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NARROWING DIVISIONS ON THE CASPIAN AT THE BAKU SUMMIT: PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS

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Expanded cooperation in a variety of sectors at the bilateral and multilateral level have led some analysts to predict that the upcoming November 18th summit in Baku of the leaders of the five Caspian littoral states—Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan—will mark a breakthrough in the long-running talks on the delimitation of the sea and its mineral-rich seabed now that there are five countries bordering the sea rather than only two as was the case prior to 1991.

But other analysts are suggesting that both differences among the five and the involvement of outside powers in the region, especially the United States, the European Union and China, make it unlikely that there will be any final agreement this time around. And some of these are suggesting that in the absence of an accord on delimitation, the five should form a Caspian Economic Cooperation Organization, both to promote an expansion of existing ties and to lay the groundwork for a resolution of the delimitation question, lest failure in this sphere spark greater tension, militarization and expanded involvement of outside actors in the region.

When leaders meet, there is always the possibility for a breakthrough because each of them has an interest in claiming success, but what is success for one may be failure for another; and that in turn means that it is important to understand the factors working toward an agreement among the five on Caspian delimitation as well as the forces impeding such an accord. Moreover, it is important to consider in advance both what an accord might lead to as well as what another failure to reach it now would entail.

Since 1991, representatives of the five littoral states have met more than 25 times on the issue of delimitation of the Caspian Sea. Given the existence of five states rather than two, the rising price of oil and its importance for all littoral states, and improved technology for extracting hydrocarbons from the seabed, these talks have been contentious because each country stands to gain or lose a great deal by even small changes in any divisions agreed to.

For many years, all the parties assumed that there would of necessity have to be a single agreement in which the delimitation issue would be resolved before development of national sectors and international cooperation could expand. During that period, debates centered on whether the Caspian should be treated like a sea or a lake, a not unimportant issue in international law, and on just how the sectors of national control should be defined. Indeed, those debates continue both among policy makers and the analytic community.

But over the last decade, conditions on the ground or in this case more precisely on the sea have changed. The littoral states have expanded cooperation on a variety of issues often on a bilateral or trilateral basis and sometimes with the accord of all five states, and the increasing density of such accords has been a major factor in leading some in the analytic community in the region and more generally to assume that a breakthrough on delimitation may soon be at hand.

According to a two-part article in *Vestnik Kavkaza*, cooperation among the littoral states has grown exponentially in many areas, including but not limited to security issues, on which major progress was made two weeks ago in Baku; oil and gas transit arrangements, shipping, trade in food and other non-petroleum related products, railway links and environmental protection (see Mikheev 2010a and 2010b)—although as *Vestnik Kavkaza* points out and as various officials, including Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, have said, there are major differences of opinion in almost all of these areas among the five, not to mention the attitudes of outside powers to one or another of these states, such as American views on Iran.

Those difficulties were at the center of discussions at a Moscow roundtable organized by the Institute for Caspian Cooperation. Diplomats, scholars and journalists from Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Iran—of the littoral states, only Turkmenistan

was not represented—compiled a list of the major problems facing the countries of the Caspian basin. Leading the list was the still unresolved status of the Caspian Sea. That problem was followed by piracy, militarization, poaching and the exhaustion of bio-resources of the sea, the absence of agreement on how to address these challenges, the inability to agree about “the Iranian question,” and corruption among some of those charged with executing any decision. [1]

The participants at the Moscow meeting concluded that the failure to resolve the delimitation issue remains a serious obstacle to further cooperation and makes the disagreements that exist, such as those between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan and between Iran and the remainder, far more serious and potentially explosive. For example, Konstantin Syroyezhkin, a Kazakhstan expert, said that while “the Iranian question” is getting the most attention now, “there are serious disagreements” among some of the other four, disagreements that he blamed on what he called “the national egoism” of the littoral states.

To help lessen these disagreements and to promote a broader point of view, Aleksey Vlasov, the director of the Center for Post-Soviet Research at Moscow State University, called for the Baku meeting to create a Caspian Economic Cooperation Organization, which could meet regularly, share opinions, monitor the situation, and promote the kind of confidence building that could lead to greater cooperation among the five while limiting the ability of outside actors to disrupt regional cooperation (Zhiltsov 2010).

