



**AZERBAIJAN IN THE WORLD
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**AZERBAIJAN'S RUSSIAN DIASPORA ORGANIZATION
MARKS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

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In contrast to most other post-Soviet states and reflecting its long tradition of ethnic and religious tolerance, Azerbaijan has its own Russian Diaspora Organization, a

group that enjoys the support of both the Azerbaijani and Russian governments. This year, it marks its 20th anniversary, and to commemorate that event, Nargiz Asadova, the ethnic Azerbaijani host of *Ekho Moskvy's* "Lingua Franca" program, devoted two of her weekly broadcasts to its history and current activities.

In the first, she interviewed Mikhail Zabelin, the Milli Majlis deputy who organized the Russian Diaspora Community in 1993 and now heads that 70,000-strong group, along with several others; [1] and in the second, she spoke with Polad Bul-Bul Ogly, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Moscow. [2]

According to the 1989 Soviet census, there were 392,000 ethnic Russians in Azerbaijan at that time. Their numbers fell significantly in the first years after the restoration of Azerbaijani independence and stood at 142,000 in 1999 and at 114,000 now, making them the fourth largest ethnic group in the country after Azerbaijanis, Lazgis and Armenians. The number of Russians seems larger to many because 95 percent of them live in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku. In contrast to some other post-Soviet states, Azerbaijan has not closed Russian language schools, but it has decided that all official documents will be in Azerbaijani.

The last years of Soviet power and the first years of independence were difficult ones for the ethnic Russians in Azerbaijan, Zabelin said. There were the events of Black January 1990, the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh, and a change in the ethnic hierarchy that they had grown used to in Soviet times. As a result, he continued, many ethnic Russians felt they were out of place, and many went back to the Russian Federation.

To help those who remained and reflecting the new realities following the coming to power of Heydar Aliyev, Zabelin continued, he created the Russian community and officially registered it with the authorities. President Aliyev was extremely supportive. In January 1994, the head of the community said, the president called and asked, "how will you mark Christmas?" Zabelin said he told him about the celebration the organization had planned, and Aliyev responded, "I will be at your Christmas concert."

When President Aliyev arrived, he told the group that, "I guarantee your security. You are citizens of Azerbaijan. Never leave. Remain here to live. As it was with the Russian language so too it will remain." The ethnic Russians of Azerbaijan belied him, Zabelin said, and that is why there are more than 100,000 of them there, while there are only minuscule ethnic Russian communities in neighboring Georgia and Armenia.

However, it is also the case, Zabelin said, that "without the support of Russia, it would have been impossible to carry out" many of the programs of the Russian diaspora in Azerbaijan. Those include the Russian Information Cultural Center, the branches of Russian universities, and the activities of the Russian embassy. A Russian instructor in Azerbaijan telephoned the program and said that things had been bad for Russians before 1993, but after Heydar Aliyev "came to power, everything changed;" and she recalled that "at one of the sessions" of the diaspora organization early on, the Azerbaijani leader said that "Russian is just as important to us as English or as our own state language, Azerbaijani."

The teacher further explained that rumors notwithstanding, Azerbaijan never banned broadcasts in Russian. Baku simply asked for a price for rebroadcasting that Russian

companies were unprepared to pay. And a third caller, Nargiz Shekinskaya, a journalist at RTVi in Baku, added that Russian language materials dominate the Internet in Azerbaijan even more than they do the print media.

Ambassador Bul-Bul ogly provided another perspective the following week. He said that in his view, "the independence of Russian publications in Azerbaijan, including newspapers, journals and website, had become greater than it was in Soviet times." Baku has always been "an international city," and its residents have always wanted to learn foreign languages, including Russian. Now, compared to Soviet times, interest there in Russian is somewhat less, because many Azerbaijanis plan to study or work in Turkey, Europe or the United States. Obviously, young people with such plans will want to learn the languages of those places rather than Russian. But many still want to go to Russia and for them, Russian is critical.

The ambassador added that Russians in Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis in Russia constitute "agents of influence" for their countries, "in the good sense of the term." And he suggested that Russians need to recognize that the Azerbaijani diaspora in the Russian Federation includes numerous doctors, lawyers, scholars, and engineers and not just the unskilled laborers or market workers that the Russian media talks about so often.

As far as the future of the Russian language among Azerbaijanis is concerned, Bul-Bul ogly concluded, it is "difficult to predict," adding that it will depend on the relationship between Russia and Azerbaijan. If Russia makes itself more attractive, then more Azerbaijanis will learn Russian, because they will want to go there. If not, the rising generation will learn other languages, because its members will want to go elsewhere. That, too, will affect the status of the Russian diaspora in Azerbaijan.

Notes

[1] See <http://echo.msk.ru/programs/linguafranca/1059532-echo/> (accessed 2 May 2013).

[2] See <http://echo.msk.ru/programs/linguafranca/1062570-echo/> (accessed 2 May 2013).

AZERBAIJAN EXPANDS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

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The first ever visit by an Azerbaijani foreign minister to Israel and Palestine, a visit all sides called historic, underscored the growing strategic partnership between Baku and its two partners in the Middle East. The first person Elmar Mammadyarov met in Israel was the chairman of the Knesset Commission on Foreign Affairs and Defense, Avigdor Lieberman, who had long lobbied for close cooperation and a strategic

partnership with Azerbaijan. In large measure as a result of his efforts, earlier attempts by the Armenian lobby to raise the so-called "Armenian genocide" in the Knesset were blocked. Last year, in response to the latest such attempt, Israeli President Shimon Peres and A. Lieberman, who was then Israeli foreign minister, openly declared that because of the country's strategic partnership with Azerbaijan, the issue of the "Armenian genocide" would not be discussed in the Knesset.

