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School of International Affairs and Business

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**AZERBAIJANI CULTURE IN DIASPORA:
A CONVERSATION WITH RENARA AKHOUNDOVA**

Below is an interview with Renara Akhoundova, a distinguished performing artist based in Paris, the fifth in the interviews Azerbaijan in the World has recently conducted with leading figures of Azerbaijani culture. Mrs. Akhoundova's web page is at www.renara.org/english.html.

Azerbaijan in the World: How did it happen that you became an artist? Was it a rational choice or the spontaneous pursuit of what you felt to be your calling in life?

Renara Akhoundova: I believe I was indeed born musician, even though this gift affected me differently at different points in my life.

The first time I touched a musical instrument, I was three and I began to play children's songs. This was a revelation for my parents and a beginning for me. Two years later, I took up the study of music seriously, first with Lidiya Yegorovna, then at the eighth musical school and finally, as a result of contests, I entered the Bul-Bul School of Music in Baku. The foundation of my studies was laid in the classics; consequently, improvisation had little role in my work for many years, even though it is so innate to what I am.

After a lengthy pause in my music career and having arrived in Paris, I by a stroke of fate found myself in a Greek restaurant in Saint Michele, where I subsequently had the great joy of working with various musicians: they all played traditional Greek music, and here the harmonies of my motherland was a great asset for me, for in Greek music, there are Byzantine and Eastern motifs.

I then experienced yet another pause in my musical work, one of some three and a half years in length, following which I have entered a new stage. Now I find that my music truly expresses my life and my values, and I am very grateful for it.

AIW: How has the subject matter of your music evolved and what influences have affected you in this evolution?

Akhoundova: Back in the days, I was profoundly affected by the ideas of Marshall Rosenberg, an experience that unleashed the inner deeper space of my being and gave birth to my first album, which I dedicated to him.

AIW: You are Azerbaijani, yet now you live in Paris and normally perform outside your homeland. Do you nonetheless feel you represent Azerbaijan with your music, or would you rather suggest that your music is more cosmopolitan in nature?

Akhoundova: I have lived in Paris for 23 years now, and hence my consciousness has evolved and continues to evolve on French soil. My music, however, represents a harmony of various elements, one of which is certainly rooted in the Azerbaijani tradition. I receive feedback from around the world and music I produce, consequently, feeds on the entire world and thus speaks a universal language.

AIW: Could you name any individual musicians, in Azerbaijan or indeed beyond, who have also had an influence on your music?

Akhoundova: I very much admire Uzeir Hajibayov, Vagif Mustafa Zade, Gara Garayev, Fikrat Amirov, Tofik Guliyev, and many others, even though I am not certain in every case as to the extent to which they have had an impact on my own music.

AIW: Is your music meant to convey any particular message? If Yes, what is the message and what is the audience?

Akhoundova: My message is simple: be present in my totality during the time of my performance and remain in harmony with the audience. Every soul has his/her own perception of my music, and hence of the message.

AIW: Where do you see your music going next?

Akhoundova: I cannot answer that. My music simply comes to me. I can only say that the more I learn about myself, the more I free myself from false ideas about myself and the world in which we live, the more I am in touch with my listeners, then each time this link produces something new. Each person bears in himself the divine essence of the creator, but not everyone knows about this. Hence, I simply trust the forces that transcend my earthly existence with this and would refrain from an attempt to rationalise this evolutionary process: the essential is born in the chaos of passing experience.

Geographically, my music is free to go everywhere and anywhere. I will be performing in Russia this coming December, for example. Just before that, I will be playing in the Pushkin House in London.

AIW: Have you plans to collaborate with Azerbaijani artists?

Akhoundova: I would certainly like to meet new artists who share my values, and if I find ones, I will certainly look forward to collaboration, for some greater product might emerge as a result.

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

Akhoundova: All of them are special and dear to me, but I experienced very strong feelings during my performance in Kuwait in January 2009, as well as during the international congress for 85 years birthday of Bert Hellinger in December 2010.

AIW: Have your international performances been a result of direct contact between yourself and foreign agents, or were they rather organized through Azerbaijan's Ministry of Culture?

Akhoundova: I work with different agents based in different countries.

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

Akhoundova: It seems that the Azerbaijani government is currently very active in culture and I hope conditions are being created for the best artists and real talents we have to gradually come to surface and develop further. Time will show whether these current efforts prove successful in this particular direction. I certainly hope they do.

AIW: What is your assessment of the cultural diplomacy Azerbaijan currently actively exercises abroad and would you have any recommendations one could use to improve the latter?

Akhoundova: The government needs to be more attentive to the truly talented artists regardless of their field and to provide the best with financial support.

AIW: The Azerbaijani government has by now come up with a number of mechanisms, including the international festival in Gabala and international mugham

festival, through which it exercises its cultural diplomacy. What do you think about these efforts?

Akhoundova: All such efforts that allow people from around the world to learn about the ancient culture of the land of my ancestors are welcome.

AZERBAIJAN AND ISRAEL IN PURSUIT OF A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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Azerbaijan has long been known as a multicultural locus in which many different ethnic groups, including those of Jewish origin, found home and thrived. The historical foundation underlying multiculturalism in Azerbaijan is so strong that even the seven decades of the Soviet rule failed to plant seeds of anti-Semitism in Azerbaijan.

