What should be done to prompt, and contribute to, its further evolution? More particularly, what forms do you think the government's support for music, and perhaps art in general, could assume?

Werbock: Azerbaijanis love every kind of music. The music scene in Azerbaijan is incredibly diverse and that diversity is guaranteed to evolve because of how much the people there love music in general. Regarding your government's support promoting mugham, I have not seen or heard of another government in the world contributing to its national musical traditions to the degree found in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan appears to be a world leader in this regard.

AIW: Azerbaijani government has by now come up with a number of mechanisms, including the international festival in Gabala and international mugham festival, through which it exercises its cultural diplomacy. What do you think about these efforts?

Werbock: I remember meeting with the past president, Heydar Aliyev, in May of 1997, on the day of a concert to be held in the newly renovated Opera House and in which I was going to perform that evening. He made it very clear to me he believed it was important that Azerbaijan supports its traditional arts and that mugham in particular was very important, very central to Azerbaijani national identity, and that he regarded the development of a strong sense of national identity as the highest priority. It seems to me that the people who are making the decisions today regarding where to allocate resources have respected Mr. Aliyev's wishes and in diverse ways. You mention two venues, the Gabala Music Festival and the International Mugham Festival. Both are highly effective in reaching out to people living all over the world. In addition to the programs ongoing within Azerbaijan is an outreach effort, which could be called cultural diplomacy as you put it, because it is casting Azerbaijan in the best possible light in countries around the world. From my point of view as someone who came to feel about Azerbaijan as I do thanks to mugham, I would have to agree that cultural diplomacy is the best way to educate the world about Azerbaijan.

AIW: Are there, in your opinion, other potentially promising strands of music, apart from mugham, that should receive more attention?

Werbock: Azerbaijan is becoming a modern country and like in all modern countries, the young generation is attracted to modern culture and that includes music. Since mugham—along with Ashigh music—is traditional music from the past, it may need more support than other forms of music in order to survive the passage of the 21st century. Mugham is uniquely Azerbaijani and for that reason alone it deserves extra attention. But mainly, because mugham is the most powerful, most astonishing and most authentically Azerbaijani example of Azerbaijan's overall musical genius, I have to agree with the position of supporting organisations and individuals devoted to promoting Azerbaijan via mugham programs around the world.

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE AND THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH SEPARATISM: NOTHING IN COMMON

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David Leask writes in *Herald Scotland* that Armenian residents of Nagorno-Karabakh are enthusiastic about the 2014 referendum to be held in Scotland. "Nagorno-Karabakh—a self-proclaimed republic in what most maps still show as part of western Azerbaijan," he writes, "has jumped to welcome Scotland's plebiscite. So it has seized upon the very fact Scots are going to be 'allowed' to settle their own future—and the rest of the UK has agreed to abide by their decision." [1]

This writer quotes an English-language communique of the organization that calls itself "foreign ministry of Nagorno-Karabakh:" "London's position proves once again that respect for human rights and nations' self-determination is the priority for democratic states. We can only hope that the position of Great Britain and other democratic states will positively impact Azerbaijan in accepting these realities and respecting human rights."

Mr. Leask also quotes another Armenian source, Khankandi-based journalist Gegam Baghdasarian, who heads the city's press club and is obviously excited about the Scottish referendum: "Whatever the result of the Scottish referendum, the very fact it is taking place is a big plus for the Karabakh problem. Naturally we'd be delighted if Alex Salmond wins. Scottish independence would have an enormous political impact. It would be an ace in the hands of both Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. Basically, we will be able to show the finger to Azerbaijan. "Learn from the Scots," we would say to them, "Look how civilized people settle their differences." It would be super. The difference is that British authorities allowed the Scots to hold a referendum on independence that the Scottish nationalists had wanted. There is an agreement between the Scottish and the British authorities. This is unimaginable for us, in our context. Because Azerbaijan will never be civilised enough to allow itself such a civilised development of events. We have no illusions, absolutely no illusions, about Azerbaijan."