Mammadyarov arrived in Tel Aviv on March 24th, the very day Armenians have declared a memorial day for the "genocide." Armenian media on that occasion put out information about a Knesset discussion of the "genocide," but that did not happen. Undoubtedly, it was very important for Azerbaijan to receive reassurance that the recognition of the so-called "Armenian genocide" would not be considered in the Knesset.

Among the notable outcomes of the Azerbaijani foreign minister's visit to Israel was Baku's declaration on his return that Azerbaijan is ready to sign a broad agreement concerning the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. [1] Israel beyond any doubt is not in a position to promise something regarding that conflict or to resolve it in some way. But Tel Aviv is in a position to seek the broader support of Jewish groups around the world regarding the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict. And consequently, the growing ties between Azerbaijan and Israel open the way for progress in the talks just as was the case some five years ago.

Earlier this year, the Jewish community of the United States held a conference on "Israeli Relations with the States of the South Caucasus." Avigdor Lieberman, with whom Foreign Minister Mammadyarov met in Israel, and President Shimon Peres have been devoting particular attention to the development of relations with the South Caucasus countries in general and Azerbaijan in particular. [2] Following his meeting with Lieberman, Mammadyarov went to Ramallah where the Palestinian authority declared its support for Baku's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and on the issue of the so-called "Armenian genocide."

Azerbaijan supports the independence of Palestine and the division of Jerusalem, and in response to this support, it is seeking Palestinian backing on the two issues of greatest importance to itself. A conference in Baku scheduled to be held later this summer can be considered part of the result of the Ramallah talks.

Palestine enjoys authority and is at the center of attention of the Islamic world. Azerbaijan, in turn, has grown into an economically and politically powerful country not only in the South Caucasus, but more broadly as well. Rid al Maliki, the foreign minister of the Palestinian Autonomy, stressed this in his meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart, noting that Azerbaijan enjoys authority in the leading international organizations. [3] Therefore, the support of Ramallah is significant, because it brings with it the attention of the Islamic and international community. Thus, Azerbaijan was able to achieve its goal of gaining Palestine's support for its positions. In view of this, it is worth recalling the declaration made by Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Haled ben Saud ben Haled, that the international community must mount pressure on Armenia to secure a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict [4] and a second declaration by Iranian leader Ali Khamenei that "Karabakh is a Muslim land ... something that is supported at the highest levels."

Both of these declarations can be seen as the result of Baku's careful and balanced foreign policy. Of course, one should focus attention on the fact that this historic

visit to Israel took place after the Turkish-Israel rapprochement. Interestingly, one of the clearest opponents of that rapprochement, A. Lieberman, nonetheless agreed with it. The Israeli media suggested that he had not been informed about the plans for this new coming together. Lieberman thus had to "close his eyes" and put out the red carpet for Mammadyarov. Having lost its Arab partners after the Arab spring, Israel had no choice but to return to strategic relations with Turkey. That, in turn, has increased the importance of the Azerbaijan-Turkey-Israel triangle both in Tel Aviv and in the Muslim Middle East.

Azerbaijan's geographic location next to Iran also increases its strategic significance, something that Israeli President Peres went out of his way to stress. This does not mean that Baku offered or is planning to offer its territory as a place *des armes* for a military operation against Iran. Baku has repeatedly indicated that cooperation with Israel does not include that and is generally not aimed against Iran, even though many observers tend to see Baku's cooperation with Israel as the former's way of restraining Iran.

Notes

[1] See <http://m.amerikaninsesi.org/a/1649480.html> (accessed 28 April 2013).

[2] See <http://izrus.co.il/dvuhstoronka/article/2012-02-28/17144.html#ixzz2QngVkiJZ> (accessed 28 April 2013).

[3] See <http://www.vesti.az> (accessed 28 April 2013).

[4] See <http://www.rosbalt.ru/exussr/2012/06/15/993121.html> (accessed 28 April 2013).

THE AZERBAIJANI DIASPORA IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

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Azerbaijanis have been living in the northwest Caucasus for a long time, particularly in Krasnodar kray, Stavropol kray, and Rostov oblast. In the first half of the 19th century, Azerbaijanis working in the oil industry arrived in Taman and Grozny to work in the oil fields there. In the same period, other Azerbaijanis moved to other corners of the North Caucasus, including Azov, the Don and the Kuban. Most of these were involved with agriculture. But the largest group of Azerbaijanis who came to that region in Soviet times were engineers, teachers, and cultural workers.

At the end of the 1980s, there arose the first organizations of this Azerbaijani diaspora. The political and social-economic crisis in the USSR generated inter-ethnic passions and sparked ethnic conflicts, which earlier had been in a latent state. The ethnic and social mobilization of the Azerbaijani population living beyond the borders of its historical motherland arose in response to the processes taking place in the

country including xenophobia, unemployment, problems with law enforcement, and the preservation of cultural and ethnic identity.

In 1988, Azerbaijanis in nine regions around Armavir set up the "Azeri" organization. In 1996, Azerbaijanis in Krasnodar created the Azerbaijan-Russia Society. And in 2005, a regional branch of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress began to function in Krasnodar. There were also other Azerbaijani groups in Rostov, Stavropol, Zheleznovodsk, Sochi and Maykop, most of which soon affiliated with the All-Russian group. Many of these groups worked closely with the organizations of other ethnic groups. Thus, for example, the Azerbaijanis of Adygeya have particularly good relations with Adyge Khase.