According to different studies, Azerbaijan has historically been home to what many refer to as Caucasian Mountain Jews—Jews of Persian origin whose history traces back to 2,000 years ago and who started to arrive in Azerbaijan in the early 5th century. During the years of Russian imperial rule—beginning, roughly, in the 19th century—Ashkenazi Jews began to settle in Azerbaijan as well, their number having vastly increased as many Ashkenazi Jews came to Azerbaijan in pursuit of refuge from the Nazis during World War II (Tepper 2010). [1]

In the 19th century, Baku became a center for active Zionist movement in the Russian Empire. The first branch of *Havevei Zion* (lovers of Zion) was set up in Baku in 1891. And the first choir synagogue was opened in Baku in 1910. [2] In 1883, oil companies owned by the Rothschild family (the latter being of Jewish origin) entered the scene in Baku followed by Rockefeller's gigantic Standard Oil Company (Altstadt 1992, p. 22).

During Azerbaijan's first period of independence (1918-1920), the Jewish Popular University was established (1919) and various periodicals were published in Yiddish and Hebrew languages. Moreover, Dr. Yevsei Gindes, an Ashkenazi Jew, was Minister of Health in ADR's Cabinet of Minister under first Prime-Minister Fatali Khan Khoyski. In Soviet time, the Jews continued to arrive and actively settle in Azerbaijan, particularly before, during, and immediately after the Second World War. Consequently, the Ashkenazi Jews formed a significant part of intellectual and technocratic elite in Soviet Azerbaijan (Murinson 2008b).

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the historically close and warm relations between Jews and Azerbaijanis served as a solid base for mutual cooperation between the State of Israel and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Indeed, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan emerged as among a few Muslim-majority states enjoying friendly relations with the state of Israel. In 1997, Azerbaijan's then president Heydar Aliyev met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Baku when the

two men discussed threats posed by Iran and spoke on the Israeli-Azerbaijani intelligence cooperation, a meeting some scholars believe was a starting point in the cooperation between post-Soviet Azerbaijan and Israel (Lev 2012).

As a continuation of Heydar Aliyev's strategy, the current Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev welcomed Israeli President Shimon Peres in Baku on 29 June 2009 (Bourtman 2006), a visit that took place despite strong opposition from Iran. [3]

Cooperation with Israel is vital for Azerbaijan for several strategic reasons. First, both Azerbaijan and Israel have similar or near-identical sense of regional insecurity arising from an unfriendly environment. [4] Azerbaijan is concerned that Iran threatens to use force and expands intelligence network in Baku and other cities. [5] Moreover, and from an Azerbaijani perspective, Iran provides a large-scale assistance to Armenia. [6]

Second, disagreements between Israelis and Armenians regarding the so-called "genocide" [7] have prompted Azerbaijan and Israel to cooperate on this matter. Azerbaijani political elite considers Israeli or Jewish support as a key element to counter Armenian Diaspora, particularly in the United States and Europe. In 1997, President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan met in New York, as part of his official visit to the United States, with representatives of American Jewish organizations and openly asked them to help Azerbaijan. [8] Unsurprisingly, Israel repeatedly declared that Tel Aviv supports Azerbaijani territorial integrity. As Israel's former Ambassador to Turkey and former Deputy Foreign Minister Pinkhaz Avivi noted, "[Israel's] position is the following: we recognize the principle of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity... We don't try to hide the fact that our relations with Azerbaijan are more intense and rewarding than our relations with Armenia and that relations with Azerbaijan are strategically important for us." [9]

Third, a decades-long successful experience of the Turkish-Israeli partnership prompted Azerbaijani decision-makers to also establish strategic ties with Israel. Notwithstanding temporary problems in Turkish-Israeli relations, Ankara "understands that its regional aspirations require correct relations with Jewish state" (Inbar 2010). Moreover, according to Zvi Elpeleg, former Israeli ambassador to Turkey, "relations [are unlikely to] deteriorate because there are fundamental reasons why Turkey and Israel have the same interests" (Demirtaş 2012). Meanwhile, Azerbaijan also seeks to demonstrate that Baku can help overcome Israeli-Turkish disagreements over the Mavi Marmara incident and associated developments.

Baku has explicitly welcomed a triangular security and defense partnership between Turkey, Israel and Azerbaijan that is particularly flourishing in energy affairs (Murinson 2008a), something that Baku believes could *inter alia* serve as an effective tool to strengthen and support the US diplomacy, including towards counterbalancing the Iran-Russia axis in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Fourth, defense cooperation to modernize Azerbaijani Army is a high priority for Baku in relations with Tel-Aviv. In 1992-1994, Israel supported Azerbaijan in a war with Armenia and supplied Stinger missiles and other weapons to Azerbaijani troops (Cagaptay & Murinson 2005). And recently, Azerbaijan signed a military deal with Israel to buy Israeli arms worth \$1.5 billion. [10]

Azerbaijan's desire to cooperate with Israel is reciprocated by the Israelis. First of all, Israeli policy-makers have long considered Azerbaijan and the Caspian littoral states as part of the Greater Middle East (Aras 1998). And Israel has long tried to improve its security as well as foreign image and international relations. In light of the latter, Israel launched a strategy to develop relations with non-Arab Muslim states. And as some scholars noted, "[e]xpanding its influence into an area of the world heavily Muslim, but not Arab, has long been a strategic Israeli objective" (Bourtman 2006). Indeed, the strategy is designed to improve relations with the Islamic world, as well as to demonstrate that Israel may have peaceful relations with Muslim states. At that, Israel tries to prove there is no Israel-Muslim or Jews-Muslim confrontation. The collapse of the USSR presented an opportunity to develop relations with newly independent former Soviet Muslim republics. And now, Israel has diplomatic relations with nine non-Arab Muslim states. Given that, Azerbaijan's experience of peaceful co-existence of Azerbaijanis and Jews briefly highlighted above was attractive for Israeli political elite.

