



**Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy**  
School of International Affairs and Business

**AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD**  
**ADA Biweekly Newsletter**

Vol. 5, No. 22  
November 15, 2012

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**RUSSIA TRUSTS ITS SOUTHERN FLANK**  
**TO THE AZERBAIJANI ECONOMY**

Gulnara Inanc  
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The North Caucasus, which is bordered by two regional states, Azerbaijan and Georgia, is strategically important to Russia. For the preservation of peace in the southern portion of the country, the federal center along with the use of force is conducting economic reforms meant to provide new work places, an improvement in

the standard of living of the population, and a reduction in the amount of out-migration.

Economic weakness and a lack of social development in such a strategically important region represent a serious danger for the state integrity of Russia, because among the reasons that its citizens and especially young people in the south are turning to radical Islamist groups are poverty and unemployment. Consequently, Moscow believes that changes in these areas will turn people away from radicalism and return them to normal civic life.

Over the last several years, the Russian government, with this goal in mind, has begun the planned development of this region by means of the involvement of investors, including foreign ones. At the same time, however, considering the efforts of foreign governments to promote separatism, including in the North Caucasus, Russia has been quite cautious about any foreign role in the economy of that region and not allowed outside investors access to its economy. In particular, Turkish investors were pushed out of the region and Circassians now living abroad were not provided with opportunities to invest in their historical homeland.

Because it lacks geopolitical ambitions in the North Caucasus and because it has no desire to become the instrument of outside games in the region, Azerbaijan has become a successful and trusted source of capital investment in the economy of the south of the Russian Federation. Many factors have contributed to this, including Baku's economic potential, the similarity of outlooks, natural infrastructure, a major market, among others.

The 2010 state border agreement between Baku and Moscow promoted the opening of the North Caucasus economic zone for Azerbaijani business. In the summer of 2011, A.G. Khloponin, the deputy head of the Russian government and the special representative of the Russian President to the North Caucasus Federal District, together with the heads of all North Caucasian republics, came to Baku to discuss Azerbaijani investments. Immediately after this, Azerbaijan's economic development minister Shahin Mustafayev visited seven republics of the North Caucasus. That was followed by a series of business forums and meetings of businessmen. [1]

Reflecting its particular attention to economic cooperation with Azerbaijan in this area, the plenipotentiary representation of the Russian President in the North Caucasus created a special council for control over the execution of the decisions concerning the federal subjects in the region, and it has plans to open a representation of this plenipotentiary in Azerbaijan. As deputy plenipotentiary representative Sergey Subbotin observed, "Before the leaders of the North Caucasus Federation District have been given the task of developing relations with Azerbaijan and the time has come for checking the effectiveness of the measures taken to address this task. The effective resolution of all tasks depends in the first instance on effective control." [2]

The involvement of Azerbaijani business is especially evident in the Stavropol and Krasnodar regions of Russia. In 2009, for example, Azerbaijan occupied third place in the amount of foreign trade with Stavropol, with its total being 123.3 million US dollars or 8.7 percent of the trade turnover of the *kray*. Azerbaijani trade turnover with Krasnodar in that year was 71.4 million US dollars.

Azerbaijan's Azersun Holdings Company in the following year, to give but one example, opened a tea processing factory in Belorechensk in Krasnodar kray valued at more than three million US dollars annually. That company has begun construction of a new preserves factory for a similar sum. And that company alone has invested 22 million US dollars in the development of the infrastructure of Krasnodar kray. Furthermore, Azerbaijan's Matanat-A company in September 2011 began building a construction materials factory in Krasnodar's Uspensky District, a project estimated to cost 30 million euros.

Daghestan has the largest trade turnover with foreign countries, but the involvement of Azerbaijani business in that neighboring republic still remains at the stage of discussions. After the signing in 2010 of the inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in the rational use and protection of the water resources of the Samur River, the construction of a hydroelectric station on that river should permit the development of the infrastructure of Daghestan and Azerbaijani districts bordering it.

No less interesting is the project of the construction of a Trans-Samur highway (Derbent-Akhty-Rutul, across the Bagos pass by tunnel, and the construction of an Avar-Kakhti road connecting Botlikh, Buynaksk and Makhachkala) in order to supply southern Daghestan and Azerbaijan. The new highway will provide access into and out of Southern and Mountainous Daghestan. [3]

Azerbaijani capital is involved in the agricultural and construction sectors of the North Caucasus Federal District. A Stavropol company has reached agreement with the Azerbaijani agricultural ministry about a tender to sell agricultural technology produced there to the Azerbaijani Republic.