Today, most of the Azerbaijanis in the North Caucasus live in rural areas. The 2002 and 2010 Russian censuses register some of these, but the figures they provide are clearly too low, both because local officials seek to boost the number of the local titular nationality and because some Azerbaijanis, especially if they know the local language or are culturally close to the local dominant ethnic community, declare themselves to be members of it. More than half of the Azerbaijanis living in the North Caucasus have taken Russian Federation citizenship, something that makes this easier. But studies show that they have never forgotten their historical roots, and many continue to send money back to their families at home.

Unfortunately, the reappearance of pseudo-nationalistic ideas and xenophobia play a negative role in the relationship of the peoples of the two countries. However, Azerbaijanis living in Russia and especially those in the North Caucasus have maintained good relations with their neighbors of various nationalities. According to observers, Azerbaijanis have the closest possible ties with Tatars, and Turks, who are culturally similar, but many Azerbaijanis are friendly with members of other groups as well.

As a result, Azerbaijanis and North Caucasians have frequently taken part in various meetings and organizations together. They both attended the first congress of peoples of the Caucasus, and they have worked together in the Turkish agency for cooperation and development, TIKA. The latter agency is helping many Turkic republics, regions and individual peoples to realize various scientific, academic and educational projects thereby leading to the rebirth of the culture of Turkic ethnic groups. As part of that, the North Caucasians and the Azerbaijanis have attended numerous meetings in Turkey and elsewhere.

Over the last few years, an increasing number of these meetings have taken place in Baku, which has become one of the leading centers of the Turkic world. In 2007, for example, they both attended the 11th Congress of Friendship, Brotherhood and Cooperation of Turkic Language States and Peoples there.

Both through their all-Russian congress and via local groups, the Azerbaijanis of Russia hope for the preservation and development of Azerbaijani-Russian friendship and cooperation. Strategic partnership, the strengthening of economic cooperation, the creation of joint enterprises, and the broadening of cultural and humanitarian contacts between the two are actively supported by the Azerbaijani diaspora in the North Caucasus. Evidence of this is provided by the fact that more than a dozen regions of the Russian Federation have signed cooperation agreements with Azerbaijan.

Despite the presence of its own refugees as a result of the Armenian occupation of its territory, Azerbaijanis have repeatedly taken in refugees from unstable areas of the North Caucasus, a manifestation of their own tolerance and desire to be good neighbors. The longstanding ties between the two regions means that this will continue into the future, to the benefit of both the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan itself.

A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "the experience of Azerbaijan shows that multiculturalism has a great future and that there are no alternatives to it" (<http://news.day.az/politics/400521.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that the OSCE Minsk Group is failing to properly describe what Armenia is doing and thus impeding a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/401369.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the European Parliament should take a tougher stand against its members who travel to the occupied territories without the permission of Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/399605.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev says the holding of the European Games in Baku "testified that a European heritage has existed [in Azerbaijan] for centuries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/399026.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the OSCE Minsk Group has not fulfilled its responsibilities in a worthy fashion (<http://news.day.az/politics/397488.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Baku has always "successfully cooperated with international organizations as well as individual countries in bilateral and multilateral formats" and "always takes their just comments" into consideration. But when the criticism is unjustified, Azerbaijan rejects it and will never in any case "sacrifice its own state and national interests" (<http://news.day.az/politics/397499.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Ankara "cannot remain indifferent to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the tragedy of the Azerbaijanis" (<http://news.day.az/politics/401916.html>).

Sergey Markov, a member of Russia's Social Chamber and vice rector of the Moscow Plekhanov University, says that, "Azerbaijan is the only republic which is now living better than it did under Soviet power" (<http://news.day.az/politics/401026.html>).

Iranian Defense Minister Ahmed Vahidi says that there are "definite forces," which are trying to undermine relations between Tehran and Baku, but that these forces will not succeed (<http://news.day.az/politics/400226.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that, "very strong relations exist between Iran and Azerbaijan" and that Tehran "supports the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders" (<http://news.day.az/politics/396187.html>).

US Secretary of State John Kerry says that, "Turkey is conducting talks with us about two unresolved conflicts, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the resolution of the Cyprus problem. Turkey is playing a leading role in the resolution of these problems" (<http://news.day.az/politics/396557.html>).

Thomas Melia, advisor to the US secretary of State on issues of democracy, human rights and labor, says that it is "not so significant" to the United States who will be chosen as president of Azerbaijan as that the elections will be free and democratic (<http://news.day.az/politics/396786.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

15 May

Valeh Hajiyev, the first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, takes part in a meeting of Turkic country diaspora officials in Ankara (<http://news.day.az/politics/402230.html>).

Roland Kobia, the EU representative in Baku, hosts a celebration on the occasion of the Day of Europe (<http://news.day.az/politics/402283.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that the Iranian judicial system will make a just decision on the fate of the two Azerbaijanis now detained in that country (<http://news.day.az/politics/402252.html>).

Ian Kelly, provisional US co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, says that the current situation regarding the occupied territory is unacceptable (<http://news.day.az/politics/402222.html>).

14 May

Taxation Minister Fazil Mammadov receives his Iranian counterpart Ali Askari who says that Tehran wants to use Azerbaijan's system as a model for its own taxation program (<http://news.day.az/economy/402016.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia's effort to present itself as a peace-loving country is completely inconsistent with its continuing occupation of Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/401826.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Baku is waiting for a clear explanation from Tehran about the detention of two Azerbaijani citizens in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/401820.html>).