But even some of the participants at the Moscow roundtable were not persuaded by that idea. Andrey Chebotarev, a Kazakhstan political scientist, argued that the current model of cooperation among his country, Russia and Azerbaijan was “the most acceptable,” noting that these three countries have already been able to agree on many issues, an achievement that he said should be “the cause for optimism.”

Azerbaijan’s Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov clearly agrees. He acknowledged recently that “the most important questions connected with the legal status of the Caspian, including the use of the surface, the delimitation of the seabed, fishing, shipping, demilitarization, the movement of military vessels and the like still remain without agreement.” But he, like the other officials who will be supporting their presidents at Baku, also recognizes that failure to make progress could exacerbate current problems. Consequently, everyone at Baku will be looking for a way out of what many are calling “a blind alley,” even though there is no path on which all of them can agree.

References

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Zhiltsov (2010) “A Summit of Great Expectations” (in Russian), *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, 12 November, available at http://www.ng.ru/politics/2010-11-12/3_kartblansh.html (accessed 14 November 2010).

Note

[1] See <http://www.ia-centr.ru/expert/9323/> (accessed 14 November 2010).

POLISH-AZERBAIJANI RELATIONS: IS A NEW CHAPTER ABOUT TO OPEN?

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Relations between Poland and Azerbaijan are at a watershed moment. On the one hand, the increasingly intense relations between the two countries over the last decade may now weaken as a result of the failure of joint energy projects, declining cooperation among post-Soviet states like Ukraine and Georgia, and the likely withdrawal of Western forces from Afghanistan. But on the other, the European Union's Eastern Partnership Program (EPP) initiated by Poland and Sweden could have the opposite effect, leading to an expansion of bilateral ties in the coming years.

Poland recognized Azerbaijani independence on December 27, 1991, and both then and later declared its respect for the territorial integrity of that country, something critically important for Azerbaijan. But intensive diplomatic contacts developed only in the late 1990s after then-President Heydar Aliyev's visit to Poland in August 1997 and Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski's visit to Baku in October 1999. Poland backed Azerbaijan for membership in both the Council of Europe and the World Trade Organization and declared its interest in participating in various energy projects.

Bilateral cooperation on energy involved the development of plans for the creation of the Eurasian Oil Transportation Corridor (EAOTC), a program that defined an integrated route for the export of Caspian basin oil through Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Black Sea to Ukraine and Poland. Following the opening of the Odessa-Brody pipeline in 2001, Poland sought access to Azerbaijani oil via the extension of the network to the Polish refinery at Plock and then to Gdansk.

Although Ukrainian portion of this route was finished in 2001, the Polish segment is still not ready. Moreover, the pipeline was in fact used to move Russian oil to the Black Sea rather than Caspian oil to the West. Political conflicts in Kyiv prevented Ukraine from reaching an agreement on the exact route of the pipeline there, and as a result, Poland decided that it was not yet ready to invest in it. At the same time, Azerbaijan was suspicious about the development of the Ukrainian segment and focused its attention on other routes westward, including in particular the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline which was completed in 2005.

Although political turmoil has continued in Ukraine, both Azerbaijan and Poland have supported the Odessa-Brody corridor, using the energy summits in Krakow, Vilnius, Kyiv and Baku in 2007-2008 to try to push things forward. During the Vilnius meeting in October 2007, the energy ministers of Azerbaijan, Poland, Lithuania,

Georgia and Ukraine along with their respective oil companies signed an accord intended to speed up the realization of the Brody-Plock-Gdansk project. But these efforts did not achieve expectations, especially after the Russian-Georgian war in August 2008 and continuing uncertainty in Ukraine.

Viktor Yanukovich's victory in the Ukrainian presidential elections earlier this year probably ends this project, thus reducing the possibility for cooperation between Poland and Azerbaijan in the energy sector. GUAM does not seem able to take up the slack for the same reason. But the European Union's Eastern Partnership Program (EPP) may provide a new opening.

In May 2008, Poland joined Sweden in proposing this initiative to the EU's General Affairs and External Relations council. The aim of the program is to bring the former Soviet republics into closer relationship with the new EU members in Eastern Europe. As inaugurated in May 2009, the EPP relies heavily on Poland, which not only proposed the idea in the first place but has made its implementation one of two central tasks of Warsaw's eastern policy. The other is improving relations with Moscow, but whether that will happen in the wake of the tragic death of President Lech Kaczynski in a plane crash very much remains to be seen.