There has also been cooperation in tourism and resorts. Because the North Caucasus has resorts developed in Soviet times and even further back, Azerbaijani businessmen are finding that Moscow is extremely interested in involving them in the redevelopment of these facilities. A. Khloponin has suggested that Moscow will provide state guarantees and insurance for investments in this area. [4]

It is clear that there is a need to establish free trade zones in this region in order to allow for the freer flow of goods and services and workers between southern Russia and Azerbaijan and to provide a framework for attracting additional Azerbaijani investors. And that may happen given that the Russian side is seeking to move economic relations between Azerbaijan and the North Caucasus Federal District beyond just trade. All this shows—and this is the key point—that Russia now trusts its southern flank to Azerbaijan.

## Notes

[1] See <http://www.expertsm.com/ru/useful-information/news> (accessed 14 November 2012).

[2] See <http://fineko/abc.az> (accessed 14 November 2012).

[3] See <http://www.turkishnews.com/ru/content/2012/11/06/> (accessed 14 November 2012).

[4] See <http://fineko/abc.az> (accessed 14 November 2012).

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**ARMENIAN INTELLECTUALS RECOGNIZE  
AZERBAIJANIS WILL RETURN TO KARABAKH**

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The visit to Baku last summer by a leading Armenian intellectual, Gerard Libaridian, a professor at the University of Michigan and chief advisor to Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the first president of Armenia, to take part in a conference on “Joint Efforts in the Name of the Future of the Caucasus” is only the highest profile indication that Armenian intellectuals increasingly recognize that the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh will result in the return of the Azerbaijani population to that region. [1]

That visit was a positive factor and it would be a good thing if such meetings were more frequent, because they will help Armenian society to cure itself from the illusion that Nagorno-Karabakh has somehow “finally” become exclusively Armenian demographically and assist Azerbaijani society to agree with the idea of the living together of both communities without an inevitable repetition for the Karabakh Armenians of the fate of portions of the Azerbaijanis of Zangazur, Geichabasar, Zangibasar, Irevan, Amasii and other places in contemporary Armenia.

In other words, such meetings are a key part of the confidence building measures necessary to overcome the conflict and the negative effects it generated. However, as these meetings occur—and Azerbaijanis are committed to making that happen—Armenians must recognize that the historical record means that only after the withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the region and the return of the other community to its native lands will this conflict cease to be one between two states. Only after Azerbaijani sovereignty has been fully restored, can these two communities meet as interlocutors about the specific fate of Nagorno-Karabakh. To say otherwise, as some Armenian intellectuals continue to with their references to conflicts within Canada, for example, is to slow progress.

Such intellectuals often say, as Libaridian did in Baku, that time is working both for Azerbaijan and for Armenia, noting that Azerbaijan is able to use its increasing oil wealth to purchase arms, while the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh are increasingly members of a generation that does not remember being part of Azerbaijan. That is true, but it is also true that arms age more slowly than people do.

Consequently, considering the inevitability of the return of the Azerbaijani community to Nagorno-Karabakh, anything that draws the conflict out will create in the future much greater difficulties for this generation of Armenians who do not remember themselves as being part of Azerbaijan. That is because with each lost year or decade, their shock from the inevitable return of Azerbaijanis to Nagorno-Karabakh and their living together will be ever greater.

## Note

[1] See <http://azertag.com/ru/node/977287> and [http://aze.az/news\\_posleslovie\\_k\\_vizitu\\_79265.html](http://aze.az/news_posleslovie_k_vizitu_79265.html) (accessed 14 November 2012).

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### **IRANIAN-ARMENIAN HYDRO STATION HARMS AZERBAIJAN, EXPERTS SAY**

Paul Goble  
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A joint Iranian-Armenian project to build a new hydro-electric station on the Araz River could have serious ecological and political consequences for Azerbaijan, according to experts in Baku. And those consequences would compound the wounds that Armenia has already inflicted on the Azerbaijani environment through its occupation of more than 20 percent of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On November 8, Iranian and Armenian officials installed a ceremonial cornerstone marking the beginning of work on a project that is slated to produce 1,700 gigawatts of electric power annually. That has prompted real concern in Baku. On the same day, according to a report in *Ekho*, Farid Huseynov, the head of the Green Movement of Azerbaijan, noted that the new station, because it relies on a dam that will hold back part of the flow of the Araz, could "increase the probability of flooding in Azerbaijan," especially when there are periodic releases of water or if accidents or heavy precipitation force those operating the station to release water quickly to reduce pressure on the dam. [1]

However, Azerbaijani experts appear even more concerned about the political consequences of this dam. Fikrat Sadykhov, a leading Baku commentator, told the paper that "at present, relations between Azerbaijan and Iran are relatively stable," but they have suffered on occasion because of Iran's assistance to Armenia, "a country which occupied part of the territory of Azerbaijan." Between Tehran and Yerevan, there are numerous agreements, including military ones, and now [the two sides] are working on joint projects. The construction of [this] hydro-electric station is confirmation of this."

