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School of International Affairs

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HUNGARY AND AZERBAIJAN: TOWARD GENUINE PARTNERSHIP

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More than almost any other people in Eastern Europe, Hungarians see themselves as having special ties with Azerbaijan and the Turkic world, ties that reflect a distant but common origin of the two peoples in the Hunnic migration. While that sense has always existed among Hungarians, it has grown stronger in the post-communist era. And that provides a firm basis for the development of ties between Budapest and Baku.

Because of their language, Hungarians have always viewed themselves as a Finno-Ugric people. But in recent years, scholars, officials and ordinary citizens have been

ever more inclined to stress that their ancestors, the Huns, have a Turkic origin. That sense of an ancient linkage has fostered growing interest in Azerbaijan and other Turkic countries, an interest that not only has generated special sympathies for Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis but also promoted the sense of commonality that can and in this case has helped produce agreements on many key political and economic issues of today.

The current Hungarian government has declared that it considers the development of ties with Azerbaijan and other Turkic countries to be an important direction of its foreign policy. Hungarian leaders have repeatedly made clear that Budapest recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its borders and supports the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the four UN Security Council resolutions, positions completely in accord with those of Azerbaijan and that were reflected in the joint Hungary-Azerbaijan declaration when President Ilham Aliyev visited Budapest in February 2009.

This position reflects Hungary's own experience. During the 20th century, it lost a large part of its national territory, and the Hungarians who found themselves on the territories of neighboring states often have encountered real difficulties. Consequently, Hungarians understand what Azerbaijanis are experiencing now.

Moreover, the Hungarian parliament is currently working on a draft resolution concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Its primary author, deputy Marton Dendes, is both the president of the Azerbaijani-Hungarian Friendship Group and a leader of the Yobbik, *For a Better Hungary* Party. The draft is to be taken up soon by the parliament's international relations committee. Armenian groups are already gearing up what opposition they can to the measure, but coverage in the Budapest media suggests that there is widespread support for this move.

Despite this sense of cultural community and agreement on the key Karabakh issue, Hungary and Azerbaijan have not yet developed their economic ties to the extent that both clearly hope. And the positive trends which have been observed in recent years in this sector have still been relatively small. Most of the trade remains concentrated in the agricultural and pharmaceutical sectors, but there has been some expansion in the electromechanical area as well, and both sides hope that tourism, now a relatively small part of relations between the two countries, will finally take off.

To promote investment, a group of Hungarian firms last year created *Azerinvest*, an umbrella group which seeks to promote Hungarian investment in Azerbaijan. That group works closely with the inter-governmental commission on economic cooperation chaired by Azerbaijan's economic development minister Shahin Mustafayev and Hungary's state secretary for national economics, Rosa Nad. The first meeting of this body took place in February 2010.

In the future, Hungary may become a major consumer of Azerbaijani petrochemicals, especially if the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Romania Interconnector (AGRI) pipeline is converted. Budapest at the official level supports the development of this project, but its future depends on European Union financing and support. In February, Hungary signed a protocol with the AGRI countries underscoring Budapest's interest in working together to ensure this pipeline system is completed in a timely fashion.

Because of their sense of cultural commonality, Azerbaijan and Hungary have been especially active in the humanitarian sphere. The Azerbaijani embassy in Budapest has published more than 30 books in Hungarian concerning the Karabakh conflict, history, and the most important literary monuments of Azerbaijani history. Many of these publications have been sent to public libraries and universities throughout Hungary.

Moreover, over the last five years, the Azerbaijani embassy in Budapest, working with the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences and the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora has organized an annual conference on Azerbaijani-Hungarian cultural dialogue. What has been striking is that some of the most interesting presentations about Azerbaijani history and culture have been made by Hungarian scholars, one more indication of the closeness of the two peoples. These academic sessions have been accompanied by mugam concerts, symphony presentations and similar events, and there have been many more informal exchanges as a result of the sizeable number of Azerbaijani students now in Hungarian universities.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Hungary, and both sides are planning a variety of events for this occasion. These will culminate in a special international conference in November. But in reality, the relations between the two peoples, each of whom can trace their ancestry back to the Huns, is vastly older than 20 years, something the anniversary celebrations will note and something that gives hope for the further positive development of Azerbaijani-Hungarian relations.

THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF SECURITY DYNAMICS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

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The three countries of the South Caucasus are part of a larger borderland that includes the unstable republics in Russia's North Caucasus. Moreover, this borderland links Eastern Europe to the Middle East and involves regional powers like Turkey, Iran and Russia, as well as powers further abroad like the European Union and the United States. As a result of the large number of players involved, the security dynamics in the region are especially complicated.

This is not the first time the three countries of the South Caucasus have found themselves in this situation. After World War I, all three were briefly independent and in the years since 1991, each has attempted to learn from the experience of that time in particular about the need to balance relations with their immediate neighbors through ties with powers further away, including not just the states enumerated above but also with the countries of Central Asia, the Arab world and Israel.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Russian Federation has retained the ability to exert pressure on the region as the 2008 Russian-Georgian war dramatically showed. At that time, the US and the EU did little to defend Georgia

and that country's Middle Eastern neighbors remained neutral, in large measure a reflection of European dependence on Russian oil and gas and US interest in working with Russia on issues like Iran and North Korea. And Israel imposed significant limitations on arms transfers to Georgia fearing that Moscow might retaliate by lifting its own restrictions on weapons sales to Iran and the Arab countries.

Unlike in the immediate post-World War I period, the post-Soviet countries in the South Caucasus recognize that it is important not to place too much faith in the willingness and ability of outside power to defend them. Despite that, the political survival of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan is not in doubt, but the continued territorial integrity of at least two of the three is, because of conflicts over Nagorno-Karabakh and Moscow's recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

People in the South Caucasus now remember that Russia and Turkey colluded in ending the independence of the South Caucasus republics 90 years ago and to reduce the territorial extent of both Georgia and Armenia. The three regional states even now, however, do not cooperate with one another as a group, a lack that has reduced their attractiveness to outside groups like NATO.

Since 1994, Georgia and Azerbaijan have received equipment, infrastructure, and military training from the US and Turkey through NATO's Partnership for Peace program as well as military experience by serving alongside Turkish peacekeepers in Kosovo. Although Georgia was rejected—along with Ukraine—for NATO membership in April 2007, the Georgians were able to secure Russia's agreement to withdraw from the last of three military bases in Georgia proper at the time.

Several weeks before NATO's decision on Georgian membership, Russian leader Vladimir Putin announced that Moscow would develop relationships with the governments in place in Abkhazia and South Ossetia in a way short of recognition but modeled on American involvement with Taiwan. Moscow had been infuriated by the American and Western decision to recognize Kosovo as independent, and that added to Russian calculations regarding Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Azerbaijan too has no foreign military bases on its territory—there is only a radar station for which Russia pays rent—but Armenia is a member of the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organization and has two Russian military bases within its borders.

In part because of this constellation of forces and despite four UN Security Council resolutions, Armenia continues to occupy 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory. No foreign state recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh *de jure*. In the United States, the Armenian diaspora lobbied in 1992 for Section 907 of the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian and Open Markets Support Act which prevented Azerbaijan from receiving direct aid from the American government until 2002. Meanwhile, Armenia received about 100 million USD annually.

Armenia continues its military alliance with Russia despite Armenian economic losses of some 600 million USD as a result of the Russian-Georgian war. It does so in part because of other economic calculations: Armenia does not have the agricultural resources of Georgia or the energy reserves of Azerbaijan, and it has also been excluded from the most important projects involving the transportation of oil and natural gas or the redevelopment of railroad routes. And it is the case that Armenia has the smallest foreign direct investment (FDI) of the three South Caucasus republics, while due to mounting debts many of its industries have been sold to Russian interests.

Azerbaijan in contrast has the largest FDI, largely as a result of energy structures like the Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC), the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline, the Shah Deniz natural gas project—in which both Russia and Iran are investors—as well as the South Caucasus, or Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (BTE), gas pipeline. Azerbaijan is also a member of the Saudi-inspired Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and receives financing for projects from that organization's Islamic Development Bank, as well as from the Economic Cooperation Organization, which includes the former Soviet Central Asian states, Turkey and Iran.

