



# Turkic Council Monthly News Bulletin April – May 2012

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Prepared by Turkic Council Secretariat – Istanbul / Turkey

## **Azerbaijan**

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### **Azerbaijani President receives Indian Minister of state for Commerce and Industry**

April 16 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received today Jyotiraditya Scindia, Indian Minister of state for Commerce and Industry, co-chair of Azerbaijan-India Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technologic Cooperation. Jyotiraditya Scindia extended greetings of Indian President Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the Azerbaijani leader. The minister noted Azerbaijan-India cooperation covers various spheres. He added relations between the two countries in economic and cultural areas had centuries-old history. President Ilham Aliyev said the session of the Azerbaijan-India Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technologic Cooperation was a good chance to discuss issues regarding expansion of economic ties between the two countries. The Head of State said good opportunities exist for development of Azerbaijan-India cooperation in ICT, healthcare, pharmacology, energy, tourism and other fields. President Ilham Aliyev underlined the importance of establishing Azerbaijan-India partner relations based on centuries-long history of ties between “our peoples.” The Azerbaijani leader also asked the Indian minister to convey his greetings to Indian President Pratibha Patil and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

### **President of Azerbaijan receives Secretary General of Cooperation Council of Turkish Speaking Countries**

April 17 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev today received Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkish Speaking Countries Khalil Akinchi. The talk revolved around the importance of the activities the Cooperation Council of the Turkish Speaking Countries hold and the questions related to further activities of the Organization.

### **Azerbaijani President receives BP CEO**

April 17 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received Robert Dadly, BP Chief Executive Officer. The sides expressed satisfaction on successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and BP. Robert Dadly updated the Head of State on the second phase of the Shahdeniz development and other implementing projects. They also exchanged views on prospects of cooperation.

### **Azerbaijan`s FM meets Secretary General of Cooperation Council of Turkish Speaking Countries**

April 17 (AzerTAc). Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov has today met visiting Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkish Speaking Countries Halil Akinci. According to the press service of the Foreign Ministry, during the conversation the sides stressed the importance of activity of the Cooperation Council of Turkish Speaking Countries. They underlined the importance of joint efforts towards further expansion of cooperation among the member states. They also exchanged views on the organization`s goals and priorities for 2012.

### **Azerbaijan, EU discuss cooperation prospects**

April 17 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan's minister of Foreign Affairs Elmar Mammadyarov received former president of Lithuania, former chairman of Sejm and member of the European Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis on Monday. The meeting's agenda included discussions over regional and international issues, relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union, cooperation within the Eastern Partnership Program, as well as the prospects for energy cooperation with EU. The sides also exchanged views on the steps taken towards peaceful solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh.

### **Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan develop bilateral relations**

April 17 (AzerTAc). The Kyrgyz president Almazbek Atambayev met Azerbaijani deputy minister of economic development Niyazi Safarov and his accompanying delegation. The Kyrgyz head said President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev pays attention to development of bilateral relations, organization of reciprocal visits and cooperation in all spheres. The sides discussed investment opportunities of Azerbaijan to economy, industry, agriculture, tourism and civil aviation of Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Atambayev said there was a favorable condition to make investments in Lake Issyk Kul. The president said the Heydar Aliyev Park in the area of 5.5 hectares will be also laid in Bishkek. The Head of State said the park would give impetus to development of relations between the two countries. On Armenia Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the President said the government of Kyrgyzstan supports Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

### **37th session of European Commission on Agriculture kicks off in Baku**

April 17 (AzerTAc). The 37th session of European Commission on Agriculture has today started here. The session hosted by Azerbaijan's Ministry of Agriculture has brought together officials of 54 European and Central Asian member-state of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as representatives of other UN organizations, several Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations. Addressing the session, Deputy Agricultural Minister Ilham Guliyev stressed the importance of the event. The deputy Minister highlighted the country's achievements in the agrarian sector. Assistant Director General of FAO, Representative for Europe and Central Asia Fernanda Guerrieri hailed the fact 38 percent of the Azerbaijanis work in agriculture. The two-day conference will feature discussions on the European Commission's 2012-2013 working program and budget for the Europe and Central Asia, debates on land and gender equality.

### **Baku hosts UNIDO regional conference**

April 17 (AzerTAc). A two-day regional conference on industrial parks of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has today started here. The aim of the event is creation of industrial parks in Europe and Central Asia, investment promotion and competitiveness, elimination of gaps and exchange of experience in this field. The conference brought together representatives from Albania, Belarus, Georgia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. The conference is held with support of UNIDO, the Ministry of Economic Development and

the Ministry of Industry and Energy of Azerbaijan and the Government of Slovenia. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), is a specialized agency in the United Nations system, headquartered in Vienna, Austria. Presently, 173 states are members of UNIDO. The organization employs some 650 staff at Headquarters and in field representations in about 80 countries, and draws on the services of some 2,800 international and national experts, who work in project assignments throughout the world. In 2007, UNIDO had around 850 technical cooperation projects in around 120 countries. The Organization therefore works towards improving the quality of life of the world's poor by drawing on its combined global resources and expertise in the following three interrelated thematic areas: poverty reduction through productive activities; trade capacity-building; and energy and environment

### **President Ilham Aliyev receives delegation led by Speaker of Ukrainian parliament**

April 18 (AzerTAc). President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan on Wednesday received delegation led by Vladimir Litvin, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Ukrainian parliament). The Head of State said bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine develop successfully and the cooperation between two countries yields good results. There is a huge potential for the expansion of bilateral ties in economic area, the Azerbaijani President said. The Azerbaijani President said the country's parliamentary delegation is actively involved in various international structures, including the Council of Europe. President Ilham Aliyev stressed the importance of the Baku-hosted second plenary session of Euronest Parliamentary Assembly. The President also emphasized the successful collaboration between the two countries' Parliaments as part of the Eastern Partnership program and its contribution to the development of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine. Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Vladimir Litvin, in turn, said Ukraine is interested in the expansion of cooperation between two countries in various areas. He said both Azerbaijan and Ukraine have good potential for the development of inter-parliamentary ties.

### **President of Azerbaijan receives Director-General of UN Food and Agriculture Organization**

April 18 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Jose Graziano da Silva and his accompanying delegation. The Head of State expressed satisfaction with successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and FAO, and described Baku's hosting the 28th European Regional Conference of the FAO as a 'good' sign of this cooperation. President Ilham Aliyev expressed assurance that the conference would be 'successful', and provide a 'good' opportunity for becoming familiar with Azerbaijan. In turn, FAO Director-General described high-level representation of 46 region states at the conference as an indicator of the great interest to the event. According to him, one of the main goals of the event is to outline agricultural development priorities. Jose Graziano da Silva underlined that ministerial round-table within the conference will also discuss "food security" issues. The FAO official congratulated Azerbaijan on its election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

### **Baku-Rome-Baku flight launched**

April 18 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan Airlines, AZAL launched Baku-Rome-Baku flight, on Tuesday. The price of the flight is 417 AZN. The “Aerobus 319” took off at 8.30 a.m. Baku time from Heydar Aliyev International Airport and landed in Leonardo da Vinci International Airport in Rome in 4 hours and 55 minutes later. Azerbaijani ambassador to Italy Vagif Sadigov welcomed the passengers, employees of AZAL and representatives of media outlets. The ambassador said relations between Italy and Azerbaijan were rapidly developing in all spheres. The new flight will strengthen relations even more. Mr. Sadigov said the Days of Azerbaijani Culture started in Italy and will last till April 23.

### **President of Azerbaijan receives head of Emir of Dubai`s Administration**

April 19 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received head of Emir of Dubai`s Administration, Executive Director at Investment Corporation of Dubai Mohammed Al Shaibani. Al Shaibani conveyed the greetings of Emir of Dubai Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to the Head of State. He said development in Azerbaijan made a deep impression on him. The Head of State recalled his meetings in Dubai. President Ilham Aliyev stressed Azerbaijan and Dubai have good bilateral relations in various areas, including in political and economic ones, and underlined the existence of great opportunities for further expansion of these relations. The Head of State asked Al Shaibani to pass on his greetings to the Emir of Dubai.

### **Baku hosts 28th European Regional Conference of UN Food and Agriculture Organization, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev attends opening ceremony**

April 19 (AzerTAc). The 28th European Regional Conference of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations kicked off in Baku on Thursday at the Hilton hotel. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev attended the opening ceremony. High-level delegates from over 50 countries took part in the discussions on food security. The conference also has brought together observers representing several international organizations. The main objective of the regional conference is to approve program and budget of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the years 2012 and 2013, set priorities for the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries for the years 2014 and 2015. The ministers` round tables as part of the conference will focus on the issues of food safety. Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Jose Graziano da Silva expressed his gratitude to the Azerbaijan`s President for the high level organization of the conference and participation in the opening ceremony. President Ilham Aliyev addressed the opening ceremony of the conference and later met with its participants. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on Wednesday received Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Jose Graziano da Silva and his accompanying delegation. The Head of State expressed satisfaction with successful cooperation between Azerbaijan and FAO, and described Baku`s hosting the 28th European Regional Conference of the FAO as a `good` sign of this cooperation.

### **Ukraine interested in energy cooperation with Azerbaijan**

April 19 (AzerTAc). Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Volodymyr Lytvyn has said that Ukraine is interested in cooperation with Azerbaijan in the energy sector, “Ukraine is interested in the development of cooperation with Azerbaijan in the energy sector. This cooperation includes supplies of Azerbaijan’s gas because, first, we want to have guaranteed gas supplies, and second, we want to buy gas at reasonable, justified prices,” Volodymyr Lytvyn said in Baku. Touching on practical aspects of gas supplies from Azerbaijan, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada also said it would be expedient to build a gas liquefaction facility in Georgia. Apart from that, in his words, Ukraine needs to build a liquefied gas terminal. Volodymyr Lytvyn also noted that his country was interested in the project of a Trans-Anatolian gas pipeline to be built by Azerbaijan and Turkey. He also spoke about cooperation between the two countries in the construction sector. Thus, he said, Ukrainian companies might take part in the metro construction projects in Azerbaijan. “We have an experience of work in conditions of complicated soils. We have reliable companies,” he said. Apart from that, according to Volodymyr Lytvyn, Ukraine is showing interest in the construction of sports facilities in Azerbaijan. “We are interested to take part in the construction of stadiums and other big sports facilities, and Azerbaijan plans to build such facilities to the tune of one billion U.S. dollars. If Ukraine is engaged, it will be mutually beneficial,” he stressed.

### **TURKPA, Council of Turkic nations boost cooperation**

April 19 (AzerTAc). Visiting Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS) Halil Akinci has met with Secretary General of the Turkish Speaking Countries Parliamentary Assembly (TURKPA) Ramil Hasanov. Ramil Hasanov highlighted the cooperation between TURKPA and CCTS and boosting of relations in different fields. Secretary General also updated Halil Akinci on the 3rd meeting and plenary session of Assembly Council of TURKPA to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on June 14-16. “TURKPA four permanent commissions have been established. Relevant reports and recommendations were prepared for their submission to Assembly during the Third Plenary Session,” he added. Halil Akinci praised contribution of TURKPA to the development of relations between Turkic speaking countries stressing existence of joint projects between organizations in economic, trade, humanitarian, cultural and educational spheres. The importance of participation of representatives of both organizations in meetings of TURKPA permanent commissions and CCTS permanent committees was underlined in the meeting. The sides also discussed the signing of a memorandum of cooperation between TURKPA and CCTS. Gismat Gozalov, Deputy Secretary General of CCTS and Kurshad Melih Sariarslan, Deputy Secretary General of TURKPA also participated in the meeting. Halil Akinci signed the guest book and posed for photographs.

### **Azerbaijani first lady unveils monument to great poet Nizami Ganjavi in Rome**

April 20 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan’s first lady, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva and head of International Relations Desk-Cabinet of the Mayor of Rome Serena Forni have today unveiled a monument to great Azerbaijani poet Nizami Ganjavi in Villa Borghese park in the Italian capital. They laid a wreath at the monument. Supported by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the ceremony was organized in collaboration with



Azerbaijan`s Embassy to Italy. The monument was erected in accordance with President Ilham Aliyev`s executive order on celebration of Nizami Ganjavi`s 870th anniversary and promotion of its heritage in the world. Addressing the event, the head of International Relations Desk-Cabinet of the Mayor of Rome thanked Mehriban Aliyeva for attending the ceremony.

She described the erection of the monument to Nizami Ganjavi as the symbol of friendly relations between the two countries. Serena Forni said that as a result of Mehriban Aliyeva`s efforts a series of events had recently been held in Rome. The head of International Relations Desk-Cabinet of the Mayor of Rome stressed the importance of an event marking the 20th anniversary of Azerbaijan`s independence, which was held in the Italian capital last year.

Professor of the Naples Eastern University Minelli Bernardini hailed Nizami Ganjavi`s works. Bernardini noted the Azerbaijani poet was well-known in Italy, adding his works had been translated into Italian. Addressing the event, Azerbaijan`s first lady Mehriban Aliyeva said Nizami Ganjavi was one of the most prominent figures in Azerbaijan`s culture and history. Mrs. Aliyeva said that on the occasion of the outstanding poet`s 850th anniversary UNESCO declared 1991 the year of Nizami Ganjavi. The first lady underlined the poet`s mausoleum in Ganja was under the protection of the Azerbaijani government. She also touched upon the Azerbaijan-Italy relations, saying the two countries were partners in all fields. Mehriban Aliyeva said “Fly to Baku” exhibition reflecting Azerbaijan`s modern art will be organized in Italy late this year. The authors of the monument to Nizami Ganjavi are people`s artist Salkhab Mammadov and honored artist Ali Ibadullayev. The project was approved by the Rome City Hall Commission on the history and art.

### **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan held meetings in Brussels**

April 20 (AzerTAc). Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov met with the colleagues from Turkey, New Zealand, Georgia, Ukraine and Montenegro within the framework of his visit to Brussels. At the meeting held with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu the sides expressed their satisfaction with the dynamic development of cooperation between the two countries and discussed situation in the region and a number of issues of mutual interest. In the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Murray McCully the sides exchanged views on prospects of development of relations between the two countries. McCully has invited the Azerbaijani counterpart to official visit to New Zealand. The sides also agreed for mutual official visits.

### **FAO to launch regional office in Azerbaijan**

April 20 (AzerTAc). A Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will open a regional office in Azerbaijan, said Director-General of FAO Jose Graziano da Silva in the press conference here. FAO official stated that Azerbaijan can play an important role in ensuring food security. “There are natural resources in the region where Azerbaijan is located. There is no lack of soil and water here. Azerbaijan`s President has a resolute position towards improving food security. Azerbaijan will become one of the leading nations for the agricultural development”.

### **Azerbaijani deputy FM visits Australia**

April 21 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan`s Deputy Foreign Minister Khalaf Khalafov has paid a visit to Australia. During the visit Khalafov held meetings with Head of Construction and Facilities at Sydney Airport Corporation Limited John Dardano, General Manager for Growth and Emerging Markets at Australian Trade Commission Dave Landers, Secretary of Department of Infrastructure and Transport Mike Mrdak, Representative of the Ministry for Resources and Energy and Tourism Martin John Ferguson, leadership of the Worley Parsons Resources and Energy Company and Australian National University Centre for European Studies.

The meetings saw Khalafov discuss a range of issues, including prospects for development of Azerbaijan-Australia relations, mutual investment, energy cooperation, the launch of direct flights between the two countries, and the opening of Azerbaijan`s embassy in Australia Australia`s diplomatic mission in Azerbaijan. The sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues, and stressed the importance of expanding cooperation within international organizations.

### **President of Turkey Abdullah Gul gives memorable gifts to Azerbaijani kids**

April 20 (AzerTAc). In occasion of the 23rd April Children`s Festival president of Turkey Abdullah Gul met children from different countries of the world, including Azerbaijani kids. The Director General of Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) İbrahim Shahin and President of the Turkey Abdullah Gul who received children in Chankaya Palace gave memorable gifts and were photographed with children. In turn, Azerbaijani kids presented to the President their paintings and other gifts.

### **Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy becomes AMCHAM member**

April 23 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) became a member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan (AmCham), the Academy`s pres service said. This is an opportunity for ADA to connect with the business community in Baku in order to build lasting connections within the private sector. As ADA launches its upcoming Business School, membership with AmCham will help strengthen links with the business sector in the country and abroad. It will also help ADA to promote its upcoming corporate programs to be offered through the Executive Education programs within the business network to help companies and organizations enhance their business education and leadership capabilities. The affiliation with AmCham will be a great opportunity for ADA students to network with the private sector companies to seek employment and internship opportunities with the local and foreign businesses in the future. ADA is the first among the universities in Azerbaijan to become an AmCham member. AmCham is a private, non-profit business association supporting and promoting the interests of business in Azerbaijan. Established in 1996, AmCham is currently composed of 243 members and associates active in every sector of the Azerbaijani economy.



### **World countries condemn Armenia's policy of occupation**

April 24 (AzerTAc). The Columbian Parliament has passed a resolution condemning Armenia's policy of occupation, press service of Azerbaijan Parliament said. The 2nd Colombia Senate's Constitutional Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and National Defense on March 28 current year passed a resolution condemning occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia and recognizing Khojaly tragedy as genocide. The document was put to vote by Committee's Chairperson Senator Alexandra Moreno Piraquive. After approval by members of the Committee, the draft was submitted to the Senate's plenary session and unanimously approved. The document states that Columbia doesn't recognize military occupation of Nagorno Karabakh and 7 adjacent regions of Azerbaijan by Armenia, and condemns torture and violence committed against peaceful people, especially in Khojaly genocide and calls on Armenia to fulfill the resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 adopted by the UN Security Council.

### **President of Azerbaijan receives EU Special Representative for South Caucasus**

April 25 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Philippe Lefort and his accompanying delegation. They exchanged views on the current state and prospects of EU-Azerbaijan cooperation and negotiations to settle the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

### **Azerbaijan Airlines opens new exclusive lounge intended solely for business-class passengers**

April 25 (AzerTAc). A brand new exclusive lounge intended solely for business-class passengers of Azerbaijan Airlines has thrown its doors open in the North Terminal of Heydar Aliyev International Airport. The staff of the lounge, whose total area makes 215 square meters, can serve simultaneously up to 40 business-class passengers of Azerbaijan Airlines. The lounge offers the possibility of watching TV or using wireless communication services-WI-FI. Solely for the business-class passengers of Azerbaijan Airlines there is unique possibility to make use of the exclusive lounge of Azerbaijan Airlines as well as the lounge located next to the passport control area simultaneously.