Second, with Iran presenting the most serious challenge to Israel's very existence, Israel launched a strategy of active diplomacy in the regions surrounding Iran. As Israeli analyst Uzi Rabbi made clear, Israel must conduct active diplomacy in the regions surrounding Iran and "... to resist Iranian aggression several coalition alliances should be formed" (Grigoryan 2009). Thus, Azerbaijan, for its strategic location along Iran's northern border, occupies a top priority for Israel's foreign policy toward the CIS.

And third, Azerbaijani energy is a critical factor in Israel's strategic calculations. In 2011, Azerbaijan exported to Israel up to 2.5 million tons (about 18.5 million barrels) of oil with total worth of \$2.1 billion. Last year, trade turnover between Israel and Azerbaijan reached \$4 billion. As a result, Azerbaijan is Israel's top trade partner among the CIS countries. Undoubtedly, Israeli-Azerbaijani energy cooperation has become of vital importance for Israel's energy security. This cooperation allows to diversify supplies of oil and gas and explore Israel's energy resources. Baku provides Israel over one-third of Israel's oil demand (Alic 2012).

While the level of bilateral relations is currently very high, the future of Israel-Azerbaijan cooperation could be more sustainable with the strategic nature of cooperation further buttressed by a strengthened focus on developing cultural and scientific ties between the two nations. The establishment of an Israeli Studies department in one of Azerbaijan's major universities and a parallel establishment of Azerbaijani studies program in one of the universities in Israel, for example, could be an important move in this direction.

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Notes

[1] Also see <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/Azerbaijan.html> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[2] See <http://www.bibleisdiscovered.com/jewish-hebrew-people-in-the-world/azerbaijani-jews/> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[3] See http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2009/President_Peris_visits_Azerbaijan_and_Kazakhstan_28_Jun_2009.htm and <http://www.jta.org/news/article/2009/06/29/1006211/iran-recalls-azerbaijan-envoy-following-peres-visit> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[4] See <http://news.az/articles/politics/39340> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[5] See http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/46461790/ns/world_news-mideast_n_africa/t/iran-threatens-pre-emptive-action-amid-nuclear-tensions/ (accessed 13 October 2012).

[6] See <http://www.mehrnews.com/tr/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1380193> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[7] See <http://secretjews.wordpress.com/006/> and <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/38758> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[8] See <http://library.aliyev-heritage.org/en/7423863.html> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[9] See <http://vestnikkavkaza.net/interviews/politics/19641.html> (accessed 13 October 2012).

[10] See <http://www.defensenews.com/article/20120229/DEFREG04/302290002/Azerbaijan-Rejects-Iran-Fears-Over-Israel-8216-Arms-Buy-8217-> (accessed 13 October 2012).

**ARMENIAN OVER-REACHING HAS COST YEREVAN
ITS FOREIGN 'PROTECTORS'**

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In the years immediately following the collapse of stardom, Armenia acquired numerous foreign protectors but then lost them as a result of its own over-reaching and what would now be called the public diplomacy of Azerbaijan, a pattern the latest article in the Day.az "Historical Prism" series documents and one that many Azerbaijanis are certain is being repeated at the present time. [1]

Entitled "How the Armenians Lost Their Protectors in the West," the article suggests that this cycle began in May 1918 when shortly after declaring independence, Yerevan made territorial demands against Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia in its pursuit of being "a 'great' expansionist nation." The Armenians were especially furious at Turkey, because the Brest-Litovsk Treaty of March 1918 eliminated any

chance for them to create a "Turkish Armenia" as that accord required that "Soviet Russia withdraw its forces from Kars and Ardagan.

When Turkey surrendered at the end of World War I and withdrew its forces from the South Caucasus, Armenian leaders again began to demand the creation of "'a Great Armenia,' extending from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea and from the Black Sea to the Caspian." By the spring of 1919 and with the help of the English, "Armenia established military control over Kars," and in order to assure that the great powers would support Yerevan in this, the Armenian government sent "not one, but two delegations" to the Paris Peace Conference.

The first of these was the Armenian National Delegation, which was headed by Nubar pasha and explicitly represented "the interests of Turkish Armenians and the Armenian diaspora." The second was a delegation of the Armenian Republic itself. It was headed by Avetis Agaronyan. In addition, Armenian General Andranik Ozanyan showed up at the conference as well.

The behavior of all three of these delegations is significant, the *Day.az* article suggests. The Armenians "did not participate" in the meetings of representatives of the other South Caucasus states. Instead, "they considered that the Paris Conference itself would put all of them in their places." To that end, "the Armenian delegates followed around the leaders of the great powers, daily reminding them about what they owed Armenia."