Given all these circumstances, Russia can exert political pressure in the South Caucasus whenever it feels its interests are threatened, but the three countries in the region have been expanding their ties with neighboring states in order to develop a counterweight. Armenia is limited in that regard because of its lack of diplomatic ties with Turkey, but Armenia can and does rely on its diaspora. Georgia and Azerbaijan in contrast seek military ties with Turkey and the West as they also work to expand economic relations with those countries, with Azerbaijan doing so in parallel with stepping up its economic and political cooperation with Russia.

PROGRESS TOWARD THE DELIMITATION OF THE CASPIAN SEA

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At the end of April, significant progress was made toward the resolution of one of the trickiest diplomatic problems created by the demise of the Soviet Union: the delimitation of the Caspian Sea among the five states now surrounding it in place of the two that had been there prior to 1991. While no final agreement was reached, and without such an accord, all agreements on specifics are only notional, the April 26-27 session of the special working group the presidents of the five littoral countries have created appears likely to be a breakthrough, one that may ultimately be ratified by a regional summit.

At the end of the meeting, Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov said that "great work had been done" and "progress made," not only in reaching final agreement on many points for a convention but also in the discussion of those provisions about which no accord has yet been reached. Among the latter are some of the most important, including, the use of the surface of the sea, the delimitation of national zones, and issues concerning military and maritime use of the Caspian's waters. [1]

The representatives of the four other countries present agreed. Mohammad Mehdi Akhundzade, the special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian issues, said that the five sides "had demonstrated political will" at the meeting for reaching an ultimate accord. Murad Atajanov, the representative of Turkmenistan, said that the sides had "found a common language" even on those points where they remain divided. Kayrat Sarybay of Kazakhstan said that there had been progress toward a

general agreement. And Aleksandr Golovin, the Russian representative, said that the activities of the special working group were part of a larger effort by the littoral states to deal with "the multi-faceted" progress of reaching agreement on all the issues that the Caspian represents.

In addition to specific agreements on fishing and other issues that all five have signed, there is the tripartite agreement among Azerbaijan, Russia and Kazakhstan on how to reach a final settlement. Unfortunately, as Fikrat Sadykhov pointed out, "the main obstacle" to that "is the position of Iran and in part that of Turkmenistan." Nonetheless, following this meeting, the Baku political scientist said that "step by step the countries are coming to a definite agreement. Naturally, political will is needed for this, as well as certain mutual compromises and the like." But he suggested that there would be an agreement among the five on the final status of the Caspian either this year or next.

Other observers agreed that the time for progress is propitious. In a commentary for Moscow State University's portal on the post-Soviet region, Elmira Tariverdiyeva said that there were reasons to believe that the countries which have represented the largest obstacles to accord may change their position and soon in the wake of the Baku meeting. On the one hand, Iran wants to have a successful Caspian summit in March of next year. And on the other, Turkmenistan does not want to miss the chance to gain European support for a Trans-Caspian gas pipeline. [2]

Iran has blocked progress toward an accord in the past, Tariverdiyeva points out, by its insistence that it be given 20 percent of the sea's area on the basis of an equal divide of the Caspian among the five, but now, she suggests, Tehran is showing greater willingness to compromise on this point and a desire to wrap things up soon. Indeed, at the Baku session, Iran's Akhundzade said that his government wants to see an acceleration of the negotiating process so that an accord can be reached this year, before the Tehran meeting of the five littoral state presidents. [3]

And Ashgabat appears to be shifting away from its confrontational stand vis-à-vis Azerbaijan on the delimitation of the sectors of the sea between those countries. The reason for that, Tariverdiyeva says, is that both Ashgabat and Baku recognize that the absence of an agreement is "an important obstacle in the path of the realization of the project of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline." Turkmenistan is especially interested in the money it can make from this project, she says, and, consequently, "it does not want to miss the moment when European politicians and investors as never before" are prepared to support it.

A final agreement on the Caspian thus appears within reach, and while it may not take place in Baku, it was the Baku meeting at the end of last month which set the stage for exactly that outcome.

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/264568.html> (accessed 29 April 2011).

[2] See <http://www.ia-centr.ru/expert/10378/> (accessed 29 April 2011).

[3] See <http://news.day.az/politics/264340.html> (accessed 29 April 2011).