Sadykhov pointed out that, "Iran is doing everything possible in order to end the blockade around Armenia" by "seeking to create a window for Armenia to escape its existing isolation. And these actions are having a negative impact in the first instance on Iranian-Azerbaijani relations." Tehran, he notes, "poses as an Islamic state which recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, but at the same time, it does everything to hurt our interests." Baku has "frequently" pointed this out and noted that, "we cannot have positive relations with a country, which conducts such a policy."

Concerns about the impact of the Iranian-Armenian hydro-electric station on Azerbaijan contributed to Baku's increased attention this year to the UN's International Day of Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment during Wars and Armed Conflicts on November 6. [2]

As the UN General Assembly noted in creating that day, armed conflicts bring "indescribable" horrors not only to the civilian population, but also to the destruction of the environment around them. And while these ecological consequences are largely "ignored by contemporary laws," they inflict lasting damages that continue to harm the population even long after the guns have gone silent and the violence ended by agreement.

The *Day.az* news agency noted in its commentary on this event that, "the war begun by Armenia against Azerbaijan not only led to the destruction of the cities and villages of Nagorno-Karabakh and the population points surrounding it, but also to the destruction of the plant and animal worlds on this territory, because the ecological balance as a whole was violated."

As a result of the more than 20 years of Armenian occupation, both agricultural land and the forests of this region have suffered, with many being destroyed along with lakes, parks, geological formations and paleontology sites. The occupation authorities cut down trees "not only for military needs, but also for the preparation of construction materials used in the furniture industry and for other purposes."

According to Azerbaijan's ecology and natural resources ministry, *Day.az* continued, in the Hojavend district alone, "the Armenians completely destroyed the oak forests which grew along the banks of the Hojashin River." And its officials noted that the fate of several reserves of ancient trees remains unknown up to now.

As a result of the occupation, more than a million hectares of agricultural land were taken out of commission, including 127,000 hectares of irrigated lands and 34,000 of vineyards and orchards. The Armenians "completely destroyed" a 1,200 kilometer network of irrigation works, carting off its machinery to their homeland and leaving the remainder incapable of functioning.

Because the Nagorno-Karabakh irrigation system was part of the unified irrigation infrastructure of Azerbaijan, the destruction of this portion of the system has affected other parts of Azerbaijan as well. According to *Day.az*, some 120,000 hectares of land "beyond the borders of the occupied territories" still remains without water" and as a result is no longer useful for agriculture. That, too, is the result of the ecological damage Armenian occupation has inflicted on the country.

According to estimates, the impact of the Armenian occupation on Azerbaijani agriculture alone has been "approximately 472 million US dollars," and that figure is certainly low, because many of Azerbaijan's most productive farming districts are located in areas that the Armenian occupiers have effectively destroyed. Indeed, the officials say, "70 percent of the summer pasture lands of Azerbaijan" are in the occupied territories.

So serious has been this damage that Azerbaijanis now refer to the Armenian occupation as having inflicted "an ecological genocide" on their country. And that tragedy, however described, has been compounded by two other factors. On the one hand, there is extensive evidence that Armenian forces have been negligent in the ways they have disposed of chemicals used by them. And on the other, there are indications that in the Agdam district, the Armenian occupiers have contaminated about 250,000 hectares with nuclear waste brought from Azerbaijan.

## Notes

[1] See <http://www.echo.az/index.php?aid=29786> (accessed 14 November 2012).

[2] See <http://news.day.az/politics/364988.html> (accessed 14 November 2012).

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## **A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY**

### **I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy**

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku is "ready for talks about a broad-ranging peace agreement with Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/366353.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that "if necessary, Azerbaijan will adopt more radical measures with regard to Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364789.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that 35,000 ethnic Armenians continue to live in Azerbaijan while "not a single Azerbaijani and extremely few representatives of other peoples" live in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/366644.html>).

### **II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan**

Rafael Harpaz, Israel's ambassador to Baku, says that "the Israeli people love Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364181.html>).