### **Azerbaijani President receives Bulgarian Premier**

April 26 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov. President Ilham Aliyev said bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Bulgaria were rapidly developing in various fields, including in the economic one. The Azerbaijani leader praised trade between the two countries. The Head of State underlined the importance of Boyko Borisov's visit to Azerbaijan in terms of defining new directions of bilateral relations. The Azerbaijani President expressed confidence that the visit would be fruitful. Boyko Borisov noted Bulgaria and Azerbaijan enjoyed good cooperation traditions. The Premier said the two countries had big opportunities to expand bilateral ties. President Ilham Aliyev and Premier Boyko Borisov then were joined by their delegations. The Azerbaijani President underlined the importance of the fact that the Bulgarian PM was accompanied by a large delegation. The Head of State said Azerbaijan was interested in enhancing cooperation with Bulgaria with concrete projects even more.

Touching upon economic relations, President Ilham Aliyev noted there was good potential to boost energy cooperation. The Azerbaijani leader stressed the importance of developing bilateral cooperation in the fields of transport, tourism, information technologies and agriculture.

President Ilham Aliyev expressed assurance Boyko Borisov`s visit to Azerbaijan would give concrete results in terms of strengthening bilateral relationship even more. The Premier expressed hope the issues discussed would contribute to expansion of relations between the two countries and peoples. The Bulgarian PM stressed the importance of reciprocal visits in terms of developing the bilateral cooperation. President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Boyko Borisov then had a joint dinner.

### **Azerbaijani President receives Turkish Minister of Science, Industry and Technology**

April 27 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received Science, Industry and Technology Minister of Turkey Nihat Ergun and his accompanying delegation. President Ilham Aliyev stressed relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey develop successfully in various fields, and underlined existence of `good` opportunities for expanding cooperation in science, industry and technology ones. The Head of State expressed assurance that the visit of the Turkish Minister would be `important` in terms of defining cooperation opportunities in the relevant spheres. Nihat Ergun extended greetings of Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the Head of State. The Turkish Minister expressed satisfaction with his Azerbaijan visit and meeting with President Ilham Aliyev. Nihat Ergun expressed hope that they would hold effective discussions on deepening cooperation between the relevant ministries of the two countries. The Head of State asked the Minister to pass on his greetings to the President and Prime Minister of Turkey.

### **Istanbul hosts scientific conference on “Genocide of Azerbaijanis and Karabakh realities”**

April 27 (AzerTAc). The scientific conference on “Genocide of Azerbaijanis and Karabakh realities” co-organized by Society of Turkish Speaking States Friendship and Cultural Relations and Center for Eurasian Strategic Studies has been held in Istanbul Aydin University. The conference held with the financial support of the Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been opened by the rector of Istanbul Aydin University, Professor Yadigar Izmirli. The chairman of the Society of Turkish speaking States Friendship and Cultural Relations Eldaniz Salmanov gave detailed information about the conference. Participants watched a documentary on the “Genocide of Azerbaijanis.” MP, Professor Musa Qasimli underscored “Groundless claims of Armenian genocide and massacres of Azerbaijanis” in his speech. Former State Minister of Turkey Abdulxalid Chay told about the genocides of Turks in Kars, Van and other areas procreated by Armenians living in the territory of the Ottoman Empire. Speaker also gave detailed information to participants on the number of Azerbaijanis living in West Azerbaijan and their deportation from these lands based on specific facts. The chief of the “Our Generation” Public Association Nuraddin Mehdiyev, the teacher of the Baku State University, Doctor of Philosophy in History Vasif Gafarov and Jandan Azer who was the Ambassador of Turkey in several countries also made speeches. The book “Karabakh: questions and facts” translated to Turkish with the financial support of Youth Assistance Fund

and booklets on Armenians' massacres against Turks prepared with financial support of the Council of State Support to NGOs have been distributed to participants.

### **Pakistan not to recognize Armenia until liberation of Azerbaijan's occupied lands, Nayyar Bukhari**

April 28 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan Dashgin Shikarov met with the newly elected Chairman of the Pakistani Senate Nayyar Hussain Bukhari. Shikarov congratulated Mr. Bukhari on his election as a Chairman of Senate, wished success in further activities. He conveyed greetings of Azerbaijani Speaker Ogtay Asadov and handed over an invitation letter to visit Azerbaijan, the embassy of Azerbaijan in Pakistan said. Shikarov highlighted the political, economic and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support for fair position of Azerbaijan in the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh problem. Ambassador Shikarov also reminded Pakistani Senate's adoption of the resolution on February 1 current year on recognition of Khojaly genocide the Armenians committed in the Azerbaijani town Khojaly against peaceful people. He praised this position of Pakistani state, which, according to him, is adherence to international legal principles and norms. This is, he said, also indicator of fraternal relations between the two nations. Ambassador of Azerbaijan informed on the latest successes Azerbaijan gained in redevelopment activities, the economic reforms conducted in the country, the preparations form Eurovision Song Contest, the humanitarian projects being realized by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. Chairman of the Pakistani Senate said his country would support Azerbaijan in the Nagorno Karabakh problem until the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are freed. The resolution adopted on recognition of Khojaly genocide was univocally backed by the ruling party of Pakistan he himself represents, the Senate Chairman underlined. The sides expressed satisfaction with the cooperation ties between the two countries in defense industry, energy, pharmacology, agriculture and information technologies.

### **Azerbaijan Airlines launches flights to Sabiha Gokcen Airport of Istanbul**

April 29 (AzerTAc). The Azerbaijan Airlines closed joint-stock company starts regular flights to Sabiha Gokcen Airport of Istanbul. The flights, to be launched from May 10, will be implemented on Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays at 07.50; on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays at 17.50 by Airbus aircraft. According to rules, baggage registered for business class will be free-of-charge up to 40kg (place of one baggage must not be more than 32 kg), handbag must not have more than 2 places and exceed 10 kg. Baggage registered for economy class will be free-of-charge up to 20 kg; handbag must not have more than 1 place and exceed 5 kg. Transportation cost for the extra baggage is 3 euros. In case when there is a transit passenger on board, the baggage is officialized only till the intermediate point.

### **European Commission-Azerbaijan talks on Trans-Caspian gas pipeline may be completed in mid of 2012, Oettinger**

April 29 (AzerTAc). The talks between the European Commission and Azerbaijan on guarantees of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline may be completed in mid of 2012, EU Commissioner for Energy Günther Oettinger said during the conference on "Energy Dialogue: Russia – European Union. Gas Aspect". Oettinger noted the function of the European Commission is not to give a guarantee, but to organize the work. On September 7, 2011, EU

gave a mandate to the European Commission for conduction of talks with Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan on Trans-Caspian project. Trans Caspian Pipeline project will connect Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan`s Caspian Sea coast for transportation of natural gas to Europe through the territory of Azerbaijan. The expected annual capacity of the Tengiz (Kazakhstan) Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan) Baku (Azerbaijan) Tbilisi (Georgia) Erzurum (Turkey) route amounts to 20-30 billion cubic meters of gas. The cost of the project is estimated at 7.9 billion euros.

### **Kyrgyz President receives Azerbaijan`s first deputy PM**

April 30 (AzerTAc). President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev has today received an Azerbaijani delegation led by first deputy Prime Minister Yagub Eyyubov, who is in Bishkek to attend a first meeting of Kyrgyzstan-Azerbaijan intergovernmental commission. President Atambayev said an impetus was needed to realize the agreements reached during his official visit to Azerbaijan, adding the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission is an important step in this direction. He noted Kyrgyzstan attaches great importance to development of relations with Azerbaijan. Yagub Eyyubov informed Almazbek Atambayev about the first meeting of Kyrgyzstan-Azerbaijan Intergovernmental Commission. "President Ilham Aliyev tasked us with implementing all joint agreements. The scope of our cooperation is very broad," added the deputy PM.

### **"Azerbaijan is one of priority targets in Hungary`s economic policy", Hungarian Premier**

April 30 (AzerTAc). Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said Azerbaijan is one of the priority targets in Hungary`s economic policy. According to Budapest Times, Orbán also expressed interest in increasing international ties, particularly towards the east. "We are part of the Western alliance, a member of the EU and NATO, but we must open up to the east. China, India, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Azerbaijan are priority targets in Hungary`s economic policy," he added.

### **Heydar Aliyev Foundation launches humanitarian projects in Pakistan**

May 1 (AzerTAc). An event to present humanitarian projects carried out by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in this country was held in Pakistan`s capital on Monday. The event organized by the Saifullah Foundation for Sustainable Development was attended by the members of Pakistan`s Senate and National Assembly, state and government officials, representatives of dip corps accredited in Pakistan. Azerbaijan`s ambassador to Pakistan Dashgin Shikarov spoke of large-scale projects realized in Azerbaijan at the initiative of country`s First Lady, president of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva, and stressed that Foundation works in many spheres of life. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has constructed a number of schools, hospitals, Thalassemia Center, music colleges, mosques and implemented a couple of cultural heritage protection projects. The diplomat underlined that First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva initiated reconstruction of the school for girls in earthquake-hit Muzaffarabad in 2005. Launching social welfare projects of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the Ambassador said the first stage aimed to provide hepatitis B vaccinations for the Edhi Home residents, open-heart surgeries for poor patients through the Kulsum International Hospital, Islamabad, support for Akbar Care Institute for Cerebral Palsy, Peshawar, medical and welfare support for Women`s and Children`s Hospital, Ghaznikhel and educational stipends for

students selected by the Saifullah Khan Trust. Chief executive officer of Kulsum International Hospital Hoor Yousafzai stressed social welfare projects carried out by president of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva are of paramount importance to the Pakistani people.

Chairman of Saif Group Saifullah Khan thanked the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Azerbaijani people for care to the Pakistani children. Saifullah Khan recalled his visits to Azerbaijan and meetings with national leader Heydar Aliyev and state officials of Azerbaijan.

### **Milli Majlis`message to European Parliament, CoE PA and world parliaments on 20th anniversary of occupation of Shusha**

May 2 (AzerTAc). The Azerbaijani town of Shusha was occupied by Armenian armed forces twenty years ago, on May 8 1992. The occupation of Shusha was one of the stages of military aggression committed by Armenia to seize Azerbaijan`s Nagorno Karabakh region. The Armenian nationalists committed ethnic purge in Nagorno Karabakh which led to displacement of Azerbaijani people from Shusha. Shusha was founded in 1756 by Panah Ali Khan Javanshir – ruler of Karabakh khanate, Azerbaijani feudal state. Before the occupation of the Northern Azerbaijan by tsarist Russia, Shusha was a residence of Karabakh khan and administrative center of the Karabakh khanate. This town played an important role in history of the state system, socio-economic and political and cultural life of Azerbaijan. As a result of an aggressive war and policy of ethnic purge launched by Armenia against Azerbaijan in 1988 in order to realize its territorial claims, 20% of Azerbaijani territories were occupied, i.e., Nagorno Karabakh region, including Shusha city and adjacent seven regions – Lachin, Kalbajar, Agdam, Jabrail, Fizuli, Gubadli and Zangilan. More than one million Azerbaijanis were ousted from Armenia and the occupied regions of Azerbaijan, with over 18000 Azerbaijanis killed, more than 20000 peaceful residents wounded, more than 50000 people becoming a disabled, over 4000 people taken captive and went missing. 877 towns, villages and settlements were robbed, destroyed and burned. During the aggressive war, Armenian nationalists committed some crimes of genocide against Azerbaijani people, including the Khojaly tragedy. The OSCE Minsk Group was set up in May 1992 to peacefully solve Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict. In 1993, the UN Security Council in the resolutions N 822, 853, 874 and 884 unambiguously reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of Azerbaijan and claimed to immediately and unconditionally withdraw the armed forces of Armenia from Azerbaijan`s occupied territories.

The European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organizations adopted relevant resolutions on Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict. All these documents unambiguously support territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and demand to put an end to occupation of Azerbaijani lands. Unfortunately, resolutions of the international organizations on Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict have not been yet fulfilled. The OSCE Minsk group didn`t justified hopes. If one of the reasons is Armenia`s non-constructive position in a process of peaceful talks and its refusal to recognize Azerbaijan`s territorial integrity, then the other reason is that the aggressor was not called by its true name. In a number of cases, there is similar approach to the aggressor and the state subjected to the aggression, as for Armenian state, which ignores demands of the international community and challenges the international law, the necessary decisiveness is not demonstrated. In this regard, the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan calls upon the European Parliament, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, world parliaments and all forces, which are interested in



resolution of the conflict, to combine their efforts. We expect that international community will demonstrate its decisive stand to remove the hotbed of the conflict, which threaten the world and stability not only in the South Caucasus region but also the whole Europe force Armenia to give up aggressive policy and restore territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

*(Message was adopted at the session of Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, on May 1 2012.)*

### **Azerbaijan's foreign policy priorities remain unchanged during its presidency in Security Council, Permanent representative to UN**

May 1 (AzerTAc). The priorities of Azerbaijan's foreign policy will remain unchanged, by maintaining its relevance and during its presidency in the UN Security Council, Azerbaijan's Permanent Representative to the UN Agshin Mehdiyev told press. Azerbaijan headed the UN Security Council on May 1 after the U.S., which presided in April. China will have the presidency in a month. For the first time in its history, Azerbaijan was elected to the UN Security Council at the General Assembly in October 2011. The republic received authority of the Security Council's non-permanent member status on January 1, 2012. Azerbaijan's membership in the UN Security Council will have no impact on the priorities of its own foreign policy. Mehdiyev said that they are stable as the UN Security Council's work programme for the next 31 days has not been approved yet. The ambassador did not state the details. However, he stressed that the agenda will have issues related to the maintenance of international peace and security issues related to terrorism, the situation in the Balkans and of course, the Middle East and North Africa and Africa during Azerbaijan's presidency. "As you know, the UN Security Council regularly hears the Secretariat's report on the situation in the Middle East including the Palestinian question," the diplomat said. "Of course, this will be reflected in our programme. The situation in Syria will also be thoroughly discussed." Stressing that Azerbaijan is a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Non-Aligned Movement, Mehdiyev stressed that his country has set its position on many issues of the agenda of the UN Security Council. "If at some point our opinions coincide with those of other countries, it is wonderful," he said. "If not, then we have our own principles and we are not going to alter." Observing the first four months of Azerbaijan's membership in the UN Security Council, the ambassador said that very valuable experience has been obtained. "Our country has been elected to the Security Council for the first time," he said. "For the first time in its history it presides over a body which resolves all international problems. This is a great school for any diplomat regardless of age, experience and activity."

### **Azerbaijan takes over UN Security Council presidency**

May 1 (AzerTAc). The rotating presidency of the UN Security Council passed to Azerbaijan from May 1. The UN Security Council's May agenda will focus on the situation in the Middle East and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, as well as the prevention of international terrorism. "It is very important for Azerbaijan to be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and chair the organization. Azerbaijan intends to hold special discussions on the fight against international terrorism," Azerbaijan's Ambassador to UN Agshin Mehdiyev told United Nations Radio.



### **Turkish Onur Air lanches Ganja-Istanbul flight**

May 2 (AzerTAc). Turkish private airline “Onur Air” has started its first flight to Ganja, Azerbaijan’s second largest city. The flights are due from Ganja city to Istanbul Ataturk Airport on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Istanbul-Ganja flight tickets costs 79 Euros. The flight departs from Ganja at 08.25 (local time).

### **2nd meeting of ECO heads of Trade Promotion Organizations kicks off in Baku**

May 2 (AzerTAc). The 2nd meeting of Heads of Trade Promotion Organizations of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has today started here. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Azerbaijan Sevinj Hasanova provided information on the reforms carried out in Azerbaijan as well as progress achieved in the socio-economic sphere during the past years. ECO’s deputy secretary general Fatih Unlu also noted that the meeting would help promote cooperation among the member countries. The conference will last till Thursday.

### **UN Security Council under Azerbaijan’s presidency adopts its first resolution**

May 3 (AzerTAc). The United Nations Security Council held its first meeting under the presidency of Azerbaijan. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution calling on Sudan and South Sudan with sanctions if the former civil war foes fail to halt an escalating conflict and resume talks within two weeks on a string of disputes over oil revenues and border demarcation. The 15-member panel unanimously approved the resolution initiated by the United States and adopted under the presidency of Azerbaijan. The Resolution says they must halt fighting and reach agreement within three months. The council ordered the two sides to start peace talks within two weeks under the auspices of African Union mediators, withdraw troops from disputed areas and resume talks within two weeks with the aim of resolving all outstanding disputes. The resolution passed on Wednesday threatens both Sudan and South Sudan with "additional measures" under Article 41 of the U.N. charter, which allows the council to impose economic and diplomatic sanctions on countries that ignore its decisions.

### **UN Security Council’s meeting kicks off in New York under Azerbaijani President’s chairmanship**

May 4 (AzerTAc). A meeting of the UN Security Council took place at the UN Headquarters in New York under Azerbaijan’s chairmanship. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev chaired the meeting. Initiated by Azerbaijan, discussions on the topic “Threats created by acts of terrorism to international peace and security” were held in the meeting. Chairman of the meeting, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev informed that the present agenda was dedicated to the topic “Threats created by acts of terrorism to international peace and security”. Head of the Azerbaijani state expressed gratitude to the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon for participation in the session. The Secretary General of the United Nations congratulated President Ilham Aliyev on presidency of Azerbaijan in Security Council. He noted importance of development of the general concept in combat against terror. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Guido Westerwelle, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo Elliot Ohin, member of Obama administration, the US permanent representative to UN Susan Rice, the Minister of

Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco Jusuf Amrani, the special representative of the President of Russia on fight against terrorism and the organized crime Alexander Zmeevsky, the deputy minister of multilateral affairs of Colombia Patti Londono, representatives of China, Pakistan, Great Britain, India, the Republic of South Africa, Guatemala, France and Portugal congratulated the President of Azerbaijan on the occasion of presidency in Security Council, underlining that now the terrorism is the biggest threat for the world, and declared their support for United Nations' efforts in struggle in this area. President Ilham Aliyev made a speech at the meeting. Azerbaijan was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2012-2013, gaining 155 votes from member countries in a tough membership competition.