Regrettably, Mr. Leask failed to interview anyone representing the ethnic Azeris, who form a third of the province's population and who currently live in exile as IDPs awaiting their return home. More seriously, however, the *Herald Scotland* writer fails to recognize that Scotland and the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan are completely different situations and that the former cannot serve as any precedent for the latter.

First, Scottish pro-independence movement is not extra-legal and illegitimate, because Scotland never declared its independence unilaterally. Instead, it turned to London to discuss its future and obtain the latter's consent regarding the referendum on independence. This is exactly what can make secession legal—an agreement with the central government allowing a breakaway part of its territory to go its own way. That is what happened in South Sudan, after the central government in Khartoum agreed to accept the results of the referendum in South Sudan. Nothing like either of these cases has taken place in Nagorno-Karabakh. Rather, when the NK's Armenian majority petitioned to Baku and Yerevan in 1988 to have the autonomous province transferred from Azerbaijan to Armenia, the Armenian government agreed, but Baku did not. That rejection made any further effort at secession illegal, but the Armenians in Yerevan and Nagorno-Karabakh have not stopped at that point and turned to unilateral and indeed violent ways in their pursuit of that goal, a clear difference with the Scottish independence movement.

Second, the Scots never physically attacked English people living in Scotland, they never committed war crimes, which approached very close to the notion of genocide, they never conducted ethnic cleansing, and they never expelled non-Scottish residents from Scotland. As a result, there have never been any refugees or IDPs from Scotland. In Nagorno-Karabakh, in contrast, the Armenians drove one-third of the residents out in their efforts to transform a bi-communal province into a mono-community land. There can be no talk of "self-determination" in such circumstances.

Third, no foreign country invaded Great Britain and no third-party army is stationed in Scotland. In sharp contrast, the Republic of Armenia launched aggression against Azerbaijan, occupied the latter's sovereign territory, and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity there.

Fourth, Scotland has enjoyed equal status with Wales, England and Northern Ireland, and together they constitute the United Kingdom. They were thus free to unite and free to withdraw. To a certain extent, they resemble 15 constituent republics of the former Soviet Union, the six republics of former Yugoslavia, and the two republics of the former Czechoslovakia. In contrast, Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized internationally as an integral part of Azerbaijan. The autonomous status given to ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan was a mere gesture, particularly given that there was no reciprocal autonomy given to the Azerbaijani minority in Armenia (even though the latter outnumbered Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh by a factor of 1.5). Consequently, Nagorno-Karabakh's effort to secede resembles those of Bergen to secede from Norway or the Vojvodina to leave Serbia.

And fifth, Leask quotes without comment Baghdasarian's outrageous suggestion that "Azerbaijan will never be civilised enough to allow itself such a civilised development of events," a comment that in and of itself shows why the two cases are not analogous in any way. Had the writer reflected upon this, he would have recognized that in this conflict, Armenia—not Azerbaijan—is the problem. No country can invade another country, occupy a fifth of its territory, reduce every seventh citizen of that country to the status of an IDP and then talk about self-determination and human rights and compare itself to others who have acted in an entirely different manner. One cannot steal two apples and then trade the return of one in exchange for keeping the other. This would have nothing to do with international law, and we have witnessed nothing of the sort in Scotland.

Notes

[1] See <http://www.heraldsotland.com/politics/viewpoint/as-others-see-us-the-view-from-nagorno-karabakh.2012112884> (accessed 27 November 2012).

SAVING LAKE URMIA: CHALLENGES FOR AZERBAIJAN

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Lake Urmia in northwestern Iran, an area in which ethnic Azeris predominate, is dying, and Tehran wants to save it by diverting water from the Araz River, which forms the border between Iran and Azerbaijan. That presents a serious foreign policy challenge for Baku. On the one hand, Azerbaijani leaders do not want to see the environmental and human costs that the death of Lake Urmia would impose on both the ethnic Azeris of Iran and on the population of Azerbaijan itself. But on the other, Baku does not want to see a reduction in the flow of the Araz, something that could harm its own population, or to have the Armenian government exploit this situation.

