



Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
School of International Affairs and Business

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adabiweekly@ada.edu.az

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**AZERBAIJANI CULTURE IN DIASPORA:
A CONVERSATION WITH NIGAR HASAN ZADE**

Below is the first in the series of interviews Azerbaijan in the World has recently conducted with leading figures of the widespread Azerbaijani diaspora on the state of Azerbaijani culture abroad. This first discussion, which focuses on literature, is with Nigar Hasan Zade, a distinguished Azerbaijani poet living in London. Among the top ten foreign poets based in London as rated by the British Library, Mrs. Hasan Zadeh was recently honored by being invited to read her work to the closing session of that city's Poetry Parnassus international festival.

Azerbaijan in the World: How did it happen that you became a poet? Was it a rational choice of conscious mind or the spontaneous pursuit of what you felt was your calling in life?

Nigar Hasan Zadeh: I started crafting poetry at the age of four, a development that probably had something to do with a child's delight with rhyme. From an early age, I loved tales in verse, as well as poetry in general, that members of my family would generously read to me. As a result of their efforts and my interest, I learned a range of poems by heart back then. I could not read, nor could I write at that age; yet I would often talk to myself trying to rhyme together different lines of thought and croon some lyrics. Indeed, I would often speak to the wind and sun in verse. At a professional level, I engaged in poetry already after adolescence, when my first poems appeared in Moscow journals like *Pioner* and *Koster*.

AIW: How has the subject matter of your poetry evolved?

Hasan Zadeh: A writer, indeed any artist, is inevitably influenced by the particular context in which she finds herself. At the same time, however, there have been poets and writers, who though never exposed to a locality broader than the one into which they were born nonetheless managed to create art transcending the limits of their location. As for me, my childhood poems focused on animals, birds and firebirds, as well as princes and princesses, a natural reflection of the stories I heard. Later, as an adolescent and while we still lived in the Soviet Union, I wrote civic-minded poetry, again not especially surprising given the context and that I was a good student and active Pioneer. At still a later stage, my poetry took on a lyrical character, a focus which lasted until recently and the reason why most people know me as a lyric poet. However, over the last few years, I have begun to move away from pure lyrics and focused instead on broader spiritual themes, not departing from lyric poetry as such but taking an even wider view; a development that was a function of my personal evolution and a reflection of the personal experiences through which I have gone over the last several years.

AIW: Where do you see your poetry going next?

Hasan Zadeh: I have no idea and frankly don't want to know right now, for it will be a long time before the spiritual stage in my poetry exhausts itself; and I do enjoy being where I am today in terms of the character my poetry assumed and have no plans of moving away from it any time soon.

AIW: You mention both context and your inner growth as key factors in the evolution of your poetry. Could you name some specific poets who have affected your journey?

Hasan Zadeh: Certainly, yes! The first collection of poems I read was a Russian language translation of the distinguished Azerbaijani poet Mirza Shafi Vazeh. I was six at the time. Then I gradually turned to Russian poetry, which left a deep impression on me and still affects my poetry, as my regular and loyal readers are well aware. Among those who have played a particular role are the Russian poets of the Silver Age, such as Anna Akhmatova, Boris Pasternak, and Marina Tsvetayeva, the last of whom in particular being my favorite poet and, in my view, the best poet of the XX century. For me, Russian poetry stopped in its Silver Age.

AIW: You are Azerbaijani, yet you write in the Russian language. Have you ever attempted to write in Azerbaijani?

Hasan Zadeh: I did, but I do not feel I have the right to speak with verses in Azerbaijani. For while I am Azerbaijani, the conjunction of events during my lifetime was such that it is Russian, not Azerbaijani, in which I mastered my craft.

AIW: Can you feel you represent Azerbaijani poetry then?

Hasan Zadeh: I would rather say that I am a poet from Azerbaijan. That means my origins are from this country and are rooted in the history and culture of its people; a reality that added an Eastern tinge to my poetry, even though I write my verses in Russian. Indeed, I am always introduced as a poet from Azerbaijan. I am certainly proud to represent my country and hope that I can serve as an introduction to it for many people. Yet at the same time, I cannot limit myself and my poetry to the confines of my national origins.

AIW: In this case, what do you think you represent as poet?

Hasan Zadeh: I represent the Word. I strongly believe that a Word masterly used by an artist—by virtue of the specific energy it has and regardless of the national origins of its master and the language in which the verses are produced—will inevitably reach the hearts and minds of its readers. Thus, by saying I represent the Word, I refer to a particular way in which I have come to use the word and a particular energy by which I endow it when crafting my verses.

AIW: Does that mean then that your verses have no nationality?

Hasan Zadeh: Indeed, they do not have, and are not bound by, nationality. Instead, they have a character particular to them, I believe.

AIW: Have there been instances of collaboration between yourself and other poets from Azerbaijan or indeed elsewhere?

Hasan Zadeh: My poems have been translated into Azerbaijani by Azerbaijani poet Vahid Eziz whom I met in Azerbaijan's Writers Union. I have also closely interacted with another Azerbaijani poet Ramiz Rovshen. The first case of international collaboration, in turn, happened 12 years ago when I partnered with British poet and translator Richard McCain who translated into English my first collection of poetry. Just recently, the translation of my poetry into Turkish has been completed, and currently, I am working with a partner in Spain who is translating my work into Spanish.

AIW: Has the Writers Union of Azerbaijan—as the largest institutional embodiment of the country's poets and writers—played a role in your evolution and growth as a poet?