**Official reception on 20th anniversary of Azerbaijan's UN membership and country's election as non-permanent member of UN Security Council held in New York**

May 4 (AzerTAc). An official reception on the 20th anniversary of Azerbaijan's UN membership and the country's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2012-2013 was arranged here on behalf of President Ilham Aliyev. The ceremony brought together President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, UN Secretary General Ban-Ki moon, US influential political and public figures. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev met with UN Secretary General Ban-Ki moon. Ceremony participants congratulated President of Azerbaijan on the 20th anniversary of Azerbaijan's UN membership and the country's election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. A resolution on Azerbaijan's membership to this organization was adopted during the 46th session of the UN General Assembly, on March 2, 1992. Then, the flag of Azerbaijan, the 181st member of the organization, was hoisted before the UN headquarters in New York. On May 6, the Azerbaijani representative office in the UN started its operations. The cooperation with UN helped Azerbaijan to closely integrate to the world community, cement its international positions and create big opportunities to expose aggressive policy of Armenia. President Ilham Aliyev made a speech at the ceremony. The Head of State expressed his gratitude to the guests. The President said Azerbaijan celebrates two momentous events in its history and marks the 20th anniversary of its UN membership. He stressed last year Azerbaijan was elected a member of the UN Security Council. Some days ago, Azerbaijan took over presidency in the UN Security Council. President Ilham Aliyev said Azerbaijan regained its independence 20 years ago and during this period carried out large-scale reforms in the political system. Azerbaijan as a tolerant country plays today an important role in implementation of the intercultural dialogue around the world. On achievements in the field of economy, President Ilham Aliyev underlined that over the past years, GDP increased in Azerbaijan several times, poverty level decreased and process of economic diversification is being successfully realized. All these indicators are confirmed by the reports of international organizations.

On Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the Head of State said the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions. Unfortunately, these resolutions have not been fulfilled by Armenia. "Nagorno Karabakh conflict seriously undermines international peace and security and grossly violates the international law. Nagorno Karabakh is a native Azerbaijani land and violation of the country's rights must be restored as soon as possible," said the President. On the Azerbaijani-American relations, President Ilham Aliyev said the ties were developing in the political, economic and energy fields. He stressed Azerbaijan is a strategic partner of USA in fighting terrorism. President said some months ago international community showed confidence to Azerbaijan and elected it as a member of the UN Security

Council. The Head of State said Azerbaijan, an active and constructive member of this structure, will always support justice and norms of international law and peace. Then, a banquet on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Azerbaijan's UN membership and the country's election as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2012-2013 was arranged in New York on behalf of President Ilham Aliyev.

### **President Ilham Aliyev meets UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in New York**

May 5 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev met in New York with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Ban Ki-moon underscored the importance of President Ilham Aliyev's New York visit since the country has taken over UN Security Council presidency. He described putting the topic "threats to international peace and security caused by the terrorist acts" onto the agenda of the UN Security Council as a successful step, adding it is a very pressing issue today in the world. The UN Secretary General touched upon the National Action Plan signed by President Ilham Aliyev in 2011 to increase effectiveness of protection of human rights and freedoms in Azerbaijan, saying the document would contribute to development of democracy in the country. Ban Ki-moon underlined democracy would continue to develop in Azerbaijan under leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. President Ilham Aliyev thanked the UN Secretary for praising Azerbaijan's proposal. He noted Azerbaijan took an active part in war on terrorism and counter-terrorism coalition. The President told about political, economic reforms carried out in the country since it regained independence and great work being done to ensure democracy. Ban Ki-moon asked the President about his views on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. President Ilham Aliyev reiterated the country's position on the conflict caused by Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

### **UN Secretary General and Azerbaijan, which chairs UN Security Council, host joint dinner in New York, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon participate in the dinner**

May 5 (AzerTAc). A dinner was hosted on behalf of the UN Secretary General and Azerbaijan, which chairs the UN Security Council, in New York, on Friday. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon participated in the dinner. The Head of State Ilham Aliyev made a speech at the dinner: Dear ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the dinner! Thank you for accepting our invitation. We spent the whole day discussing a number of important issues. I thank you for your contribution to the cooperation. Today, we will continue discussing the topics of mutual interest. I am sure the discussions will be constructive. I want to again thank all those, who supported us. It is a momentous event for us. It is one of the remarkable events in our history. We were elected to the UN Security Council. And we will chair it. I am very glad to be in this role and share such unforgettable moments with our friends. I again welcome all of you and let me give floor to the Secretary General.

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In his speech, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon congratulated Azerbaijan on its presidency of the UN Security Council.

### **Trade between Azerbaijan and ECO countries reaches \$2.6 billion**

May 6 (AzerTAc). The trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Economic Cooperation Organization countries was \$2.6 billion last year, said Azerbaijan's deputy minister of economic development Sevinj Hasanova during the 2nd Meeting of the Heads of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs) held in Baku. According to the deputy minister, the indicator is 30% more than relevant period of 2010.

### **Azerbaijan President opens Baku Crystal Hall – arena of Eurovision-2012**

May 7 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva today inaugurated the main arena of the 57th Eurovision Song Contest – the newly constructed Baku Crystal Hall. The head of state cut the ribbon symbolizing opening of the Hall. The President and First Lady were informed on the construction of grandiose arena with 25.000 people capacity, its original architecture. As stated, the complex will be further used for other grand concerts, as well as for international events. This is also symbolic that the Crystal Hall is situated in the vicinity of the State Flag Square, which is a more important factor. Azerbaijan won the right to host the prestigious European song contest after the victory of Eldar Gasimov and Nigar Jamal (Ell / Nikki) at Eurovision 2011 in Dusseldorf, Germany last May among 43 world countries. The event is of great political and economic importance for Azerbaijan which is situated at the junction of the East and West. The other notable fact is that such prestigious music contest as Eurovision is for the first time conducted in the South Caucasus. And Azerbaijan succeeded such a triumph after it participated in this music festival for almost four times.

### **Ankara hosts event on 20th anniversary of occupation of Shusha**

May 8 (AzerTAc). Anatolian Agency's meeting hall hosted an event dedicated to the 20th anniversary of occupation of Shusha town of Azerbaijan by Armenian armed forces. Speaking at the event, Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Turkey Faig Bagirov said 680 people were murdered, while 1200 injured, and 114 captivated people were brutally killed in Shusha. "The occupation of the town was a result of Armenia's aggression policy." Member of Azerbaijan's parliament Ganira Pashayeva spoke of the tragic events in Shusha, underlining that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a common problem of Turkey and the Turkic world. She called the Azerbaijani youth studying in Turkey and Turkish media to increase efforts towards raise the world community's awareness of Shusha's occupation. "Armenians must answer for the destruction of 160 historical, cultural monuments of Shusha." A film on Shusha's occupation was displayed at the event.

### **President Ilham Aliyev attends Victory Day ceremony in Baku**

May 9 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has today attended a solemn ceremony to mark the 67th anniversary of the victory over fascism in the World War II. The Azerbaijani people made a crucial contribution to historic victory over Nazis. More than 600,000 Azerbaijanis fought during the World War II, with almost half of them dying. More than 130 Azerbaijanis were awarded with the Hero of the Soviet Union title, while over 170,000 Azerbaijani soldiers and officers received medals. The 77th, 223rd, 402nd and 416th all-Azerbaijani National Divisions of the Soviet Army fought during the Great Patriotic

War from the Caucasus to the Berlin. Baku also made a huge oil contribution to the Great Victory, with much of the Soviet fuel supplied by oil from the Azerbaijani capital. During his leadership, Azerbaijan's national leader Heydar Aliyev always showed great attention and care towards World War veterans. The national leader's policy is now being continued by President Ilham Aliyev. On the eve of the Victory Day the Head of State signed an order giving lump sum allowances to war veterans and their families. The President was warmly welcomed by war veterans and Baku residents in front of the monument to Major-General Hazi Aslanov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union. A guard of honor was lined up here. The President greeted the veterans and congratulated them on the Victory Day. He enquired after their problems and needs. The veterans said they would never forget national leader Heydar Aliyev's attention and care. They also thanked President Ilham Aliyev, and said they would always support him. Then, the Azerbaijani President laid a wreath at the monument to Hazi Aslanov. The Head of State posed for photographs together with the veterans. To the accompaniment of the military march, he inspected the guard of honor. President Ilham Aliyev also met with family members of Hazi Aslanov, and congratulated them on the victory. Among the participants of the ceremony were Prime Minister Artur Rasizade, Speaker of Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov, and Chief of the Presidential Administration Ramiz Mehdiyev.

**The Appeal by Shusha IDPs to the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the occupation by the Armenian armed forces of the town of Shusha of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

We, the Internally Displaced Persons from the Azerbaijani region of Shusha, appeal to leading international organizations - the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – with the aim of once again drawing the international community's attention to the policy of aggression of Armenia, which grossly violated norms and principles of international law. We state that the 8th of May, 2012 marks 20 years since the occupation of Shusha by the Armenian military. The occupation resulted in the destruction of the town of Shusha and 30 villages in the region and the expulsion of more than 24,000 people, which was accompanied by great loss of life. The 20th century alone saw Shusha, which occupies an important place in Azerbaijan's history and is considered a museum of wildlife and a town of monuments, being burnt and destroyed by Armenian nationalists three times. Armenians carried out similar crimes in 1905-1906 and 1920 too. In 1992, 25 schools, 31 libraries, 25 clubs and culture houses, tens of kindergartens, cinemas, sanatoriums, tourism facilities, museums, including State Drama Theatre and State Picture Gallery, Oriental music instruments factory, more than 170 houses, which were considered architectural monuments, nearly 160 historical and cultural monuments, temples and mosques were destroyed by Armenians in the Shusha region. Armenian vandals, who consider themselves a civilized nation, burned thousands of books and rare manuscripts. They did not even refrain from firing at monuments of outstanding art figures such as Uzeyir Hajibayli who created the world's rare musical masterpieces. Armenians have committed countless crimes against the people of Azerbaijan. The years 1988-1993 alone saw bloody clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan claim 20,000 Azerbaijani lives, while 100,000 were injured and 50,000 became disabled. As a result of numerous terrorist attacks 1,200 Azerbaijanis were murdered and more than 1,700 received injuries. Atrocities against peaceful Azerbaijanis have been in breach of all norms of international law, and are crimes against humanity. The Khojaly genocide alone is enough to



confirm this. The way Armenia is treating Azerbaijani cultural property grossly breaks the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and UNESCO's 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. We, the IDPs from Shusha, once again draw the international community's attention to the fact that for over 20 years Armenia has managed – through its patrons – to have kept Azerbaijan's occupied lands under occupation. Armenia even occupied the towns of Lachin, Kalbajar, Agdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadly and Zangilan, which are located outside the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The total area of these towns is four times bigger than that of the Nagorno-Karabakh. And we deeply regret that the world community is not in a hurry to punish the aggressor and take it down a peg or two. Although four UN Security Council resolutions demand Armenia's unconditional withdrawal from Azerbaijan's occupied lands, Armenia continues to disregard them. We are confident that fair demands of the Azerbaijani people will sooner or later be fulfilled, and Azerbaijan's lands will be liberated through peaceful means. We also state that the people of Azerbaijan will never accept the occupation of its lands by Armenia. We will return to our homelands at any price. We request and demand that the world community put an end to the policy of aggression, which jeopardizes peace in the Caucasus and in the entire world, that Azerbaijan's territorial integrity be restored, and all IDPs return to their permanent places of residence.

We believe that the world community will back justice and legally and politically recognize Armenia's policy of aggression.

### **Azerbaijani President opens Heydar Aliyev Center, attends solemn ceremony on 89th anniversary of the national leader and 8th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev Foundation**

May 10 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has today inaugurated the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, and attended a solemn ceremony marking the 89th anniversary of the national leader and the 8th anniversary of the founding of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. Accompanied by his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva and family members the Head of State arrived at the Heydar Aliyev Center, where he cut the ribbon symbolizing the official opening of the facility. The President addressed the ceremony.

He called the Heydar Aliyev Center a landmark facility. The President said the state-of-the-art center was multifunctional. He expressed gratitude to architect Zaha Hadid, who designed the complex, and those who contributed to the construction of the complex. President Ilham Aliyev said he visited the site several times to inspect the construction progress. The Head of State said: "Our capital, which represents a mix of ancient times and modernity, has many landmarks. And now we build new landmarks of modern Baku, including ten Seaside National Park, National Flag Square, Flame Towers, Crystal Palace and finally the Heydar Aliyev Center." The President praised national leader Heydar Aliyev's role in Azerbaijan's history. "Heydar Aliyev always served his people," said the President, adding the national leader saved the country from collapsing after returning to political power at the request of the people in 1993. The Head of State highlighted Azerbaijan's socio-economic reforms in recent years. He noted democratization processes were rapidly going in Azerbaijan.

The President highlighted the country's economic achievements. He said Azerbaijan now had strong economy and strong army. The Head of State touched upon Azerbaijan's election as a member of the UN Security Council, calling it "our diplomatic triumph". The



President's remarks were followed by a documentary on the Heydar Aliyev Center. Then the ceremony to mark the 8th anniversary of the founding of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation took place. Speaking to the event, president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva highlighted the Foundation's activity, and pointed out its successful international projects. The first lady said the Foundation would continue working tirelessly so that the Eurovision-2012 song contest is a success. The ceremony featured the presentation of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation's "Gizil chinar" award to Lithuania's ambassador in Baku Kestutis Kudzmanas for his support of the Foundation's activity in the field of education, and Honoured Master of Sport Ilham Zakiyev for successful performance in international sports tournaments.

### **Hungarian newspaper publishes article on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**

May 10 (AzerTAc). Hungarian Nepszava newspaper has published an article on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the occupation of Shusha town of Azerbaijan by Armenian forces. The author of the article, journalist Ferenc Kepecs, visited Azerbaijan with a Hungarian media delegation last year, and had a chance to become acquainted with the living conditions of IDPs. The author underlined that Shusha was founded by the Azerbaijani people, and had been known as a cultural center, "Conservatory of the Caucasus", for over 200 years. The article says that thanks to its tangible and cultural monuments the region was announced a preserve in 1985, but was destroyed by the Armenians. The author highlights that 90 percent of the citizens living in Shusha were Azerbaijanis during its occupation in 1992. Kepecs writes that not only Shusha, but other seven regions of Azerbaijan also still remain under the occupation of Armenia. The author recalls tragic fate of 9-year old Fariz Badalov and 13-year old Aygun Shahmaliyeva who were the victims of the Armenian terrorist acts.

### **President Ilham Aliyev receives Sudanese foreign minister**

May 11 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received a Sudanese delegation led by minister of foreign affairs Ali Ahmed Karti. The minister delivered greetings of Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir to the Azerbaijani leader. He also handed over Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir's letter to President Ilham Aliyev. Ali Ahmed Karti said the ongoing rapid economic development in Azerbaijan under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev made a deep impression on him. The minister thanked Azerbaijan as the country supports Sudan in international organizations. President Ilham Aliyev stressed the importance of the fact that Azerbaijan and Sudan consistently back each other within international organizations. The Head of State expressed confidence that this cooperation would further continue. President Ilham Aliyev expressed hope that Ali Ahmed Karti's visit to Azerbaijan would contribute to expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries. The Azerbaijani President asked Ali Ahmed Karti to extend his greetings to the Sudanese President.

### **Azerbaijan to take part in pipeline construction from Kazakhstan to Kyrgyzstan**

May 11 (AzerTAc). Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan will build a pipeline with a capacity of 2 million tons per year. The statement came from the Minister of Economy and Antitrust Policy

of Kyrgyzstan Temir Sariev during an official visit to Kazakhstan, AzerTAc reports quoting Tazabek online edition. In Astana, governmental delegation of Kyrgyzstan led by Sariev met with Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev. During the meeting the sides discussed the main directions of economic development of the two countries, identified priorities for further cooperation and collaboration. "Yesterday, we visited KazMunayGas Company and discussed the construction of an oil pipeline from Kazakhstan to Kyrgyzstan. The main issue is to negotiate resource. We agreed on creation of a working group with the possible participation of the Azerbaijani side, and emphasized that the pipeline will be used to operate the refinery, which is expected to be constructed by Azerbaijan in Kyrgyzstan. A route is expected to run from Shymkent, or Kyzyl-Orda to Kyrgyzstan," Sariev said. Azerbaijan earlier stated it intended by the end of 2013 to build a refinery in Kyrgyzstan with a capacity of 2 million tons per year.

### **AZAL to launch Baku-Novosibirsk flight**

May 13 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan Airlines Closed Joint-Stock Company will start flights on Baku-Novosibirsk-Baku flight from June 1. The flights from Baku will be implemented on Friday at 12:00, from Novosibirsk – at 19:10 (local time) by Airbus A-319 aircraft. The flights will be implemented until November 26.

### **AZAL to launch charter flights on Baku-Split route**

May 13 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan Airlines Closed Joint-Stock Company will launch direct charter flights on Baku-Split (Croatia) route. The flights to be implemented from July 1 will be realized once in 10 days. In general Baku-Split flights will be implemented 7 times: on July 1, 10, 19 and 28, on August 6, 15 and 24 respectively. The flights will be realized by Airbus aircraft.

### **Azerbaijan`s President receives OSCE Minsk group co-chairs and personal representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

May 14 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received OSCE Minsk group co-chairs , Igor Popov of Russia, Robert Bradtke of the United States and Jacques Faure of France as well as Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk. The meeting highlighted current state of and prospects for the peace talks on Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

### **Azerbaijan`s President receives Chairperson of Bulgaria`s National Assembly**

May 14 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received Chairperson of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Tsetska Tsacheva and her accompanying delegation. The Head of State pointed out the relations between the two countries have rich history, and underlined that high level contacts have fruitful results. President Ilham Aliyev recalled visits of chairman of Bulgaria`s National Assembly and Prime Minister Boyko Borisov to Azerbaijan, describing these visits as a sample of dynamic development of bilateral relations. The Head of State underscored importance of energy, tourism and other joint projects. On interparliamentary cooperation, President of Azerbaijan expressed satisfaction with cooperation

between the two countries within Euronest. The Head of State expressed assurance that Tsacheva's visit would contribute to strengthening bilateral ties in various directions, interparliamentary relations as well. For her part, Chairperson of Bulgaria's National Assembly stressed importance of this visit on the eve of the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Bulgaria, and expressed assurance that the cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries would be further expanded.

