

**TURKIC
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TURKIC COUNCIL NEWS BULLETIN

15 JUNE -15 JULY 2012

AZERBAIJAN

“UK supports Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity,” UK Foreign Ministry

June 16 (AzerTAc). The Azerbaijani Embassy to the United Kingdom has sent a letter to UK Foreign Office on media reports concerning information about meetings separatists of Nagorno-Karabakh held in the parliament of this country. The embassy has sent a letter to British Foreign Office, expressing concern on the participation of separatists at the meeting of Armenia-Britain friendship group. The UK Foreign Ministry responded in its letter that UK’s position remains unchanged as it supports Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity. The letter says that the parliamentary group is a non-formal group of interests and does not reflect the official position of the British government and parliament. “It means that the Armenian media again distorts the facts. Their information is just a provocation” said the press secretary of Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Elman Abdullayev. The Azerbaijani Embassy to the UK informed that participation of Nagorno-Karabakh separatists in the meeting of Armenia-UK friendship group was a personal initiative of baroness Caroline Cocks. Some of Armenian media spread information about visit of “delegation” of Nagorno-Karabakh separatists to London on June 13. The delegation held meetings in the House of Lords, participated in the annual meeting of Armenia-UK friendship group. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry tasked the Embassy with investigating into the case.

Azerbaijan's GDP grew by 0.7%

June 16 (AzerTAc). During the first last five months of 2012, gross domestic product in Azerbaijan increased over the same period last year by 0.7%. The production of the GDP amounted to 20.9 billion manats. According to the State Statistical Committee, the production of non-oil sector GDP made up 67.9%, services 25.9%, while 6.2% fell to production and import taxes. Compared to January-May 2011, GDP growth in the country amounted to 10.5 while decreased by 6.5% in the oil and gas sector. Average GDP per capita has reached AZN 2,281.5 or USD 2,901.9.

Azerbaijan expresses protest to Turkmenistan

June 18 (AzerTAc). Turkmen ambassador has today summoned to the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan due to seismic works carried out by Turkmenistan in Kepez deposit situated in the intersection of Azerbaijani and Turkmenistan’s sectors. “The sides will not carry out exploration and extraction works until the coordination of issues on the division of depth of the Caspian seabed in the zones where the depth of Azerbaijani and Turkmenistan’s sectors intersect according to agreement reached by Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan in 2008” has been told in the meeting with Deputy FM Khalaf Khalafov. This agreement was broken and Turkmenistan attempts to start seismic works in Kepez deposit situated in the intersection

of Azerbaijani and Turkmenistan's sectors. Azerbaijani side expressed a strong protest to Turkmenistan and it was noted that Turkmenistan's improper activity was inadmissible and Azerbaijan has a right to take relevant measures for the protection of its sovereign rights in the Caspian Sea.

Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia meet in Paris

June 18 (AzerTAc). Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia Elmar Mammadyarov and Edward Nalbandian met in Paris. The ministers discussed settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs Robert Bradtke, Jacques Faure, Igor Popov and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk are to join the meeting. According to the joint statement of the co-chairs, the ministers discussed the question of peaceful solution to the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the further steps for development of humanitarian contacts and creation of mechanisms to investigate the facts of violation of ceasefire regime and preserve the objects of historical and cultural importance. The Co-Chairs also reiterated deep concern over recent incidents along the front lines and stressed the need to respect the 1994 ceasefire agreement. The Foreign Ministers expressed their determination to continue working with the Co-Chairs to reach a peaceful settlement, and their readiness to carry out confidence-building measures that could improve the atmosphere for negotiations. According to statement, "the meeting took place in a positive, constructive atmosphere. As a next step, the Co-Chairs will visit the region in the coming weeks".

Azerbaijan will restore historical monument in Rome

June 18 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan will restore a historical monument in Rome. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archaeology of Italy. According to AzerTAc, the information was published by Italian online edition "Abitare a Roma". According to the memorandum, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation will allocate funds for the restoration of the historic monument of the 4th century of St. Peter and St. Marcelline in Rome. This issue was discussed during the visit of the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Alieva to Italy in December 2011. Restoration works should be completed in 2013.

Fitch revises outlook on Azerenerji to stable; affirms Azerenerji & SOCAR at `BBB-`

June 18 (AzerTAc). Fitch Ratings has revised the Outlook on OJSC Azerenerji's (Azerenerji) Long-term foreign currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to Stable from Positive and affirmed the rating at `BBB-`. Fitch has also affirmed State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic's (SOCAR) Long-term foreign currency IDR at `BBB-` with a Stable Outlook. A full rating breakdown is below. The revision of Azerenerji's Outlook to Stable reflects the agency's revision of the Outlook on the Republic of Azerbaijan's Long-term foreign IDR to Stable from Positive on 11 May 2012 (see `Fitch Revises Azerbaijan's Outlook to Stable; Affirms at `BBB-`" at www.fitchratings.com). The revision of the Outlook on the sovereign rating, and consequently Azerenerji's rating, better reflects Fitch's view on their likely direction. Azerenerji's ratings are aligned with the Republic of Azerbaijan (`BBB-`/Stable/F3`) reflecting strong legal, strategic and operational ties with the government of Azerbaijan. At YE11 87.1% of the company's debt was guaranteed by the government. Fitch previously de-aligned the ratings of SOCAR from those of Azerbaijan at a hypothetical sovereign rating level above `BBB-`, largely due to the relatively insignificant direct