Kaczynski's death may have a negative impact on Poland's approach to Azerbaijan. The new Polish president, Bronislaw Komorowski may choose to focus his attention on cooperation with the main EU partners, Germany and France, and to give preference to ties with Moscow over ties with other Eastern neighbors. Komorowski's recent visits to Ukraine (on September 25 and October 1) could indicate, however, that such a change is not going to happen. But however that may be, Poland is likely to focus less on the South Caucasus as a source for energy.

Yet another factor influencing Poland's relationship with Azerbaijan has been the involvement of both in the stabilization effort in Afghanistan. However, Poland plans to withdraw its troop by 2012, and that likely will reduce Polish interest in the Caucasus and Central Asian regions whatever Azerbaijan does.

That past efforts have not had the success many hoped for does not mean that future cooperation will fail. In the immediate future, however, Poland is likely to adopt a more pragmatic and prudent rather than principled policy. If Warsaw uses its influence within the EU to get Brussels to pay more attention to the South Caucasus, both Poland and Azerbaijan could gain, with the former acquiring a stronger position in the EU's external policy and the latter the chance for greater cooperation with Europe.

THE ENERGY DIMENSION IN TURKISH-AZERBAIJANI RELATIONS

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Not surprisingly, most Turks and Azerbaijanis have focused on the cultural, linguistic and historical commonalities of their two countries when they discussed bilateral

relationships of any kind. But in the years since 1991 when Azerbaijan reemerged as an independent country, energy issues have played a major role in defining the direction and shape of the relationship between Ankara and Baku (Kasım 2009, p. 95) even if or perhaps especially because these ties have never been independent of the broader cultural links.

Azerbaijan has been a major oil producer since the Nobel family invested in the Absheron fields in the 1870s, and while its role was eclipsed in Soviet times by the discovery of oil in Western Siberia, the reemergence of an independent Azerbaijan prompted many countries to explore ways in which they could gain access to Caspian basin oil (Karagiannis 2002, pp. 15-18). That Turkey was among them should not come as any surprise: Azerbaijan is a major energy producer and distributor while Turkey is a major energy consumer which also plays a role as a transit country.

In 1993, Turkey signed a preliminary agreement with Azerbaijan concerning the construction of a pipeline from Baku to Ceyhan. The development of that project has faced many difficulties. On the one hand, Ankara had to convince Western majors that the pipeline could be built and would serve their interests. And on the other, the Turkish government had simultaneously to convince European states that they would benefit and to avoid angering Russia which had its own plans for the export of oil from the region. Finally, in October 1998, Azerbaijan and Turkey together with other actors signed a declaration in Ankara, affirming the importance of the BTC, and at the Istanbul summit of the OSCE in November 1999, they and the others signed additional protocols about the project. That was followed by the Istanbul Declaration and a memorandum of understanding among Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia confirming their consensus that regional energy resources in the East-West energy corridor should be marketed through the BTC (Atmaca 2003, pp. 76-79). Five years later, the project went online (Rogojanu 2009, p. 628).

Turkish and Azerbaijani interests coincided on the BTC project. Ankara wanted to meet its energy needs from the Caspian, while Baku wanted the pipeline to bypass Armenia and help Azerbaijan strengthen its links with the West. The same considerations lay behind the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (BTE) gas pipeline operational since 2007 which carries natural gas from the Shah Deniz gas field in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea to Erzurum in Turkey. In the future, these ties will be further strengthened by the Nabucco project.

The success of these projects in the energy sector has contributed to the upgrading of relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan at the strategic level. They have been the occasion for reaffirming the common values and views of the two countries on many issues. They have involved working together in other related areas such as engineering and construction. They have helped promote bilateral trade in other goods and services. They have boosted the status of the two countries in the region. And they have helped both Ankara and Baku gain influence in Western capitals.

At the same time, however, this energy rapprochement between Ankara and Baku was not without a cost as far as regional actors were concerned. From the very beginning, both governments have been forced to deal with Russian and Iranian competition and even outright opposition. Both Moscow and Tehran view Turkish-Azerbaijani cooperation in energy not only as a threat to their economic interests but also as one to their geopolitical position vis-à-vis the West more generally. So far, Ankara and Baku have been able to balance these concerns against their own

interests, and the prospects are good that they will be able to continue to do so in the future.