On November 19, Jabbar Vatanfada, the director of the Iranian energy ministry's department for CIS countries and boundary rivers, said that Tehran wants to save Lake Urmia by seeking agreement with Azerbaijan concerning the transfer of part of the flow of the Araz River to that lake. [1] Huseyn Bagirov, Azerbaijan's ecology and natural resources minister, responded two days later that if Iran wants to do that, it must in the first instance reach an agreement with Azerbaijan and that any agreement "can be reached only on the basis of existing agreements." [2]

"If the Iranian side officially appeals to us," Bagirov continued, "all aspects of this issue, not only the environmental but also the political, economic and other aspects, must be thoroughly analyzed," especially since they could affect existing agreements concerning the amount of water the two countries can take out of this border river.

Three other developments make this an especially sensitive issue. First, the United Nations is involved, with its UNDP having allocated some 135 million US dollars to deal with the environmental consequences of the desiccation of Lake Urmia. Consequently, any discussions will immediately involve more than just Azerbaijan and Iran. And that, experience suggests, will make any negotiations even more difficult.

Second, the Iranians already have been talking to the Armenians about this issue. In August, Mohammad Javad Mohammadzade, the head of Iran's Environmental Protection Organization, said that Yerevan has already agreed to the transfer of water from the Araz to address the falling water levels on Lake Urmia. However, Armenia made this offer without reference to Azerbaijan, a downstream country whose ecology and economy could be profoundly compromised by the diversion of water to Iran. That, too, is going to make it far more difficult for Baku to come to an agreement on this. [3]

And third—and this may be the most critical element in this story—the Azeris in Iran have been staging demonstrations in favor of diverting water to save Lake Urmia, demonstrations that have taken place throughout the last two years in northwestern Iran and have resulted in several deaths and a large number of arrests. Those developments, in turn, have sparked protests by Azerbaijanis living in Turkey. One participant in the Istanbul demonstrations said that Lake Urmia will die within a year or two, becoming a salt reservoir and destroying an ecosystem on which more than 13 million people rely. [4]

According to official statistics, 70 percent of Lake Urmia is at risk, with the water containing so much salt that there are no fish in the lake and few plants and animals around its shores. [5] In short, Urmia could quickly become the next Aral Sea, something that will put more pressure on Baku to reach agreement with Iran, talks

that could also be complicated by the standoff between Tehran and the West over Iran's nuclear program.

Notes

[1] See

http://en.apa.az/news_iran_wants_azerbaijan___s_consent_for_wate_182762.html (accessed 29 November 2012).

[2] See <http://en.trend.az/news/politics/2090546.html> (accessed 29 November 2012).

[3] See <http://www.payvand.com/news/12/aug/1010.html> (accessed 29 November 2012).

[4] See <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-255721-azeri-turks-in-ankara-protest-lake-urmia-drying-up.html> (accessed 29 November 2012).

[5] See <http://www.equities.com/news/headline-story?dt=2012-11-19&val=728625&cat=utility> (accessed 29 November 2012).

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, tells the Fifth Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues of the Committee on Human Rights in Geneva that Azerbaijan was the first in the post-Soviet space to have a presidential decree on the defense of the rights and freedoms of national minorities and ethnic groups and to provide government assistance for the development of their languages and cultures (<http://news.day.az/politics/369201.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the opposition and the ruling party in Azerbaijan have "the same position" on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/368284.html>).

Siyavush Novruzov, a Milli Majlis deputy of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the OSCE Minsk Group should dissolve itself and hand over the discussion of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to the UN Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/368295.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Nikolay Bordyuzha, the secretary general of the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty, says that there is no reason for his group to interfere in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/369906.html>).

Eric Rubin, US deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, says that Washington believes that the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a "priority" issue (<http://news.day.az/politics/367156.html>).

Pádraig Murphy, the special representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for the South Caucasus, says that the opening of an airport in Nagorno-Karabakh would lead to a further increase in tensions in the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/369038.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

30 November

President Ilham Aliyev signs an executive order on processing of visas for foreigners arriving in Azerbaijan and for those who do not have citizenship (<http://news.day.az/politics/369916.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the agreement "on a regional commission for fishing and aquaculture in Central Asia and the Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369905.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the joint declaration he signed with Tajikistan President Emomalli Rahmon on July 12 (<http://news.day.az/politics/369895.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that declarations by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan "bear a purely propagandistic character" and are intended to "conceal the essence of his policies" of aggression and territorial aggrandizement (<http://news.day.az/politics/369641.html>).