### **Anglo Asian to construct new leach plant at Gadabay**

May 14 (AzerTAc). Anglo Asian Mining (LON:AAZ), the AIM listed gold producer in Azerbaijan, has announced that it plans to construct an agitation leaching plant to improve gold recoveries at its flagship Gadabay gold/copper/silver mine in Azerbaijan. Anglo Asian says an increased confidence in Gadabay's future gold production has justified the decision to move forward with the new leaching plant. Gold recoveries will increase to 85% for oxide ore and up to 69% for the sulphide ore. The new plant will be designed to treat 100 tonnes of ore per hour. And it is expected to cost US\$52 million, the company said. The first plant equipment is expected to arrive in the third quarter. The company's confidence in the mine comes after a 50% increase to Gadabay's resource base, in a recent assessment. The project now has over 1 million ounces in the Measured and Indicated resource categories. Meanwhile drilling work continues this year and this is expected to provide a further resource update. The new plant uses agitation leaching. And it will be able to process high grade gold ore as well as additional ore which are not suitable for the current heap leaching operation - it will also be able to process 'spent' ore processed by the current heap leaching operation. The company will submit its final paperwork to the Azerbaijan government. Anglo Asian says it is confident that the project will be approved. The Anglo Asian Mining Company has the rights to develop six deposits in the south-west of Azerbaijan - Gadabay, Ordubad, Gosha Bulag, Gyzyly Bulag, Vezhnali and Soyutlu based on a PSA type agreement signed in August 1997 with Azerbaijani government. Under the contract, production of about 400 tons of gold, 2500 tons of silver and 1.5 million tons of copper is planned at the deposit.

### **Azerbaijani President meets Kyrgyz counterpart in Moscow**

May 15 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has today met his Kyrgyz counterpart Almazbek Atambayev at the Grand Kremlin Palace as part of his working visit to Russia. The presidents praised the development of the relations between the two countries in different fields, and expressed satisfaction with the activity of the joint intergovernmental commission. They stressed the importance of reciprocal visits, saying they greatly contribute to developing the bilateral ties. The presidents pointed out the existence of good opportunities for the development of the bilateral cooperation, saying the relations between the two states and their people were based on the principles of friendship and brotherhood.

### **Azerbaijani President attends informal summit of CIS Heads of State**

May 15 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has attended an informal summit of the CIS Council of Heads of State. Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed the CIS Heads of State, including the Azerbaijani leader. The Russian President thanked the CIS leaders for accepting the invitation to attend the summit. Current chairman of the CIS, Turkmen

President Gurbangulu Berdimuhamedov addressed the event. The summit featured discussions on development of cooperation and integration processes in the CIS.

### **Azerbaijan signs Third Protocol of European Convention "On Extradition"**

May 15 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan has signed the Third Protocol of the European Convention "On Extradition". Justice Minister Fikrat Mammadov, who was authorized to sign the document from the Azerbaijani side, paid a visit in this connection to Strasbourg on May 14. A solemn ceremony of signing the protocol took place with the participation of Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjorn Jagland, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and other officials. Following the ceremony, Jagland and Mammadov had a meeting. Jagland noted that Azerbaijan is an important partner country for the European Council and stressed the importance of the early adoption of the plan of joint measures for cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Council of Europe. Mammadov highlighted democratic and legal reforms in Azerbaijan under President Ilham Aliyev. He spoke of Azerbaijan-Council of Europe cooperation. During the visit, a meeting with Chairman of the European Court of Human Rights, Nicholas Bratza, was also held. At the meeting, the sides stressed the importance of work in this area, study and application of case law, strengthening the educational activities, translating relevant documents into the Azerbaijani language. The meeting was also attended by the European Court judge from Azerbaijan Khanlar Hajiyev.

### **Organization of Islamic Cooperation adopts document on Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs**

May 15 (AzerTAc). A final declaration of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ministerial Conference on "Refugees in the Muslim World" was adopted in Ashgabat on May 11-12, stressing the necessity of ensuring the return of over a million Azerbaijanis, who became refugees and IDPs as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, to their homelands. According to Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry, the 9th article of the "Ashgabat Declaration" was devoted to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The item emphasizes that the 38th session of the OIC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs adopted 10/38-POL resolution featuring the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan. The document says: "We express deep concern on the situation of more than one million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs, the population expelled from the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijan Republic and adjacent areas, the scale and seriousness of the humanitarian problem in this context. We demand the creation of conditions for the return of Azerbaijani refugees and expelled population to their native lands with the maintenance of their safety, honour and dignity, reaffirm our support for the efforts of the Azerbaijani government and people. We strongly demand the full execution of the relevant OIC, the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions".

### **Venezuelan diplomatic mission opening in Azerbaijan**

May 15 (AzerTAc). Venezuela's diplomatic mission at the level of charge d'affaires will begin to function in Azerbaijan. According to the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, Venezuelan charge d'affaires in Azerbaijan Christine Lamos announced this on Monday during a meeting at the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan. Relations between Azerbaijan and the countries of Latin

America are on the rise. Azerbaijan first opened its embassy in this continent in 2010 in Argentina.

**Baku hosts WorldFood Azerbaijan 2012 exhibition**

May 15 (AzerTAc). Iteca Caspian and ITE Group plc opened the 18th Azerbaijan International Food Industry Exhibition, the 6th Azerbaijan International Agriculture Exhibition “Agrihort Azerbaijan 2012”, the 2nd Caspian International Plastics and Rubber Exhibition “Plastex Caspian 2012” and Caspian International Exhibition "Packaging, Tare, Label and Printing “Ipack Caspian 2012” at Baku Expo Centre. 120 companies from 24 countries are set to exhibit at this year`s event, including Azerbaijani, German, Kazakhstani, Lithuanian, and Turkish companies, and over 40% of the floor space will be occupied by regular exhibitors. WorldFood Azerbaijan`s exhibition sectors cover all areas of the industry, representing meat and poultry, canned food, confectionery, drinks, ingredients, laboratory analysis equipment, and many others. There will be a wide range of dairy products on offer, showcased by producers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Egypt. The exhibitions are officially supported by the Ministry of Industry and Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO), and the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers`) Organisations of Azerbaijan.

## **Kazakhstan**

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### **Kazakhstan government approves list of strategic deposits**

**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - The Government of Kazakhstan approved a list of subsurface sites and deposits of strategic importance. Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Masimov signed the Government Resolution, PM Karim Masimov's website reported.

The list includes 361 deposits including 45 raw hydrocarbon, oil, gas and condensate deposits. These are Kashagan, Karachaganak, Karazhanbas, Kalamkas, Kumkol, Tengiz, Uzen, Satpayev deposits and fields in the Caspian Sea - Zhemchuzhina, Tyub-Karagan, Makhambet, Bobek, Zhambyl, etc.

Besides, 54 uranium deposits including Glubinnoye, Akdala, Inkai, Kyzylkol, Mynkuduk, Southern Karamurun, Shokpak, etc. were included into the list as well as the deposits of diamonds, bauxite, iron, wolframite, gold, copper, nickel, and other raw materials.

Besides, about 200 sources of fresh groundwater in different regions of the country were included into the list.

### **Kazakh mutual trade within CU exceeds \$3 bln in two months**



**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - Kazakhstan's mutual trade with the Customs Union countries totaled 3,106.0 million US dollars from January to February 2012, what is also 7.6% greater than in January-February 2011. This rate includes exports reaching 977.1 million US dollars, dropping 21.3 %, and imports - 2 128.9 million US dollars with an increase of 29.3%, CaspioNet agency reported.

Statistical data shows that Kazakhstan's exports are dominated by mineral products, metals and their products, as well as chemical products. Mineral products, machinery and equipment, metals and their products, as well as chemical products are mainly imported from Russia and Belarus.

### **47 terrorists are sentenced to prison in Atyrau**

**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - The Atyrau court has sentenced members of two extremist groups accused under the Criminal Code of Kazakhstan, stipulating penalties for terrorist activities, Caspionet.kz reported.

A total of 47 people were convicted in the case. Both trials were held behind closed doors. 42 people, arrested in late August 2011, were accused in the first case. One of the suspects, who attempted to resist law enforcement officers, was shot during the arrest. The special inter-district criminal court of the Atyrau region sentenced the convicts to prison terms from 5 to 15 years in general and strict regime correctional colonies.

The City Court announced the verdict in respect of five people in the second case. They were



found guilty of participating in the activities of terrorist groups and bomb blasts committed outside the regional administration and in the Sary-Arka micro-district on October 31, 2011.

No victims among the citizens and law enforcement officials were reported during the arrest of all convicts.

### **Caspian Aktau Seaport has seen the second stage of the expansion project complete**

The Caspian Aktau Seaport has seen the second stage of the expansion project complete, KazTag Agency reports, citing the Development Bank of Kazakhstan.

“The 500-meter breakwater has been commissioned as part of the project to expand the seaport northwards”, the statement reads.

The third stage envisages dredging works, whereas the fourth stage envisages creation of three dry cargo berths complete with supportive infrastructure.

“The expansion project seeks to expand handling capacity of the only maritime gates of the country twofold. The port will be able to handle over 3 million tons of dry cargoes. The sea port headcount will be increased by 364 people. 650 people are currently being employed for the construction works”, the statement reads.

The project is estimated at \$283.6 million and is financed via the Development Bank of Kazakhstan.

The Aktau sea port was constructed back in 1963 mainly to export uranium ore and crude coming from oil fields of the Mangyshlak region. Located on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea, the port is the only maritime gates of the nation, enabling to export dry cargoes, crude and petroleum products.

### **IMF projects robust growth in all Central Asian countries in 2012 and 2013**



**CA-NEWS (TJ)** - In a new report released in Washington on Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund projected a robust growth in all five countries of Central Asia in 2012 and 2013, but warned that Europe and oil prices could yet be a serious risk factor, reported Silk Road Newslines.

According to the IMF, growth in Kazakhstan is seen at 5.9 percent this year and 6 percent the following year. In Kyrgyzstan, growth is projected at 5 percent in 2012 and 5.5 percent in 2013.

Forecast for Tajikistan is 6 percent and 6 percent, for Turkmenistan is 7 percent and 6.7 percent, and for Uzbekistan is 7 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively.

The IMF's outlook for the countries of Central Asia and other emerging markets is for continued strong growth.

"The outlook is rather good. We predict, you know, less growth than in the past few years, but still strong growth. They face a tough international environment. That's really where the problems come from, for the most part," said IMF Chief Economist Olivier Blanchard.

The IMF warned that risks of a renewed upsurge of the crisis in Europe continue to loom large, along with geopolitical uncertainties affecting the oil market.

"There are always many risks, but there is just one overwhelming one, which is another Euro crisis. You know, some measures were taken. Actually, important measures were taken as a result of the last one. But they're not quite enough. If you look at the program countries, or if you look at some other countries in Europe, they still have a terrible problem of achieving competitiveness, decreasing the fiscal deficit, having growth," he said.

Blanchard said the second key risk to the outlook would be rising oil prices.

"What we looked at was a scenario in which there was general uncertainty in the Middle East, so the oil price went up by roughly 50 percent for a long time. That is not good. That, we think, would decrease the level of output over two years for the U.S., for Europe by about 1 percent, more so in Japan, emerging Asia, because they import more oil, so 1.5 percent, roughly," he said.

### **Polyus Gold sells Romanian assets for \$20 mln to Kazakh-based company**

**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - Russia's largest gold producer Polyus Gold has agreed to sell its Romanian enterprises, Romaltyn Mining SRL and Romaltyn Exploration SRL, to Kazakh-based SAT & Company metallurgical holding firm for \$20 million, Polyus Gold said on Friday.

The deal is scheduled to be closed in the second quarter of 2012, Polyus said in a statement, reported RIA Novosti.

The two enterprises "hold rights to various mining assets in Romania including a gold treatment plant with a capacity of 2.5 million tons of ore and tailings annually (currently not in operation) and a number of exploration properties."

### **Kazakhmys and Air Liquide of France to jointly produce industrial gases**

Kazakhmys, a UK-registered copper mining company whose main assets are located in Kazakhstan, and Air Liquide of France are thinking of launching an investment project to produce industrial gases. Respective MoU was signed under the aegis of the Kazakhstan's Ministry of Industry and New Technology April 19, KazTag Newswire reports.

“The project is at its early stage ... however, we have a clear intent to work together”, Kazakhmys Smelting Director Marat Aubakirov said following the signing of the MoU.

Air Liquide is a major French company supplying industrial gases and services to various industries including medical, chemical and electronic manufacturers. Founded in 1902, it is first in the world market in its field, now operating in over 80 countries.

“Kazakhmys as a copper producer (...) seeks to optimize production costs. The power spent to produce oxygen is a major cost component. [The French company] possesses high-end technology enabling to cut down costs”, Mr. Aubakirov said.

“Late May we may finalize the agreement (...) we have to define the volume of oxygen needed to support the Company’s operations. Then pre-feasibility study stage will follow with estimates provided by Air Liquide (...) There are a number of cooperation options. The French side will either supply new equipment or modernize the already available equipment. Or there can be some other options”.

Established in 1930 and focused on copper production, Kazakhmys PLC is among the world's leading natural resources groups. The Company is based primarily in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, listed in London and Hong Kong, and is part of the FTSE 100 Index.

### **Anti-torture draft law presented to Kazakhstan Parliament**

Draft law aimed at of tortures and other harsh, inhuman or humiliating treatment or punishments has been presented to the Majilis, Tengrinews.kz reports.

According to Deputy Justice Minister Dulat Kustavletov, the draft law provides for creation of the national preventive mechanism, some kind of a public commission that will visit special facilities of temporary isolation.

The participants of the national preventive mechanism include Human Rights Commissioner, members of the public monitoring commissions, members of public associations contracted by the state to ensure operations of the national preventive mechanism.

The draft law states that the visits to special facilities will be made at least twice a year in a group of not more than four people.

### **Frontier Mining shares surge as Kazakh mine begins production**



*Copper mining has now begun at Kazakh deposit*

*Thursday, April 19, 2012* - Kazakhstan-focused Frontier Mining saw its shares spike in London on Wednesday after announcing the start of mining operations at its Benkala project.

“Mining operations have now commenced with mining occurring on an on-going daily basis at a rate of 1,500 tons [1,653 U.S. short tons] per day of ore, which will ramp up to 8,000 tons [8,818 U.S. short tons] per day as normal operations are established,” the company said in a statement.

Stocks of the copper and gold explorer and developer rose by more than 15 percent on the London Stock Exchange at the news, the Stockmarketwire.com news agency reported.

It was the company’s biggest gain since mid-January.

Frontier said it has stockpiled around 28,000 U.S. short tons of ore at the project.

The miner owns 50 percent of the Benkala copper and gold project, located in northwest Kazakhstan within the Urals ore belt.

Frontier expects to produce its first copper cathode from Benkala in June, the statement said.

The company already has new rail track laid connecting the storage complex to the main railway line. Its ready infrastructure includes underground pipelines, collection and drainage pipes, and a 110 KvA substation.

Frontier also wholly owns the Naimanjal prospect in northeast Kazakhstan, which has gold, copper, and molybdenum deposits. It is expecting to release an independent estimated resource figure this year.

**Remove investment barriers in Kazakhstan, mining companies say**



*Thursday, April 19, 2012* - Kazakhstan can establish dominance in the mining sector if it implements the necessary reforms to attract foreign mining firms, consultants gathering at a mining conference in the Kazakh capital Astana said on Thursday.

“Exploration is a thriving business around the world, but it is not thriving in this region,” the Reuters news agency reported SRK Consulting General Director David Pearce as saying.

“Companies need to have the confidence that, if they do the exploration, they can develop the mine and achieve the economic reward.”

Kazakhstan is mineral-rich and has been extensively mapped by exploration specialists. But the Central Asian state attracts less than 1 percent of total global investment in minerals mining.

One reason for this delay in mining sector development is the problem inherent in offering tenders, Rio Tinto’s general manager for Central Asian exploration, Chris Welton, told the third annual MINEX conference.

“A lack of transparency in the tender process means that foreign investors do not feel confident they can get a fair hearing,” Welton said.

“The decision on awarding tenders is driven solely on the signing bonus and the social contribution, with no consideration of the technical competence of the winner or the winner’s ability to develop that project.”

He also added: “Investors are reticent to present their ideas as the chance of them winning the subsequent tender are slim.”

Kazakh First Deputy Prime Minister Serik Akhmetov said the government is working to improve these processes.

“It’s important to create the optimum conditions for attracting investment, technology and opening up new mineral deposits that can help replenish depleting reserves and create the economic stimulus for development,” he said.

On Wednesday, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade Nurlan Sauranbayev said the government would invest \$400 million per year in search of new mineral reserves.

**Kazakhstan, Malaysia to focus on fuel, infrastructure cooperation**



*Thursday, April 19, 2012* - The Malaysian premier and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev pinned down key economic areas of cooperation during talks in Kuala Lumpur, the two told a press conference following talks Wednesday.

“We have identified specific opportunities and greater collaborations between our countries,” Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak told journalists, the Kuala Lumpur-based Bernama news agency reported.

He said Nazarbayev invited Malaysian firms to consider investing in oil and gas projects, construction of highways and hospitals, and infrastructure development, as well as airports construction and management.

“We also take note of [Nazarbayev’s] strong desire for Malaysia to build Malaysian-design buildings in Astana,” he said.

Astana, the capital created by Nazarbayev, has a futuristic-themed architectural style.

For his part, Nazarbayev said the Kazakh government was intent on making Central Asia’s largest economy more innovative.

“We are building about 200-300 new industrial facilities every year in Kazakhstan and by 2020, we will have invested \$50 billion for this program,” the Kazakh leader said.

The two were speaking at the end of Nazarbayev’s two-day trip to the southeast Asian country, his third official visit.

Separately Wednesday, the chief executive of Sapura Kencana Petroleum said it would send a team to study opportunities in Kazakhstan, following a personal invitation by the Kazakh president.



CEO Datuk Mikhzani Mahathir said Nazarbayev visited the Malaysian firm's booth at the Kazakhstan-Malaysia Business Exhibition to express his keenness at seeing it invest in the Kazakh republic, the Business Times reported.

### **KMG EP sells stake in petrochemical subsidiary**

*Thursday, April 19, 2012* - Kazakh oil and gas firm KazMunaiGas Exploration Production (KMG EP) said Thursday it has sold a 51 percent stake in a subsidiary firm to United Chemical Company.

KMG EP's unit, Kazakhstan Petrochemical Industries Inc. (KPI), is constructing the first integrated petrochemical complex in Atyrau region, in the country's west.

The deal is worth \$33.5 million, the state-owned major said in a statement.

KPI has been managing KMG EP's stake in the project since 2009.

The sale of the stake is part of KMG EP's strategy to 2020, which will see the company sell off its non-core assets, including those related to petrochemicals, the statement said.