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A CHRONOLOGY OF AZERBAIJAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

I. Key Government Statements on Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

President Ilham Aliyev says that "we will be able at any moment to restore the territorial integrity of the country by military means" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237353.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that "the declaration of the US State Department on the elections [in Azerbaijan] generates surprise and regret" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237795.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that "the day is not far away when shipments from Central Asia will reach Europe via the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway" (<http://news.day.az/economy/237036.html>).

II. Key Statements by Others about Azerbaijan

Observers from the OSCE and the European Parliament give a positive assessment of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237527.html>).

Turkish National Defense Minister Vejdi Konul says that "Azerbaijan and Turkey intend to raise to a higher level cooperation in the sphere of defense industries" (<http://news.day.az/politics/236569.html>).

The UN Development Program says that "among the 169 countries of the world" it has rated, Azerbaijan has achieved "the most significant successes in human capacity development over the last five years" (<http://news.day.az/society/236843.html>).

III. A Chronology of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy

15 November

Azerbaijani and Georgian officials meet to discuss and train for the joint administration of the border of their countries (<http://news.day.az/society/238500.html>).

13 November

President Ilham Aliyev directs the Foreign Ministry to make preparations for the opening of Azerbaijani embassies in South Africa, Vietnam, Brazil and Iraq (<http://news.day.az/politics/238400.html>).

Heydar Asadov, head of the Accounting Chamber, meets with European Commission officials to discuss reforms in the system of financial administration (<http://news.day.az/economy/238355.html>).

Rafael Mirzoyev, deputy minister for emergency situations, visits the Republic of Korea (<http://news.day.az/politics/238367.html>).

Annamammad Mammadov, the ambassador of Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan, dies (<http://news.day.az/politics/238329.html>).

12 November

President Ilham Aliyev's website opens a new page for foreigners visiting Azerbaijan at president.az/foreign (<http://news.day.az/politics/238245.html>).

First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva receives Latifa al-Fahad al-Savah, the chairman of the State Committee of Kuwait on Women's Issues (<http://news.day.az/politics/238254.html>).

Zakir Hashimov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Astana, says that Baku hopes that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be discussed at the upcoming OSCE summit in Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/238175.html>).

The Permanent Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a resolution on the basis of a report prepared by Azerbaijani deputy Rafael Guseynov on sound and light pollution (<http://news.day.az/politics/238286.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, sends a note to Yerevan, the Armenian foreign ministry says, reporting that he was misquoted by Azerbaijani media concerning the occupied territories and the need to open a corridor between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan (<http://news.day.az/politics/238193.html>).

11 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that "Azerbaijan is among those countries of the region which conduct an independent policy" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237912.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Iraqi trade minister Shafaaddin Mohammad as-Safi (<http://news.day.az/politics/238094.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev receives Jouque Lambertus Herman, chief of staff of the NATO Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC-B), to discuss cooperation between Azerbaijan and NATO (<http://news.day.az/politics/238027.html>).

Ogtay Asadov, speaker of the Milli Majlis, receives Iraqi trade minister Shafaaddin Mohammad as-Safi (<http://news.day.az/politics/238097.html>).

Parvin Mirzazade, chief of the State Protocol Administration of the Foreign Ministry, receives Agus Trimartono, the charge d'affaires of the Indonesian embassy in Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/238100.html>).

Vilayat Guliyev, Azerbaijani ambassador to Budapest, hosts a meeting of Azerbaijani students on the eve of Constitution Day (<http://news.day.az/politics/238177.html>).

Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijani consul general in Los Angeles, speaks to students at the University of California in San Diego and California State University in Fullerton (<http://news.day.az/politics/238005.html>).

Mehman Suleymanov, military attaché of the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran, meets with Iranian defense minister Ahmad Vahidi along with other military attaches in the Iranian capital (<http://news.day.az/politics/238087.html>).

Maharram Zulfugarly, head of the election staff of the Association for the Support of the Development of Civil Society in Azerbaijan, calls the US State Department's characterization of the Azerbaijani parliamentary elections "not objective" (<http://news.day.az/politics/238064.html>).

Aydyn Mirzazade, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "in the very first battle, Armenian forces will suffer a crushing defeat" if military actions resume between Azerbaijan and Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/237888.html>).

Ahmed Davutoglu, Turkish Foreign Minister, says that Ankara wants the problems between Azerbaijan and Armenia to be solved "by peaceful means on the basis of mutual respect" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237925.html>).