Mohsen Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, tells Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus that Tehran and Baku are "united by centuries old friendly relations and that nothing can weaken these ties" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365409.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan "will continue to be an extraordinarily important country for the United States" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364956.html>).

### **III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy**

15 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ramzan Kadyrov, the head of the Chechen Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/366726.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Masud Ahmad, director of the IMF's Department for the Near East and Central Asia (<http://news.day.az/politics/366727.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov meets with South African defense officials to discuss cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/366713.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov meets with his Turkish counterpart Mehmet Mehdi Eker (<http://news.day.az/economy/366751.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that 35,000 ethnic Armenians continue to live in Azerbaijan while "not a single Azerbaijani and extremely few representatives of other peoples" live in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/366644.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that media reports suggesting that Baku plans to build a trade center in Mexico City are not true (<http://news.day.az/politics/366659.html>).

Ambassador Murad Najafbayli, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, sends a letter to the UN Council on Human Rights explaining Baku's decisions in the case of the extradition and pardoning of Rami Safarov (<http://news.day.az/politics/366776.html>).

Elkhan Polukhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pretoria, accompanies a group of senior South African oil officials on their visit to the Baku Higher Oil School (<http://news.day.az/society/366623.html>).

The Azerbaijani European Movement, with the support of the Baku office of the OSCE, is opening branches in 14 regions of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/366620.html>).

Mehman Sadykhov, the head of Azerbaijan's penal system, says that European Union representatives were denied entry to a jail in Azerbaijan, because they had not arranged the matter with the foreign ministry as required under international law (<http://news.day.az/politics/366690.html>).

Jahangir Hajiyev, head of the International Bank of Azerbaijan, says that his organization plays a role in promoting relations between CIS countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/366589.html>).

Aslan Jafarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the level of corruption in Armenia is growing and making development in that country impossible (<http://news.day.az/politics/366573.html>).

Anatoly Kazakov, head of the Coordinating Council of the Financial Bank Council of the CIS, says that, "Baku is becoming a serious and dynamically growing financial center through which flows pass from Asia to Europe" (<http://news.day.az/economy/366624.html>).

Jean Dusik, UN coordinator for the environment, says that Azerbaijan "as a regional leader is playing an important role in the development of 'the green economy'" (<http://news.day.az/society/366642.html>).

14 November

President Ilham Aliyev signs a directive awarding David Harris of the American Jewish Community with the Azerbaijani "Friendship" Order for his "services in the development of friendship between the Azerbaijani and American peoples"

(<http://news.day.az/politics/366499.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Mohammad Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz al Shihin, deputy economics minister of the United Arab Emirates  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/366442.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Azerbaijan has sent a note of protest to Uruguay concerning the visit by an Uruguayan parliamentarian to the occupied territories without Baku's permission (<http://news.day.az/politics/366348.html>).

Interior Minister Rami Usubov calls on the countries of the regions to develop coordinated measures to fight the flow of illegal drugs  
(<http://news.day.az/society/366418.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev receives Thorwald Pilts, charge d'affaires of the European Union office in Baku, and reads him a protest about the comments Nellie Crues, the vice president of the European Commission, made at the Baku Internet meeting (<http://news.day.az/politics/366514.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mammadgulyev says that talks with the European Union concerning the simplification of the visa regime are going well  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/366414.html>).

Parviz Ismailzade, consul general in Dubai, presents his letters of patent to Hamdan bin Rashid al Maktum, deputy emir of Dubai  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/366398.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the Azerbaijani parliament must protest the visit by an Uruguayan parliamentarian to the occupied territories without Baku's permission (<http://news.day.az/politics/366388.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan seeks protection from foreign governments and the Armenian diaspora to maintain himself at home (<http://news.day.az/politics/366267.html>).

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation organizes an exhibit in the Vatican on Azerbaijan  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/366545.html>).

Günther Oettinger, European commissioner for energy, says that TANAP is "an important infrastructure element" of the Southern Gas Corridor  
(<http://news.day.az/economy/366391.html>).

13 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Cornelia Pieper, state minister of the German Foreign Ministry (<http://news.day.az/politics/366205.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Patrick Joseph Hickey, president of the European Olympic Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/366205.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets Cornelia Pieper, German's state minister for foreign affairs (<http://news.day.az/politics/366272.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov receives Ukrainian Defense Minister Dmytro Salamatin (<http://news.day.az/politics/366149.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that no one should say that Yerevan is ready to compromise given the continuing occupation of Azerbaijani lands and "the lack of political will among the Armenian authorities to withdraw their forces" from those lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/366092.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Nellie Croes, the vice president of the European Commission for Electronic Issues, should study Azerbaijan before speaking about it (<http://news.day.az/politics/366107.html>).