29 November

President Ilham Aliyev speaks by telephone with Russian President Vladimir Putin (<http://news.day.az/politics/369676.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Damira Dzanko, incoming ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/369633.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Miko Halas, incoming ambassador of Estonia to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/369633.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Bernard Tano-Boutchoue, incoming ambassador of the Ivory Coast to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/369633.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Mohammad Shakir Kargar, incoming ambassador of Afghanistan to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/369633.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that, "if Armenia accepts the proposals of the OSCE Minsk Group, then it should agree to sign a broader peace treaty" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369670.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, tells Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis that ADA is "the only higher educational institution in the country which offer scholarship programs for foreigners" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369530.html>).

Faig Tagizade, deputy emergency situations minister, says that Baku is currently reviewing progress on an IAEA project to clean up lands on the Absheron Peninsula that were contaminated by old iodine factories there (<http://news.day.az/society/369541.html>).

The Azerbaijani flag was displayed in Yerevan by the Azerbaijani boxing team participating in that sport's world championship there (<http://sport.day.az/boxing/20121129061815243.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, signs a cooperation agreement with Sandor Lezak, a leader of the ruling party in Hungary and vice president of the Hungarian Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/369595.html>).

A delegation of the Milli Majlis interparliamentary cooperation working group visits Rome to meet with their Italian counterparts (<http://news.day.az/politics/369583.html>).

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis says that Riga wants to expand its economic cooperation with Azerbaijan, especially in the areas of trade and investment (<http://news.day.az/politics/369530.html>).

Mohsen Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, in a meeting with Niyaz Alizade, first vice president of the Trade and Industry Chamber of Azerbaijan, calls for the creation of a joint Iranian-Azerbaijani chamber of commerce to promote economic contacts between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/369494.html>).

28 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis (<http://news.day.az/politics/369356.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Philip Lefort, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/369356.html>).

Vice Prime Minister Ali Hasanov tells Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis that Baku would like to see the broadening and deepening of economic, political and humanitarian ties between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/369439.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Abid Sharifov meets in Budapest with Peter Sijarto, the Hungarian state secretary for international relations and economics (<http://news.day.az/economy/369346.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Joseph Debono Grech and Pedro Agramunt, co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/369426.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that recent reactions by Armenian officials to questions about their country's behavior are "in no way surprising" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369181.html>).

Akram Zeynally, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Bern, meets with Eric Martin, head of the Swiss Federal Economic Department Administration for Bilateral Ties, to discuss expanding cooperation between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/369624.html>).

Transportation officials from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Turkey sign a memorandum on the "Silk Wind" corridor (<http://news.day.az/economy/369398.html>).

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis says that relations between Latvia and Azerbaijan now involve not only the political, but also the economic spheres (<http://news.day.az/politics/369439.html>).

Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis says that Riga hopes for a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework proposed by the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/369318.html>).

Ian Bix, Australia's ambassador to Ankara who is also accredited to Baku, tells the Azerbaijani community in Sidney that Canberra supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/369397.html>).

Mehmet Saglam, vice speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that that body will adopt a measure recognizing the Khojaly tragedy as genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/369244.html>).

27 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Norberto Yauram, Argentina's agriculture, livestock and fisheries minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/369112.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the Azerbaijani-Turkish agreement on the sale of natural gas to Turkey, the transit of gas across Turkish territory, and the construction of a gas pipeline there (<http://news.day.az/politics/368975.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that, "unfortunately, the results of the more recent visits of the co-chairs [of the OSCE Minsk Group] do not provide the basis for speaking positively" about the direction of the talks (<http://news.day.az/politics/369175.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Joseph Debono Grech and Pedro Agramunt, co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/369195.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Fazlur Rahman, a deputy of the Pakistani National Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/369167.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev receives Rasim Ljajic, Serbian vice prime minister and minister for domestic and external trade and telecommunications (<http://news.day.az/economy/369039.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "it is impossible that [the Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict will stay in its current unresolved situation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369116.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Viktor Tvirkun, secretary general of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/369042.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, says that, "today there is no way out" for Armenia except to withdraw its forces from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/368925.html>).