Parviz Shahbazov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Berlin, describes the expanding partnership between Azerbaijan and Germany in an article in *Zeitschrift für Ausen- und Sicherheitspolitik* (<http://news.day.az/politics/402044.html>).

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan says that Ankara "cannot remain indifferent to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the tragedy of the Azerbaijanis" (<http://news.day.az/politics/401916.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that the relationship between Azerbaijanis and Udines is a model of tolerance and good neighborly relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/401996.html>).

13 May

President Ilham Aliyev meets with Austrian President Heinz Fischer in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/402041.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov receives Pascual Meunier, French ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/401743.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that the Turkish military is adopting several kinds of weapons produced in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/economy/401646.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the Azerbaijan government is doing all it can to achieve the release of two Azerbaijanis detained by Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/401685.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that the US National Democratic Institute, like all other NGOs in Azerbaijan, must obey Azerbaijani laws (<http://news.day.az/politics/401678.html>).

French Senator Nathalie Goulet says that the cultural diplomacy of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation is "playing an important role" in promoting understanding of Azerbaijan in France (<http://news.day.az/politics/401691.html>).

11 May

The Foreign Ministry says that the OSCE Minsk Group is failing to properly describe what Armenia is doing and thus impeding a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/401369.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, presents the Heydar Aliyev Award to US Congressman Dan Burton for his contributions to the development of bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/401415.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, says that Heydar Aliyev "was one of the most important leaders of the Turkic and Islamic world of the 20th century" (<http://news.day.az/politics/401441.html>).

10 May

President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva lead the Azerbaijani people and Azerbaijani institutions around the world in marking the 90th anniversary of the birth of Heydar Aliyev who laid the foundations of the contemporary Azerbaijani state (<http://news.day.az/politics/401339.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that Iran's arrest of two Azerbaijani citizens is an unfortunate incident and raises concerns. He says Baku is doing everything possible to free them (<http://news.day.az/politics/401213.html>).

The Milli Majlis passes a law on the occupied territories that specifies Armenia bears total responsibility for damages there (<http://news.day.az/politics/401301.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that TANAP will provide Europe with energy security (<http://news.day.az/economy/401311.html>).

Husein Ain Botsali, Turkey's ambassador to Cairo, says that Azerbaijan is "the Switzerland of the East" (<http://news.day.az/politics/401128.html>).

Sergey Markov, a member of Russia's Social Chamber and vice rector of the Moscow Plekhanov University, says that Russia will continue to do everything it can to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/401190.html>).

The mayors of two US cities, Washington, D.C., and Savannah, Georgia, send messages of greetings to Azerbaijan on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the birth of Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/401139.html>).

9 May

Azerbaijanis mark the Day of Victory Over Fascism (<http://news.day.az/politics/400876.html>).

Shusha and the Hungarian city of Dundash become sister cities (<http://news.day.az/politics/401244.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia's ambassador to Baku, hosts a ceremony on Victory Day (<http://news.day.az/politics/400909.html>).

Dmitry Savelyev, a member of the Russian Duma, says that Azerbaijan made an invaluable contribution to the defeat of fascism in World War II (<http://news.day.az/politics/401027.html>).

Sergey Markov, a member of Russia's Social Chamber and vice rector of the Moscow Plekhanov University, says that, "Azerbaijan is the only republic which is now living better than it did under Soviet power" (<http://news.day.az/politics/401026.html>).

8 May

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "the experience of Azerbaijan shows that multiculturalism has a great future and that there are no alternatives to it" (<http://news.day.az/politics/400521.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Jordanian Queen Nur (<http://news.day.az/politics/400586.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili (<http://news.day.az/politics/400586.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Emil Constantinescu, former president of Romania (<http://news.day.az/politics/400586.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Teodor Baconschi, former Greek foreign minister (<http://news.day.az/politics/400586.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Boris Tadic, former president of Serbia (<http://news.day.az/politics/400586.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets Anur Piardarshan, the Sri Lankan oil minister, during his visit to Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte (<http://news.day.az/politics/400941.html>).

Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of the Azerbaijani Republic, says that Azerbaijan will do everything necessary to free the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/400811.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, the chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says he has signed a cooperation agreement with the Club of Madrid (<http://news.day.az/society/400855.html>).

The South Caucasus Forum in Baku discusses the problem of human trafficking (<http://news.day.az/politics/400906.html>).

Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili says that Georgia and Azerbaijan are linked by deep historical and cultural ties (<http://news.day.az/politics/400943.html>).

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhar says that Kyiv supports the role of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/400886.html>).

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, former German foreign minister, says that, "Azerbaijan has been transformed into a factor of stability" (<http://news.day.az/politics/400948.html>).

7 May

Finance Minister Samir Sharifov receives his Georgian counterpart Nodar Haduri (<http://news.day.az/economy/400608.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that it has sent a second note to the Iranian foreign ministry requesting further clarification regarding Iran's detention of two Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/400701.html>).

Dashgyn Shikarov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Islamabad and Kabul, says that Baku intends to expand cooperation with Afghanistan in all spheres (<http://news.day.az/politics/400721.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, the deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that Human Rights Watch and other such organizations is promoting a negative

image of Azerbaijan, because they rely almost exclusively on the opposition media (<http://news.day.az/politics/400699.html>).