Hasan Zadeh: I would rather say that my meeting with Anar, head of the Writers Union, played a truly key role. He was the first to read my verses there, and he was the one to bless them into a book. Indeed, the foreword to my first book was written by Anar. And later, in 2001, I became the youngest member of the Writers Union.

AIW: How did you arrive at the decision to leave Baku and base yourself in London instead?

Hasan Zadeh: After my first book *Wings Over the Horizon* was published in Baku in 2000, I decided to leave my job as a translator and devote myself full time to writing and travel. It is then that I realized I had to relocate myself in space to let something important to happen. I spent several months in Paris before I came to London later. And there, while walking along the street, I saw an announcement that Richard McCain, an English poet and translator who had translated Anna Akhmatova, Osip Mandelstam and Nikolay Gumilev, was to read Akhmatova's poems in one of London's famous poets houses. I attended, met McCain, and exchanged books with him. A delightful personality and one of the best English language translators of Russian classic poetry, he called me a few days later to ask whether there was anyone translating my poems into English. Having learned no one was doing so yet, he committed himself to taking on that job. I in turn decided to extend my visa and have remained in London for far longer than I had planned. In 2002, the English language translation of my book *Wings Over the Horizon* was released in London, and I began to receive invitations to read my poetry.

AIW: In addition to being a poet, you are also a most talented artist. What influences have affected you in that capacity?

Hasan Zadeh: From childhood, I loved drawing and even studied in an artists' circle and later was involved with the studio of the late Vagif Yusif ogly in Baku where I got to know many remarkable artists of Azerbaijan. Then I became a friend of the Absheron group of artists, such as the late Udzhah Ahverdiyev, Aytan Rzaguliyeva, Sabina Shikhlinskaya, Mursal Elyar, and so many others. I am pleased that I have never given up my painting and many of my works have now been exhibited and sold to private collections in Europe. And I remain very grateful to artist friends in Baku who have displayed so much love to art and to me and helped me polish my taste.

AIW: Do you think of yourself as a poet who paints or an artist who writes poetry then?

Hasan Zadeh: Certainly, a poet who paints.

AIW: There has been much attention on the part of Azerbaijani government to promoting different strands of culture and arts, such as mugham, for example. Do you feel that poetry is receiving its due?

Hasan Zadeh: Unfortunately, poetry represents a dying genre of literature, a form that is less intelligible by a mass audience than music, a reality that perhaps explains why the Azerbaijani government has thus far devoted less attention to it. Moreover, there is a growing demand for ethnic music around the world, but there is clearly no similar growth in demand for poetry.

AIW: The government's interest in mugham reflects, among other things, its effort to mold a post-Soviet model of Azerbaijani identity. In that, mugham represents a key component. Is there a way in which you believe poetry by Azerbaijani nationals could help in these efforts to craft a specifically Azerbaijani national identity? Still more importantly and in view of your belief that poetry should not be bound by national confines, do you think poetry should at all try to help in this way or would this rather go against its very nature?

Hasan Zadeh: I strongly believe that a poet is an individual figure, not part of a crowd. By definition, poets are loners. I personally don't know of any true—and truly sincere—poet whose poetry would have a mass character. While there have indeed been some genius poets whom masses would follow, this was a function of the information that such a poet's work could bear rather than a product of the poet's desire. Before there was television, poets had a tremendous responsibility, for information in those days would be passed verbally from mouth to mouth. Consequently, poets in those days were among the rare sources of information of either spiritual or political nature. They no longer are, and poetry today doesn't have as large an audience as in the past. This, coupled with the fact that poetry is increasingly less national in character, makes contemporary poetry less suitable than music as a component of any effort to mold a unified national identity for a young post-colonial nation.

AIW: Have you ever engaged in any projects with any government agency in Azerbaijan?

Hasan Zadeh: This has been limited to five charity events I gave in Baku at the initiative of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Culture.

AIW: What forms do you think the government's support for literature in general, and poetry in particular, could assume?

Hasan Zadeh: It is well known that poetry is not a funded business and the honoraria a poet receives for her published work is far from enough to sustain life. A government, then, could provide funding to support poets and allow them to write rather than work to keep themselves going. Such assistance could come from a special government fund that would provide stipends on the basis of expert assessments. That would be a good thing because poets, even though their work is not limited to their nationality, are nevertheless cultural ambassadors of their countries, often speaking to those who may be learning about their countries for the first time.

Apart from this, we must attract and pay more attention to translations of our literature, to use all opportunities to bring our literature, including poetry, to the international reader. We must go to festivals, organize meetings with our foreign colleagues, and do everything possible to bring poets and their readers into contact throughout the world. We must learn to support one another, to help our colleagues and co-workers to discover the opportunities they deserve. That too will help us overcome existing barriers and achieve new heights of success.

TANAP AND THE ENERGY SECURITY OF EUROPE

Fikrat Sadykhov
Professor of Political Science
Western University, Baku

The inter-governmental agreement on the construction of the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline (TANAP) that Azerbaijan and Turkey have recently signed is important not

only from an economic point of view, but has a serious geopolitical connotation as well. Indeed, one can call the agreement a historic one, including because Azerbaijan, which will contribute 80 percent of the cost of this project, is assuming all the responsibility for the completion of this effort.