But "the extraordinary demands of the Armenians and the tone they made them in soon began to have the opposite effect" of what Yerevan expected. "In the end," the *Day.az* article notes, these Armenian demands "deprived them of the good will of many political leaders of the West. British Prime Minister Lloyd George, for example, told the House of Commons that the Armenians were making "clearly excessive demands" for "an enormous territory in which the Armenians would form a very small percentage" of the population.

This shift was assisted by the active public diplomacy of Azerbaijan's foreign ministry and its missions abroad. The Azerbaijani diplomatic representative in Armenia itself documented Yerevan's mistreatment of its Muslims, something few in the West knew about. And Baku disseminated more such reports in the papers of the "Azerbaijani Information Bulletin," which began to appear in Paris in September 1919.

When English forces withdrew from the South Caucasus in August 1919, Armenians recognized that they had been thus "deprived of the shield which could cover the achievement of their aggressive plans against their neighbors." That led Yerevan to take two steps: greater repression against the Muslim populations under its control and the search for "a new protector" of the Armenians among Western governments.

After London, Paris and Rome turned the Armenians down, and the League of Nations, lacking a budget and a military refused to help them, the Armenians focused on Washington, because there support for Armenia had long been promoted by "Protestant missionaries and Armenian immigrants." President Woodrow Wilson was prepared to make Armenia a US mandate territory, but in June 1920, the US Senate "adopted a resolution which denied" Wilson the power to do so.

The Sovietization of Azerbaijan at the end of April 1920 gave Armenia a chance to look to Moscow for support, and an agreement between Yerevan and Soviet Russia

"gave Armenia the hope that in the future it would be the master of Zangazur, Nakhchivan and Karabakh. On the same day that treaty was signed, the Entente and Ottoman Turkey signed the Sevres Treaty, which called for expanding Armenian control in four Turkish vilayets in eastern Anatolia and the recognition of Armenia by Turkey itself.

Those provisions, among others, were so offensive to many Turks that the treaty was never ratified. That led Armenia in September 1920 to launch military attacks against Turkey, but the Armenian forces were soon defeated, and the Gumri peace treaty annulled all of the provisions of the Sevres Treaty. That agreement, in turn, was reinforced by the Soviet-Turkish Treaty of Moscow on 16 March, 1921.

In June 1921, however, Soviet Russia, having become the new protector of Armenia, "compensated" Armenia for its "losses" in Turkey by giving the Armenians autonomy within Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh and allowing Soviet Armenia to "establish its control over western Zangazur," even though this cut Azerbaijan in two and cut the larger part of Azerbaijan off from direct access to Turkey.

As *Day.az* notes in conclusion, "after the inclusion of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Trans-Caucasus Federation in 1922, the borders between the republics, which already had a purely formal significance, under the pretext of economic necessity were subjected to new changes." As a result, Armenia acquired "significant portions of land from the Nakhchivan ASSR, Karabakh and Gazakh," acquisitions that "almost doubled" the size of Armenia from what it had been in 1918 and ones that could have been achieved only because Yerevan at least for a time had yet another outside "protector."

Notes

[1] See <http://news.day.az/politics/359170.html> (accessed 14 October 2012).

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that every victory by Azerbaijan is "a tragedy for Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360062.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Baku International Humanitarian Forum that, "multiculturalism is our way of life" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359022.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it will no longer announce in advance the travel plans of Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov because of threats to Azerbaijani diplomats from Armenian terrorist organizations (<http://news.day.az/politics/360668.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Andrzej Kasprzyk, personal representative of the OSCE chairperson-in-office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference, says that the opening of the airport at Khankandi in the absence of mutual agreement will harm the negotiating process (<http://news.day.az/politics/359980.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that Tehran supports all the resolutions of international organizations concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/360876.html>).

Rashida Dati, mayor of the seventh district of Paris and a member of the European Parliament, says that, "Azerbaijan is an example for other Muslim countries with regard to democracy in Islam" (<http://news.day.az/society/358963.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

15 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (<http://news.day.az/politics/360944.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan will devote all its efforts to give a new impulse to the development of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/360880.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives his Kyrgyzstan counterpart, Erlan Abildayev (<http://news.day.az/politics/360857.html>).

Azerbaijan assumes the role of chairman-in-office of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/360879.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets in Moscow with Igor Bratchikov, Russian ambassador for special assignments, to discuss bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/360934.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov meets in Moscow with his Russian counterpart Grigory Karasin (<http://news.day.az/politics/360934.html>).

Azay Guliyev, chairman of the Presidential Council for State Support of Non-Governmental Organizations, visits Prague to examine Czech experience in that area (<http://news.day.az/society/360385.html>).

Abbasali Hasanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Tajikistan, takes part in the Second International Economic Forum in Khodzhent (<http://news.day.az/politics/360882.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of Euronest, says that, "one will be able to take pride in the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union only when frozen conflicts, including the Nagorno-Karabakh one, are resolved" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360886.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, meets with UN Secretary General Pan Gi-Moon

who tells him that the UN needs to increase its level of activity to promote the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/360859.html>).

Eldar Ibrahimov, a Milli Majlis deputy, receives Ilgizar Sabirov, speaker of the Uzbekistan Senate, who is in Baku to take part in the summit of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/360853.html>).

Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmon comes to Baku to take part in the summit of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/360931.html>).

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari arrives in Baku to take part in the 20th summit of the Organization for Economic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/360902.html>).

Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar says that political relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan "have always been at a good level" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360873.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Turkey supports the position of Azerbaijan concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and opposes the opening of the airport in the occupied city of Khankandi (<http://news.day.az/politics/360889.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says that Tehran supports all the resolutions of international organizations concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/360876.html>).

Toylli Komekov, Turkmenistan's ambassador to Baku, says that bilateral relations between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan are good and have under them "the firm foundation of many centuries of national traditions of the two peoples as well as deep historical and cultural roots" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360914.html>).

Roland Kobia, head of the European Union representation in Baku, says that the opening of the Southern Gas Corridor will be "a victory for both sides" (<http://news.day.az/economy/360817.html>).

Eric Rubin, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, says that the opening of the airport at Khankandi would be "a step backward" in the negotiating process and could "make progress much more difficult" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360842.html>).

Michael McMahon, a former US congressman, says that, "any success of Azerbaijan represents a threat for the Armenian lobby" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359729.html>).

14 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Mohsoon Pakayeen, the incoming Iranian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/360734.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of Arturas Jurauskas, the incoming Lithuanian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/360734.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of Tarek Hosni Ahmed Abou Senna, the incoming Egyptian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/360734.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Eric Rubin, US deputy secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia (<http://news.day.az/politics/360673.html>).

13 October

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that, "no state can interfere with the TANAP gas pipeline" (<http://news.day.az/economy/360618.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it is intensifying work to prevent illegal visits to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/360663.html>).

The Foreign Ministry sends a note to the Lithuanian government protesting the visit of a Lithuanian musical group to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/360669.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, speaks to a meeting of the American Jewish Congress in Houston (<http://news.day.az/politics/360548.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, the president of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Russia, says that her group "can represent Azerbaijan in Russia in a worthy fashion and make a contribution to the development of relations" between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/360423.html>).

12 October

President Ilham Aliyev tells his Uzbek counterpart Islam Karimov at a reception in Baku that "the deep roots" of the relations of their two countries are "a promising basis for the current stage of the development" of ties (<http://news.day.az/politics/360339.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov takes part in political consultations in Bucharest and Belgrade (<http://news.day.az/politics/360372.html>).

Musa Gasimli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent Armenian foreign ministry comments about the US ambassador to Yerevan are "clear evidence that power in that country is in the hands of criminal groups" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360413.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway will begin operation by 2013 and that as a result "the Silk Road will be restored" (<http://news.day.az/economy/360503.html>).

Mohsen Pakayeen, the incoming Iranian ambassador to Baku, says that the development of relations between Iran and Azerbaijan is "a basic factor for the strengthening of peace and stability in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360313.html>).

Efim Pivovarov, president of the Russia-Azerbaijan Friendship Society, says that

thanks to the efforts of the leaders of the two countries, bilateral ties have strengthened "in all areas of cooperation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360492.html>).

11 October

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov takes part in a GUAM ministerial meeting in Kyiv on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (<http://news.day.az/politics/360211.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov receives incoming Israeli Ambassador to Baku Rafael Harpaz and tells him that Azerbaijan considers it important to study the experience of Israeli law enforcement agencies (<http://news.day.az/politics/360285.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev receives Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ulugbek Razukulov (<http://news.day.az/economy/360142.html>).

Azay Guliyev, chairman of the Presidential Council for State Support of Non-Governmental Organizations, says that his group will begin financing foreign NGOs working in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/360286.html>).

Deputy Communications Minister Elmir Valizade says that Internet content that denigrates religious values or incites inter-religious tension cannot be considered acceptable (<http://news.day.az/politics/360146.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that President Ilham Aliyev will be the party's candidate for re-election (<http://news.day.az/politics/360161.html>).

Bahar Muradova, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that, "up to today, there have not been conflicts on a religious basis in Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/360240.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says it "cannot be excluded" that former Armenian foreign minister Vardan Oskanyan will reveal new details about the massive corruption in Yerevan (<http://news.day.az/politics/360093.html>).

Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Taner Yildiz says that Ankara welcomes the decision of the Austrian OMV company to take part in TANAP (<http://news.day.az/economy/360171.html>).

Abdelati Habek, the president of the Diplomatic Foundation of Morocco, says that the Baku International Humanitarian Forum is a great opportunity for popularizing Azerbaijani culture throughout the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/360279.html>).

10 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of Omar Senon Medina Quintero, the incoming Cuban ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/360039.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Ukrainian counterpart Konstantin Grishchenko in Kyiv (<http://news.day.az/politics/360048.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev signs cooperation accords with Peter Siyarto, state secretary of Hungary (<http://news.day.az/economy/360051.html>).

Polad Bulbuloglu, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, participates in the opening of an exhibit of Azerbaijani art at the Russian State Humanitarian University (<http://news.day.az/society/359840.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee of Azerbaijan for Work with Religious Structures, visits Turkey at the invitation of Mehmet Germez, Turkish religious affairs minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/359941.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul ratifies the inter-governmental agreement with Azerbaijan on TANAP (<http://news.day.az/economy/359931.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russian ambassador to Baku, says that Moscow is satisfied with the visit to Baku by Russia's Caspian Flotilla (<http://news.day.az/politics/359887.html>).