The co-chairs of the Minsk Group present their annual report to the Permanent Council of the OSCE in Vienna (<http://news.day.az/politics/238150.html>).

10 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iraqi Trade Minister Shafaaddin Mohammad as-Safi (<http://news.day.az/politics/237811.html>).

Vasif Talybov, chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic receives members of the Turkish Constitutional Court (<http://news.day.az/politics/237916.html>).

Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov is elected vice president of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Organs (<http://news.day.az/politics/237864.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that the recent meeting in Astrakhan between the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation raise hopes that progress can be made in resolving the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/237802.html>).

Ali Hasanov, head of the social-political department of the President's Office, says that "the declaration of the US State Department on the elections [in Azerbaijan] generates surprise and regret" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237795.html>).

Mubariz Gurbanly, deputy executive secretary of the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party, says that international observers agreed that Azerbaijan's parliamentary elections took place in conformity with democratic values and thus he expressed surprise at the contrary view expressed by the US Department of State (<http://news.day.az/politics/237866.html>).

Samad Seyidov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, calls upon PACE President Movlud Chavushoglu to block the anti-Azerbaijani declarations of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237860.html>).

Zahid Orudzh, a Milli Majlis deputy, says that "it is possible to expect an increase in armed incidents" on the line separating Armenian and Azerbaijani forces (<http://news.day.az/politics/237565.html>).

Eldar Guliyev, former permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations and executive director of the All-Russian Azerbaijani Congress, says that there are positive signs in the process toward a resolution of the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/237712.html>).

The Azerbaijan Central Bank hosts an international seminar on cooperation in the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism (<http://news.day.az/economy/237828.html>).

An office of the Europe-Azerbaijan Society opens in Brussels (<http://news.day.az/politics/237829.html>).

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev says there have been definite moves forward on the Karabakh issue within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group (<http://news.day.az/politics/237780.html>).

9 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that "international financial structures have faith in the long-term rapid development of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237489.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Janez Lenarcic, the director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and notes the contradictory assessments of international organizations of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237683.html>).

The Foreign Ministry says it does not understand the declaration of the US State Department on Azerbaijan's parliamentary elections (<http://news.day.az/politics/237711.html>).

Elman Zeynalov presents his credentials as Azerbaijani ambassador to Riga to Latvian President Valdis Zatlers (<http://news.day.az/politics/237724.html>).

An Azerbaijani delegation takes part in a Dushanbe meeting of the leaders of the special services of the Commonwealth of Independent States (<http://news.day.az/politics/237584.html>).

Turkish President Abdulla Gul says that it is impossible to ignore the occupation of Azerbaijani territories (<http://news.day.az/politics/237595.html>).

The Council of Europe says that the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan were distinguished by a calm atmosphere and notes that all opposition parties took part in the political process (<http://news.day.az/politics/237642.html>).

The US Department of State notes the peaceful character of the Azerbaijani parliamentary elections but points to serious problems both in the electoral process and on the day of the elections, including lack of balance in media treatment of candidates from various parties (<http://news.day.az/politics/237616.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that the CIS and Russia are interested in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict and are working toward that goal (<http://news.day.az/politics/237657.html>).

Richard Morningstar, Special Representative of the US Department of State for Eurasian Energy Issues, tells an international conference in Washington that relations between the US and Azerbaijan are a combination of continuity and evolution (<http://news.day.az/politics/237728.html>). In other comments, he says that "there is no individual more prepared for work as US ambassador in Azerbaijan than Matthew Bryza" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237727.html>).

Uzbekistan marks the Day of the Azerbaijani State Flag (<http://news.day.az/politics/237698.html>).

8 November

President Ilham Aliyev says that "we will be able at any moment to restore the territorial integrity of the country by military means" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237353.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives Sergey Lebedev, the executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States (<http://news.day.az/politics/237580.html>).

Observers from the OSCE and the European Parliament give a positive assessment of the parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237527.html>).

Mustafa Kabakcy, co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Turkey interparliamentary group and head of its observer mission in Azerbaijan, says that the parliamentary vote in Azerbaijan corresponded to international norms and standards (<http://news.day.az/politics/237423.html>).

Svetlana Orlova, coordinator of the observers group of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that the elections in Azerbaijan were well-organized and attracted a high level of participation (<http://news.day.az/politics/237427.html>).