Interest in the project is quite high both from the transit companies and from the European importers involved in the transit of gas to Europe. TANAP will extend from the Georgian-Turkish border to the Turkish-Bulgarian border and thus provide gas to Central Europe and beyond. The Trans-Anatolian gas pipeline extending from east to west in Turkey will thus become a constituent element of the South Gas Corridor. Its minimum throughput capacity will be 16 billion cubic meters a year when the pipeline goes online in 2017.

Beyond any doubt, the project will be profitable considering the route and the low cost of gas to purchasers at the far end of the pipeline. Indeed, a unique situation is being created, in that over the next 30 to 40 years, the pipeline will be capable of fully accommodating Azerbaijan's westward gas export. Indeed, the amounts of gas the pipeline will carry to the west are slated to double by 2025-2030.

The primary source in TANAP's first stage will be the Shahdeniz-1 field; later, the Shahdeniz-2 field will come into play. At still a later stage, it is likely that the dominant source will become the deep lying gas supplies of the Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli fields. The latter is scheduled to be developed under a contract expected by the end of this year.

As far as the countries of the region are concerned, the signing of the accord is unlikely to push Turkmenistan to use the Trans-Anatolian pipeline given that TANAP is connected in the first instance with the interests of Azerbaijan and Turkey and not with any third country, such as Turkmenistan or Russia. Moreover, Turkmenistan has already indicated that it would prefer selling its gas at its own border rather than developing a broader international pipeline system. However, according to information on hand, at present, not a single company has expressed a desire to participate in the construction of a gas pipeline there.

As far as the interrelationship of Turkmenistan and Russia are concerned, it would likely become significantly more complicated if Turkmenistan were to join the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline system. This project is in direct competition with Russia's Gazprom, which has its own various projects for bringing gas to Europe. It also stands as a serious irritant for Iran, which finds itself in isolation as a result of sanctions imposed on it by the European Union on July 1. It is thus understandable that the main task for Azerbaijan is finding new and long-term markets for its own gas.

The economic side of things is also a matter of interest. Who stands to benefit more from the completion of TANAP, Azerbaijan or Turkey? It is obvious that both in a financial and in a strategic sense, the profits of the two sides are practically equal. Azerbaijan has already emerged as a major gas exporter as a result of its gas fields, such as Shahdeniz, Umid and Absheron. In future years, we will witness the discovery of new gas fields. According to international estimates, Azerbaijan's proved gas reserves equal 2.6 trillion cubic meters. And this speaks of broad opportunities of the country as far as the diversification of its gas transportation network is concerned.

All energy projects initiated, financed and realized by Azerbaijan up to now have been successful, a track record that is very important both for us and for our partners. Azerbaijani gas is a new source of energy for the world community and for Europe. European markets are very attractive for us, not only because they are so large, but because they are regulated by law and thus more predictable. And it is here that we approach the important issue of the balance between the interests of the producer and those of the consumer, not forgetting of course the interests of the transit countries. The coincidence of these interests will make possible the successful realization of future energy projects as well. Azerbaijan has already recommended itself as a reliable partner from the economic, energy and political point of view. There is no doubt that the energy sphere of our cooperation will continue to be successful. However, this is certainly not the only issue involving mutual interests.

The TANAP accord signed in Istanbul on June 26 is a new strategic symbol of the brotherhood and cooperation of Azerbaijan and Turkey. This project is no less important than the earlier ones. Today TANAP is understood as the most important long-term project, which our two countries will successfully realize despite the dissatisfaction and resistance of certain forces in the region. This project stands to guarantee the diversification and transportation of natural gas from the Caspian Basin and Central Asian through Turkey to Europe and by virtue of that will ensure the energy security of European countries, on one hand, and deepen the strategic partnership of Turkey and Azerbaijan, on the other. As a result, it will promote regional development, as well as the flourishing and strengthening of the role of Azerbaijan in the region.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH BEFORE THE WAR

Paul Goble
Publications Advisor
Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy

Because the international community has rejected the argument that the right of national self-determination includes the right to declare independence from an existing state if that state does not agree, Armenian activists seeking independence for Nagorno-Karabakh or alternatively its transfer from Azerbaijani sovereignty to Armenian increasingly stress that ethnic Armenians there were subject to intense economic, cultural and ethnic discrimination prior to 1988 when the war between Armenian and Azerbaijan entered its active phase.

However, as Azerbaijani analysts point out, the record shows that such claims lack any foundation and that in fact ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh were on all objective measures economically, socially and politically better off than almost all ethnic Azerbaijanis there and in other Azerbaijani regions except for the republic capital of Baku. Those findings have now been summarized in the latest article in the "Historical Prism" series of the Azerbaijani *Day.az* news agency. [1]

As the article notes, "beginning with the second half of the 1960s and up to the beginning of the last phase of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1988, the

Armenian side in numerous letters and appeals to Moscow pointed to the impossibility of guaranteeing its social-economic, cultural and national development within Azerbaijan as one of the main reasons for uniting the oblast to Armenia.”

Unfortunately for their case, the article continues, the available evidence shows that Armenian claims in this regard lack any real foundation. Because the last census was carried out in Nagorno-Karabakh only in 1979—the military conflict precluded the enumeration of that region in 1989 and later—ethnic Armenians formed roughly three-quarters of the total population there at the end of Soviet times. Although industry accounted for 60 percent of the region’s GDP in 1986, only about 11 percent of working age adults were industrial workers. Most were in agriculture and especially various aspects of grape and wine production. Nonetheless, the article notes, only Baku and Sumgayit in Azerbaijan had a higher percentage of working-age adults in industrial pursuits.