Khazar Ibrahim, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to NATO, says that several of Azerbaijan's proposals have been included in the concluding resolution adopted by NATO's Parliamentary Assembly in Prague (<http://news.day.az/politics/366254.html>).

Samad Seyidov heads the Azerbaijani delegation to a Paris meeting of the Committee on Legal and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/366141.html>).

Asef Hajiyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is engaging in ever more elaborate ploys in order to win re-election (<http://news.day.az/politics/366050.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan hopes to use the Syrian Armenians both to improve its image and to help overcome Armenia's demographic crisis (<http://news.day.az/politics/366020.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, a member of the leadership of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region, says that the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of that region "will discuss the form" of their future life together (<http://news.day.az/politics/366121.html>).

Cornelia Pieper, state minister of the German Foreign Ministry, says that German companies plan to order 900 million euros of Azerbaijani products (<http://news.day.az/economy/366034.html>).

Jean-Claude Minion, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, meets with the leaders of the Azerbaijani and Armenian delegations to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh issue (<http://news.day.az/politics/366372.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the OSCE Minsk Group has been "especially active" over the last several weeks (<http://news.day.az/politics/366080.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, says that Moscow considers any effort to open an airport in the occupied territories without agreement as a step which "will not promote the restoration of trust and is fraught with a serious sharpening of tensions in the region" (<http://news.day.az/politics/366046.html>).

Karl-Georg Wellman, a deputy of the German Bundestag, says that, "the return of all occupied Azerbaijani lands is the only way for the resolution of the conflict by

peaceful means" (<http://news.day.az/politics/366181.html>).

NATO says that it can help provide Azerbaijan with contemporary logistical systems (<http://news.day.az/economy/366082.html>).

12 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ukrainian Defense Minister Dmytro Salamatin (<http://news.day.az/politics/366002.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Lazar Gruev, chairman of the Supreme Appeals Court of Bulgaria (<http://news.day.az/politics/366002.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a cooperation agreement with Dmytro Salamatin, his Ukrainian counterpart (<http://news.day.az/politics/366012.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov says that Baku will be discussing problems of education of Azerbaijanis living in Georgia with the new government of that country (<http://news.day.az/society/365902.html>).

Ecology and Natural Resources Minister Huseyngulu Bagirov leads Azerbaijanis in marking Green Week (<http://news.day.az/society/365875.html>).

Ramiz Rzayev, chairman of the Supreme Court, signs a cooperation agreement with Lazar Gruev, his Bulgarian counterpart (<http://news.day.az/society/365907.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the information and political analysis department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia's "destructive" approach borders on "pure cowardice" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365940.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that statements by Nellie Croes, the vice president of the European Commission, and her assistant concerning the hacking of their computers in Baku are "baseless" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365931.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijani air traffic controllers will not service plans flying in or out of the Khankandi airport in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/365908.html>).

The Culture and Tourism Ministry of Azerbaijan issues a statement condemning Armenia for false statements at the WTM 2012 exhibition in London (<http://news.day.az/politics/365962.html>).

Rovshan Tagiyev, chairman of the Congress of Azerbaijanis in Ukraine, tells the Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada* that Azerbaijan is "a model of tolerance" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365914.html>).

Azerbaijani and Turkish residents of Paris organize a demonstration against Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's visit to France (<http://news.day.az/politics/365976.html>).

French President Francois Hollande tells his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs are "doing everything that depends on them for

renewing the negotiating process" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365988.html>).

The Australian government, in response to a note from the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister, says that Canberra supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/365985.html>).

Mohen Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that Tehran is committed to "fraternal, good neighborly political, economic and cultural ties" with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/365952.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the secretary general of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, sends a letter of thanks to Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov concerning Baku's financial assistance to the OIC (<http://news.day.az/politics/365825.html>).

Koray Targay, head of the Baku office of the OSCE, says that Azerbaijani legislation on information issues is complete, but that "certain problems still remain" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365878.html>).

10 November

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia is pursuing "a militarist policy" against Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/365633.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan "periodically" makes outrageous statements and that no one should put too much stock in them (<http://news.day.az/politics/365647.html>).

Azerbaijanis living in Lithuania organize a demonstration to protest the visit by the Kaunas Chamber Theter to the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/365703.html>).

Dunja Mijatovic, OSCE representative for Media Freedom, says that Azerbaijan and other countries must do everything they can not to create obstacles for journalists doing their jobs (<http://news.day.az/politics/365623.html>).