Elena Dubrovina, head of the observer mission of the Russian Central Election Commission, says that no violations were observed in the Azerbaijani elections and that no complaints from participants reached the observers (<http://news.day.az/politics/237404.html>).

Sergey Lebedev, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says that the presence of opposition candidates on the ballot demonstrates the democratization of the electoral process in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237421.html>).

Observers from GUAM assess the elections in Azerbaijan as free and just (<http://news.day.az/politics/237437.html>).

Haluk Ipek, deputy chairman of the ruling Justice and Development Party in Turkey, says that "Ankara has frequently declared that it will not open the borders with Armenia until Azerbaijani territories are freed from occupation" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237531.html>).

Mustafa Kabakcy, co-chair of the Azerbaijan-Turkey interparliamentary group, says that "the positions of Azerbaijani and Turkish parliamentarians on the Karabakh conflict are identical" (<http://news.day.az/politics/237435.html>).

The US City of San Diego declares Azerbaijani Day and invites Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's consul general in Los Angeles, to speak (<http://news.day.az/politics/237445.html>).

Arif Ibrahimov, the founder of the Geo-Turan Georgian-Azerbaijan Foundation for Cultural Relations, is decorated by the Georgian government (<http://news.day.az/society/237515.html>).

Mehmet Ceylan, a member of the Turkish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly says that the presidents of Turkey and Armenia may meet at the OSCE summit in Kazakhstan (<http://news.day.az/politics/237098.html>).

7 November

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev meets his Uzbek counterpart Eler Ganiyev at the Azerbaijani exhibition in Tashkent (<http://news.day.az/economy/237366.html>).

The Turkish embassy in Baku organizes an exhibit on assistance for Pakistan (<http://news.day.az/society/237293.html>).

6 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Svetlana Orlova, the deputy speaker of the Russian Federation council and the coordinator of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly observers group (<http://news.day.az/politics/237250.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets in Moscow with his Russian and Armenian counterparts, Sergey Lavrov and Eduard Nalbandyan, in Moscow to discuss the Karabakh conflict (<http://news.day.az/politics/237258.html>).

Arzu Rahimov, the chief of the State Migration Service, receives Herbert Quelle, Germany's ambassador to Baku (<http://news.day.az/politics/237247.html>).

The Days of the Culture of Turkmenistan program concludes in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/society/237321.html>).

Armenia returns to Azerbaijan the bodies of two Azerbaijani soldiers killed at the ceasefire line (<http://news.day.az/politics/237122.html>).

Eleven citizens of Armenia in Azerbaijan seek transfer to a third country rather than a return to their own, according to Shahin Sayilov, secretary of the Azerbaijan State Commission for the Affairs of Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons (<http://news.day.az/society/237274.html>).

Uzbekistan Prime Minister Shavgat Mirziyayev visits the Azerbaijan National Exhibit in Tashkent and meets Shahin Mustafayev, Azerbaijan's economic development minister (<http://news.day.az/economy/237240.html>).

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu says that Yerevan must by concrete actions demonstrate its intention to normalize relations with Turkey and its status in the region (<http://news.day.az/politics/237205.html>).

5 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives the observer mission of the European Parliament (<http://news.day.az/politics/237106.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives Prince Halid ibn Saud bin Halid al Saud, the deputy foreign minister of Saudi Arabia (<http://news.day.az/politics/237071.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov receives the international observer mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Language Countries (<http://news.day.az/politics/237166.html>).

The Foreign Ministry calls on the international community to focus on the racist character of recent statements by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and to condemn them (<http://news.day.az/politics/237167.html>).

The Foreign Ministry condemns acts of terror in Iraq (<http://news.day.az/politics/237169.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov announces agreement with Turkey on the production of certain kinds of weapons systems (<http://news.day.az/economy/237141.html> and <http://news.day.az/economy/237082.html>).

Industry and Energy Minister Natic Aliyev says that Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan must develop their cooperation in the oil and gas sector (<http://news.day.az/economy/237070.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that "the day is not far away when shipments from Central Asia will reach Europe via the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway" (<http://news.day.az/economy/237036.html>).

The NATO parliamentary assembly has removed from its fall schedule a draft resolution on Karabakh but will consider it at a later date (<http://news.day.az/politics/237055.html>).

4 November

Ramiz Mehtiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, tells the UN development program that "human development is one of the priorities of Azerbaijan" (<http://news.day.az/politics/236854.html>).