In the mid-1980s, Nagorno-Karabakh annually exported 150 million rubles of industrial and agricultural produce, but only three-tenths of one percent of that production went to Armenia—and only 1.4 percent of the region’s “imports” came from that Soviet republic. These two figures underscore, the article continues, how little integrated Nagorno-Karabakh was with Armenia and how much with the rest of Azerbaijan, again contrary to Armenian nationalist claims.

Both industrial and agricultural production in Nagorno-Karabakh was rising rapidly at that time, again contrary to Armenian claims. Although the region constituted only two percent of the total Azerbaijani output, its share of republic GDP was five percent, a figure that reflected the fact that between 1973 and 1978, industrial production in Karabakh rose by 300 percent and agricultural by 150.

Because of this growth and because of the capital investments in Karabakh by Baku, the article says, “the level of life of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh was the highest among other regions of the republic and could be compared with the level of life in Baku.” In 1986, annual per capita income in Karabakh was 1113.5 rubles, 97.8 rubles above the all-republic average and 170.4 rubles above the per capita figure in Nakhchivan.

Residents of Karabakh—including the ethnic Armenians—also had more housing stock. In 1987, for example, each resident there had on average 14.6 square meters, compared to an all-Azerbaijani average of 10.9 square meters. And similarly high levels existed in terms of the medical service Karabakh residents had as well, the *Day.az* article continues.

Despite Armenian nationalist claims, the article says, “the Armenian language [at the end of the 1980s] occupied a dominant position in the oblast.” At that time, there were 205 primary schools and six specialized secondary schools, almost all of which had Armenian as the language of instruction. Moreover, and again contrary to Armenian nationalist claims, the Azerbaijani authorities encouraged visits by Armenian SSR cultural figures to Karabakh and did not prevent ethnic Armenians in that oblast from travelling to Yerevan.

The educational system was not the only place where the ethnic Armenian majority in Karabakh enjoyed advantages. The government soviets in that oblast, with the exception of Shusha, were overwhelmingly made up of ethnic Armenians, in most cases 90 to 98 percent. In the oblast committee of the Communist Party, the

majority of the 165 members consisted of ethnic Armenians, with only 24 of them—13 percent—being ethnic Azerbaijanis. The same situation obtained among the secretaries of primary party organizations; in some cases, as in Khankendi, the *Day.az* article points out, “practically 100 percent were reserved for the Armenians.” And Armenian predominance was observed in trade unions, the *Komsomol*, and also in the militia. Indeed, in many of these institutions, ethnic Azerbaijanis were underrepresented relative to their share in the population.

The underlying demography in Karabakh was changing, both as a result of higher fertility rates among the ethnic Azerbaijanis and outmigration of ethnic Armenians to Armenia if they spoke Armenian or to the RSFSR if they spoke Russian and of ethnic Azerbaijanis from Karabakh to major Azerbaijani cities such as Baku. Prior to the 1960s, most ethnic Armenians who left Karabakh went to Baku or other industrial centers, the article continues, but after that time, most of them went beyond the borders of Azerbaijan and in large measure to neighboring Armenia.

While some of this may have reflected underlying tensions between the two basic communities of the region, much of it reflects the fact that in 1959 the Soviet authorities gave collective farmers their passports thus allowing rural people to move more easily to the cities. In the case of Azerbaijan, this led to an expansion in the use of Azerbaijani in Baku and other cities at the expense of Russian and undoubtedly to greater ethnic self-consciousness among the republic’s titular nationality as well, something that may have had an impact on ethnic Armenians in Karabakh and elsewhere.

Between 1970 and 1979, the number of ethnic Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan as a whole increased by 25 percent and in Karabakh by 37 percent. And in the latter, Azerbaijanis “took the jobs freed up by the migration of ethnic Armenians out of Karabakh,” a situation that undoubtedly had an impact on how both groups viewed the future. That, rather than any discrimination by Baku against ethnic Armenians, explains the basic trends, and as the international community seeks a resolution of the Karabakh conflict, it is worth remembering that before the war, the ethnic Armenians in Karabakh were doing better than many of their neighbors, something that would not have been the case had the current claims of Armenian nationalists were true.

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/338784.html> (accessed 20 June 2012).

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN’S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan’s Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that, “Azerbaijani-Russian relations, based on strategic partnership, continue to develop successfully in all areas” (<http://news.day.az/politics/340993.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan will not make any further concessions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/339430.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for the Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, says that Baku intends to propose that the United Nations adopt an International Convention on Internally Displaced Persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/339501.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

The presidents of Russia, the United States and France, the three OSCE Minsk Group co-chair country leaders, express their regrets “the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia did not take the decisive steps” in the direction the three presidents urged them to in the joint statement at Deauville on May 26, 2011 (<http://www.osce.org/mg/91393>).

Vytautas Landsbergis, former Lithuanian president and now a deputy in the European Parliament, says that “Nagorno-Karabakh is not a disputed, but an occupied territory” and that it is time for the international community to recognize that fact (<http://news.day.az/politics/340012.html>).

Sergey Subbotin, presidential plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the North Caucasus Federal District, says that, “strategic ties with Azerbaijan are a priority for the fraternal peoples who populate the Caucasus” (<http://news.day.az/politics/340938.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan’s Foreign Policy

30 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (<http://news.day.az/politics/341304.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov signs a cooperation agreement with his Turkish counterpart, Mehmet Mehdi Ekerin (<http://news.day.az/economy/341424.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, tells the Crans Montana meeting in Baku about Azerbaijan’s recent progress in environmental protection (<http://news.day.az/politics/341465.html>).