The Iranian embassy in Baku says that trade between Azerbaijan and Iran is growing (<http://news.day.az/economy/365648.html>).

9 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Marek Solcinsky, the Papal Nuncio to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from Patricio Alberto Chavez Savaly, incoming Ecuadoran ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from Rathakita Manathata, incoming Thai ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from Vic Mazvi Khumalo,

incoming South African ambassador to Baku  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from Bonifesa Guvy Chidyausiku, incoming Zimbabwean ambassador to Baku  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from Kenneth Thompson, incoming Irish ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from John Holmes, incoming Canadian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from Marilyn Zhusayan Alarilly, incoming Philippino ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365569.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov tells Dunya Miyatovic, OSCE's representative for media freedom, that his ministry has good relations with the OSCE  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/365549.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets with Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic (<http://news.day.az/economy/365437.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Yerevan must at some point "cease to deceive itself and its people" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365562.html>).

Ombudsman Elmira Suleymanova meets with Philip Buayani, head of the Council of Europe Department on Human Rights and the Supremacy of Law  
(<http://news.day.az/politics/365471.html>).

Polad Bul-Bul ogly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow, meets with Grigory Karasin, Russia's deputy foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/365687.html>).

SOCAR President Rovnag Abdullayev meets with incoming Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishili (<http://news.day.az/economy/365555.html>).

Mexican Foreign Minister Maria Aranda tells Ilgar Mukhtarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Mexico City, that Mexico recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/365565.html>).

Pascual Meunier, French ambassador to Baku, says that the holding of the Internet Administration Forum in Baku promotes "the strengthening of cooperation of business groups" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365540.html>).

Mohsen Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, tells Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus that Tehran and Baku are "united by centuries old friendly relations and that nothing can weaken these ties" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365409.html>).

8 November

Education Minister Misir Mardanov receives Alper Cosgun, Turkey's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/365266.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov receives Pascual Meunier, France's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/365232.html>).

Novruz Mammadov, head of the foreign relations department of the Presidential Administration, says that Nellie Crues, the vice president of the European Commission, has little knowledge of Azerbaijan and that her remarks should be viewed with that in mind (<http://news.day.az/politics/365383.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku fully supports Internet freedom (<http://news.day.az/politics/365364.html>).

Gulmammad Javadov, deputy industry and energy minister, receives Andreas Reichardt, Austria's deputy minister for transportation, innovation and technology (<http://news.day.az/economy/365379.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Cairo who is also accredited to Addis Ababa, meets with Ethiopian President Abadalla Gemade who tells him that his government would welcome Azerbaijani investments (<http://news.day.az/economy/365305.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, speaks to a meeting of British parliamentarians on Azerbaijan as "a model of inter-religious dialogue and religious tolerance" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365533.html>).

Bahar Muradova, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that certain changes in relations between Azerbaijan and the United States may occur during US President Barack Obama's second term (<http://news.day.az/politics/365257.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the re-election of US President Barack Obama "will lead to the further strengthening of relations between Azerbaijan and the United States" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365236.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan routinely condemns Azerbaijan for actions that Yerevan itself is guilty of (<http://news.day.az/politics/365114.html>).

The Minsk Group presents its annual report to the Permanent Council of the OSCE (<http://news.day.az/politics/365541.html>).

Taner Yildiz, Turkey's energy and natural resources minister, says that Ankara welcomes the role that SOCAR is playing in the development of the TANAP project together with BP, Statoil, and Total (<http://news.day.az/economy/365248.html>).

7 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives the foreign representatives visiting Baku in connection with the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Azerbaijani National Olympic Committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/365156.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Nellie Crues, European Commission vice president for

information policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/365084.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev delivers a message to the Baku Forum on Internet Administration (<http://news.day.az/politics/364783.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Sangin Amirzay, Afghanistan's communications and information technology minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/365147.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov invites incoming Georgian Foreign Minister Mae Pandzhikidze to visit Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365102.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a cooperation agreement in Rome with Italian Admiral Gianpaolo di Paolo (<http://news.day.az/politics/364975.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets with Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berishi in Tirana (<http://news.day.az/economy/365437.html>).

Education Minister Misir Mardanov receives Zsolt Csutora, Hungarian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/365137.html>).

Ali Hasanov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Refugees, and Rafael Ibrahimov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Stockholm, along with a group of Milli Majlis deputies, meet with Finnish parliamentarians to discuss refugee issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/365099.html>).