Azer Huseyn, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tbilisi, tells Georgian Re-Integration Minister Paata Zakareyshvili that Baku will do what it can to help Georgia in this regard (<http://news.day.az/politics/369200.html>).

The National Security Ministry seizes a major shipment of illegal drugs that an Iranian citizen was attempting to smuggle into Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/369124.html>).

Norberto Jaugam, Argentina's agriculture, livestock and fishing minister, says that, "Argentina and Azerbaijan are interested in the joint development of agriculture in both countries" (<http://news.day.az/economy/369057.html>).

Andrejz Dyha, Poland's deputy economics minister, says that Azerbaijan's membership in the World Trade Organization will allow for the stabilization of trade in the region (<http://news.day.az/economy/368991.html>).

Mohsen Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that Tehran "considers Nagorno-Karabakh to be part of the territory of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369054.html>).

Philip Lefort, special representative of the European Union for the South Caucasus, says that, "Azerbaijan is a very important country for the EU in all connections and that the European Union will do everything possible to develop relations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369128.html>).

Rasim Ljajic, Serbian deputy prime minister and minister for domestic and foreign trade and telecommunications, says, "Serbia has always supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369044.html>).

Camil Cicek, speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that, "certain countries do not want the establishment of peace and stability in the Caucasus region so that they can conduct their own policy. As a result, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is not yet resolved" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369138.html>).

Camil Cicek, speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Turkey and Azerbaijan have achieved "serious results" in their discussions on ending the visa regime between them (<http://news.day.az/politics/369118.html>).

Camil Cicek, speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that the potential and economic development of the Black Sea region is attracting ever more international attention" (<http://news.day.az/economy/369021.html>).

Tsetska Tsacheva, speaker of the Bulgarian parliament, says that, "Bulgaria needs Azerbaijani oil and gas to meet its energy needs" (<http://news.day.az/politics/369170.html>).

Mario Jaime Trobo, a member of Uruguay's chamber of deputies, condemns his colleagues for their unauthorized visit to Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/368914.html>).

Viktor Tsvirkun, secretary general of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, says that Turkey, while chairman-in-office, has prepared a plan for regional cooperation within the framework of that organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/369004.html>).

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language Countries receives observer status at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization at the latter's session in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/369062.html>).

26 November

President Ilham Aliyev sends a message of welcome to the first forum of NGOs of the countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization meeting in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/368938.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Cemil Cicek, speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/368870.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Rasim Ljajic, Serbian deputy prime minister and minister for domestic and foreign trade and telecommunications (<http://news.day.az/politics/368870.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Viktor Tsvirkun, secretary general of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/368870.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Joseph Debono Grech and Pedro Agramunt, co-rapporteurs of the PACE Monitoring Committee for Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/368870.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/368870.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev calls for the development of a strong legal foundation for trade between Azerbaijan and Serbia (<http://news.day.az/economy/368842.html>).

Energy and Industry Minister Natig Aliyev participates in the Warsaw meeting of the Azerbaijani-Polish intergovernmental commission (<http://news.day.az/economy/368828.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan will not allow Armenia to draw out the negotiations about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/368795.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, meets with Klaipeda Mayor Vitautas Grubliauskas (<http://news.day.az/politics/368823.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Cairo, meets with senior Egyptian ministers to discuss expanding trade and investment (<http://news.day.az/politics/368709.html>).

Parviz Ismailzade, consul general of Azerbaijan in Dubai, meets with Dahi Halfan, head of the UAE police (<http://news.day.az/politics/368728.html>).

Gudrat Gurbanov, head of the State Maritime Administration, takes part in the London meeting of the committee on maritime security of the International Maritime Organization (<http://news.day.az/economy/368837.html>).

Aliaga Huseynov, chair of the Milli Majlis working group on Azerbaijani-Pakistan interparliamentary ties, receives Maulana Fazel-ur-Rahman, chairman of Pakistan's Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Party (<http://news.day.az/politics/368936.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia lacks the ability to produce drones (<http://news.day.az/politics/368669.html>).