William Lahue, NATO/PFP Liaison Officer in South Caucasus, says that the Western alliance will support Azerbaijan’s mine clearing efforts (<http://news.day.az/politics/341415.html>).

The Moscow State Languages University presents diplomas to Azerbaijani journalists who have been trained there with the support of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/341445.html>).

29 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Montenegrin President Filip Vujanović
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341304.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341304.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Muhammad bin Hamad al-Sharki, prince of the
Fujeira emirate of the United Arab Emirates
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341304.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva attend the official opening of
the Crans Montana Forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/341178.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva is awarded the Prix de la Fondation by Jean-Paul
Carteron, president of the Crans Montana Forum
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341328.html>).

The US Senate confirms Richard Morningstar as ambassador to Baku
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341416.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Kenyan First Lady Ido Odinga
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341329.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Nigerian First Lady Aissata Issufa Mahamada
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341329.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, director general of
ISESCO (<http://news.day.az/politics/341329.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that, "Azerbaijani-
Russian relations are built on the principles of mutual respect and mutually
advantageous cooperation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/341148.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Russel Trood, special envoy of the
Australian Prime Minister to Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Caucasus
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341318.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Yereva must not have any doubts about the
possibilities created by the growing power of Azerbaijan
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341142.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that Azerbaijani forces will continue to
use the AK-74 and plan to begin producing their own version of it by the end of 2012
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341123.html>).

Labor and Employment Minister Fizuli Alakparov receives his Gibraltar counterpart
Joe Bossano (<http://news.day.az/society/341253.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov receives his Indian counterpart Ajay Maken
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341115.html>).

Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City who is jointly accredited to Panama City, meets with Panamanian officials to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/341180.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the PACE report about Azerbaijan is far from objective (<http://news.day.az/politics/341266.html>).

The Milli Majlis ratifies inter-governmental agreements between Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, Bulgaria, India, Macedonia, and Ukraine (<http://news.day.az/politics/341195.html>).

The Milli Majlis creates a Columbia working group (<http://news.day.az/politics/341177.html>).

Khady Radzhabli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the spread of drugs among Armenian young people reflects the degeneration of their country (<http://news.day.az/politics/341108.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian charges against Azerbaijan are intended for a domestic audience and do not merit consideration by the international community (<http://news.day.az/politics/341059.html>).

Ene Ergma, speaker of the Estonian Parliament, says that Tallinn supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/341089.html>).

US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns receives the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/341303.html>).

The US Senate confirms Richard Morningstar as ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/341416.html>).

Girair Libaridian, former advisor to former Armenian president Levon Ter-Petrosyan, meets with the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/341268.html>).

28 June

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "Azerbaijani-Russian relations, based on strategic partnership, continue to develop successfully in all areas" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340993.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Roush Nuri Shavais, Iraq's deputy prime minister for economic issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/340996.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ene Ergma, speaker of the Estonian parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/340996.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives former Macedonian president Gjorge Ivanov (<http://news.day.az/politics/340996.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives former Croatian president Stepan Mesic (<http://news.day.az/politics/340996.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Armenia, "in speculating about the principle of the self-determination of peoples, ignores the rights of the Azerbaijanis of Nagorno-Karabakh who beyond any doubt want to live within Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340961.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Dato Seri Muhammed Nazri Abdul Aziz, an advisor to the Malaysian prime minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/340984.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that, "relations between Azerbaijan and Russia have reached the level of strategic partnership" and that "the development of these relations is a priority of Azerbaijan's foreign policy" (<http://news.day.az/economy/340928.html>).

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that inter-regional forums, like the one between Azerbaijan and Russia, "are giving a new impulse to the deepening of mutual understanding between our states" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340913.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Iran is violating international conventions by failing to provide Azerbaijan with information about the fate of its citizens in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/341071.html>).

Deputy Education Minister Gulu Novruzov says that Azerbaijan and Russia are expanding cooperation in secondary education (<http://news.day.az/politics/341016.html>).

Hasan Mammadzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Vilnius, meets former Lithuanian president Valdas Adamkus (<http://news.day.az/politics/341015.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, director of the Center for Strategic Research under the office of the President of Azerbaijan, signs a cooperation agreement with Alexander Rondeli, director of Georgia's Foundation for Strategic and International Research (<http://news.day.az/politics/340962.html>).

The Third Russian-Azerbaijani Inter-Regional Forum adopts a resolution reaffirming the commitment of both sides to expanding on existing ties between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/340908.html>).

Russian President Vladimir Putin says that he is pleased that "Russian-Azerbaijani inter-regional ties are consistently developing and involve tens of thousands of citizens of the two countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/341013.html>).

Montenegrin President Filip Vujanović visits Baku to take part in the Crans Montana forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/341081.html>).

Zafer Caglayan, Turkey's economics minister, says that the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway is important for the rebirth of the Silk Road and will make possible the economic, cultural and social development of the countries of the region (<http://news.day.az/economy/340896.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that, "the relations of Russia and Azerbaijan are developing rapidly, especially in recent years" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340924.html>).

Vladimir Chernov, director of the international relations department of the Presidential Administration of Russia, says that the expansion of ties between Azerbaijan and Russia has significance "not only for regional, but for inter-government cooperation as a whole" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340923.html>).