Elnur Aslanov, head of the political analysis and information support department of the Presidential Administration, says that the defense budget of Armenia compared to its support for social programs shows "the high level of militarization of Armenia" at the present time (<http://news.day.az/politics/365011.html>).

Azerbaijani diplomats participating in a meeting of the UN General Assembly committee on social, humanitarian and cultural issues counter Armenian claims concerning the right of nations to self-determination up to and including the unilateral change of state borders (<http://news.day.az/politics/365040.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, first deputy chairman of the Milli Majlis, says that Yerevan's statements that it is not beginning to operate the Khojaly airport for technical reasons are "nothing other than an attempt at baseless justifications" for its violation of international law (<http://news.day.az/politics/365071.html>).

The Milli Majlis considers agreements with Tajikistan on copyright and recognition of academic degrees (<http://news.day.az/politics/365091.html>).

Malahat Ibrahimgyzy, a Milli Majlis deputy, says there will be no change in relations between the US and Azerbaijan after the re-election of President Barack Obama (<http://news.day.az/politics/365080.html>).

Musa Gasymly, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that, "if rail connections [between Russia and] Armenia will be restored [through Abkhazia], then Azerbaijan may give support to the separatist regimes in Abkhazia and South Osetia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365138.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia has only itself to blame for its isolation and inability to develop trade with other countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/364990.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev signs a cooperation agreement in Rome with Italian Admiral Gianpaolo di Paolo (<http://news.day.az/politics/364975.html>).

Garib Mammadov, chairman of the State Committee on Land and Cartography, says that 300 of the 480 kilometers of border between Azerbaijan and Georgia have now been demarcated (<http://news.day.az/politics/365139.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and chairman of the Administration of Muslims of the Caucasus, receives Ismail Alper Cosgun, Turkey's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/society/365132.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that TANAP is "a symbol, which unites the geography of Turkey with the energy reserves of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/economy/365160.html>).

Paata Zakareishvili, Georgia's state minister for re-integration says that, "Tbilisi will never take a decision which could harm strategic relations between Georgia and Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/365155.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan "will continue to be an extraordinarily important country for the United States" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364956.html>).

Aleksandr Mishchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan and his country are devoting great efforts to the work of GUAM (<http://news.day.az/politics/365075.html>).

Dunya Miyatovic, OSCE representative for media freedom, says that she "rates highly" the willingness of Azerbaijan for dialogue in this area (<http://news.day.az/politics/365065.html>).

The Russian Information and Cultural Center in Baku hosts a day of memory for Richard Zorge, a hero of the Soviet Union and famous intelligence operative (<http://news.day.az/society/365095.html>).

6 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Hamadoun Toure, secretary general of the International Telecommunications Union (<http://news.day.az/politics/364925.html>).

Interior Minister Ramil Usubov signs a cooperation agreement with his Italian counterpart Anna Maria Cancellieri (<http://news.day.az/politics/364939.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Azerbaijan will "continue to cooperation with the United States" regardless of who wins the US presidential election (<http://news.day.az/politics/364779.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential

Administration, says that more than 60 percent of Azerbaijanis now use the Internet on a regular basis (<http://news.day.az/politics/364797.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that, "if necessary, Azerbaijan will adopt more radical measures with regard to Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364789.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov tells the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of the International Association of Ship Owners of the Black Sea Basin, which is meeting in Baku, that, "Azerbaijan devotes great importance to international cooperation in the Caspian and Black Sea regions" (<http://news.day.az/economy/364851.html>).

Ganira Pashayeva and Zhalya Aliyeva, Milli Majlis deputies, participate in two Turkish conferences on Azerbaijani-Turkish cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/364935.html>).

The Military Academy of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces receives US and NATO experts to discuss further cooperation between Baku and NATO (<http://news.day.az/politics/364915.html>).

Azerbaijani uniformed personnel take part in a demining exercise in Turkey (<http://news.day.az/politics/364892.html>).

The Azerbaijani embassy in Ankara sends a protest note to the embassy of Australia there concerning the vote by Australia's South Wales on self-determination for Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/364853.html>).

Bakhtiyar Sadykhov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Yerevan cannot keep itself from pursuing a policy of deception toward the world given the current "unjust status quo in Nagorno-Karabakh" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364745.html>).

5 November

President Ilham Alyev receives UN Deputy Secretary General Wu Honbo (<http://news.day.az/politics/364683.html>).

Communications and Information Technologies Minister Ali Abbasov says that Azerbaijan is devoting particular attention to the development of the Internet (<http://news.day.az/economy/364731.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov and Deputy Transportation Minister Musa Panahov meet with NATO officials in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/364724.html>).