9 October

Prime Minister Arthur Rasizade signs a directive for the Foreign Ministry to purchase a new building at the Azerbaijani embassy in Podgorica (<http://news.day.az/politics/359740.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev meets with NATO officials in Brussels to discuss the alliance's partnership plan with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/359655.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev takes part in a Budapest session of the Azerbaijan-Hungary business forum (<http://news.day.az/economy/359657.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets in Budapest with Giancarlo Cremonesi, president of the Roman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (<http://news.day.az/economy/359679.html>).

Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Islamabad, meets with Marshal Tahir Rafik But, commander of Pakistan's air force (<http://news.day.az/politics/359698.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Ankara will always support Azerbaijan regarding the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/359742.html>).

Teymuraz Sharashenidze, Georgia's ambassador to Baku, says that Georgia and Azerbaijan will continue to work together on regional issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/359632.html>).

The International Monetary Fund says that the Azerbaijani economy is growing by 3.9 percent in 2012, 0.4 percent more than forecast (<http://news.day.az/economy/359804.html>).

Valdis Zatlers, former president of Latvia, says that Azerbaijan recently has made "an enormous contribution to the development of inter-cultural dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359818.html>).

Sinan Ogan, a deputy to Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Baku, "like Davos, can hold international meetings successfully" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359766.html>).

Alex Miller, a deputy of Israel's Knesset, takes part in a ceremony in his country to mark Azerbaijani Independence Day (<http://news.day.az/society/359708.html>).

8 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Porphiro Munoz Ledo, chairman of the International Relations Committee of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies (<http://news.day.az/politics/359571.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenian efforts to open the Khojaly airport in the occupied territories "violate international law and harm the peaceful process of resolving the conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359564.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abasov receives Federico Castelucci, the director of the International Organization of Viticulture, to discuss Azerbaijan's inclusion as a member in the International Organization of Viticulture (<http://news.day.az/economy/359566.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, president of the Azerbaijani Youth Organization of Russia, says that "Azerbaijan and Russia are connected by history and culture and that [the two] have much in common" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359318.html>).

Aydin Aliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, receives Ekpao Adabo, head of Togo's customs service, who is in Baku to study Azerbaijan's efforts in countering smuggling and the illegal drug trade (<http://news.day.az/economy/359412.html>).

Elman Nasirli, director of the Presidential Institute for Political Research, says that recent statements from Yerevan show that "Armenia is not interested in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359451.html>).

Princess Stephanie of Belgium says that she had dreamed for a long time of visiting Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/359548.html>).

Emil Constantinescu, former president of Romania, says that Bucharest and Baku "support one another in the international arena" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359547.html>).

Ahmed Mukhlis Yusuf, director of Indonesia's National Information Agency, says that the Baku International Humanitarian Forum is an extremely well developed platform for dealing with complex challenges (<http://news.day.az/politics/359441.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, former special representative of the chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, says that, "the role of Azerbaijan in the international arena is increasing" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359440.html>).

Reinhold Mitterlehner, Austria's economy, family, and youth minister, says that partner countries are holding talks about acquiring a share of Nabucco West (<http://news.day.az/economy/359537.html>).

7 October

President Ilham Aliyev telephones Russian President Vladimir Putin to congratulate him on his 60th birthday (<http://news.day.az/politics/359307.html>).

Lt.Gen. Aydyn Aliyev, head of the State Customs Service, hosts his counterparts from Turkic language countries at a meeting in Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/economy/359295.html>).

Papa Momar Diop, the permanent representative of Senegal to UNESCO, says that the Baku Humanitarian Forum is playing an irreplaceable role in world politics (<http://news.day.az/society/359292.html>).

6 October

The Foreign Ministry says that Yerevan is doing everything it can to confuse the international community and block progress toward a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/359262.html>).

Hafiz Pashayev, deputy foreign minister and rector of the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, signs a cooperation agreement with Park Chool, president of Korea's Hankook University for Foreign Research (<http://news.day.az/society/359133.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Khojaly genocide is "the most terrible crime of the Armenians against the Azerbaijanis" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359265.html>).

Aydin Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan is "bluffing" when it suggests that the Khankandi airport in the occupied territories is legally and technically ready for operation (<http://news.day.az/politics/359155.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, an Azerbaijani member of the committee on legal issues and human rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that his delegation has proposed changes to the PACE definition of political prisoners (<http://news.day.az/politics/359257.html>).

Rovnag Abdullayev, president of SOCAR, receives Blaise Gottschin, executive director of the Geneva National Bank (<http://news.day.az/economy/359259.html>).

The Turkish foreign ministry says that Armenian plans to open an airport at Khankandi in the occupied territories are "a provocation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359157.html>).

Vaira Vike-Freiberga, the former president of Latvia, says that the program of the Baku International Humanitarian Forum is "very interesting and rich" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359246.html>).

Stepan Mesic, the former president of Croatia, says that, "with each passing year, the authority of Azerbaijan is growing" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359267.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, visits Sheki (<http://news.day.az/politics/359216.html>).

Mohsen Pakayeen, nominated to be Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that Iran's National Security Council has prohibited the preparation and showing of television programming directed against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/359177.html>).