Girair Libardian, former advisor to former Armenian president Levon Ter-Petrosyan, says that until the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is resolved, "Armenia will remain the weakest country in the region and Azerbaijan and Georgia will develop" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340940.html>).

Konstantin Markelov, deputy governor of Russia's Astrakhan Oblast, says that the opening of direct ferry traffic between Alyat and Astrakhan is a priority for his administration (<http://news.day.az/economy/340945.html>).

27 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Portes (news.day.az/politics/340767.html).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Third Forum of Azerbaijani-Russian Regional Cooperation will help promote the strategic partnership between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/340737.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says the Azerbaijani-Turkish agreement of the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline represents a contribution to world energy security (<http://news.day.az/politics/340750.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "in contrast to the Council of Europe, we consider that there are no political prisoners in Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340801.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that the accord between Azerbaijan and Turkey concerning the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline shows that, "without the participation of Azerbaijan, not a single project in the region can be realized" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340763.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "makes the full integration of the region into the Euro-Atlantic space more difficult" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340741.html>).

Fuad Akhundov, political advisor to President Ilham Aliyev, says the creation of the false Interfax.am site testified to "the continuation of the falsification policy" Yerevan has been pursuing (<http://news.day.az/politics/340723.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that, "certain forces do not want an improvement in relations between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340797.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov hosts an international youth conference on the Great Silk Road (<http://news.day.az/society/340757.html>).

Deputy Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov signs a cooperation agreement with Portuguese Foreign Minister Paolo Portes
(<http://news.day.az/economy/340772.html>).

Akram Zeynalli, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Bern, presents his letters of credence to Swiss President Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340666.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that his delegation discussed the PACE subcommittee for Nagorno-Karabakh during its meeting with the PACE president
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340847.html>).

Catherine Ashton, the European Union's supreme representative for foreign affairs and security policy, says that she welcomes Baku's amnesty of nine Azerbaijanis arrested following a meeting on April 2, 2011
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340819.html>).

Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Portes says that Lisbon is interested in increasing economic and political cooperation with Azerbaijan
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340758.html>).

26 June

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to sign the accord on the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline and tells him that, "Turkish-Azerbaijani unity is a factor which creates stability in the region"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340524.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340417.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu at the summit meeting of the 20th anniversary of the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/340629.html>).

Latif Gandilov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Beijing, hosts a reception on the 94th anniversary of the establishment of the Armed Forces of the Azerbaijan Republic
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340531.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Ankara hosts a reception in honor of the 94th anniversary of the foundation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340525.html>).

Azerbaijan's military representation to the Military Committee of NATO and the Azerbaijani embassy in Brussels host a reception in honor of the 94th anniversary of

the creation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340632.html>).

Fazil Ibrahim, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "Azerbaijan is today the leading state of the region from both an economic and a military point of view"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340601.html>).

Ilyas Ismayilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian accusations against Azerbaijan are "inventions, which do not merit attention"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340493.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that the Trans-Anatolian Gas Pipeline will make a significant contribution to the energy security of Europe
(<http://news.day.az/economy/340619.html>).

Georgian officials announce that Azerbaijan is again Tbilisi's largest export market
(<http://news.day.az/economy/340570.html>).

25 June

The Foreign Ministry says that the fate of Farid Huseyn and Shahriyar Hajizade, who have been detained by Iranian officials, remains at the center of attention of the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran and the consulate general in Tabriz
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340415.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the Azerbaijani embassy in Damascus continues to work normally (<http://news.day.az/politics/340411.html>).

The Foreign Ministry condemns the downing of a Turkish jet by Syria forces
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340399.html>).

The National Security Ministry says that it has seized 25 kilograms of narcotics that criminal elements had sought to smuggle into Azerbaijan from Iran
(<http://news.day.az/society/340432.html>).

Procurator General Namig Alaskarov takes part in the Minsk commemorations of the 90th anniversary of the creation of the procuracy in Belarus
(<http://news.day.az/politics/341285.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, hosts a reception on the occasion of the 94th anniversary of the creation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340669.html>).

Tamerlan Garayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Jakarta and ASEAN, presents his letters of credence to ASEAN Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan
(<http://news.day.az/economy/340532.html>).

Elchin Amirbayov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Paris, says that relations between Azerbaijan and France are developing in ever more positive directions
(<http://news.day.az/politics/340378.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Astana hosts a reception in honor of the 94th anniversary of the creation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/340351.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the Council of Europe must invite Armenia to take part in dialogue on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/340518.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis Deputy, says that the Azerbaijani army is prepared "at any moment to liberate the occupied territories" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340464.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says recent declarations by Armenian officials show that Yerevan has lost touch with the realities of the situation inside that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/340149.html>).

Nizami Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is being foolish in basing its future on money transfers from abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/340068.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the council of Europe, says that Armenia has demonstrated that it is not prepared for a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that the Council of Europe must insist that Yerevan end its violations of the ceasefire (<http://news.day.az/politics/340521.html>).

The European Commission says that it intends to conclude an agreement with Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan concerning the legal basis of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline project (<http://news.day.az/politics/340413.html>).

Jean-Claude Mignon, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that "serious work" is being conducted to strengthen the activity of the PACE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/340521.html>).

Jean-Claude Mignon, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that the internal situation in Armenia is "unsatisfactory" (<http://news.day.az/politics/340440.html>).