As one of Kazakhstan's top three oil and gas producers, KMG EP produced around 250,000 barrels of oil per day in 2011.

Both KMG EP and United Chemical Company are controlled by the Kazakh national welfare fund Samruk-Kazyna.

The \$80 billion state investment fund, which manages more than two-thirds of the Kazakh economy, is undergoing a massive program of slimming down its companies in a bid to cut back on waste and improve performance.

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### **Eurasian integration is a conscious choice made by Kazakhstan**

20 April 2012

Eurasian integration is a conscious choice made by Kazakhstan, President Nazarbayev said when speaking at an extended sitting of the country’s Foreign Ministry April 20, Newskaz.ru reports.

“Kazakhstan acts as the advocate of the Eurasian Economic Union ... as a landlocked nation we have to tap into the markets of neighboring nations. Without these endeavors, our intention to expand the national economy and launch new enterprises will be doomed”, he said.

At the same time, “with the Eurasian Economic Union in place, Kazakhstan will keep on pursuing its course towards balanced relations with other nations as well”.

In a separate statement he emphasized that given the Eurozone crisis, the Asian-Pacific region

is growing more important. “The global economy is being redefined, with economy growth centers shifting [towards Asian-Pacific region]”, he said.

### **Kazakhmys sold gold worth \$115 million to Kazakhstan National Bank**

27 April 2012

Kazakhmys corporation sold gold worth \$115 million to Kazakhstan National Bank in the first quarter of 2012, Interfax-Kazakhstan reports citing the corporation’s message.

Last August the National Bank announced its intention to use the priority right to purchase fine gold bullions.

This decision is related to implementation of Kazakhstan's rules of non-tariff regulation at the precious metals market under the Customs Union. In particular, Kazakhstan is introducing state control over import and export of precious metals and raw materials containing precious metals and giving the state the priority right to purchase export-aimed fine gold bullions for replenishment of gold reserves of the National Bank.

Kazakhmys is the biggest copper producer in Kazakhstan and one of top ten copper producers in the world. The group is responsible for significant shares in production of gold, zinc, silver, power energy and oil. Kazakhmys is listed at the London Stock Exchanges (LSE) and Kazakhstan Stock Exchanges (KASE).

27 April 2012, 10:48

### **Meeting of CSTO Security Councils Secretaries to be held in Astana**

**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - CSTO Secretary General Nikolai Bordyuzha will speak at the meeting of the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils of the Organization of the Collective Security Treaty in Astana.

The meeting participants will discuss joint measures to counter challenges and threats to collective security, which have a significant impact on the situation in the CSTO zone of responsibility.

Armenia will present information on the conduct of joint exercises "Cooperation-2012" with the participation of the Collective Rapid Reaction Force (CRRF) of the CSTO, which is scheduled on the territory of the Republic, from September 3 to 8, reported the news agency Novosti-Kazakhstan.

The meeting participants will also discuss the draft agenda of the jubilee session of the Collective Security Council, which will be dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Collective Security and 10th anniversary of Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Decision of the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils for consultation of representatives of member states on foreign policy, security and defense in the second half of 2012 - the first half of 2013 will also be considered at the meeting.

The meeting participants will also meet with Chairman of CSTO Collective Security Council, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The Collective Security Treaty (CST) was signed on May 15, 1992 in Tashkent. On May 14, 2002 Collective Security Council at its meeting in Moscow decided to transform the structures and mechanisms for cooperation among the participants in the international regional Collective Security Treaty Organization, giving it the appropriate status. On September 18, 2003 CSTO Charter entered into force. The Organization of Collective Security Treaty includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

### **Iran's part of Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway to be completed by October**

27.04.2012



Iran's part of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran will be completed by October, Deputy Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi said during a briefing at the Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan, reported Payvand Iran News.

Araghchi noted that Iran pays great importance to the project, and will do its best to complete its part of the road by October.

The overall length of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway is 900 kilometers (Iran - 70 kilometers, Turkmenistan 700 kilometers and Kazakhstan - 130 kilometers).

The Islamic Development Bank is financing Turkmenistan's part of the road, and over 30 percent (over 250 kilometers) of 700 kilometers have already been completed.

Iranian "Pars Energy" company is responsible for the construction of this part of the railway.

**Kazakhstan men become human trafficking victims more frequently than women - USAID**

27.04.2012



**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - Kazakhstan men become victims of human trafficking in two thirds of the cases, KazTAG reported citing Director of the regional mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Erin Elizabeth McKee.

"The statistics states that Kazakhstan men become victims of human trafficking more frequently than women. Human trafficking victims can be found not only in brothels. They can work at construction sites, in restaurants or fuel stations," McKee said at the round-table meeting called Human Trafficking in Kazakhstan on Thursday, April 26.

She noted that according to the regional migration and refugee center, Kazakhstan is the only country in Central Asia, where the risk of getting exploited in the home country is higher than outside. "That means that the majority of people recruited in Kazakhstan are exploited here, they are not sent abroad," she added.

According to the researches of the regional migration and refugees center, around 7,967 people are sexually abused in Kazakhstan annually, while 6,318 are taken abroad for the same purpose. Besides, according to the center, citizens of south Kazakhstan become human trafficking victims more frequently than Almaty citizens.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been working in Kazakhstan since 1992 under a bilateral agreement with Kazakhstan government. During this time USAID has invested over \$500 million into development of the economy, healthcare system and democratic institutes of Kazakhstan.

**Timur Bekmambetov is called best film director in Las Vegas**

26.04.2012



**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - Timur Bekmambetov was named best foreign film director at the annual festival of movies CinemaCon in Las Vegas, Gazeta.kz reported.

The award was presented by American film director Tim Burton, who worked together with

Bekmambetov on the film "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter."

The duo's previous work was a computer-animated science fiction film "9" in 2009.

Timur Nuruakhitovich Bekmambetov is a Kazakhstan-born director, producer and screenwriter who has worked on films and commercials. He is best known for the Russian film *Night Watch* (2004) and its sequel *Day Watch* (2006), and the American films *Wanted* (2008) and *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* (2012).

### **Wheat harvest may go down one third in Kazakhstan**

26 April 2012

Wheat harvest in Ukraine may be 37 percent less than last year in 2012, while the harvest in Kazakhstan is expected to decrease by 36 percent in Kazakhstan, Interfax-Kazakhstan reports citing the experts of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization.

According to the experts, Ukrainian wheat harvest will make around 14 million tons versus 22.3 million tons last year, while only 14.5 million tons will be harvested in Kazakhstan versus 22.7 million tons in 2011. The wheat harvest in Russian is expected to reach 56.8 million tons compared to last year's harvest of 56.2 million tons.

Ukrainian winter crops were damaged by unusually cold weather and drought in several regions of the country. Kazakhstan, on the contrary, had excessive rains.

Last year's good harvests in Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan caused a significant wheat prices drop at the world markets. Wheat futures went 20 percent down at the Chicago Commodity Market in the last 12 months.

Bad harvest of this year will likely promote prices stabilization. Production of coarse grains (barley, corn and sorgo) in Ukraine may go down to 32.9 million tons in 2012 compared to 33.5 million tons last year. Production of coarse grains in Russia will remain at relatively the same level as last year and will make 34.3 million tons.

### **Long-term local roads development program suggested in Kazakhstan**

26 April 2012

A long-term program for development of local roads has been suggested in Kazakhstan, Tengrinews.kz reports citing a member of the Majilis Samigolla Urazov's application to Prime-Minister Karim Massimov.

"The program for development of local roads for 2013-2018 has to be prepared. Financing of construction, capital repairs and medium repairs of local roads shall come 80 percent from the state budget and 20 percent of the oblast budget," Urazov suggested.



The Majilismen pointed out the unsatisfactory condition of local roads in regional centers, cities and villages of Kazakhstan. According to him, the total length of the local car network in Kazakhstan is 73,665 km. Only half of them are asphalted. In some regional centers only 20 percent of roads have a hard coating. According to Urazov, oblast budgets will never be able to cover such scopes of works.

The deputy suggested the Ministry of Transport and Communications to work with oblast administrations to consider transfer of current repairs and maintenance of local roads adjacent to the national roads into the responsibility of Kazakhavtodor (national road construction company), that the deputy deems will improve their condition.

Senator Gani Kassymov criticized the condition of local roads several times. He suggested to revive the idea of a Roads Fund for financing roads repairs.

### **Color revolutions won't succeed in CIS region – Nazarbaev**

26.04.2012

**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - The economy of Ukraine lost its leading positions due to color revolutions. Georgia lives on credits. All these make successful future of these countries doubtful. Kyrgyzstan has ongoing permanent revolution and livelihoods of people do not improve from that, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev said in an interview with the Russia-24 television channel.

When asked about risks of recurrence or continuation of color revolutions in the CIS region, Nursultan Nazarbaev said some attempt was observed after the presidential elections in Russia, but color revolutions, their first wave, lost their strength, since the population of the post-Soviet countries became cold eyed.

“Kyrgyzstan has a permanent revolution, while livelihoods of people do not improve from that. Ukraine is a huge country, 50 million people, this is 3 times more than in Kazakhstan, economy is much more powerful. However, the volumes of economies of Kazakhstan and Ukraine became the same and this is surprising... Development was lost during the last 5-10 years because of economy stagnation. And this is the country close to Europe and having access to the seas,” Nazarbaev said.

The President of Kazakhstan is doubtful regarding trouble-free prospects of the country, where the Rose Revolution occurred. “I do not know what is happening in Georgia now, but I think they do not have something better from closing from all of us. They can not live on credits for ever. It is necessary to make their economy self-sustainable. To this end, it is necessary to have trade, especially with neighbors. The best trade is trade with neighbors – close distance, less costs for transportation, similar economies,” Nazarbaev emphasized.

**Nazarbayev speaks up for renewal of the Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Kazakhstan and Russia**

26 April 2012

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev speaks in favor of renewing the Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Kazakhstan and Russia, President's Press Service reported April 25.

According to the Press Service, April 25 President Nazarbayev met Sergei Naryshkin, Head of the Russia's State Duma. President Nazarbayev congratulated him on being elected State Duma Speaker, emphasizing that the two parliaments play a crucial role in integration of the two nations.

“In May the milestone Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Kazakhstan and Russia will turn 20 years old. Many provisions of the document have been brought to life. Given some new vectors of cooperation between the two nations, as well as the current global environment, the Agreement needs some renewal. Latest integration efforts such as the Customs Union, the Common Economic Space call for new goals and tasks”, the Press Service quotes President Nazarbayev as saying.

“We appreciate cooperation between the two nations in all the current realms. Tangible results for common people are of great importance. At the talks we broached the subject of the Customs Union, the Common Economic Space and the would-be Eurasian Economic Union. Besides, we dwelt on the parliament dimension of the integration efforts”, Mr. Naryshkin said following the talks.

**Kazakhstan needs foreign technology, rather than foreign investments: President Nazarbayev**

26 April 2012

Kazakhstan needs foreign technology, rather than foreign investments, Newkaz.ru reports, citing President Nazarbayev as saying in his recent interview for the Russia 24 Channel.

“We don't need foreign investments so desperately today. We are injecting our own money. Kazakhstan relies on sufficient resources of its own”, President said.

“Since gaining independence [back in 1991] the nation has attracted \$160 billion in foreign investments; the local investments are much greater”, Mr. Nazarbayev elaborated.

“No nation wants to breed competitors; no one is willing to share the technology”, President admitted.

According to him, “post-Soviet nations are 30-40 years behind the West in terms of technology

(...) One way out is integration of scientific efforts of the post-Soviet nations”.

Kazakhstan’s President believes that “the current crisis is a step towards a new technology boom bound to lay foundations for a new economy (...) We must be there. It must be the green economy”.

### **Preventing people from using the Internet is inefficient: President Nazarbayev**

26 April 2012

Kazakhstan’s President believes it irrational to prevent people from using the Internet. According to him, strong “right” content can be employed by nations to counteract destructive ideas spread virally, Newskaz.ru reports, citing President Nazarbayev as saying in his recent interview for the Russia 24 Channel.

“One can post online whatever flashes in his or her mind (...) It’s never possible to identify the author of some stuff. Every state should strengthen its national so called “right” content to counteract those spreading destructive ideas and to help people distinguish between the good and the evil. Preventing people from using the Internet is inefficient”, President said.

According to President Nazarbayev, about 70% of Kazakhstanis are Internet surfers, with most of them being youth. “It’s quite a high percentage. We are not closing ourselves off to the Internet. The Internet brings about progress (...)”.

“Certain players do try to spread and even impose their ideas on others, trying to have an impact on state policy, compelling people to protests ... It’s kind of threat to the society ... However, we should accept that the Internet space is free and accessible”, he said.

### **Kazakhstan and Japan to jointly develop rare earths**

30.04.2012

**CA-NEWS (KZ)** - Japan will jointly develop rare earths with Kazakhstan as part of its efforts to secure supplies of the key minerals now controlled by China, Tengrinews.kz reported.

Japan plans to reach an accord when trade and industry minister Yukio Edano visits the central Asian country in early May and meets Kazakh government officials, including President Nursultan Nazarbaev.

Under the plan, Japan and Kazakhstan will jointly build a plant in northern Kazakhstan to produce dysprosium, a rare earth used to make motors of electric and hybrid vehicles as well as other electronic products.

The Japanese companies will be involved in the projects within Sumitomo Corp., Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation and Shin-Etsu Chemical Co. Ltd.

Japan plans to import 30 tonnes of dysprosium from Kazakhstan this year, the daily said, adding that it plans to raise the shipment next year to more than 50 tonnes accounting for 10 percent of Japan's annual demand for the mineral.

Japan, the European Union and the United States claim China -- which produces more than 90 percent of the world's supply of rare earths -- is unfairly benefiting its own industries by restricting exports.

Beijing has argued that its controls, which include export duties and quotas, are necessary to help conserve the highly sought-after natural resources, limit environmental damage from excessive mining and to meet domestic demand.

### **A Dispatch From Kazakhstan's Military-Industrial Complex**

Scenes from Thursday's military expo/demonstration. From top: Nazarbayev arrives to view the demonstration; helicopter with Kazakhstan flag; Kazakhstan Humvee firing; military band from Tajikistan performs; Nazarbayev surveys the scene

Kazakhstan's biennial defense expo, KADEX [9], kicked off on Thursday in Astana with hundreds of defense companies displaying their wares, Kazakhstan's armed forces strutting their stuff, and a visit from President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

This is the second iteration of KADEX; the 2010 inaugural event was the first defense expo in Central Asia, and announced Kazakhstan's intention to be a serious player in the world arms market. This year, organizers say the event has grown, with 30 percent more participants, 250 companies from 20 countries taking part. And thanks to a grant from the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting [10], The Bug Pit is here in Astana to cover it.

The marquee event Thursday was the demonstration of Kazakhstan's vehicles and aircraft, special forces units, and a small parade of military bands from around the world, including Germany, Poland, India, Tajikistan and the U.S. Nazarbayev and a crowd of chilled, wet VIPs were on hand to watch it.

But the real business of the show is business, with Kazakhstan showing off the fruits of its defense industry and foreign firms coming to Kazakhstan to try to make some deals here. Most of the foreign companies, unsurprisingly, were Russian or other ex-Soviet republics (though none from elsewhere in Central Asia). The turnout of non-post-Soviet companies seemed about the same as it was two years ago, with Turkish companies leading the way (they have an entire pavilion to themselves) followed by Israeli companies, and a smattering of European, U.S. and Chinese companies.

Future posts will cover some of the new developments in Central Asian defense business that are on display at the show, including how Kazakhstan has persuaded a number of Western firms to set up operations in Kazakhstan, and how the CSTO is now marketing its own military equipment, including drones. Stay tuned.

## **Kazakhstani-Japanese JV SARECO to produce rare and rare earth metals in H2 2012**

03 May 2012

Stepnogorsk-based Kazakhstani-Japanese JV SARECO will start producing rare and rare earth metals in the H2 2012, Newskaz.ru reports, citing Sergei Yashin, Vice Head of KazAtomProm National Nuclear Company, as saying May 3.

On Monday Astana hosted signing of a memorandum between KazAtomProm National Nuclear Company of Kazakhstan and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (formerly The Export-Import Bank of Japan) to finance rare and rare earth metals projects.

“As far as rare and rare earth metals are concerned (...) We are constructing a facility in Stepnogorsk as part of the SARECO JV, where production of rare and rare earth metals is expected to start in the H2 2012 (...) To further develop the project, we need additional finances. The shareholders are considering a feasibility study and are about to define parameters to expand the project. The JV is with Sumitomo», Sergei Yashin elaborated.

He emphasized that the sides “haven’t agreed on the amounts and timeline (...) There is a possibility to attract long and cheap capital (...) the project envisages construction of a facility to produce individual rare metals and end products based on rare and rare earth metals (...) There are certain obligations with regards to technology transfer. We will be mastering technology to extract individual elements out of bulk concentrate (...) in future it will be a technology to manufacture end products based on rare and rare earth metals”, he said.

KazAtomProm is Kazakhstan's major exporter of uranium and its compounds, rare metals, nuclear fuel for nuclear power stations, special equipment, technologies and dual-usage materials.

In January – March 2012 the Company produced a total of 2 600 tons of uranium, 4% up against the Q1 2011. The overall uranium production in Kazakhstan for the period under review made up 4 666 tons, almost 5% up against the Q1 2011.

## **World Bank approves \$1.06B loan for Kazakh highway**

*Wednesday, May 02, 2012* - Kazakhstan will receive over \$1 billion in loans from the World Bank to further finance its mammoth East-West highway project, the World Bank said on Tuesday.

The funds will go towards increasing transport efficiency and safety on the Western Europe-Western China Road Corridor within the Almaty province in southwest Kazakhstan, the World Bank said in a statement.

The funds will also be used to modernize the management of the highways, and improve transportation for 7.9 million of Kazakhstan's 16 million people.

“The Almaty-Khorgos corridor is the road with the most impact on the regional economy, being a transit link for goods imported from China to Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries, and therefore is essential to accelerating trade flows and economic prospects,” the World Bank country manager for Kazakhstan, Sebnem Akkaya, said in the Tuesday statement.

“The development of transport infrastructure combined with efforts to increase the efficiency of the transport sector is an enabling factor towards the development of the country's economic competitiveness, increased productivity, and diversification.”

Construction of the highway is slated to be completed by 2015. Kazakhstan aims to expand the highway from two lanes to four lanes, and will draw on its funds to complete this stage of the project.