Nazim Ibrahimov, the chairman of the State Committee for Work with the Diaspora, says that the participants of the first South Caucasus Forum “completely support the policy” being carried out by President Ilham Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/400635.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says that he hopes that over time the South Caucasus will become a united region (<http://news.day.az/politics/400642.html>).

Richard Morningstar, US ambassador to Baku, says that Washington is focusing on the appointment of a permanent US co-chair for the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/400647.html>).

Vladimir Dorokhin, Russia’s ambassador to Baku, says that Heydar Aliyev laid a strong foundation for the development of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation (<http://news.day.az/politics/400656.html>).

Joao Soares, the OSCE special representative for the South Caucasus, meets with leaders of Azerbaijani political parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/400654.html>).

Antonius Brok, resident UN coordinator for Azerbaijan, says that Azerbaijan is broadening its democratic development (<http://news.day.az/politics/400603.html>).

Valdis Zatlers, former Latvian president, says that the international community must devote more attention to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/400725.html>).

6 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Luiz Alberto Lacale, the former president of Uruguay (<http://news.day.az/politics/400318.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Vaira Vike-Freiberge, former president of Latvia (<http://news.day.az/politics/400318.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Valdis Zatlers, former president of Latvia (<http://news.day.az/politics/400318.html>).

Oktay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Joao Suarez, special representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (<http://news.day.az/politics/400478.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with his Sri Lankan counterpart Gamini Lakshman Peiris (<http://news.day.az/politics/400444.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee with Religious Organizations, says that the report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom regarding Azerbaijan is biased (<http://news.day.az/politics/400476.html>).

Hijran Huseynova, the chairman of the State Committee on Problems of the Family, Women and Children, participates in the 7th Conference of Ministers of the

Democratic Community in Ulan Bator (<http://news.day.az/politics/400369.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister, says that the Freedom House report represents interference in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/400365.html>).

Katharine Werner, a deputy of Germany's Bundestag, says that body should make it clear that it does not agree with the tendentious report of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe about Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/400429.html>).

5 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Joao Suarez, special representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/400241.html>).

4 May

President Ilham Aliyev receive Ehud Barak, former prime minister of Israel (<http://news.day.az/politics/400152.html>).

The Iranian media say that the two Azerbaijanis detained in Iran were arrested for illegal activities (<http://news.day.az/politics/400117.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, the director of the Presidential Center for Strategic Studies, says that Armenia is slowing the development of the entire South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/400073.html>).

3 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Marius Vizer, president of the Judo Federation, and Jean Toda, director of Ferrari (<http://news.day.az/politics/399929.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari in New Delhi (<http://news.day.az/politics/400009.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets his Indian counterpart, Salman Hurshid (<http://news.day.az/politics/399919.html>).

The Union of Student Youth Organizations of Azerbaijan hosts its Turkish counterparts (<http://news.day.az/politics/399942.html>).

Otto Hauser, Azerbaijan's honorary consul in Stuttgart, says that Germany does not consider Nagorno-Karabakh to be part of Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/399865.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that Tehran will soon reply to the Azerbaijani note on the detention of two Azerbaijanis in Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/399984.html>).

Catherine Ashton names Malen Mord to replace Roland Kobia as EU representative in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/399813.html>).

Štefan Füle, EU commissioner for enlargement and neighborhood policy, says that the EU considers Azerbaijan to be "an interesting and reliable partner" (<http://news.day.az/politics/399913.html>).

2 May

President Ilham Aliyev receives Štefan Füle, EU commissioner for enlargement and neighborhood policy (<http://news.day.az/politics/399666.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Robert Dudley, president of BP (<http://news.day.az/politics/399666.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence of incoming Pakistani ambassador to Baku Ikramullah Mahsu (<http://news.day.az/politics/399662.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Armenia has lost many opportunities because of its occupation of Azerbaijani territory (<http://news.day.az/politics/399555.html>).

Ayдын Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that the European Parliament should take a tougher stand against its members who travel to the occupied territories without the permission of Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/399605.html>).

Rufat Mammadov, head of the Azerbaijani Foundation for Promotion of Exports and Investments, tells a Dubai conference that Azerbaijan is open for more investments (<http://news.day.az/economy/399761.html>).

The Turkish government ratifies the bilateral accord with Azerbaijan on protection of investments (<http://news.day.az/economy/399661.html>).

General William Frazure, commander of the US Transport Command, says that Azerbaijan is "a strong and reliable partner" of the United States (<http://news.day.az/politics/399780.html>).

1 May

President Ilham Aliyev says Azerbaijan is growing at the higher rate in the world (<http://news.day.az/politics/399383.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Martin Callaghan, chairman of the European conservatives and reformers in the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/399468.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives General William Frazure, commander of the US Transport Command (<http://news.day.az/politics/399468.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Yerevan is leading Armenia into a catastrophe (<http://news.day.az/politics/399239.html>).

Fuad Iskandarov, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the European Union, says that Azerbaijan is well known in the international community as a reliable partner (<http://news.day.az/politics/399281.html>).

Members of the Milli Majlis receive Herman Cardoso Ferreira, speaker of Uruguay's Chamber of Deputies, to discuss inter-parliamentary cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/399359.html>).

Vahid Ahmadov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan is encountering an increasing number of foreign threats (<http://news.day.az/politics/399481.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Baku is ready to provide financial assistance to NGOs from foreign countries (<http://news.day.az/society/399460.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan is today moving in the correct direction and adequately meeting its main task, the preservation of the country's independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/399264.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov receives his Turkish counterpart Fatih Ceylan to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/399294.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, head of the Presidential Center for Strategic Research, says that Azerbaijan will soon become a gas exporting country (<http://news.day.az/politics/399445.html>).