Rufat Mammadov, head of AZPROMO, and Milos Bugarin, head of the Trade and Industry Chamber of Serbia, sign a cooperation agreement in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/368832.html>).

Cemil Cicek, speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem is "one of the priorities" of Ankara's foreign policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/368800.html>).

Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the Pakistani parliament's special committee on Kashmir, says that Islamabad is proposing to organize special training courses for Azerbaijanis including in the defense sphere (<http://news.day.az/politics/368809.html>).

25 November

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku welcomes the opening of a House of Azerbaijani Culture in Kojaeli, Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/368621.html>).

24 November

Toshiyuki Fujiwara, director general of the Japan Institute for International Affairs

and former Japanese ambassador to Baku, says that, "the role of Azerbaijan in a globalized world is growing rapidly" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368597.html>).

23 November

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-zade receives the participants of the Seventh General Assembly of the International Conference of Political Parties of Asia (<http://news.day.az/politics/368459.html>).

Prime Minister Arthur Rasi-zade receives Du Ginli, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (<http://news.day.az/politics/368457.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov heads an Azerbaijani delegation to a meeting on "Today Azerbaijan in Europe. Establishing Trust between Azerbaijan and Spain" in Madrid (<http://news.day.az/politics/368335.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Nafi Ali Nafi, an assistant to the president of Sudan, who says that, "Sudan supports the just position of Azerbaijan in the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and is interested in cooperating with Azerbaijan in all spheres" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368444.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "despite the world economic crisis, Azerbaijan and Turkey are the most developing countries of Eurasia" and that they are "an example" for others (<http://news.day.az/politics/368407.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Edminas Bogdanas, chief of an administration of the Lithuanian foreign ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/368390.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, says that, "the United Nations is one of the most important organizations for Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368465.html>).

Yashar Aliyev, ambassador for special assignments says that, "Armenians fear that Baku's actions at the United Nations has led to the growth of Azerbaijan's authority" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368434.html>).

Elnur Sultanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Brazil, meets Vitor Paulo, vice chairman of the international affairs commission of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies (<http://news.day.az/politics/368275.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, receives Andrey Klimov, a member of the presidium of Russia's ruling United Russia Party (<http://news.day.az/politics/368332.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations, takes part in the Istanbul Summit of the Eurasian Islamic Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/368408.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, meets in St. Petersburg with his Moldovan counterpart, Mariana Lupu (<http://news.day.az/politics/368369.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, a Milli Majlis deputy and deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the opposition and the ruling party in Azerbaijan have "the same position" on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/368284.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Azerbaijan is not interested in revenge for the Khojaly genocide, but does demand justice (<http://news.day.az/politics/368267.html>).

A delegation of Milli Majlis deputies visits London to take part in a meeting of the Azerbaijani-British inter-parliamentary working group (<http://news.day.az/society/368257.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan "came to power through blood and up to now the people do not recognize his legitimacy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368157.html>).

Maya Christova, Bulgarian ambassador to Baku, says that Sofia appreciates the decision of the Shah Deniz II consortium on Nabucco West and "hopes that the Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria route will be chosen" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368299.html>).

Luc Truyens, Belgium's ambassador to Baku, says there is "great potential" for the development of trade and investment between Belgium and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/368463.html>).

Günther Oettinger, European Union commissioner for energy, says that ratification by Azerbaijan of the TANAP accords "demonstrates the commitment" of Baku to supply gas to Europe (<http://news.day.az/economy/368265.html>).

Andrey Klimov, a member of the presidium of Russia's United Russia Party, says that "mutual trust" is the key to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/368375.html>).

The General Assembly of the International Forum of Political Parties meeting in Baku adopts a resolution supporting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/368372.html>).

Astemir Karmov, a member of the Kabardino-Balkaria Republic youth parliament, says that, "the stability, which exists in the Caucasus is a precondition for the successful development in all spheres" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368344.html>).