### **Kazakhstan's PM pledges incentives for Hungarian investors**

04 May 2012

Kazakhstan is ready grant preferences to Hungarian businesses working in Kazakhstan in the realms of tourism, chemicals, engineering, agriculture, Newskaz.ru reports, citing the Kazakhstan's PM Karim Massimov as saying.

“I believe engineering, chemicals, tourism are promising vectors to expand cooperation”, Mr. Massimov said when speaking at the Kazakh-Hungarian business forum. He pledged the Kazakh government «will grant preferences to Hungarian investors in these realms”.

He stressed “Hungary's experience of applying advanced technology in agriculture is of special interest”, adding that Kazakhstan holds leading positions in grain and flour production “and has a vast potential in dairy industry and stock-raising”.

“We are ready to discuss various forms of cooperation with Hungarian partners, including new projects, modernization of the current facilities, and launch of new enterprises”.

According to him, there are about 50 Hungarian and Kazakh-Hungarian companies operable in oil processing, chemicals, agriculture, consulting and marketing services.

“In 2011 the trade turnover between Kazakhstan and Hungary exceeded \$270 million; the inflow of Hungarian investments into the Kazakh economy from 1994 to 2011 totaled \$53 million (...) there are bright prospects for the bilateral cooperation”, Mr. Massimov said.

In his turn, Hungary PM Viktor Orbán emphasized that “the Hungarian Government seeks to



diversify its economic ties (...) notably Eastwards (...) Kazakhstan is our major partner in Central Asia and we haven't unleashed the full potential in the economic realm so far", Mr. Orbán said.

He reminded that Kazakhstan and Hungary had reached the peak in the trade relations in 2008 when the trade turnover exceeded \$1.5 billion. "During the crisis the figure decreased; however, we are upbeat about the prospects", Mr. Orbán said.

"We are in favor of participating in long-term projects in Kazakhstan, including in agriculture, energy realm, processing industries, tourism, environment protection", he summed up.

### **Kazakhstan, Ukraine sign \$150M deal to produce armored vehicles**

*Thursday, May 03, 2012* - Kazakhstan and Ukraine on Thursday came to a \$150 million agreement to jointly produce armored vehicles.

The agreement was reached during the Kadex 2012 defense exhibition in the Kazakh capital Astana, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

"Today we've moved to a new level – production of the most modern Ukrainian designed product, the BTR-4," the general director of Ukroboronprom, Dmitry Peregudov, said. Ukroboronprom is a defense manufacturer.

"In all, a hundred machines will be built," he said. "The first ten will be built this year, and the remaining 90 next year. The overall value of the deal is \$150 million."

As part of the deal, the Ukrainian firm will train Kazakh personnel, as well as guarantee delivery of technology and systems, Kazakh Engineering head Bolat Smagulov said.

"We're interested in the development of joint projects, in particular large caliber guns, navigation systems, and other defense items," Smagulov said.

### **80 Kazakhstan athletes qualified for the Olympics 2012**

04 May 2012

Kazakhstan athletes gained 80 spots for the 2012 London Summer Olympic Games, Tengrinews.kz reports, citing Kazakhstan Sport and Physical Education Agency's press-service.

As of May 2 there are 8 spots in weight-lifting, 3 in whitewater, 3 in taekwondo, 3 in cycling, 1 in canoeing, 2 in gymnastics, 1 in rhythmic gymnastics, 2 spots in shooting sports, 1 in water polo (men's team), 9 in boxing, 2 in synchronous swimming, 3 in fencing, 7 in free-style

wrestling, 2 in rowing and canoeing, 12 in track and field athletics, 5 in Greco-Roman wrestling and 3 in women wrestling.

There will be more qualifying tournaments in track-and-field athletics, Greco-Roman and women wrestling, judo, swimming, modern pentathlon, archery, tennis, beach volleyball, cycle race tracking and triathlon. It is expected that Kazakhstan athletes will gain more than 100 spots in 25 sports for London Olympic Games by the end of the qualifying period.

### **Kazakhstan is ranked 112 in Quality of Education Rating**

14 May 2012

Kazakhstan is ranked 112 in the Quality of Education rating. Zheksenbek Adilov, Rector (president of one of the colleges) of Satpayev Kazakh National Technical University, commented on Kazakhstan's position in the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Competitiveness Report's Quality of Education rating in STV channel's show called "Professionals Talk".

According to him, the reasons behind such a low ranking are low level of language proficiency and poor management of education institutions of all levels and insufficient quality of high school graduates' training. Zheksenbek Adilov said that the requirement for English language proficiency was becoming more essential every year. English language skills would have allowed Kazakhstan students to take part in international conferences and publish their research papers, articles and reports in English. This would have a positive impact on Kazakhstan higher education in engineering especially.

Supervisory boards are being created in colleges and universities to improve the quality of management of the higher education institutions in line with the amendments in the Education Law of Kazakhstan.

According to Adilov, four Supervisory Boards in four National Universities have been established recently. A special Guardian Council works in Kazakh National Technical University. The main tasks of these councils and boards are to ensure openness and transparency of their university's activities, improve the education process and quality of education, facilitate improvement of educational equipment, technical and material resources of the University.

### **Kazakhstan faces a 30-fold gap between rich and poor**

14 May 2012

Kazakhstan is scourged by an almost 30-fold difference between incomes of the richest and the poorest classes, KazTAG reports citing Amanzhol Koshanov, head of the Center for Theory of Socially-Oriented Economy of the Institute of Economy of Kazakhstan Education and Science Ministry.

“Decile coefficient (correlation of incomes of rich and poor) exceeds the maximum admissible levels. Differentiation of the incomes reaches 29 times versus 4.8 times in developed countries,” Koshanov said at ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) presentation called *Review of economic and social situation of Asian and Pacific region-2012* on Thursday, May 10.

According to him, “layering of the society has reached its ceiling” and “the sizes and sources of wealth ... turned out to be the results of supra-economic access to rental and monopoly incomes”.

“Sharp differentiation of the social structure of Kazakhstan people is visually demonstrated by the structure of bank deposits. 50 percent of all the deposits in Kazakhstan constitute only 0.1 percent of the overall deposit pool, according to the National Bank. Only 17 percent of people have savings for emergency needs,” the economist said.

“Average monthly incomes in Kazakhstan, according to the state Statistics Commission, vary from \$103 to \$517, with over one third of these people - 34 percent - making less than \$310. High inflation rate, 8.3 percent in 2011, come upon the employees with low incomes, just like taxes. This is a real situation in the country,” Koshanov stated.

According to him, “low incomes of people amid high economic development pace is the destiny of the economies fueled by raw materials”.

## **15 May 2012**

### **Grain exports may hit record high 13 million tons**

Kazakhstan’s grain exports in the marketing year of 2011-2012 will hit record high 13 million tons, KazTag Agency reports, citing the nation’s Agriculture Minister Assylzhan Mamytbekov as saying May 15.

“Currently we are exporting 1 300 000 tons a month, including grain equivalent of flour. From May to September we expect to export another 5 million tons. Starting from September 2011 to May 1, 2012 we exported a total of 8 million tons. If we export another 5 million, the overall export figure this marketing year will stand at 13 million tons, which is record high”, Mr. Mamytbekov said.

The Minister elaborated that the marketing year in agriculture stands for a period from July 1 to July 1; given that Kazakhstan mostly rely on spring wheat, it makes sense to assess the grain balance in September.

According to the State Agency for Statistics, grain production in Kazakhstan in 2011 totaled 26.9 million tons (net weight), with exports potential standing at 15 million tons.

Kazakhstan exported 5.9 million tons of grain in the 2010-2011 marketing year. This figure included grain equivalent of exported flour (2.5 million tons). The grain was traditionally exported to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

According to the Government's web-site, grain harvest in 2010 totaled 12.2 million tons (net weight). Grain harvest of 2009 made up 22.7 million tons (bunker weight).

### **Fitch Ratings expects Kazakhstan's economy growth at 5% or over in 2012**

15 May 2012

Fitch Ratings estimates that Kazakhstan's economy growth will make up 5% or over in 2012, Newskaz.ru reports, citing economist and sovereign analyst covering Russia and other CIS countries Charles Seville as saying.

"We estimate this year's national economy growth at 5%. It may be higher than that. However, processing industries are growing not that fast," he said at the annual Fitch Ratings conference in Astana on May 15.

In February the country's Government and the National Bank had issued a joint statement forecasting the GDP growth at 6-7%. According to the IMF, the economy growth will stand at 6%.

According to Mr. Seville, the economy growth in the mid run is attributed to growing extraction sector, notably to anticipated growth of oil production with Kashagan coming on stream and plans to significantly increase copper production in 2015-2016.

Another driver of the economy, according to the analyst, is the infrastructure projects that will enable to increase trade turnover with neighboring nations. He cited the railway link to China currently under construction as an example.

"Kazakhstan should strive for lesser dependence on oil revenues (...) non-oil deficit has grown from 3% to 8% of the GDP; in case of shocks ... the Government may use up its resources," the analyst believes.

At the same time Fitch Ratings expects the National Oil Fund assets to reach \$65 billion by 2013 from \$45 billion as of the end of 2011.

Mr. Seville highlighted the launch of the Stressed Assets Fund as a positive factor.

"The Fund won't be buying out stressed assets to the desirable extent; however, it is a positive step to relieve banks for non-performing assets and boost their lending," he said.

The National Fund of Kazakhstan was created in 2000 as a stabilization fund that accumulates windfall revenues from oil sales and ensures that the economy of Kazakhstan will be stable

against oil price swings. The assets of the National Fund are monitored by the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan (central bank).

In his latest State-of-the-Union Address on January 27, President Nazarbayev suggested that the National Oil Fund money be used to lend to the national economy rather than kept at foreign bank accounts.

According to the National Bank, the National Oil Fund's assets reached \$51 billion as of the end of April 2012.

The Stressed Assets Fund, a subsidiary of the Kazakhstan's National Bank, may start buying out bad loans from the second-tier banks as early as in May, Newskaz.ru reported on April 28, citing National Bank Governor Gregory Marchenko as saying this in his recent interview for the Prime News Agency.

The vehicle will be used to buy out bad loans not related to the real estate market. Bad loans subject to independent assessment will be purchased at 50% discount. According to some estimates, the share of bad loans stands at 30% of the overall banks' loan portfolios.

### **Cycling: Astana cyclist won 7th stage of Giro d'Italia race**

15 May 2012

Italian Paolo Tiralongo from *Astana* cycling team won the seventh stage of *Giro d'Italia 2012* marathon cycling race, Tengrinews.kz reports, citing Vesti.kz.

Tiralongo along with another Italian cyclist Michele Scarponi left behind the other cyclists one kilometer ahead of the finishing line. The two leaders competed until the finish where *Astana's* Tiralongo claimed his stage victory. Frank Schleck came third at the 7th stage of *Giro d'Italia*.

This victory propelled Tiralongo to the second line of the general classification of the race putting his behind Canadian Ryder Hesjedal. Roman Kreuziger, Czech cyclist and *Astana's* leader was ranked seventh in the general ranking. He was 35 seconds behind the leader.

### **Boxing: Gennady Golovkin defended his WBA title**

15 May 2012

Kazakhstan boxer Gennady Golovkin defended his WBA middleweight champion title by knocking out 28-y.o. Japanese Makoto Fuchigami, Tengrinews.kz reports, citing Allboxing.ru.

The fight was held in the Ukrainian city of Brovary. The Japanese boxer got a dissection above his right eye in the first round of the fight. Golovkin knocked down his rival in the second round. By the end of the first minute of the third round Fuchigami was on the floor again. He

managed to stand up, however. But after several more of Golovkin's well directed blows referee decided to stop the fight.

Golovkin is planning to fight against German boxer Felix Sturm, WBA world super champion next. The fight is scheduled for September 30, 2012.

### **Production at Kashagan to start at 75 000 barrels a day**

15 May 2012

North Caspian Operating Company (NCOC), a consortium developing the giant Kashagan oilfield, plans to produce 75 000 barrels of oil per day at the initial production stage, [Newskaz.ru](#) reports, citing NCOC Vice Managing Director Zhakyp Marabayev as saying on the sidelines of a CIS summit on oil and gas.

He reminded that the start of commercial production has been scheduled for late 2012.

According to him, plans are there to bring the production figure up to 350 000 barrels a day or even up to 450 000 barrels a day at the first stage of the oilfield development.

“The current facilities enable to produce up to 350 000 barrels a day (...) Should the gas injection capacities be expanded, we could produce up to 450 000 barrels a day”, he said.

As far as the second stage is concerned, its budget and parameters may be defined in 2012. However, according to him, it is too early to say if the production could be doubled at the second stage. If no decision is taken on the 2nd stage in 2012, it will not impede the production.

According to him, all possible rumors of foreign partners exiting the project are mere speculations.

The Kashagan field, named after a 19th century Kazakh poet from Mangistau, is located in the Kazakhstan sector of the Caspian Sea and extends over a surface area of approximately 75 kilometers by 45 kilometers. The reservoir lies some 4,200 meters below the shallow waters of the northern part of the Caspian Sea and is highly pressured (770 bar of initial pressure). The crude oil that it contains has high ‘sour gas’ content.

The development of Kashagan, in the harsh offshore environment of the northern part of the Caspian Sea, represents a unique combination of technical and supply chain complexity. The combined safety, engineering, logistical and environmental challenges make it one of the largest and most complex industrial projects currently being developed anywhere in the world.

According to Kazakhstan geologists, geological reserves of Kashagan are estimated at 4.8 billion tons of oil. According to the project's operator, the oilfield's reserves are estimated at 38 billion barrels, with 10 billion barrels being recoverable. Besides, natural gas reserves are



estimated at over 1 trillion cubic feet. The consortium developing the field comprises Eni, Shell, ExxonMobil, Total and KazMunaiGaz (all with a 16.81% stake) as well as ConocoPhillips (8.4%) and Japan's Inpex (7.56%).

During the talks May 18 with Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Paolo Scaroni, Eni Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, promised that "the first oil is expected in December 2012 or two-three months later than that".

According to KMG, the Company plans to invest \$8 billion into the project before 2014, with the total of investments into a range of projects standing at \$20 billion.

Earlier Tengrinews.kz reported that KazMunaiGas National Oil and Gas Company would obtain a loan of \$4 billion out of the National Oil Fund to finance the Kashagan oilfield development project.

When commenting on whether other companies rather than KazMunaiGas may rely on the National Oil Fund assets, Mr. Marchenko said that "there are a number of large-scaled projects that may be financed based as public private partnerships, with strategic investors injecting most of the funds and the rest being provided by the National Oil Fund through bonds purchase".

## **KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

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### **Kyrgyzstan's parliamentary delegation to participate in meetings of EurAsEC, CIS intergovernmental assemblies and CSTO PA**

15/05-2012 09:17, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency

Kyrgyzstan's parliamentary delegation will participate in meetings of Intergovernmental assemblies of EurAsEC, CIS and of CSTO Parliamentary Assembly. The delegation will be headed by the Speaker of the Kyrgyz Parliament Asilbek Zheenbekov. Meetings of EurAsEC, CIS and SCTO substructures will take place in St. Petersburg.

According to the press-service of the Kyrgyz Parliament, the Speaker will have bilateral meetings with heads of parliaments of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus – the chairman of the State Duma of Federal Assembly of Russian Federation Sergey Naryshkin, the chairman of Mazhilis of the Kazakh Parliament Nurlan Nigmatulin, the chairman of the House of Representatives of Belarus National Assembly Vladimir Andreichenko. Kyrgyz MPs will also meet with representatives of the Kyrgyz Diaspora in St. Petersburg.

### **Kyrgyzstan expects visit of the President of the Republic of Turkey in August 2012**

14/05-2012 13:54, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency

Kyrgyzstan expects visit of the President of the Republic of Turkey in August 2012. This was stated at the meeting of the Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev with the delegation of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey headed by the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs Volkan Bozkır.

Mr. Atambayev mentioned dynamic development of relations between countries. According him, they will hold session of the Supreme Council for Strategic Cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey in autumn, the third session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in June, and the summit of cooperation of Turkic-speaking countries in August. In opinion of the President, “this has to become an important event for Turkic-speaking world”.

“First of all, I would like to emphasize that relations between Kyrgyzstan and Turkey are at a high level. In this context visit is seen as goodwill of the Turkish Parliament to support parliamentarianism strengthening in Kyrgyzstan,” said Almazbek Atambayev.

Volkan Bozkır informed that the parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs approved \$51 million debt relief for Kyrgyzstan and put this issue on agenda of the plenary session. According him, the Parliament of Turkey will ratify this document in the near future.

**XIV International Tourism Fair opened in Bosteri village of Issyk-Kul district, Kyrgyzstan**

11/05-2012 09:11, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Makhinur NIYAZOVA

Today the XIV International Tourism Fair was opened in Bosteri village of Issyk-Kul district, Kyrgyzstan. According to the head of the regional state administration tourism sector Maksat Dunganayev, over 95 companies and firms, as well as 37 resort and recreational establishments' representatives were invited to participate in the fair.

“By the governor’s order a commission on checking holiday hotels, hotels, rest houses was created. It included the representatives of the Interior Ministry, fire, border and customs services, as well as regional state administrations chaired by deputy governor Nurgul Kenenbayeva. It will start working in the second half of May,” Maksat Dunganayev said.

He noted that according to the Revenue Service, 243 resort and recreational establishments are registered in the province. All of them will be checked for compliance with environmental and technical security.

**Kazakhstan lends aid to Kyrgyzstan with technique and weapons for \$1.19M**

07/05-2012 15:01, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Aizada KUTUEVA

Kazakhstan lent aid to Kyrgyzstan with technique and weapons for \$1.19M in 2012. It was reported to 24.kg news agency by Kazakh Embassy in Kyrgyzstan.

According the embassy, the aid with specialized technique and food for \$163.2K was given in 2010. “For all years of independence Kyrgyzstan Defense Ministry cooperated with Kazakhstan armed forces in framework of bilateral and multilateral (SCO, CSTO and CIS) agreements. Such cooperation was dynamic and positive. 10 bilateral documents were signed in framework of military and technical cooperation. Apart from it interaction in military education and joint military maneuvers also take place. Today on 20th anniversary of Armed Forces of Kazakhstan and on the eve on Victory in Great Patriotic War Day (World War II) Kazakh extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador Beibit Isabaev congratulated WWII veterans. Earlier, on April 26 Kazakh Defence Ministry Military Attaché Colonel Abdilov M held a meeting for high-ranking officers of Kyrgyz Defense Ministry, Central Command of Armed Forces, military and diplomatic staff accredited in Kyrgyzstan and public officials of Kyrgyzstan on occasion of Defender of the Motherland Day commemoration,” said in the official report.