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Romanian President Traian Bășescu that "relations of strategic partnership have been laid down between Azerbaijan and Romania" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262696.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says in an interview with *Moskovskiye novosti* that Azerbaijan and Russia are cooperating closely on Nagorno-Karabakh at a variety of levels (<http://news.day.az/politics/263878.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku is against a military resolution of the Iranian nuclear question (<http://news.day.az/politics/263879.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says in Baku that "the position of Ukraine on the Karabakh conflict is based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264403.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that relations between Turkey and Armenia and between Armenia and Azerbaijan are interrelated. In other comments, he welcomes Russian involvement in the Karabakh conflict discussions (<http://news.day.az/politics/263140.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that "cooperation among Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey will serve peace in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262626.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

April 30

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva visit the Azerbaijan International Tourism Exhibition (<http://news.day.az/politics/264745.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev meets with his Turkish counterpart Taner Yildiz and the two have the issue concerning Turkish purchases of Azerbaijani gas agreed (<http://news.day.az/economy/264870.html>).

April 29

Baku releases the sixth volume of the works of President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/264827.html>).

Emergency Services Minister Kamaladdin Heydarov visits Korea and meets with his Korean counterpart Choi Sang Riong (<http://news.day.az/politics/264908.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives his Georgian counterpart Zurab Adeishvili to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/264816.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan understands that "the domestic situation in Armenia is quite difficult" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264596.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with Goksel Gulbey, the head of a Turkish organization dedicated to struggling against "the baseless pretensions of Armenians" concerning 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/264638.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, takes part in the annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/264711.html>).

Armenia withdraws its candidacy for a place as a temporary member of the UN Security Council, a decision Azerbaijani media characterize as a defeat for Yerevan, especially given that Azerbaijan is still in the running for that slot (<http://news.day.az/politics/264683.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, says that there has been progress toward the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since the meeting in Sochi (<http://news.day.az/politics/264822.html>).

Štefan Füle, the EU commissioner for enlargement and European neighborhood policy, says that the Eastern Partnership does not offer by itself to those taking part in it the prospect of membership in the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264670.html>).

Štefan Füle, the EU commissioner for enlargement and European neighborhood policy, says that the European Union does not play an official role in talks on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but that "in the longer term, the EU is prepared to increase the financing for confidence building measures" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264667.html>).

April 28

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich that "Azerbaijan is actively considering investment projects in Ukraine" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264508.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, says in Kazakhstan on the completion of his term as head of the Turkish Parliamentary Assembly that the establishment of that body opens "new horizons for cooperation among the Turkic language peoples" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264494.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "emigration will lead Yerevan to the abyss" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264320.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "nothing remains to the powers that be in Armenia beside capitulation"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264429.html>).

A conference on Turkish-Azerbaijani cooperation, organized by the economic development ministry, takes place in Baku
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264481.html>).

Armenian officials acknowledge in comments to the media that they have taken items from archaeological finds in the occupied territories
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264461.html>).

April 27

President Ilham Aliyev receives Robert Dudley, the executive director of BP
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264364.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, and his Kyrgyz counterpart Akhmatbek Keldibekov discuss in Kazakhstan the possibility of opening a Kyrgyzstan embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/264506.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Abdulaziz as-Shareh, the head of the Diplomatic Academy of Kuwait (<http://news.day.az/politics/264375.html>).

Khalaf Khalafov, deputy foreign minister, says that the 28th meeting of the special working group on the determination of the legal status of the Caspian just completed in Baku has made progress on many issues, but he and others note that until there is a final accord, the bilateral agreement between the USSR and Iran will remain in force (<http://news.day.az/politics/264568.html>).

Khalaf Khalafov, deputy foreign minister, says that the Caspian littoral states intend to resolve issues of military cooperation on the Caspian by consensus
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264278.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Budapest, says that "Hungary supports the position of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264211.html>).

Zakir Garalov, prosecutor general of Azerbaijan, signs a cooperation accord with his Lithuanian counterpart Darius Valys
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264253.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker, and his Kazakhstan counterpart Ural Mukhamedzhanov agree to expand parliamentary cooperation between their two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/264286.html>).

Oktay Asadov, Milli Majlis speaker and chairman-in-office of the Turkish Parliamentary Assembly, meets in Kazakhstan with Mehmet Ali Shahin, the chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, while both are attending the Turkish Parliamentary Assembly in Kazakhstan
(<http://news.day.az/politics/264352.html>).