22 November

President Ilham Aliyev visits Singapore and is received by Tony Tan, that country's president (<http://news.day.az/politics/367706.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natick Aliyev says that Kazakhstan is interested in transporting its oil to the West via the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline (<http://news.day.az/economy/368096.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that today, "relations between Azerbaijan are "open" and "characterized by complete mutual understanding" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368082.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "a rapid withdrawal of Armenian forces from the territory of Azerbaijan will open great opportunities for the entire region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368025.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, signs a cooperation agreement with Sok An, chairman of the ruling party in Cambodia (<http://news.day.az/politics/368168.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the International Conference of the Political Parties of Asia should become a representative body for a major region of the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/368153.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the statement of Raffi Ovanesyan in Baku "does not reflect reality" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368066.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Armenia must recognize that Baku will never tolerate the creation of another independent state in the South Caucasus or allow Armenian forces to remain in occupation of Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/368083.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "the Armenian army is not capable of standing up to Azerbaijan by itself" (<http://news.day.az/politics/367931.html>).

Seymur Orudzhev, president of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party's youth wing, says that, "Armenians remain alone not only in their own country, but elsewhere as well" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368180.html>).

Baku hosts a conference on "The Role of NATO in Promoting the Energy Security of the Caspian Basin and the Protection of Important Energy Infrastructure" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368122.html>).

UN Secretary General Pan Gi-Moon sends greetings to the Baku meeting of the General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/368056.html>).

Maulan Fazel-ur-Rahman, chairman of the Pakistani Parliament's special commission on Kashmir, says that, "given that Azerbaijan has always supported the position of Pakistan on Kashmir, it is a matter of principle to support the position of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368174.html>).

Jose de Venesia, former speaker of the Philippino parliament, says that, "Azerbaijan is a mature, successful and democratic state" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368044.html>).

Gennady Zuganov, head of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, says that, "the relationship between Russia and Azerbaijan is strengthening" and that "our party has always stood for friendship and brotherhood of peoples" (<http://news.day.az/politics/368003.html>).

21 November

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Sheikh Halif bin Ahmad al Halif, commander of Bahrain's defense forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/367865.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Guseynuglu Bagirov says that Iran wants to use water from the Araz River to raise the level of Lake Urmia (<http://news.day.az/politics/367811.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan is extremely concerned by the fighting in the Middle East (<http://news.day.az/politics/367789.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev participates in the 13th session of the Azerbaijan-EU Cooperation Committee in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/367933.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Hoang bin Kuan, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (<http://news.day.az/politics/367951.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that President Ilham Aliyev has "precisely noted that our basic enemy is the Armenian lobby," both in Yerevan and in other countries, and that this lobby "is sacrificing the future of the Armenian state and the Armenian people by exerting all possible pressure for the preservation of the status quo of the occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/367945.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Armenian military is "not in a position" to resist Azerbaijani forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/367662.html>).

Deputy Agriculture Minister Bahram Aliyev receives Martin Jorlingson, head of the Walkenburg municipality in the Netherlands (<http://news.day.az/economy/367950.html>).

Adil Garibov, the director of the Baku Institute of Radiation Problems, says that the international community should focus on the dangers that the continued operation of the Metsamor atomic power station in Armenia presents to the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/367845.html>).

Yuri Shchedrin, Russia's trade representative in Azerbaijan, says that economic links between Russia and Azerbaijan have a positive vector of development and that over the last five years bilateral trade has "almost doubled" (<http://news.day.az/economy/367843.html>).

20 November

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets Qatari Crown Prince Tamim bin Hamad al Tani (<http://news.day.az/society/367554.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is "not the position of Baku, but the continuing aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan that is destructive" (<http://news.day.az/politics/367699.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "the Khojaly genocide is not an invention," but a reality that must be addressed (<http://news.day.az/politics/367705.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that relations between Azerbaijan and Russia "are at a normal level and Azerbaijan is fulfilling all the obligations connected with their further support and development" (<http://news.day.az/politics/367532.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, says that Azerbaijani tolerance is "an example for all of Eurasia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/367512.html>).

The Australian-Azerbaijani Friendship Group is collecting signatures on a petition against the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state by the parliament of the Australian state of New South Wales (<http://news.day.az/politics/367637.html>).