The Georgian parliament confirms Teymuraz Sharashanidze as Georgian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/399514.html>).

Tony Taylor, executive director of the International Air Traffic Association, says that Azerbaijan has "enormous potential" in aviation (<http://news.day.az/economy/399386.html>).

Manochehr Mottaki, former Iranian foreign minister and current presidential candidate, condemns Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/399405.html>).

30 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos (<http://news.day.az/politics/399232.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Tony Taylor, the executive director of the International Air Transportation Association (<http://news.day.az/politics/399232.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, appeals to Martin Schultz, head of the European Parliament, to prevent Europe from continuing its policy of double standards in evaluating Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/399162.html>).

Mazahir Panahov, chairman of the Central Election Commission, receives Roland Kobia, head of the EU representation in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/399195.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, director of the Presidential Center for Strategic Research, says that the amount of trade between Azerbaijan and Iran has declined (<http://news.day.az/politics/399215.html>).

Ismail Cosgun, Turkey's ambassador to Baku, says that Ankara is grateful to Azerbaijan for its support of Turkey in opposing the so-called "Armenian genocide" (<http://news.day.az/politics/399113.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that Tehran views Azerbaijan as an important country in the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/399247.html>).

Aleksandr Mishchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to Baku, says that Kyiv, as chairman-in-office of the OSCE this year, is "devoting great importance to the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/399191.html>).

29 April

Ramiz Mehdiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, meets Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran (<http://news.day.az/politics/399029.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that Heydar Aliyev played a fundamental role in the development of relations between Azerbaijan and Iran (<http://news.day.az/politics/399003.html>).

The European Parliament officially declares that a delegation of its members who visited Nagorno-Karabakh did so in their private rather than official capacities (<http://news.day.az/politics/398929.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, speaks on Azerbaijan at a meeting of the McCain Institute of Arizona State University (<http://news.day.az/politics/398890.html>).

Jan Kubish, the special representative of the UN secretary general for Afghanistan, says that Azerbaijan is playing a major role in supporting stability in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/398840.html>).

Muhammed al-Fituri Savalim, Libya's labor and rehabilitation minister, says that Libya and Azerbaijan have many opportunities for cooperation in economic development. He adds that Libya supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and Baku's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/398799.html>).

Former Soviet foreign minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh says that, "Azerbaijan embodies a favorable direction in the post-Soviet space" (<http://news.day.az/politics/398835.html>).

27 April

Ambassador Emin Eyubov, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the Council of Europe, hosts a special meeting devoted to the 90th anniversary of the birth of Heydar Aliyev (<http://news.day.az/politics/398554.html>).

Sabir Rustamkhanly, a Milli Majlis deputy, speaks to a New York demonstration against declaring the events of 1915 in Turkey Armenian genocide (<http://news.day.az/politics/398709.html>).

Valdis Zatlers, the former president of Latvia, visits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/398614.html>).

The US State Department says that no military solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible and that the only way the conflict can be resolved is through peaceful negotiations (<http://news.day.az/politics/398572.html>).

Madaline Borallo, Guam's representative to the US House of Representatives, calls the Khojaly tragedy the worst crime to which ethnic Azerbaijanis have been subject to (<http://news.day.az/politics/398580.html>).

Valdis Zatlers, the former president of Latvia, visits Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/398614.html>).

26 April

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan and Israel are discussing the opening of an Azerbaijani embassy in Israel (<http://news.day.az/politics/398389.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Baku is ready for a general peace agreement on Nagorno-Karabakh (<http://news.day.az/politics/398387.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, speaks on Azerbaijan's longstanding democratic traditions to the American Foreign Service Association (<http://news.day.az/politics/398327.html>).

The labor ministers of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation call for an end to Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani lands (<http://news.day.az/politics/398518.html>).

Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos says Athens plans to simplify visa procedures for Azerbaijanis (<http://news.day.az/politics/398423.html>).

25 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "Azerbaijan is playing its role in the development of Islamic solidarity" (<http://news.day.az/politics/398283.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlatea (<http://news.day.az/politics/398208.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the secretary general of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (<http://news.day.az/politics/398208.html>).

Fizuli Alakparov, labor and social security minister, receives his counterparts from Indonesia, Brunei, and Mauritania (<http://news.day.az/politics/398215.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, discusses the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in an article in *The Hill* (<http://news.day.az/politics/398077.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that since Yerevan says it agrees with the OSCE Minsk Group on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, it should immediately withdraw its occupation forces from Azerbaijani territory

(<http://news.day.az/politics/398219.html>).

Agriculture Minister Ismat Abbasov signs a cooperation agreement with his Latvian counterpart, Laimdota Straujuma (<http://news.day.az/economy/398201.html>).

Shahin Abdullayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Cairo, says that, "Azerbaijan is an exporter of peace, security, stability and tolerance in the region and beyond by dialogue, mutual assistance and cooperation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/398279.html>).

Azerbaijan assumes the chairmanship of the labor and social security committee of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation for the next two years (<http://news.day.az/society/398089.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that US President Barack Obama has not called the events of 1915 an Armenian genocide because "Turkey is a very important ally for America" (<http://news.day.az/politics/398050.html>).

Latvian President Andris Bērziņš says that, "Latvia only supports a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" (<http://news.day.az/politics/398222.html>).

Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta says that Bucharest "closely cooperates with Azerbaijan" to ensure the success of the Nabucco project (<http://news.day.az/politics/398192.html>).

Thekra Al-Rashidi, Kuwait's labor and social affairs minister, says that Azerbaijan is now an example for many countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/398211.html>).

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the secretary general of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, says that the OIC continues to support the legitimate rights of Azerbaijan and the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/398175.html>).

The Russian foreign ministry says that the Caspian littoral states have made progress toward an accord on the legal status of the sea during talks in Tehran (<http://news.day.az/politics/398179.html>).

Jean-Claude Minon, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, receives the PACE delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/398151.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that US President Barack Obama has not called the events of 1915 Armenian genocide, because "Turkey is a very important ally for America" (<http://news.day.az/politics/398050.html>).

Azerbaijan assumes the chairmanship of the labor and social security committee of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation for the next two years (<http://news.day.az/society/398089.html>).

24 April

President Ilham Aliyev tells his Latvian counterpart Andris Bērziņš that "Azerbaijan is

for security, stability, development and cooperation in the region” (<http://news.day.az/politics/397814.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (<http://news.day.az/politics/397809.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Yuli Edelstein, chairman of the Israeli parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/397809.html>).

Eldar Hasanov, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Bucharest, takes part in a ceremony opening an honorary consulate in Konstanz (<http://news.day.az/politics/397775.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the so-called Armenia genocide is completely invented and does not have any objective basis and that Armenians are having ever less success in promoting it because of Azerbaijani and Turkish counterpropaganda (<http://news.day.az/politics/397922.html>).

Elshad Iskandarov, chairman of the State Committee for Work with Religious Structures, takes part in the Third Kyiv Inter-Religious Forum (<http://news.day.az/politics/397929.html>).

Georgian Foreign Minister Maia Pandzhikidze says that NATO should use the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway for withdrawing materiel from Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/economy/397895.html>).

Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter says that Bern supports the work of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/397772.html>).

Salman Sabah as-Salim al-Humud al-Sabah, Kuwait’s information and youth minister, says his country supports Azerbaijan’s position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/397774.html>).

The foreign ministers of Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania say that Nabucco West embodies European principles (<http://news.day.az/economy/397973.html>).

23 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Martin Blessing, president of Commerzbank AG (<http://news.day.az/politics/397639.html>).

Labor and Social Security Minister Fizuli Alakparov says that Azerbaijan has assumed responsibility for unemployment issues in the OIC countries (<http://news.day.az/economy/397592.html>).

Tural Rzayev, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Kuwait, says that Kuwait supports Azerbaijan’s position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/397507.html>).

Gudsi Osmanov, newly appointed deputy Azerbaijani ambassador to Moscow, says that he is “a soldier of Azerbaijani diplomacy and will serve where the President considers it necessary” (<http://news.day.az/politics/397655.html>).

Fuad Askarov, head of the law enforcement department of the Presidential Administration, says the US State Department human rights report on Azerbaijan is based to a large extent on information from opposition NGOs (<http://news.day.az/politics/397637.html>).

Rafael Huseynov, a member of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, presents the PACE secretariat with a report detailing Armenian violations of international law in the occupied territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/397748.html>).

Govhar Bakhshaliyeva, a Milli Majlis deputy, says Armenia's policies must be completely rebuilt, rather than just cosmetically changed (<http://news.day.az/politics/397519.html>).

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi calls for strengthening cooperation among the Caspian littoral states (<http://news.day.az/politics/397667.html>).

Roland Kobia, the EU representative in Baku, says the European Union is ready to help resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/397706.html>).

Anatoly Torkunov, rector of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, says that Azerbaijan was an extremely hospitable host of the first world forum of MGIMO graduates (<http://news.day.az/politics/397530.html>).

22 April

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Israeli President Shimon Peres (<http://news.day.az/politics/397434.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets with Avigdor Lieberman, the chairman of the Israeli parliament's foreign relations committee (<http://news.day.az/politics/397324.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets Palestinian Prime Minister Slam Fayad (<http://news.day.az/politics/397271.html>).

Ali Ahmadov, deputy chairman and executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that the OSCE Minsk Group has not fulfilled its responsibilities in a worthy fashion (<http://news.day.az/politics/397488.html>).

Azay Guliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia understands that a French-Turkish rapprochement will cost Yerevan another of its few remaining allies (<http://news.day.az/politics/397267.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls on PACE to avoid double standards and be objective in its assessments of Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/397498.html>).

Jean-Claude Minon, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, says that talks about a meeting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian delegation are continuing (<http://news.day.az/politics/397401.html>).

Rafael Harpaz, Israel's ambassador to Baku, says that bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Israel are developing well and will continue to do so (<http://news.day.az/politics/397284.html>).

Musaed al-Salem has been named the new Saudi ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/397388.html>).

Ikrullah Mahsud has been named the new Pakistani ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/397356.html>).

Julian Kifu, special advisor to the Romanian president, says Armenia's withdrawal from the occupied territory will lead to a settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/397273.html>).

21 April

The Turkish Association to Oppose the Baseless Pretensions of Armenians organize a protest along the Turkish-Armenian border under the device "We are All Karabakhis" (<http://news.day.az/politics/397132.html>).

20 April

The US State Department report on human rights in Armenia says that separatists continue with the support of Armenia to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjoining districts of Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/397058.html> and <http://news.day.az/politics/397110.html>).