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says in Baku that "the position of Ukraine on the Karabakh conflict is based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264403.html>).

Mohammad Mehti Akhundzade, the special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian affairs, calls for accelerating the process of defining the national zones of that sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/264340.html>). He acknowledges that there has been progress at recent talks in Baku on that point (<http://news.day.az/politics/264305.html>).

Belarus ratifies its agreement with Azerbaijan on the protection of investments (<http://news.day.az/economy/264389.html>).

April 26

President Ilham Aliyev receives Muhammed Mehdi Ahundzade, the special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/264201.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mikhail Shmakov, the president of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/264201.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov receives Aleksandr Mishchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/264135.html>).

Khalaf Khalafov, deputy foreign minister, says that he has great hopes for progress on talks concerning the status of the Caspian Sea (<http://news.day.az/politics/264055.html>).

Chingiz Askarov, plenipotentiary representative of Azerbaijan to the European Court, says that body is currently being reformed (<http://news.day.az/politics/264172.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that "ordinary Armenians" there "want to live according to Azerbaijani laws" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264071.html>).

Archil Kekelia, the deputy economics minister of Georgia, says that "Azerbaijan is one of the most significant trading partners" of his country (<http://news.day.az/economy/264095.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU representative in Azerbaijan, says that "Azerbaijan can always count on the European Union" (<http://news.day.az/politics/264073.html>).

April 25

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tina Kaidanow, special advisor to the US Secretary of State for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/263922.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, to discuss bilateral military exercises (<http://news.day.az/politics/263980.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev receives his Georgian counterpart, Vera Kobalia (<http://news.day.az/economy/263995.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijani Diplomatic Academy, announces that the ADA is now providing training for Turkish diplomats about the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/263962.html>).

Faiq Bagirov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Ankara, publishes an article attacking Armenian claims about 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/263983.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that "Armenia is self-liquidating" by its actions at such forums (<http://news.day.az/politics/263791.html>).

Vera Kobalia, Georgian minister for economics and development, says that "Georgia is offering Azerbaijani investors free lots of land in tourist zones" (<http://news.day.az/economy/263997.html>).

Philippe Blanchard, a member of the Belgian parliament and chairman of the Belgian-Azerbaijani Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, says that those expelled from their native lands in Nagorno-Karabakh, "must be returned to their native hearths" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263872.html>).

April 24

President Ilham Aliyev receives Haya Bint al-Hussain, president of the International Equestrian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/263780.html>).

April 23

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Russian and Armenian counterparts Sergey Lavrov and Edvard Nalbandyan in Moscow to discuss the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/263624.html>).

Baku State University signs a memorandum of cooperation with Turkey's May 19 University (<http://news.day.az/society/263712.html>).

April 22

President Ilham Aliyev receives Kristian Vigenin, president of the Euronest Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/263570.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President Administration, criticizes as "baseless" European suggestions that there are problems in Azerbaijan with basic freedoms (<http://news.day.az/politics/263563.html>).

Bahar Muradova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says she does "not expect the adoption of any concrete decisions" on the Karabakh conflict at the upcoming Moscow ministerial (<http://news.day.az/politics/263486.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that he supports legislation to reduce the dependence of Azerbaijani NGOs on foreign sponsors (<http://news.day.az/politics/263599.html>).

Ziyad Samedzade, the chairman of the Milli Majlis economic policy commission, meets with his Belarusian counterpart Vadim Popov in Minsk (<http://news.day.az/economy/263614.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, the deputy chairman of the ruling *Yeni Azerbaijan* Party, says that "fraternal relations of Turkey and Azerbaijan will assist in the unmasking in the world of the Armenian lie" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263540.html>).

Kamran Imanov, the director of the Azerbaijani Agency on Authors' Rights, says that Armenians have routinely ascribed as their own Azerbaijani sayings, music, food, rugs and other objects of intellectual property (<http://news.day.az/politics/263492.html>).

The Center for the Study of the Heritage of Heydar Aliyev publishes a book "Baku-Brussels" on relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/263557.html>).

Hulusi Kılıç, Turkish ambassador to Baku, says that he believes US President Barak Obama "will not pronounce the words 'Armenian genocide'" in his annual message to Congress on the events of 1915 (<http://news.day.az/politics/263515.html>).