5 October

President Ilham Aliyev tells the Baku International Humanitarian Forum that, "multiculturalism is our way of life" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359022.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Enrique Akkorsi, chairman of the anti-poverty commission of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies (<http://news.day.az/politics/358783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mario Dzhaime Trobe, chairman of the international relations commission of the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies (<http://news.day.az/politics/358783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Roberto Mario Mouillero, a member of the Argentinian Chamber of Deputies (<http://news.day.az/politics/358783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Stepan Mesic, former president of Croatia (<http://news.day.az/politics/358783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Valdis Zatlers, former president of Latvia (<http://news.day.az/politics/358783.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis (<http://news.day.az/politics/358783.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Zurab Tsereteli, president of the Russian Academy of Arts (<http://news.day.az/politics/358832.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Petar Stoyanov, former president of Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/politics/358832.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Sheikh Mubarak Al-Dueizh Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah, head of the Kuwait Information Agency (<http://news.day.az/politics/359117.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Stepan Mesic, former president of Croatia (<http://news.day.az/politics/359077.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Azerbaijan has learned that "sometimes international organizations hurry and take decisions on the basis of information that does not reflect reality" (<http://news.day.az/politics/359112.html>).

Karam Hasanov, chairman of the State Committee on Property, meets with his Bulgarian opposite number Emil Karanikolov in Sofia (<http://news.day.az/economy/359097.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia wants to have open borders with Turkey, but will only achieve that when it withdraws from the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/359042.html>).

Aytan Mustafayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that no reforms in Armenia can save that country absent a withdrawal from the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/358895.html>).

Otto Hauser, Azerbaijan's honorary consul in Stuttgart, says that "the Karabakh problem is at the center of Germany's attention" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358931.html>).

The Hungarian embassy in Baku says that Budapest intends to expand tourist ties with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/359000.html>).

Rufiz Cyragzade, the acting manager of the World Bank office in Baku, says that his institution hopes to continue to develop cooperation in the development of capital markets (<http://news.day.az/economy/358954.html>).

Movlud Cavusoglu, a deputy in Turkey's Grand National Assembly and the former president of PACE, says that "Armenia is constantly throwing up obstacles to the activity of the Nagorno-Karabakh subcommittee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358941.html>).

Rashida Dati, mayor of the seventh district of Paris and a member of the European Parliament, says that, "Azerbaijan is an example for other Muslim countries with regard to democracy in Islam" (<http://news.day.az/society/358963.html>).

Rashida Dati, mayor of the seventh district of Paris and a member of the European Parliament, says that the position of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is distinguished by its "constructive" nature (<http://news.day.az/politics/358983.html>).

Aiko Yamanaka, former Japanese deputy foreign minister, says that she thinks highly of measures like the Second Baku International Humanitarian Forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/359090.html>).

Goran Lennmarker, former special representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for the Caucasus, says that, "the role of Azerbaijan in the international arena is growing" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358984.html>).

Zhelyu Zhelev, the former president of Bulgaria, says that, "attempts at resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict by military means will lead to its renewal" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358966.html>).

Dora Bakoyannis, the former Greek foreign minister and former president of the OSCE, says that Athens supports the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/358921.html>).

4 October

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva participate in the opening of the Baku International Humanitarian Forum

(<http://news.day.az/politics/358791.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev hosts a working lunch for participants in the Baku International Humanitarian Forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/358867.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, who is a goodwill ambassador for UNESCO, receives Katalin Bogyay, president of the UNESCO General Conference (<http://news.day.az/politics/358870.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, who is a good will ambassador for UNESCO, receives Zurab Tsereteli, also a goodwill ambassador for that organization (<http://news.day.az/politics/358832.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Katalin Bogyay, president of the UNESCO General Conference (<http://news.day.az/politics/358874.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan respects the vote of the Georgian people in the parliamentary elections there (<http://news.day.az/politics/358669.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku is concerned about the situation in the Middle East (<http://news.day.az/politics/358810.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, meets with Texas Governor Richard Perry (<http://news.day.az/society/358940.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that recent statements by the former Armenian foreign ministry show that Yerevan's supposed struggle with corruption is itself fraudulent and is being used for political ends (<http://news.day.az/politics/358681.html>).

Kamal Abdulla, a leader of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh of the Republic of Azerbaijan, says that meetings between the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of that region have "a definite influence on the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358751.html>).

Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the director general of ISESCO, supports the right of Azerbaijan to liberate its territories now occupied by the Armenians (<http://news.day.az/politics/358760.html>).

Mikhail Shvydkoy, special representative of the Russian president for international cultural cooperation, says the Baku Forum creates new possibilities for achieving agreement on many issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/358820.html>).

Ismail Joshgun Alper, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that the Baku Forum will help resolve many international problems (<http://news.day.az/politics/358797.html>).

Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the director general of ISESCO, says that the Baku International Humanitarian Forum is "important for humanity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358791.html>).

Hikmet Eren, head of the Turkish Association for Eurasian Economic Cooperation, says that, "the rights of a million Azerbaijanis have been violated as a result of the Armenian occupation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358786.html>).

Mikhail Gusman, general director of Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be solved in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/358815.html>).

Sinan Ogan, a deputy to Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Armenia's efforts to open the Khankandi airport in the occupied territory are "playing with fire" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358860.html>).

Rosa Otunbayeva, former president of Kyrgyzstan, says that Azerbaijan's rich historical past provides the basis for hope in the future (<http://news.day.az/politics/358861.html>).