Deputy Economic Development Minister Niyazi Safarov receives Liliana Pavlova, Bulgarian minister for regional development and social work (<http://news.day.az/economy/364585.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, opens a Baku session of the legal commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language States (<http://news.day.az/politics/364628.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Cairo, meets with Jean-Pierre Ezin,

commissioner of the African Union for Scientific Technology and Youth (<http://news.day.az/politics/364540.html>).

Rovshan Rzayev, Aydyn Abbasov, Fuad Muradov and Sadagat Valiyeva discuss cooperation with their Latvian counterparts in Riga (<http://news.day.az/economy/364715.html>).

Elton Mammadov and Ali Masimli, Milli Majlis deputies, take part in a Vilnius meeting of the Baltic Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/364713.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that any start up of the Khojaly airport without the agreement of Azerbaijan would have a negative impact on the peace process (<http://news.day.az/politics/364649.html>).

4 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Indian Communication and Information Technology Minister Kapil Sibal (<http://news.day.az/politics/364514.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Fadi Shehadi, president of ICANN (<http://news.day.az/politics/364514.html>).

3 November

Hasan Hasanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Warsaw, participates in a commemoration of Polish officers who participated in the creation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (<http://news.day.az/society/364359.html>).

Leyla Aliyeva, vice president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, opens a "Flight to Baku" exhibit in Berlin (<http://news.day.az/politics/364372.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that Tehran is ready for a further broadening of bilateral ties with Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/364332.html>).

The US State Department says that any opening of an airport in the occupied territories must be on the basis of agreements and international law (<http://news.day.az/politics/364331.html>).

The Russian Information and Cultural Center in Baku hosts a roundtable on "The Active Role of the National Communities of Azerbaijan in Inter-Cultural Dialogue" (<http://news.day.az/society/364373.html>).

2 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Philip Verveerom, US State Department Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/364217.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Svetlana Orlova, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council and co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Russia inter-parliamentary commission (<http://news.day.az/politics/364217.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev confirms treaties signed between Azerbaijan and Belarus, Tajikistan and China (<http://news.day.az/politics/364324.html>).

Deputy Interior Minister Vilayat Eivazov, who serves as national coordinator for the struggle against human trafficking, says that Azerbaijan has uncovered 85 cases of this in the past year and broken up two organized groups and six criminal groups (<http://news.day.az/society/364210.html>).

The Azerbaijani Society of America marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment (<http://news.day.az/politics/364296.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has led to the harm and destruction of a large number of historical and cultural monuments (<http://news.day.az/politics/364325.html>).

Rafael Harpaz, Israel's ambassador to Baku, says that "the Israeli people love Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364181.html>).

Georgian Regional Development and Infrastructure Minister David Narmania and Levant Murt Burkhan, Turkey's ambassador to Tbilisi, discuss the Baku-Tbilisi Kars railway (<http://news.day.az/economy/364139.html>)

Residents of the Turkish city of Igdyr sign petitions calling for the closure of the Metsamor atomic power station in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/364131.html>).

1 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Antonius Broek, resident coordinator for the UN in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/364014.html>).

National Security Minister Eldar Mahmudov hosts the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the CIS Coordinating Council on Governmental Communications (<http://news.day.az/politics/364035.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov tells the OSCE Permanent Council that the apparent decline in OSCE activities directed at resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict "disturbs" Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/364045.html>).

Elman Abdullayev, head of the press service of the Foreign Ministry, speaks at the Institute of International Relations of South Africa (<http://news.day.az/politics/364128.html>).

Elkhan Polukhov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pretoria, speaks to the University of Pretoria on the foreign and domestic policies of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/364144.html>).

Lt. Gen. Zakir Hasanov, commander of internal troops of Azerbaijan, says that if a war in Nagorno-Karabakh restarts, "Armenian troops will attempt to save themselves by running away" (<http://news.day.az/politics/364088.html>).

Igbal Huseynov, head of Azerbaijan's railroads, hosts a conference of railroad administrators from the CIS countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/364017.html>).

Admiral Ion Dimutrascu, deputy head of NATO's department for military cooperation, meets with Azerbaijani officials during Baku's NATO Days celebration (<http://news.day.az/politics/363927.html>).

Alex Miller, a member of the Israeli Knesset, says that the Israeli parliament and people are interested in expanding cooperation with Azerbaijan, a country they view as a strategic partner in the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/363904.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](mailto: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.