Montenegro announces that Azerbaijanis may visit that country without a visa from July 15 to October 31, 2012 (<http://news.day.az/society/340406.html>).

Muhammadbaqir Bahrami, Iran's ambassador to Baku, returns to the Azerbaijani capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/340292.html>).

Mustafa Baloglu, a deputy of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, predicts that Armenia will suffer a final collapse (<http://news.day.az/politics/340093.html>).

24 June

Andrew Cuomo, governor of the US state of New York, proclaims March 31 to be the Day of Memory of Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/340267.html>).

23 June

Valeh Alaskarov, Milli Majlis deputy speaker, meets with European Union officials at the European Parliament to discuss inter-parliamentary cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/340191.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the International Conference of Asian Political Parties supports the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict according to international legal norms (<http://news.day.az/politics/340189.html>).

Ambassador Galib Israfilov, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the OSCE, takes part in the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/340126.html>).

Azer Huseyn, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tbilisi, hosts a commemoration of the 94th anniversary of the foundation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/340145.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that cooperation between the AMC and the Russian Orthodox Church across the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States serves an example to other religious groups (<http://news.day.az/society/340204.html>).

The Senate of Columbia forms a Columbia-Azerbaijan friendship group (<http://news.day.az/politics/340076.html>).

22 June

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva and Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi oversee the signing of a bilateral agreement between Azerbaijan and the Holy See on the restoration of the Roman catacombs (<http://news.day.az/politics/340050.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the Iranian government has confirmed the arrest on criminal charges of two Azerbaijani citizens, Farid Huseyn and Shahriyar Hajizade (<http://news.day.az/politics/339880.html>).

Officials of the Azerbaijani procuracy attend the second conference of the International Anti-Corruption Alliance in Washington (<http://news.day.az/politics/339794.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that his party expects the OSCE to secure "the liberation of Azerbaijani lands from occupation and the return of refugees to their native places" (<http://news.day.az/politics/339841.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party and a deputy in the Milli Majlis, says that Yeni Azerbaijan wants international organizations to impose sanctions against Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/339855.html>).

Rustam Khalilov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Armenia lacks the resources needed for improving its economy (<http://news.day.az/politics/339771.html>).

Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, says that ties between the EU and its neighbors are at a turning point (<http://news.day.az/politics/339825.html>).

The Foreign Ministry of Romania issues a press release on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bucharest and Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/340036.html>).

Avin Erdemir, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that economic ties between Azerbaijan and Turkey need to be broadened still further (<http://news.day.az/politics/339866.html>).

Ramil Hasanov, the secretary general of the Turkic Parliamentary Assembly, says that his group will seek observer status at the UN General Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/339936.html>).

Ramil Hasanov, secretary general of the Turkic Parliamentary Assembly, says that his organization has set up a special scholarly group to develop a common alphabet for all Turkic language countries (<http://news.day.az/society/339927.html>).

Hassan Gaffuri Fard, former Iranian vice president, says that "there are no problems" in relations between Iran and Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/339821.html>).

The embassy of Ukraine in Baku devotes a minute of silence in honor of those who died in World War II (<http://news.day.az/society/340015.html>).

21 June

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Pascual Munier, incoming French ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/339760.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan's proposals to Moscow concerning the Gabala radar site are well-known and entirely justified (<http://news.day.az/politics/339662.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that the appointment of an American ambassador to Baku "is necessary for the more dynamic development of Azerbaijani-American relations" (<http://news.day.az/politics/339661.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku does not intend at present to evacuate its citizens from Syria (<http://news.day.az/politics/339669.html>).

The Presidential Council for State Support of Non-Governmental Organizations launches a project on Georgian media concerning Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/339688.html>).

Chingiz Ganizade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Armenian accusations against Azerbaijan are "baseless and the latest provocation" of Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/339770.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan does not deceive either the world or its own citizens with all its declarations about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/339538.html>).

Musa Gasymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan cannot achieve the growth rates it has promised its citizens (<http://news.day.az/politics/339518.html>).

Ali Hasanov, chairman of the State Commission for Counter-Narcotics, says that the "Armenian occupied zone of the Iranian-Azerbaijani border is used for the transit of Afghan drugs" (<http://news.day.az/politics/339746.html>).

Abbasali Hasanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Dushanbe, meets Tajikistan Finance Minister Safarali Najmiddinov (<http://news.day.az/economy/339700.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Paris and the Youth Association of the France-Azerbaijan Organization for the European Integration of Azerbaijani Youth organize a conference on Problems and Prospects in the Process of the European Integration of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/339620.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili opens a gas pipeline built by Azerbaijan in the Georgian village of Osiauri (<http://news.day.az/economy/339725.html>).

The Russian Foreign Ministry says it "positively" assesses the latest Paris meeting on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "from the point of view of continuing political dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/politics/339731.html>).

Georgian Infrastructure and Regional Development Minister Ramaz Nikolaishvili announces that Azerbaijan has completed the construction of a 29 kilometer section of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway (<http://news.day.az/economy/339703.html>).

The International Labor Organization releases a reform on the labor market in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/339698.html>).

20 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the Russian Duma Committee on CIS Affairs and Ties to Compatriots Abroad (<http://news.day.az/politics/339505.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan will not make any further concessions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/339430.html>).