**Kyrgyzstan will send 8 military observers to Syria**

04/05-2012 14:11, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Irina PAVLOVA

Kyrgyzstan will send 8 military observers to Syria. The Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to UN (New York city), Talaibek Kydyrov, told today's news conference in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He says, recently UN Security Council has adopted a resolution on opening of peace-support mission in this country. "Over 60 states showed a wish to send peacekeepers there. 300 military observers will arrive in Syria during May. Russia, China, Brazil, Morocco have already sent their professionals. Kyrgyzstan has participated too. 8 people are chosen, and 7 of them have drawn up documents," said Talaibek Kydyrov.

"In the beginning of 2012 we held a presentation of Kyrgyzstan for US students and other countries within framework of modeling work of the UN General Assembly. In particular, we touched upon issues of cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and UN, major problems and democratic transformations," Talaibek Kydyrov added. "20 years of cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and UN were marked on March 2, 2012."

**Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan agree to establish a joint venture to process vegetables and to open an investment fund**

30/04-2012 14:40, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Irina DUDKA

Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan agreed to establish a joint venture to process vegetables and to open an investment fund. This was stated following the results of the first session of Kyrgyz-Azerbaijan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.

The co-chairmen – deputy First Vice Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Yaqub Eyyubov and First Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Aaly Karashev signed a corresponding protocol.

It is planned to construct an oil-processing factory, midget and large power plants, to organize refresher course for the Plant Protection Service specialists from the Kyrgyz Republic.

Besides, the parties discussed collaboration issues in humanitarian field. In particular, founding of a park after Heydar Aliyev in Bishkek city and provision of Azerbaijani Sunday schools in Kyrgyzstan with books and textbooks.

**Kyrgyz National Academic Legitimate Drama participates in V International Theatre Festival of Turkic peoples in Turkey**

30/04-2012 10:45, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Kanykei MANASOVA

Troupe of the Kyrgyz National Academic Legitimate Drama named after Toktobolot Abdumomunov led by the director, people's artist Marat Alyshpaev had successful performance on V International Theatre Festival of Turkic peoples in Konya city (Turkey). This was said to 24.kg news agency by the head of the literary section of the theater, Abibilla Pazylov.

According to him, troupes from Turkey, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Bashkortostan, Northern Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan and Tatarstan participated in the festival. Local artists showed the performance "Zhan azyk" ("Fount of spirituality") after the play of the people's artist of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Tabyldy Aktanov, directed by the people's artists, stage director Mr. Zamir Sooronbaev.

"Forum is held every two years, it doesn't award places instead nominations identify strongest participants. Kyrgyz troupe was called "a symbol of festival". Author and stage director were awarded souvenir cap. The performance received a separate cup of festival and award of TÜRKSOY," said Abibilla Pazylov.

He added that people's artists of Kyrgyzstan Tabyldy Aktanov and Mukanbet Toktobaev, honored artist Shaiymbek Kydyrmaev, artists Ryskul Orozova and Kamchy Sarybaev played in the performance.

**Exhibition of Turkish photographers devoted to Kyrgyzstan opened in Ankara, Turkey**

24/04-2012 08:33, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Kanykei MANASOVA

Contemporary Arts Center in Ankara has opened an exhibition of Turkish photographers Khamit Yalcin, Atil Kuntuz and Memduh Ekizhi "Tien Shan Reflection" devoted to Kyrgyzstan. This was reported by the press-service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan.

As reported, the exhibition includes 60 works, the result of Turkish photographers' trip to Kyrgyzstan in 2009. The exhibition will be open until May 3.

The exhibition is organized by the Kyrgyz Embassy in Turkey under auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey and the central metropolitan district Çankaya of Ankara.

**China ready to support Kyrgyzstan in the construction of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway**

23/04-2012 14:41, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Irina DUDKA

China is ready to support Kyrgyzstan in the construction of China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. The Information Policy Department for the Government's Office reports following the results of the meetings of the Vice Premier of Kyrgyzstan Zhoomart Otorbayev within the Spring session of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

As noted, Minister of Finance of People's Republic of China Xie Xuren assured that China was ready to support Kyrgyzstan in the development of infrastructure, in particular, in plans for construction of the China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan railway.

He noted that the Chinese Government encourages home business to invest in the economy of Kyrgyzstan. Besides, the Chinese Minister of Finance voiced the prospects of bilateral relations in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

**Kyrgyz Government signed memorandum on \$21M loan for unemployed support**

23/04-2012 11:49, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Irina DUDKA

Government signed memorandum on \$21M loan for unemployed support. Today Labor and Employment Minister Aliyasbek Alymkulov and Kumtor Operation Company CJSC Michael Fisher signed the memorandum. The CJSC give the money for poverty reduction and work places creation.

Recall, the decree On Poverty Reduction Employment Promotion and Poverty Reduction was accepted by Government on April 12, 2012. In accordance with the decree a microcredit agency Ala Too Finance will be established for loans distribution.

Unemployed and poor citizen who are registered in social protection public bodies and employment bureau could get loans up to 50K soms for less than year and under 7 per cent.

The same decree says that money can be spent on plant and kettle breeding, agribusiness, small enterprise, trade and service.

Lists of potential loaners will be sent to Ala Too Finance by village boards which will include local activists and villages' heads.



**USA appreciate constructive dialogue with Kyrgyzstan on Manas Transit Center – Robert Blake**

19/04-2012 08:23, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Anton LYMAR

USA appreciates constructive dialogue with Kyrgyzstan on Manas Transit Center. It was written by Deputy of State Secretary on South and Central Asia Robert Blake in Twitter, Voice of America reports.

According him USA will assist actively in integration, security, and welfare and democracy promotion in Central Asia. He noted that Uzbekistan is very precious partner of USA in cooperation in Afghanistan. “We are going to widen cooperation appealing to progress in democracy building and good governance,” said Robert Blake.

The Deputy State Secretary noted that USA in cooperation with Central Asian partners is going to strengthen security in the regional borders for prevention of drug trafficking and terrorism. He said that such actions require fighting corruption.

Recall, the United States are realizing New Silk Way policy in Central Asia. The policy promotes and strengthens regional trade and economic development of Afghanistan.

The next online conference with Robert Blake will be held in a month on Facebook.

**EEC countries gave \$16M for reconstruction of tailing pounds in Min Kush and Kazhi Sai in Kyrgyzstan**

17/04-2012 15:46, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Irina DUDKA

EEC (Eurasian Economic Community) countries gave \$16M for reconstruction of tailing pounds in Min Kush and Kazhi Sai in Kyrgyzstan, reported the Kyrgyzstan permanent representative in EEC Usen Usupov.

According him, the decision was accepted after EEC Interstate Council approved on Premiers’ level the joint program Recultivation of EEC Countries Territories Suffered from Mining on April 5, 2012. It was developed by Rosatom Russian state-owned corporation with assistance of public bodies of EEC countries.

Reported, the program budget is \$1.15B which will be realized during 2013-2018. The budget formed on shared funding: 75% - Russia, 15% - Kazakhstan, 5% - Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan each.

Min Kush tailing pound’s reconstruction cost \$13.6M. Experts note that the pound condition is catastrophic as there is a possibility of flood and landslide.

Kazhi Sai tailing pound cost \$2.4M

Here experts stress that the pound objects are sources of possible transitional ecologic disaster for all Central Asia. The program realization will promote solution of social, economic and ecological issues in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

**Peacekeepers of Kyrgyzstan can be abroad after Parliament's permission**

17/04-2012 07:43, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Darya PODOLSKAYA

“Peacekeepers of Kyrgyzstan can be abroad after Parliament's permission,” announced deputy and chief of Defense and Security Committee Tokon Mamytov to 24.kg news agency.

According him, it was offered earlier to give authority on sending Kyrgyz “blue helmets” to Parliament. “Such decision should be accepted by 1/3 of votes. Defense Ministry offered that such prerogative should belong to President as Supreme Commander,” said the deputy.

He added, as the result a joint variant has been developed. According it the prerogative will be separated between President and Parliament.

## **TURKEY**

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### **Turkey and Colombia Lift Visa Procedures**

Turkey and Colombia signed an agreement on visa liberalization in a gathering in the Turkish capital of Ankara.

A statement by the Turkish Foreign Ministry recalled that during Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos's visit to Turkey as a guest of Turkish President Abdullah Gul on November 17 and 19, 2011, the two countries agreed on visa liberalization.

The ministry said that talks had been finalized on visa procedures and an agreement on visa-free entrance between Colombia and Turkey had been signed in Ankara. 15/05/2012

### **Turkey Provides Scholarship to Whole World**

Turkey gives scholarship to 3,433 students from 106 countries.

According to 2011-2012 official statistics of Turkish Ministry of National Education, 3,433 foreign students from different countries are receiving education in Turkey thanks to Ministry of National Education's scholarship.

Some of the countries of foreign students who are taking scholarship are;

Afghanistan, Germany, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Algeria, Djibouti, China, East Turkestan, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Palestine, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, South Africa, Georgia, Croatia, Iraq, Iran, Spain, Italy, Cambodia, Cameroon, Montenegro, Caribbean, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Krygyzstan, Kongo, Korea, Kuwait, Liberia, Libya, Lebanon, Hungary, Madagascar, Macedonia, Maldives, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Egypt, Mongolia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Central Africa, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Seychelles, Serbia, Sierra-Leone, Slovakia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Jordan, Vietnam, Yemen, Greece, Zambia, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe. 14/05/2012

### **We will Connect Black Sea with Mediterranean Sea in Next Five Years, Says Transportation Minister Yildirim**

Turkey's Minister of Transportation, Maritime Affairs, and Communications, Binali Yildirim on Sunday said that they would connect the Black Sea with the Mediterranean Sea by building new highways in the next five years.

Speaking at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Ovit tunnel and connecting roads in Sivrikaya village of Ikizdere town in the north-eastern Rize province on Sunday, Minister Yildirim said that today was a very special day, in fact a feast, at the Ovit Mountain.

It was back in 1880 that the Ottoman Sultan Abdulaziz mentioned the construction of a road between Rize and north-eastern province of Erzurum. Many administrations came to power in Turkey since then. But it was the Justice and Development (AK) Party administration that turned this dream into a reality, Yildirim stressed.

Yildirim also said that they would connect the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea by building new highways by 2017. 14/05/2012

### **FM Davutoglu Visits Gagauz Autonomous Region in Moldova**

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu visited on Sunday the Gagauz Autonomous Region as part of his formal program in Moldova and met with Gagauz Turks living there.

Davutoglu and his delegation were greeted by the head of the Gagauz Autonomous Region Mihail Formuzal and other officials at their arrival in the capital of Gagauz Autonomous Region, Komrat.

Formuzal and other officials welcomed the Turkish delegation with salt and bread in their hands.

Speaking to reporters in Komrat, Minister Davutoglu said that they felt at home in the Gagauz Autonomous Region.

Davutoglu said that he was the first Turkish Foreign Minister to visit Moldova and the Gagauz Autonomous Region after Moldova gained independence.

We will soon mutually eliminate all visa requirements with Moldova and sign a free trade agreement, Davutoglu stressed.

"The Gagauz Autonomous Region happens to be a bridge of friendship between Turkey and Moldova. We are the branches of the same tree. We are 75 million plus 200,000", Davutoglu indicated.

Ahmet Davutoglu later listened to the problems and requests of Gagauz Turks.

Davutoglu also attended a special rite at the Ivan Church in Komrat on Sunday. 14/05/2012

### **Eroglu: Turkey Carry Water to One Million People in Africa**

Turkish Forestry & Water Works Minister Veysel Eroglu has said that Turkey provided water for one million people in Africa.

We have, so far, provided water for one million people in Somalia, Burkina Faso, Niger and Ethiopia thanks to Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and State Hydraulic Works (DSI), said Eroglu who visited Editor's Desk at Anadolu Agency.

Noting that Turkey signed cooperation protocols with several African countries, Eroglu said that Turkish teams were working in Africa.

They have some demands such as drilling wells and building ponds or providing water for national parks, he said.

We have sent expert teams to Tunisia which is inundated by flood waters, said Eroglu, adding that dams should be built, erosion should be controlled and rivers should be rehabilitated in that country. 11/05/2012

### **Development Minister Yilmaz in Turkmenistan**

Turkish Development Minister Cevdet Yilmaz was received by Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow on Friday.

Minister Yilmaz, who arrived in Turkmenistan to attend a conference titled "The Refugees in the Muslim World", came together with Berdimuhamedow at Turkmenistan's Parliament.

Turkmen leader, highlighting that relations with Turkey were important for Turkmenistan, reminded that his first visit abroad was to Turkey after the presidential election in February in Turkmenistan.

Gurbanguly said that Turkmenistan wanted to host an important meeting about refugees and they were ready to share their experiences.

Minister Yilmaz said that it was a pleasure being here and Turkmenistan has developed at high speed.

At the meeting, economic and commercial relations were evaluated and Turkmen leader Berdimuhamedow's upcoming visit to Turkey this summer was discussed.

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said that he wanted to visit especially Turkish ports.

Minister Yilmaz told the AA correspondent that Turkey and Turkmenistan could cooperate for development of relations between the two countries. 11/05/2012

### **Charter Drafting Begins with Rights and Freedoms**

The knotty process of drafting the new Turkish Constitution officially began Thursday, with a section on fundamental rights and freedoms. Each political party pressed for its own priorities, including the protection of secularism, the right to education in one's mother tongue and the right to conscientious objector status.

"A productive and positive process has begun," Parliament Speaker Cemil Çiçek told reporters after the first meeting of the Constitution Conciliation Commission in the second stage of the constitution-drafting process. "We hope we are making a good start," he said, adding that the first chapter discussed will deal with fundamental rights and freedoms.

On the first day of the second stage of the process, which is scheduled to be completed at the end of July, the commission decided to establish a sub-commission that would set the principles of the writing process. “They will also make a catalog of fundamental rights and freedoms from the lists we have provided them with. It’s a technical issue. They will decide which rights and freedoms should be listed under which article,” Çiçek said.

The main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) suggested a redefinition of secularism under the article dealing with “freedom of faith and conscience,” in a move to avoid the exploitation of this principle, according to information gathered by the Hürriyet Daily News.

“The uncertainty over secularism should be removed. We should all be able to be clear what we all mean by ‘secularism,’” the CHP’s Atilla Kart said. “The state’s order should not be based on religious order. The state should provide a pluralistic climate based on faith and should be tasked with preventing religious pressure.” Other parties did not object to the idea.

The party also demanded greater clarity about the conditions under which fundamental human rights and freedoms could be limited, in order to prevent arbitrary moves to do so.

Priorities put forward by the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) include the right to education in one’s mother tongue, protection of the security and integrity of human lives, the right to conscientious objector status, the right to access water and food, and the protection of nature. It also demanded the right to same-sex marriage, gender equality and the guaranteed removal of pressure on people of any sexual identity.

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) prioritized the freedom of faith, the protection of human dignity, and the protection of family life.

The sub-commission consists of four representatives from the four political parties and one advisor they nominate. It will work until Wednesday to prepare a report outlining the system by which the constitution will be written. Çiçek said the commission was planning to visit the leaders of the political parties in coming weeks. 11/05/2012

### **Turkey, Azerbaijan to Cooperate in State Archives**

Turkish and Azerbaijani archives administration signed a cooperation protocol in Baku on Thursday.

Atakhan Pashayev, the director general of Azerbaijani National Archives Administration, and Ugur Unal, the head of the Turkish Directorate General of State Archives, penned the agreement.

During the signature ceremony, Pashayev defined the agreement as the most important archive cooperation between the two countries and Unal wished that the protocol would be beneficial to the two countries. 11/05/2012



**Parliament Adopts Law for Turkish Citizens to Cast Votes in Countries Where They Live**

The Turkish Parliament on Wednesday adopted a law that makes it easier for Turkish citizens living abroad to cast votes in the countries where they live as part of Turkish elections.

The new law also will help erase problems stemming from the nationality laws of Turkey.

The list of Turkish voters eligible to vote at Turkey's missions abroad will be published by the Higher Board of Election (YSK).

The YSK will decide on the missions where voting may take place.

Turkish citizens living abroad will be registered as potential voters. 10/05/2012

**Turkey's Deputy PM Thinks Armenia should Solve Problems with Turkey**

Turkey's deputy prime minister expressed thought on Tuesday that Armenia should solve its problems with Turkey.

Bulent Arinc said it was difficult for Armenia to take giant leap forward as a country that was close to external world when commenting on results of the recent elections in that country.

"If it goes on like this, it is not possible for Armenia to overcome its problems. Armenia should solve its problems with Turkey," Arinc told a televised interview.

Arinc said Armenia should confront with realities regarding so-called genocide allegations.

According to preliminary results of Sunday's parliamentary elections, the Republican Party, led by President Serzh Sargsian, won 44.41 percent of votes.

On elections in Greece, Arinc said many parties joined the parliament, and a coalition government could be set up if at least three parties united.

"However, they do not seem to reach a compromise among themselves. Maybe a new election is ahead of the Greek people, or maybe Greece will go on with a weak coalition," Arinc said.

Moreover, Arinc said Turkey had hoped that progress could be made in ongoing Cyprus negotiations, but the Greek Cypriot administration maintained its harsh and uncompromising attitude.

Arinc underlined importance of a report to be prepared by the United Nations (UN) secretary general, and said Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) continued to be in solidarity with Turkey.

"There is the Greek Cypriot administration in the south of the island. Most interestingly, the Greek Cypriot administration in the south is an EU member," Arinc said.

Arinc said leaders of the two parties had been holding negotiations to eliminate this paradox, however it was not possible to reconcile with the Greek Cypriot administration, which had been insisting that it was already an EU member. 08/05/2012

**Parliament Adopts Draft Law on Sale of Real Estate to Foreigners**

Turkish Parliament last week adopted a draft law which envisages sale of real estate to foreign citizens.

According to the law, foreigners will be able to buy real estate in Turkey in line with the interests of the country.

The new law has raised the area of land a foreign buyer can purchase from 2.5 to 30 hectares. The Turkish Council of Ministers may raise the amount of land a foreign buyer can purchase to 60 hectares.

The draft law amended the Turkish title deed laws. Under the new legislation, foreign buyers must provide construction plans before a purchase is made.