19 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski (<http://news.day.az/politics/396914.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev appoints Gudzi Osman as deputy ambassador to Moscow (<http://news.day.az/politics/397017.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva takes part in the opening of the Home Sweet Home exhibit in Paris (<http://news.day.az/politics/396806.html>).

Ali Hasanov, deputy prime minister, says that Armenia has inflicted more than 300 billion US dollars in damages on Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/396937.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says that Damascus has not asked for the use of Azerbaijani airspace to carry banknotes to Syria (<http://news.day.az/politics/396901.html>).

Asim Mollazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenians continue to flee their country, because they do not want to live under the sound of guns (<http://news.day.az/politics/396807.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is drowning in foreign debt (<http://news.day.az/politics/396812.html>).

Ali Huseynli, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Azerbaijan is expanding its definition of human trafficking and increasing punishments for those guilty of it (<http://news.day.az/society/397007.html>).

Nasir Abdul Karim, Palestinian ambassador to Baku, says that Azerbaijan can play a significant role in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations (<http://news.day.az/politics/397003.html>).

Farhad Mammadov, director of the Presidential Center for Strategic Research, says that the national interests of the US coincide with an increase in Turkish influence in the Middle East and the South Caucasus (<http://news.day.az/politics/396918.html>).

The US Department of Defense says that US military cooperation with Azerbaijan is expanding (<http://news.day.az/politics/396836.html>).

18 April

President Ilham Aliyev receives letters of credence from Carlos Dante Riva, the incoming Argentinian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/396796.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives the letters of credence from Goran Taskovski, the incoming Macedonian ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/396796.html>).

Labor and Social Security Minister Fizuli Alakparov reaches a cooperation accord with visiting Tajik experts (<http://news.day.az/economy/396701.html>).

The Azerbaijani government calls on the media in Azerbaijan and Iran to refrain from steps that could harm the development of bilateral relations (<http://news.day.az/politics/396693.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Washington, meets with Kenneth Myers, the director of the US DTRA agency (<http://news.day.az/politics/396615.html>).

Gudrat Hasanguliyev, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia is already using an Azerbaijani novel critical of Azerbaijan and will continue to do so (<http://news.day.az/politics/396568.html>).

Fuad Muradov, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that Armenia will use all its possibilities to delay a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/396566.html>).

Former US Congressman Michael McMahon condemns the application of double standards to Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/396608.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that "certain people are trying to harm the development of relations between Iran and Azerbaijan," but that they will not succeed because the two countries have relations based "on deep cultural roots" (<http://news.day.az/politics/396636.html>).

Levan Berdzenishvili, head of the parliamentary majority in Georgia, says that that

body does not intend to recognize "the Armenian genocide"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396672.html>).

17 April

President Ilham Aliyev tells Jan Hamacek, the deputy chairman of the Czech parliament and head of the Czech-Azerbaijan parliamentary friendship group, that recent statements by Czech officials about Khojaly do not contribute to good relations between the two countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/396507.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Thomas Melia, advisor to the US secretary of State on issues of democracy, human rights and labor
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396500.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the Presidential Administration, says that Armenia will continue to use an anti-Azerbaijani novel against Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/396373.html>).

Azay Guliyev, the chairman of the Presidential Council for State Support of NGOs, says that NGOs with foreign ties working in Azerbaijan must obey all Azerbaijani laws
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396504.html>).

Yagub Mahmoudov, a Milli Majlis deputy, speaks at a special ceremony in Kyiv on the role of Heydar Aliyev in the development of the Azerbaijani state
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396545.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu discusses the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396461.html>).

James Appaturay, special representative of the NATO secretary general for the South Caucasus, says Georgia can help Armenia and Azerbaijan resolve their problems
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396444.html>).

Amangeldy Zhumbayev, Kazakhstan's new ambassador to Baku, says that for Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan represents "a window on Europe"
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396520.html>).

16 April

President Ilham Aliyev says that, "Azerbaijan is a country worthy of very great respect internationally" (<http://news.day.az/politics/395821.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Marzuki Ali, chairman of the House of Representatives of the Indonesian parliament
(<http://news.day.az/politics/396296.html>).

Ali Abbasov, media and information technology minister, attends a reception at the Israeli embassy on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the declaration of that country's independence (<http://news.day.az/politics/396144.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that Armenia has totally failed to get support for its position on Nagorno-Karabakh in the state legislatures of the

United States even as Azerbaijan has gained increasing support in the same place (<http://news.day.az/politics/396146.html>).

Ziyafat Askarov, vice speaker of the Milli Majlis, says that the OSCE Minsk Group must put pressure on Armenia to reach a settlement (<http://news.day.az/politics/396142.html>).

Eldar Azizov, the mayor of Sumgayit, receives officials from Aktau, Sumgayit's sister city in Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/economy/396280.html>).

Allahshukur Pashazade, sheikh-ul-Islam and head of the Administration of the Muslims of the Caucasus, is re-elected to another five-year term as chairman of the CIS Muslim Consultative Committee (<http://news.day.az/society/396115.html>).

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says that he is unhappy with recent comments by Yerevan about Abkhazia as an independent republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/396304.html>).

Mohsun Pakayin, Iran's ambassador to Baku, says that, "very strong relations exist between Iran and Azerbaijan" and that Tehran "supports the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders" (<http://news.day.az/politics/396187.html>).

Marek Solcinski, the papal nuncio for the South Caucasus, says that the election of Francis I as pope will have a positive impact on the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/396171.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.