Nikolay Patskevich, Belorussian ambassador to Baku, says that bilateral ties between Belarus and Azerbaijan are "characterized by dynamism and a similarity of positions on a large number of international issues" (<http://news.day.az/politics/367558.html>).

Raja al-Marzugi, advisor to the IMF director for the Near East and Central Asia, says that the growth in the non-petroleum sector of the Azerbaijani economy will compensate for the projected decline in the amount of oil extracted and exported in 2013 (<http://news.day.az/economy/367549.html>).

The Russian Information and Cultural Center in Baku hosts a conference on the 70th anniversary of the Stalingrad battle (<http://news.day.az/society/367506.html>).

19 November

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev receives his Kazakhstan counterpart, Mynbay Darkhan Kamzabekuly (<http://news.day.az/culture/367298.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan uses both economic and political means to put pressure on Armenia, but that there are "other non-military means" that it may use in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/367468.html>).

Akrem Zeynally, incoming Azerbaijani ambassador to Vaduz, presents letters of credence to Crown Prince Alois (<http://news.day.az/politics/367444.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Michael Joseph Madigan, speaker of the US state of Illinois House of Representatives (<http://news.day.az/politics/367457.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan will never agree to the appearance of a second Armenian state on its territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/367153.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the Armenian budget is not today in a position to satisfy the growing demands of the people of that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/367040.html>).

Otto Hauser, Azerbaijan's honorary consul in Stuttgart, says that Germany and other countries must put pressure on Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/367151.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that residents of that region "consider the preservation of Islamic values important for the securing of peace and stability" there (<http://news.day.az/society/367385.html>).

Lord Sheikh Mohammad Iltaf tells Britain's House of Lords that it is "very important that we give complete support to the OSCE Minsk Group" (<http://news.day.az/economy/367470.html>).

18 November

A source in the European Commission tells the Azerbaijani media that, "the realization of the Southern Gas Corridor is a priority for the European Commission and that its position in that regard will not change" (<http://news.day.az/economy/367202.html>).

17 November

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva are presented with awards by the International Cossack Academy of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/366888.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, says that, "Azerbaijan has become the first country in Eastern Europe to take upon itself the investigation of 'the green economy' and complete this task" (<http://news.day.az/politics/367022.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Argentina, which is jointly accredited with Uruguay, sends a protest note to the Uruguayan foreign ministry about the visit by the chairman of the Uruguayan chamber of deputies to the occupied territories without Baku's permission (<http://news.day.az/politics/366954.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, presents his new book, *The Armenian Genocide: Myth and Reality* (<http://news.day.az/politics/367122.html>).

Carlos Pasqual, US special representative for energy issues, says that, "the role of Azerbaijan and Turkey in providing for the energy security of Europe in the future is irreplaceable" (<http://news.day.az/economy/367046.html>).

16 November

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive establishing a Center of Azerbaijani Culture at the Azerbaijani embassy in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/367008.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov tells the Organization for Islamic Cooperation ministerial that Azerbaijan is "concerned by the situation in Palestine and Syria" (<http://news.day.az/politics/366890.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it has sent a note to Turkmenistan demanding the release of four Azerbaijani citizens detained when Ashgabat seized a ship on the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/366927.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenian officials have become so desperate that they have resorted to the "Big Lie" technique developed by Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels (<http://news.day.az/politics/366939.html>).

Nasimi Aghayev, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, speaks to that city's World Affairs Council (<http://news.day.az/society/366907.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, meets with Suzanna Jacob, director of the European Regional Committee of the World Health Organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/366987.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, meets with Jean Dusik, regional director of the UN Environmental Program (<http://news.day.az/politics/366987.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, meets with Georgy Sanadiradze, director of the Caucasus office of the World Wildlife Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/366987.html>).

Lynn Tracey, US deputy assistant secretary for South and Central Asia, says that Washington supports the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline project (<http://news.day.az/economy/367009.html>).

Note to Readers

The editors of "Azerbaijan in the World" hope that you find it useful and encourage you to submit your comments and articles via email (adabiweekly@ada.edu.az). The materials it contains reflect the personal views of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.