Individuals and businesses will need to submit project proposals for vacant land to the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization within two years. If approved, the project will be sent to the local land registry office.

The draft law also allows for the purchase of up to 10 percent of the total area of densely populated towns.

Foreign companies may purchase land only as allowed by laws.

Foreign companies will be able to buy real estate in military and security zones only by approval of General Staff.

The Turkish Council of Ministers may decide on which country's citizens or companies may be able to buy property and will determine the location and the size of the real estate.

The Turkish Parliament is currently waiting a final cabinet decision which will change the reciprocity purchase agreement.

The current law only allows citizens of those countries, where Turkish nationals can purchase property to acquire real estate title deeds on to their names. This currently excludes most of the Middle East, some ex-Soviet Republics and several other countries. Citizens of these countries currently resort to setting up a Turkish limited company, which acts as the owner of the property acquisitions. The red-tape involved in setting up such companies and the perceived tax implications deter many would be buyers from purchasing in Turkey. 07/05/2012

### **Defense Cooperation between Turkey and Kazakhstan**

Turkish defense industry products on display at a defense fair in Kazakh capital of Astana received great interest.

At the fair, Turkey and Kazakhstan signed three agreements, including one between Turkey's Otokar and Kazakhstan Engineering on the joint production of the "Kobra" armored vehicles.

Speaking to the Anadolu Agency (AA), the head of the International Cooperation Department at the Turkish Undersecretariat of Defense Industry (SSM) Lutfi Varoglu said that 16 Turkish companies attended the "KADEX 2012 International Defense Fair" in Astana.

Turkey and Russia were the two countries with the largest number of participation at the defense fair. The stands of Turkish defense companies received great interest, Varoglu indicated.

Otokar and Kazakhstan Engineering signed an agreement for the joint production of "Kobra" armored vehicles, Varoglu said.

Meanwhile, Aselsan, leading electronics and electronic systems company of Turkey, will produce avionics systems and integration of helicopters produced in Kazakhstan.

Aselsan stated on Monday that Kazakhstan Aselsan Engineering (KAE) and Eurocopter Kazakhstan Engineering signed a cooperation agreement on integration of avionics equipment and systems in EC-145 helicopters.

The agreement was signed within the scope of KADEX Fair on May 5, 2012.

Aselsan declared 160.7 million Turkish Lira net profit in 2011. (one USD equals 1.768 TL)

4,050 personnel are working in the company which spent 447 million TL for research and development last year.

The company ranks on the 80th line among the most prestigious defense industry companies of the world.

Aselsan designs, develops and manufactures modern electronic systems for military and industrial customers in Turkey and abroad. 07/05/2012

### **Turkey May be Regional Power, Out of EU in 2030**

Turkey is likely to become a pivotal regional power by 2030, but it is not clear whether it will be a European Union member by that date, according to a recently released report conducted by the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) upon a European Parliament request.

“Turkey is likely to become a pivotal regional power. Turkish citizens, capital and institutions will continue to integrate with the global economy and network society; and ties with the EU and Turkey’s immediate neighbors and other regions will become deeper and denser,” said the Global Trends 2030 report, released on April 27. The report looks at the impact of an increasingly empowered global citizenry on the international system and is produced for the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS).

Turkey’s global role depends on its ability to pursue its interests within international groups and by membership of inter-state organizations such as NATO, the G20, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and by eventual accession to the EU, said the report. However, it also said it was “difficult to predict whether Turkey will join the EU by 2030 as there are both push and pull factors at work.

“The division of Cyprus could be mitigated by greater convergence between Turkey and the EU, but the difficulties attending the process of enlargement to Turkey may persist and render the solution to the Cyprus question more problematic,” the report stated.

The report recommended that Turkey balance its recently-discovered role in the Middle East by awareness of its relations with the EU, the Balkans, the Black Sea, Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Mediterranean and the U.S., as well as its evolving and newly-emergent links with the rest of Asia, Africa and the Americas. The report said Turkey may want to work with different countries “to further its interests in the Middle East,” but stressed that this was “unlikely to become an alternative to EU integration.”

Current trends suggest Turkey will maintain and even bolster its status as a medium-sized power in demographic, economic, territorial and military terms, said the report, but it also urged the country to address key weaknesses in order to be able to pursue this position, “including Kurdish and Armenian claims and rights issues, energy dependency, an environmentally unsustainable development model”

In 2030, there will be no single hegemonic world power, but the U.S. and China will be the most influential actors, according to the report. It also predicted an economic power shift toward Asia, with China projected to be the largest economic power with a 19 percent share of total world gross domestic product (GDP) and India continuing to rise. However, Russia and Japan will lose the great power status they enjoyed in the 20th century, the report said.

The U.S. is likely to remain the world’s major military power, but Chinese military capabilities are very likely to increase. A group of rising middle powers, including Indonesia, Turkey, and South Africa, will become ever more prominent, the report said.

With regard to social media, the report said its use was growing everywhere. “Indonesia has experienced the fastest rate of development, and Turkey now accounts for the third highest number of Facebook users after the U.S. and the U.K.” In the OECD, the richest ten percent

earned nine times as much as the poorest ten percent of the population. This income gap is particularly pronounced in Mexico and Chile but also in Israel, Turkey and the U.S. 03/05/2012

### **Turkey Stresses Necessity of Ending Bloodshed in Syria**

Turkey's National Security Council (MGK) said on Monday that it was obligatory to end bloodshed in Syria as soon as possible.

MGK released a statement after its regular monthly meeting held under the chairmanship of President Abdullah Gul in Ankara.

In its statement, the MGK said it was obligatory to end bloodshed in Syria as soon as possible and to pave the way for a democratic transition process in the country in line with legitimate demands of people.

"We have drawn attention to the obligation to fulfil all requirements of the six-point Annan plan," the MGK said.

The council underlined importance of protection of Syrian people and dispatch of humanitarian aid in that country, and said it discussed situation of Syrian people who had taken shelter in Turkey and developments along Turkey-Syria border.

Moreover, the council discussed developments in Iraq, and said Turkey continued to closely monitor political developments in Iraq as a country that had opposed to every type of ethnic and sectarian politics in its region.

"We think that problems in Iraq should be solved within the framework of pluralist democracy and rule of law principles and by restoring unity and solidarity of the country," the council said.

The council statement said it also discussed developments in other Middle Eastern and Northern African countries, as well as Turkey's fight against terrorism.

The statement said Turkey would maintain its comprehensive and multilateral fight against terrorism, and counter every type of act and attempt of the terrorist organization and its supporters that targeted at unity, solidarity, security, peace and prosperity of Turkish nation. 30/04/2012

### **Babacan: None of The Countries Should Aim to Arm Opposition in Syria**

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan said that none of the countries should aim to arm the opposition in Syria.

Turkey does not have such an aim, added Babacan who spoke at a conference in Boston on Friday.

Turkey fully supports political efforts and is against an external intervention in Syria, said Babacan.

An opposition should only be shaped as a political effort in Syria, said Babacan, adding that a legitimate opposition would be important as it would present an alternative to the existing regime.

Noting that Annan plan opened a a window of opportunity, Babacan said that the plan should immediately be implemented, and international community should support the plan.

Also, the plan should include a timetable and a deadline, said Babacan, expressing pleasure over the support of Syrian opposition to the plan.

UN-Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Kofi Annan presented a peace plan in March. The six-point peace plan includes demands for a ceasefire, the immediate withdrawal of heavy armor from residential areas and access for humanitarian aid.

The plan was presented to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on March 10 and accepted by him on March 27.

The ceasefire came into effect on April 12, but although the overall level of violence has dropped since then, al-Assad's government has been accused of failing to abide by key terms of the truce plan, including pulling all forces from urban areas and allowing peaceful demonstrations.

The UN currently has unarmed observers under its Supervision Mission to Syria (UNSMIS).

The UN says about 9,000 people have died in Syria since pro-democracy protests began in March 2011. 28/04/2012

### **Turkey's TPAO Starts Oil, Natural Gas Search in Northern Cyprus**

Turkey began exploratory drilling for oil and gas on Thursday in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC), escalating a dispute over who is entitled to the Mediterranean island's potential fuel riches.

The move counters an offshore gas search by rival Greek Cypriots in the island's internationally recognized southern nation that has touched off vociferous protests from Ankara and Turkish Cypriots, according to an AP report. Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yıldız joined KKTC leader Derviş Eroğlu to inaugurate the start of drilling by the Turkish Petroleum Company (TPAO) at the Türkyurdu-1 borehole in in Gazimağusa. Yıldız said his country was committed to continue exploration efforts for oil and gas in the KKTC, even if drilling on Thursday proved disappointing.

“We will explore our own oil and gas. I have to admit that only one in a thousand fresh drilling operations becomes successful. This particular well can fail us but it is part of a wider exploration effort which will provide us also with a detailed underground map of northern



Cyprus,” the Anatolia news agency reported Yıldız as having said during the ceremony. “We may not extract oil or gas from this well, but drilling is part of a wider package,” Yıldız said. “This work has strategic significance and we attribute great importance to it.” Eroğlu hailed the start of drilling as “a historic moment” which accords Turkish Cypriots “great strategic significance.”

“We will not allow anyone to take away the rights of Turkish Cypriots in the eastern Mediterranean,” said Eroğlu. TPAO President and CEO Mehmet Uysal said drilling will reach a total depth of 3,000 meters (9,850 feet) and will take four months to complete. Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey intervened after a coup by supporters of uniting with Greece. A Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence in 1983 is recognized only by Turkey, which maintains 35,000 troops there. 27/04/2012

### **Ro-Ro Trips Between Turkey and Egypt Begin**

Turkey's Economy Minister Zafer Caglayan was in attendance at the ceremony.

Speaking at the occasion, Caglayan said that "despite political and economic crisis in different corners of the world, Turkey was writing a success story with its political and economic stability".

Turkey has thrown the word "crisis" into the trash box never ever to use it again, Caglayan stressed.

Pointing out that Turkey was the world's second country with highest growth figures in 2011, Caglayan said that, despite the political crisis that came with the Arab Spring, Turkey's exports to the Middle East reached record figures in the history of the Republic of Turkey.

Today, we thank the Transportation Minister of Egypt. We have talked with him day and night wherever we were. The Egyptian minister contributed to the agreement we signed with Egypt. Now, thanks to the agreement, we have begun the first ro-ro trip. These trips will contribute to the Turkish-Egyptian trade volume and our export products will reach Saudi Arabia in 3-4 days. We will never leave our exporters alone, Caglayan stressed.

The first ro-ro ship from Mersin will travel to Egypt's Port Said and Alexandria cities.

Caglayan was given a tour of the ro-ro ship and had a chance to talk with crew members of the ship. 27/04/2012

### **Turkey to Continue to Pioneer Winds of Change in Mideast-Foreign Minister**

Turkey's foreign minister said on Thursday that Turkey would continue to pioneer the winds of change in the Middle East.

Ahmet Davutoglu said Turkey would supervise the winds of change in the Middle East.

"It is not possible for those, who embrace with dictator regimes instead of brother nations in the Middle East, to perceive the new understanding," Davutoglu said during a parliament session in Ankara.

Davutoglu said Turkey had not hesitated about its perspective and stance, and would maintain its stance backing humanitarian values such as freedom, rights, and national interests.

Turkey would continue to stand by Syrian people, he said.

Davutoglu said Turkey was considered a country that was pioneering a new regional order, not only a friend and brother country, in all Middle Eastern societies.

The minister called on circles criticizing the government's stance to travel to Middle Eastern countries and as about people's views on Turkey's Syria policy.

"They will express their appreciation about Turkey's noble policy," Davutoglu said.

Davutoglu said the government would continue to be the conscience of regional people and entire humanity and at the same time it would protect Turkey's national interests because it had not only a new Turkey target but also a new Middle East target in its mind.

"There is a new peace order on the basis of our new Middle East target, based on brotherhood, not based on ethnic or sectarian differences, and we will exert efforts until this peace order is established," he said.

Davutoglu also said Turkey would be the pioneer and spokesperson of this peace order.  
26/04/2012

### **Istanbul hopes to build a third airport**

A tender for a third airport in Istanbul will open this year.

Ataturk International Airport served 20.3 million passengers on international airlines and 11.8 million passengers on domestic flights in 2010.

Turkey Transport Minister Binali Yildirim announced on Saturday (April 21st) that the government will hold a tender this year to build a third airport in Istanbul in an effort to ease traffic at the existing two facilities. Ataturk International Airport in the city served 20.3 million passengers on international airlines and 11.8 million passengers on domestic flights in 2010.  
26/04/2012

### **Turkey Expresses 'Deep Regret' Over Obama's Armenian Remarks**

Turkey has expressed "deep regret" over comments by U.S. President Barack Obama commemorating the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turks during World War I.

Obama described the event as "one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century."

The U.S. leader also said the Armenians were "brutally massacred or marched to their deaths," but he did not use the word "genocide."

Turkey's Foreign Ministry described Obama's remarks as "biased" and a distortion of "historical facts."

Obama's remarks coincided with Armenia's annual remembrance of the event. 25/04/2012

### **Turkish FM Meets With Leader of Iraqi Turkmen Party**

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Tuesday met with Esad Salihi, leader of the Iraqi Turkmen Front, in the Turkish capital, Ankara.

The meeting was held closed to the news media as Turkish diplomatic sources said that Davutoglu and Salihi discussed latest developments in Iraq.

Sources cited Davutoglu as telling Salihi that Turkey rejected any discrimination on ethnic and sectarian lines in Iraq and in the region and that Turkey would continue to talk with all groups in Iraq.

Sources also said Davutoglu discussed with Iraqi Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi in a meeting earlier today latest developments in Iraq and exchanged views over the situation in the Middle East.

Sources said in a separate meeting on Tuesday with Ali Tarhouni, leader of the Libyan Center Party, Davutoglu reiterated Turkey's continued support to Libya's transformation and development process. 25/04/2012

### **BP: Major Developments underway on the Shah Deniz - 2 Gas Supply to Turkey**

Major steps will be taken in the near future to ensure the supply of gas from the Shah Deniz 2 field to Turkey and its subsequent transport to Europe, the newly appointed representative of the British BP in Turkey Bud Fackrell, who is also responsible for the activities of BP Turkey in Azerbaijan and Georgia said, newspaper Milliyet wrote on Friday.

This week, BP announced its preliminary engineering and design work in the second stage of the development of the offshore gas condensate field Shah Deniz.

The Shah Deniz 2 project is set to produce 16 billion cubic metres of gas per year.

The entry into the FEED phase represents the start of a key part of the project during which engineering studies will be refined, further wells will be drilled, commercial agreements will be finalised and key construction contracts will commence, BP said.

During the FEED phase of the project, the Shah Deniz consortium will finalise its selection of export routes across Turkey and into Europe. Gas reserves of Shah Deniz field are estimated at 1.2 trillion cubic meters.

The contract to develop the offshore Shah Deniz field was signed on June 4, 1996. Participants to the agreement are: BP (operator) - 25.5 per cent, Statoil - 25.5 per cent, NICO - 10 per cent, Total - 10 per cent, LukAgip - 10 per cent, TPAO - nine per cent and SOCAR-10 per cent.  
20/04/2012

### **Turkey's Economic Growth Chance for Europe, Turkish President Says**

Turkish President Abdullah Gul on Wednesday said Turkey's strong economic growth offered an opportunity for European countries out of the recession.

"Turkey enjoys economic growth and safely develops as many European countries suffer economic and financial crises. This is important not only for Turks but also all our friends. Especially, a European Union member Turkey offers a great opportunity for Europe to overcome the recession," Gul told a joint press conference with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Gul said Turkey had grown nine percent in 2010 and 8.5 percent in 2011, adding that the country's debt-to-GDP ratio was only 39 percent.

Gul said Turkey attached great importance to economic ties with the Netherlands as the trade volume between the two countries were more than 7 billion USD with Dutch investments in Turkey were worth of over 16 billion USD.

Gul said the Netherlands extended firm support to Turkey's EU membership bid, adding that Turkey would complete all accession criteria and become a member. "We will fulfill the criteria and when we did we will become an EU member. We appreciate the Dutch support," Gul said.

Rutte, on his part, mutual investments between Turkey and the Netherlands had increased significantly over the past decade, adding that Turkish community in the Netherlands had successfully integrated into the Dutch society.

Rutte said his country favored Turkey's accession to the Union, adding that Turkey had made major progress in fulfilling the membership criteria. 19/04/2012

### **Turkey to Unite Turkic Diaspora to Expose Lie on "Armenian Genocide"**

Ankara intends to unite the Turkic diaspora around the world to oppose allegations on the so-called "Armenian genocide", the Hurriyet newspaper reported.

Turkey's this step is directed against large-scale actions scheduled for 2015, which will be timed to the 100th anniversary of the so-called "Armenian genocide". As part of countering this lie Turkish and Azerbaijani diaspora will gather at an international conference on Sept.15,

which will be attended by about a thousand Turkish and Azerbaijani politicians, public figures, scientists, parliamentarians and representatives of literature and art from many countries.

Armenia and the Armenian lobby claim that the predecessor of the Turkey - Ottoman Empire had committed the 1915 genocide against the Armenians living in Anadolu, and achieved recognition of the "Armenian Genocide" by the parliaments of several countries. 16/04/2012

**Azerbaijani, Turkish Customs Highlight Opportunities for Growth in Trade Turnover**

The dynamic growth rate of Azerbaijan and Turkey's economies provides ample opportunities for a further increase in trade turnover between the two countries.

Undersecretary of Customs at the Turkish Customs and Trade Ministry Ziya Altunyaliz announced this at a meeting with Azerbaijani State Customs Committee Chairman Aydin Aliyev in Baku on Saturday.

'A significant increase in trade turnover is good and even today there are ample opportunities for further growth', the report says.

According to the SCC in the first quarter, the volume of trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Turkey exceeded \$478.5 million. It increased by more than 67 per cent compared to the figure of the same period last year.

Turkey is one of the largest foreign trade partners of Azerbaijan. In January-March, Azerbaijan imported most products from Turkey worth \$310.02 million (15.09 per cent of the country's total imports), and exported products to the sum of \$168.53 million (2.89 per cent of exports).

According to Aliyev, the mutual exchange of experience of the two customs agencies made a major contribution to the development of common cause.

At the meeting Aliyev spoke about the positive results on applying the Turkish experience by Azerbaijan in the fight against smuggling and especially drugs.

The Turkish delegation visited Azerbaijan to participate in the conference of heads of customs services of the World Customs Organisation Europe Region (WCO) in Baku. 16/04/2012