Ramiz Mehtiyev, head of the Presidential Administration, says that Yerevan's plans to rename places in the occupied territories are "a new game of definite forces in Armenia" (<http://news.day.az/politics/236881.html>). He adds that Yerevan is converting the occupied territories into "illegitimate and illegal" places (<http://news.day.az/politics/236872.html>).

Ambassador Arif Mammadov, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe, is appointed a member of the administrative council of the European Resource Center for Education (<http://news.day.az/politics/236972.html>).

Mahmud Karimov, the head of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, says that the academy's Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography is creating in Guba a center for the preservation of mass burials of victims of genocide (<http://news.day.az/society/236922.html>).

Fikrat Akchura, the UN Development Program representative in Azerbaijan, says that the United Nations will continue to cooperate with Azerbaijan in the non-oil sector and effective governance (<http://news.day.az/politics/236923.html>).

The Azerbaijan-American Council condemns anti-Semitism in Armenia (<http://news.day.az/politics/236876.html>).

Mohammedmehdi Ahundzade, the special representative of the Iranian president for Caspian issues, says that "there is enormous potential in the Caspian which is not being used fully" (<http://news.day.az/politics/236817.html>).

Metin Ilmaz, a Turkish deputy from the ruling Party of Justice and Development, says that Armenia is not a free actor as far as its decisions are concerned (<http://news.day.az/politics/236601.html>).

Azerbaijan finds sympathy and support for its position on self-determination while respecting existing national borders at a meeting of the UN General Assembly Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Questions (<http://news.day.az/politics/236812.html>).

3 November

Prime Minister Artur Rasizade receives Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Konul (<http://news.day.az/politics/236737.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that "the OSCE summit may be a turning point in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict" and announces that he plans to meet his Armenian counterpart Edvard Nalbandyan in the near future (<http://news.day.az/politics/236744.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov meets his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in Istanbul (<http://news.day.az/politics/236709.html>).

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov says that Azerbaijan continues to support efforts of the international community to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236779.html>).

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev says that "the terrorist activity directed against the Azerbaijani and Turkish peoples has not received sufficient recognition" (<http://news.day.az/politics/236708.html>).

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov meets with Turkish National Defense Minister Vecdi Konul to discuss joint projects (<http://news.day.az/politics/236775.html>).

Economic Development Minister Shahin Mustafayev says that the exchange rate between the manat and the US dollar should remain stable (<http://news.day.az/economy/236624.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov says that the deputy foreign ministers of the five Caspian littoral states are reducing their differences on an agreement concerning security on the Caspian (<http://news.day.az/politics/236652.html>).

The Justice Ministry agrees on accords on legal cooperation with India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Marocco and Algeria (<http://news.day.az/politics/236753.html>).

Hasan Hasanov, Azerbaijani ambassador to Warsaw, hosts a meeting of leaders of Azerbaijani diaspora organizations in Poland (<http://news.day.az/society/236633.html>).

Saffet Kaya, a deputy of the ruling Turkish Party of Justice and Development, calls on Armenia to ask forgiveness from Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236510.html>).

2 November

President Ilham Aliyev receives Turkish National Defense Minister Vecdi Konul (<http://news.day.az/politics/236616.html>).

President Ilham Aliyev receives BP Executive Vice President Andy Inglis on the completion of his assignment in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236567.html>).

Agricultural Minister Ismat Abbasov visits the Netherlands (<http://news.day.az/society/236539.html>).

Mammad Ahmadzade, Azerbaijani ambassador to Argentina, meets with that country's president Cristina Fernández (<http://news.day.az/politics/236463.html>).

Hassan Qashqavi, Iranian deputy foreign minister, says that Iran's share of the Caspian is 20 percent and that Tehran plans to mobilize "all possible efforts" to secure its rights (<http://news.day.az/politics/236473.html>).

1 November

Defense Industry Minister Yaver Jamalov says that defense industry production has risen 3.2 times this year over last (<http://news.day.az/economy/236366.html>).

Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov signs a protocol on the exchange of ratification documents on the extradition treaty between Azerbaijan and the Chinese Peoples Republic (<http://news.day.az/politics/236375.html>).

Ambassador Agshin Mehtiyev, Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, sends a letter to the UN secretary general seeking his support in condemning recent statements by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan as racist (<http://news.day.az/politics/236278.html>).

NATO Days begin in Azerbaijan (<http://news.day.az/politics/236283.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.