Yagub Eyubov, first deputy prime minister, takes part in the UN conference Rio+20 on stable development in Rio de Janeiro (<http://news.day.az/politics/340934.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for the Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, calls on the West to impose sanctions against the current and past leaders of Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/339519.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for the Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, says that Baku intends to

propose that the United Nations adopt an International Convention on Internally Displaced Persons (<http://news.day.az/politics/339501.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov meets his Lithuanian counterpart Gintaras Steponavičius in Vilnius (<http://news.day.az/society/339525.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Azerbaijan's opportunities will continue to expand in all fields (<http://news.day.az/society/339293.html>).

Azar Karimli, a Milli Majlis deputy who heads the Azerbaijan-Italy Group for Inter-Parliamentary Ties, visits Rome (<http://news.day.az/politics/339311.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the European Union should have its own special representative for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/339492.html>).

Zhalya Aliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent Yerevan statements about Azerbaijan do not correspond to reality (<http://news.day.az/politics/339283.html>).

Musa Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "Armenia is well-known for its provocative declarations" about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/339250.html>).

The Azerbaijan National Academy of Aviation discusses cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (<http://news.day.az/society/339419.html>).

The Center for Strategic Research attached to the President of Azerbaijan, together with the Institute for Foreign Relations of Italy organize a Baku conference on "National Minorities in Europe: the South Tyrol Model and Its Relation to the Caucasus" (<http://news.day.az/politics/339507.html>).

Lt. Gen. Oleg Ostapenko, commander of Russia's air defense forces, says the possible refusal of Moscow to extend its lease on the Gabala radar site will not harm Russian security (<http://news.day.az/politics/339451.html>).

19 June

President Ilham Aliyev sends a message to the Rio+20 conference praising the work of the group for overcoming monopolies and promoting economic growth (<http://news.day.az/politics/339322.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms the agreement between the Azerbaijan State Telegraph Agency and the Polish Press Agency (<http://news.day.az/politics/339325.html>).

Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov says that the interest of Azerbaijani entrepreneurs in the North Caucasus is growing (<http://news.day.az/economy/339249.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov says that Romania, which was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan, has supported Baku on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/339323.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov receives Turkmenistan Ambassador Toyli Komekov to discuss Turkmenistan's rejection of Azerbaijan's protest concerning the latter's seismological research around the disputed Kapaz area in the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/339173.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan completely agrees with the international community that the status quo in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is unacceptable, but notes that Armenia, not Azerbaijan, is responsible for the lack of progress (<http://news.day.az/politics/339182.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Turkmenistan's launch of seismographic studies in the Caspian violates the agreement between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/339254.html>).

Samad Seyidov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Richard Morningstar, whom US President Barack Obama has nominated to be ambassador to Baku, will have "a positive influence" on the development of Azerbaijani-American relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/339246.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says the economic situation of Armenia is today so dire that "not a single expert more or less informed about the situation in that country will take it upon himself to guarantee any improvements" (<http://news.day.az/politics/339194.html>).

The first session of the joint Azerbaijani-Jordanian transportation commission meets in Amman (<http://news.day.az/society/339445.html>).

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in Mexico discuss the situation in the Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/339175.html>).

Daniel Ciobanu, Romania's ambassador to Baku, hosts a meeting commemorating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/339323.html>).

US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon says that Washington "very much regrets" the recent incidents along the ceasefire line between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the loss of innocent life (<http://news.day.az/politics/339301.html>).

Turkish Vice Admiral Sadra Dulger visits Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/339212.html>).

18 June

President Ilham Aliyev receives Henry Kerali, the incoming World Bank regional director for the South Caucasus, as well as his predecessor Asad Alam (<http://news.day.az/politics/339010.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that Armenia both assists the flow of narcotics and the training of terrorist groups on the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/338958.html>).

Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov says that Yerevan is not interested in the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/338941.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in Paris with Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan and the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/339051.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming in Beijing (<http://news.day.az/economy/339081.html>).

Culture and Tourism Minister Abulfas Garayev awards Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, and the Russian embassy as a whole, a special diploma for their work in the development of international cultural ties (<http://news.day.az/politics/339094.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the Paris meeting of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs is a new commitment by them to increase the intensity of their work (<http://news.day.az/politics/339064.html>).

Elman Arasly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Baghdad, says that Iraq is "the Arab country closest to Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/339084.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, is re-elected chairman of the administrative board of the Intergovernmental Foundation for Humanitarian Cooperation of the CIS Member States (<http://news.day.az/politics/339062.html>).

Elmira Suleymanova, Azerbaijan's ombudsman, hosts the 10th Baku International Conference of Ombudsmen (<http://news.day.az/society/339057.html>).

Rob Steele, secretary general of the International Organization for Standardization, says that bringing Azerbaijani standards into line with European ones will promote the further development of the Azerbaijani economy (<http://news.day.az/economy/338946.html>).

17 June

Milli Majlis Speaker Ogtay Asadov meets with Kyrgyzstan President Almazbek Atambayev (<http://news.day.az/politics/338799.html>).

16 June

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives Uzbekistan Ambassador Sherzod Fayziyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/338716.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natik Aliyev takes part in the 161st session of OPEC (<http://news.day.az/economy/338749.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov meets Kanayo F. Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (<http://news.day.az/economy/338644.html>).

Vahdat Sultanzade, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Ashgabat, hosts a reception on the occasion of Azerbaijan's Day of National Salvation (<http://news.day.az/politics/338774.html>).

Cemil Cicek, speaker of Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Azerbaijan is "successfully raising the voice of the Turkish world" in the UN Security Council (<http://news.day.az/politics/338643.html>).

Note to Readers

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