Arnold Rüütel, former president of Estonia, says that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is very complicated and the two sides must seek to find a resolution that reflects history and avoids creating any more victims (<http://news.day.az/politics/358829.html>).

Franco Frattini, former Italian foreign minister, says that Baku is "a good example of multi-culturalism and mutual respect of religions and cultures" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358788.html>).

3 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, the director general of ISESCO (<http://news.day.az/politics/358541.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgi Parvanov, former president of Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/politics/358541.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Franco Frattini, the former foreign minister of Italy (<http://news.day.az/politics/358541.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, says that Baku's work with refugees has allowed Azerbaijan to become the member of "yet another authoritative international organization, the Executive Committee of the Supreme Commissariat of the United Nations for Refugee Affairs" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358583.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that relations between Azerbaijan and Georgia will continue to be "friendly and fraternal" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358554.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that the main goal of the Second International Humanitarian Forum is "the further strengthening of mutual understanding and respect and of ties between peoples, nations and countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358568.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan awaits a new and more definite commitment by the leaders of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries to make possible progress in the negotiations to end the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/358571.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Budapest, meets with Petar Siyyarto, state secretary of the Hungarian prime minister and co-chair of the Azerbaijani-Hungarian Inter-Governmental Economic Commission (<http://news.day.az/politics/358500.html>).

Rovnag Abdullayev, president of SOCAR, meets with Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/economy/358406.html>).

Musa Gasymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia must "at the state level" be held responsible for the Khojaly genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/358492.html>).

Sinan Ogan, a deputy to Turkey's Grand National Assembly, says that Azerbaijan is "an important country in the world as shown by its holding of international conferences like the International Humanitarian Forum" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358489.html>).

2 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives Fikret Akcura, the UN coordinator resident in Baku, on the occasion of his reassignment to another post (<http://news.day.az/politics/358314.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Arnold Rüütel, former president of Estonia (<http://news.day.az/politics/358314.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Roza Otunbayeva, former president of Kyrgyzstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/358314.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan "will never permit anyone to use its territories against neighboring countries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358365.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia is prepared to do anything in order to maintain the *status quo* in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/358361.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, says that the speech of Armenian Foreign Minister Edvard Nalbandyan to the UN General Assembly was "based on lies" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358286.html>).

Deputy Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov says that the growth of trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Germany will continue (<http://news.day.az/economy/358384.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Bern delivers a note to the Swiss foreign ministry protesting a visit by Swiss deputies to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/358367.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives a delegation of French senators (<http://news.day.az/politics/358364.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary

Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that, "one cannot imagine the Council of Europe without Russia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358351.html>).

Samad Seyidov, the head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says PACE must maintain "the principle of the peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358198.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that until the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is resolved, "Armenia will continue its policy of state terrorism and at any moment new tragedies may occur" (<http://news.day.az/politics/358210.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan is not only pursuing a dangerous political and military course, but is leading Armenia into a still more difficult economic and social situation (<http://news.day.az/politics/358163.html>).

Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Urban says that his government took "the correct decision" regarding the extradition of Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/358324.html>).

Herbert Quelle, Germany's ambassador to Baku, says the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territory has harmed the development of Azerbaijan as a whole (<http://news.day.az/politics/358386.html>).

Jerry Sutcliff and Richart Hovit, members of the British Parliament, attend a meeting of the Europe-Azerbaijan Society (<http://news.day.az/politics/358780.html>).

1 October

President Ilham Aliyev receives a delegation of French senators (<http://news.day.az/politics/358113.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Vaira Vīķe- Freiberga, former president of Latvia (<http://news.day.az/politics/358113.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives a delegation of French senators (<http://news.day.az/politics/358189.html>).

Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov opens the first joint youth forum of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan (<http://news.day.az/society/358176.html>).

Azerbaijan's Civil Aviation Administration says that Armenian efforts to open the Khankandi airport in the occupied territories violate the norms of international law (<http://news.day.az/politics/358164.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Pretoria represents Baku at the annual fair organized by the Union of Turkish Entrepreneurs in Johannesburg (<http://news.day.az/politics/358134.html>).

Sultan Gasymov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Yekaterinburg, attends the opening of a class in the Azerbaijani language in that Russian city (<http://news.day.az/politics/358088.html>).

The Milli Majlis adopts a resolution protesting against the decision of the European Parliament regarding the pardoning of Ramil Safarov (<http://news.day.az/politics/358156.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, deputy speaker of the Milli Majlis, says there are certain forces that want to undermine relations between Azerbaijan and Iran, but that they will not succeed (<http://news.day.az/politics/358037.html>).

Elkhan Suleymanov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that Azerbaijan has made significant strides in its political dialogue with Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/358184.html>).

Fazail Aghamaly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani parliament should adopt a resolution ending the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group given its use of "double standards" as shown in the Ramil Safarov case (<http://news.day.az/politics/358052.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan envies Baku and "cannot cope with the successes of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357705.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan's plan to open the Khankandi airport in the occupied territories is "entirely demagoguery and a fiction" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357700.html>).

The Azerbaijan Cultural Center in New York opens (<http://news.day.az/society/358689.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, says that "certain external forces" want to undermine Azerbaijan's tradition of religious tolerance (<http://news.day.az/society/358158.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that, "the position on the Nagorno-Karabakh question is unchanged" (<http://news.day.az/politics/357985.html>).

Note to Readers

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