Valery Chechelashvili, the secretary general of GUAM, says that Azerbaijan has played a key role in the organization and that next year, during Baku's presidency, that role is likely to increase still further (<http://news.day.az/politics/263525.html>).

Sergei Markov, a Russian Duma deputy, says that "the most important cause" for Russia's active involvement in talks on Nagorno-Karabakh is that "Russia is the nearest neighbor of Azerbaijan and Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263521.html>).

April 21

President Ilham Aliyev receives Andrey Klyuev, first deputy prime minister of Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/263363.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that "additional measures" are planned to support Azerbaijani young people who want to study abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/263420.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms earlier accords on TRACECA and on cooperation with Latvia (<http://news.day.az/politics/263391.html>).

Agasalim Shukurov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Libya, says the situation there remains stable but difficult (<http://news.day.az/politics/263358.html>).

Rabiyat Aslanova, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the "attitude of certain international organizations to processes [in Azerbaijan] do not reflect reality" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263364.html>).

The Europe-Azerbaijan Society publishes a three-volume documentary collection, "The Armenian Question in the Caucasus, 1724-1914" in Azerbaijani, Russian and English editions (<http://news.day.az/politics/263419.html>).

Petros Efthymiou, the president of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that the OSCE plays a role that no other international organization can in dealing with problems like the the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/263600.html>).

Philip Gordon, US Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, says that the OSCE Minsk Group and the United States can witness that Azerbaijan has no intentions of shooting down civilian aircraft (<http://news.day.az/politics/263249.html>).

Matthew Bryza, US ambassador to Baku, visits Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/263417.html>).

Bayram Safarov, the head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh, says that opening an airport in Khankandi under conditions of occupation "does not have any significance since tourists will not visit a place of conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263415.html>).

April 20

President Ilham Aliyev receives Lithuanian Interior Minister Raimundas Palaitis (<http://news.day.az/politics/263157.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Namiq Hasan oglu Aliyev ambassador to Moldova, Azar Tofiq oglu Huseyn ambassador to Georgia and Isfandiyar Bakhtiyar oglu Vahabzade ambassador to Belarus (<http://news.day.az/politics/263208.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva takes part in the Paris exhibition of Contemporary Works of the Land of Fire—Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/263129.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the President's Office, says that European comments on events in Azerbaijan do not reflect reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/263177.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Makhmudov hosts his Bulgarian counterpart Kircho Kirov in Baku for three days of talks (<http://news.day.az/politics/263142.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov and Saudi Ambassador to Azerbaijan Fadh bin Ali ad-Duseri sign a protocol on the exchange of ratification documents on the agreement concerning protection of investments (<http://news.day.az/politics/263181.html>).

Hasan Hasanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Warsaw, says that Azerbaijan is "dissatisfied with the positions" of those EU officials who do not support the

territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and support illegal visits to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/263100.html>).

Fakhraddin Gurbanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to London, meets with British entrepreneurs interested in investing in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/263055.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that "the unconstructive behavior of Yerevan has an impact on the image of Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263160.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Baku is preparing a resolution on the Metsamor Atomic Power Station in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/263161.html>).

Elchin Guliyev, head of the State Border Service, meets with his Turkish counterpart Erdal Ceylanoglu (<http://news.day.az/politics/263111.html>).

Azerbaijani and Turkmenistan officials meet in Ashgabat to discuss expanding economic cooperation between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/263090.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Barak Obama does not have any obligations toward Yerevan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263092.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that relations between Turkey and Armenia and between Armenia and Azerbaijan are interrelated. In other comments, he welcomes Russian involvement in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict discussions (<http://news.day.az/politics/263140.html>).

April 19

President Ilham Aliyev tells visiting Romanian President Traian Băsescu that "relations of strategic partnership have been laid down between Azerbaijan and Romania" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262696.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives former Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek (<http://news.day.az/politics/262981.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Erdal Ceylanoglu, the head of Turkish land forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/262981.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from incoming Ukrainian ambassador to Baku, Aleksandr Mishchenko (<http://news.day.az/politics/262981.html>).

Prime Minister Artur Rasizade represents Azerbaijan at a donors conference in Kyiv on the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident (<http://news.day.az/politics/262910.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish and Iranian counterparts in the Iranian city of Urmia (<http://news.day.az/politics/263037.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov meets in Amman with Ahmed al-Masarva, the president of the Supreme Council of Jordan for Youth Affairs (<http://news.day.az/society/263002.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, has sent a new letter to the UN secretary general about the murder of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/262919.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, the head of the State Migration Service, receives Latvian Interior Minister Linda Murniece (<http://news.day.az/politics/263050.html>).

Chingiz Askarov, Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative to the European Court for Human Rights, says that members of the radical opposition have again attempted to take actions intended to violate peace in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/263006.html>).

Elman Mammadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "if Armenia does not move toward a peace agreement, then it will encounter the military might of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263010.html>).

Fazil Mustafa, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "US President Barak Obama has already become accustomed to the thoughtless actions of the Armenians" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262807.html>).

Joint Azerbaijani-US military exercises have been postponed indefinitely (<http://news.day.az/politics/262995.html>).

Romanian President Traian Băsescu says that "an attempt to violate the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be considered a violation of international law" (<http://news.day.az/politics/263095.html>).

Belorussian President Aleksandr Lukashenka praises the work of outgoing Azerbaijani ambassador to Minsk Ali Nagiyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/262978.html>).

Roland Kobia, EU chief representative in Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijan is "the leading link" in the Southern Gas Corridor (<http://news.day.az/economy/262925.html>).

Gabor Szilagy, Hungary's ambassador to Armenia who is resident in Georgia, says that Budapest is interested in the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in full correspondence with the decisions of international organizations (<http://news.day.az/politics/262870.html>).

Mehmet Ekinci, a member of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that "the possibility of a military solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem always exists" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262688.html>).

A Ukrainian energy official says that Kyiv has proposed to Azerbaijan participation in the construction of an LNG terminal by 2015 (<http://news.day.az/economy/262899.html>).

April 18

President Ilham Aliyev receives Latvian Interior Minister Linda Murniece (<http://news.day.az/politics/262736.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Turkish General Erdal Ceylanoglu (<http://news.day.az/politics/262843.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Armenia is engaged in delaying actions in the talks because of its "lack of arguments" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262772.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "the demands of the Armenian diaspora of the US to the president of the United States are absolutely illogical" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262547.html>).

Bakhtiyar Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that there is nothing new in Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's latest declarations because "Armenia is always involved with disinformation and presents a destructive position" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262364.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, announces agreement with Saudi Arabia about the haj for Azerbaijani pilgrims (<http://news.day.az/politics/262783.html>).

Ambroise Dupont, a member of the French senate and head of the French-Caucasian Friendship Group of the French Senate, condemns the murder of an Azerbaijani child by an Armenian sniper (<http://news.day.az/politics/262748.html>).

April 17

The foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Iran, and Turkey adopt a joint declaration following their meeting in Urmia (<http://news.day.az/politics/262594.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu on the sidelines of the Urmia meeting to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/262625.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that the first meeting of the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey represents "an important moment in the history" of relations among those countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/262608.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that "cooperation among Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey will serve peace in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262626.html>).

Azerbaijan will introduce a biometric passport before 2012, according to a Baku expert (<http://news.day.az/society/262602.html>).

April 16

President Ilham Aliyev receives George Friedman, president of Stratfor (<http://news.day.az/politics/262588.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives French Senator Ambroise Dupont (<http://news.day.az/politics/262587.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that "cooperation among Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran serves the development of the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262540.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Baghirov says Baku is preparing materials on the threat posed by Armenia's Metsamor Atomic Power Station (<http://news.day.az/politics/262513.html>).

Javanshir Akhundov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Tehran, says that prospects for economic ties between Azerbaijan and Iran are large and encouraging (<http://news.day.az/economy/262516.html>).

Arif Rahimzade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "a group of opposition figures in Azerbaijan has been transformed into a cheap instrument in the hands of foreign forces" (<http://news.day.az/politics/262534.html>).

Azerbaijanis in Moscow report that there are goods from the occupied territories on sale in the Russian capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/262544.html>).

The Georgian government announces that it has restored the Azerbaijani names of toponyms in that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/262494.html>).

Note to Readers

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