government guarantees for SOCAR's debt. At the current `BBB-` sovereign rating level, Fitch assesses government ties with SOCAR as strong. Fitch continues to view SOCAR's standalone business and financial profile as commensurate with the `BB` rating category. The rating actions are as follows. Azerenerji: Long-term foreign currency IDR: affirmed at `BBB-`; Outlook revised to Stable from Positive
Short-term foreign currency IDR: affirmed at `F3`
SOCAR: Long-term foreign currency IDR: affirmed at `BBB-`; Stable Outlook
Short-term foreign currency IDR: affirmed at `F3`;
Senior unsecured rating: affirmed at `BBB-`

AZAL launches new flights Baku-Lvov-Baku

June 18 (AzerTAc). From June 17, AZAL has started direct flights on Baku-Lvov-Baku route. The flights are implemented on Sundays at 08.30. The price of round-trip ticket is AZN 420. Currently, AZAL realizes direct flights from Baku to Kiev, Ukraine. At the same time, Ukraine's Aerosvit Company implements direct flights to Kiev and Donetsk cities. Besides, from July 2, AZAL will start direct flights on Baku-Simferopol and Baku-Crimea routes.

Azerbaijan-EU hold political dialogue in Brussels

June 19 (AzerTAc). Regular political dialogue between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European Union at the EU's political and security committee level was held in Brussels, Azerbaijan's mission to EU said. Azerbaijani side was represented by Emin Eyyubov, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Belgium, and Head of Mission to the EU. The European Union was represented by the mentioned Committee chief, Ambassador Oloph Skoog and EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Philippe Lefort. Mr. Skoog said that Azerbaijan with its global and regional importance is a strategic partner of EU and the Organization is keen in development of bilateral ties. Ambassador Emin Eyyubov highlighted on the negotiation processes related to settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict, stressing necessity of resolution of the problem within the international legal norms and in the frame of territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. "The European Union has to take serious measures to this effect", he underlined. EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Philippe Lefort expressed concern with delay of talks and shared his views. Ambassador Eyyubov gave detailed information on socio-economic reforms conducted in the Republic, discussing further development of relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union.

Design of Bank Head Office drafted by UNStudio within the Baku White City project

June 19 (AzerTAc). On the territory of Baku White City the international architectural design company UNStudio has began designing the Head office for one of the Banks in Azerbaijan. The project documentation, including construction drawings and engineering services, will be developed by Azerbaijani specialists. The design territory is situated along the Nobel Avenue opposite to Baku White City Office Building, which is currently under construction. Prospectively the building will have 7 storeys accommodating 10 000 sq.m. of useful area and the parking zone for up to 265 cars. Taking into consideration growing demands of local banks for convenient infrastructure, easy access roads and working environment for their offices, the agreement has been reached on design of neighboring buildings in order to form a bank district in Baku. UNStudio is one of the leaders in

innovative architecture. With the offices located in Amsterdam and Shanghai, UNStudio has expanded its capabilities across the globe, by realizing such projects as: Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart, UNStudio Tower office building in Amsterdam, Grand Hyatt hotel in Frankfurt on Main, National Museum of Art in China, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Columbia Business School in New-York, Five Franklin Place residential building in New-York and others. For more detailed information you can visit UNStudio's official web-site www.unstudio.com

Russian Foreign Ministry calls for continuation of political dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan

June 21 (AzerTAc). "The meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers in Paris has demonstrated a willingness of both sides to continue the political dialogue between the parties, and we consider this meeting as positive," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said at a weekly briefing in Moscow. According to Lukashevich, the Russian Foreign Ministry believes that this meeting demonstrates the willingness of both Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue political dialogue in accordance with a statement of the presidents of Russia, the United States and France on Nagorno-Karabakh dispute in Los Cabos. Touching upon the joint declaration on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, made by the presidents of three countries in Mexico, Lukashevich said: "This shows that solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is in the interests of all three co-chairs." Lukashevich said that in Paris foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan discussed possible steps to reduce tensions in the conflict zone, as well as the parties' approaches to the investigation of armed incidents. The parties also clarified their countries' positions regarding further efforts to promote humanitarian contacts. Foreign minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov and Armenian foreign minister Edward Nalbandian met in Paris on June 18 to discuss further steps towards the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The same day, the Presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs - Russia, France and the United States - issued a joint statement on Nagorno-Karabakh in Mexico. According to Lukashevich, OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs are going to visit the region in July.

Armenians` rally in front of Azerbaijani embassy in Poland failed

June 21 (AzerTAc). Polish official authorities addressed the Azerbaijani embassy in Poland and issued a statement on desire of 20 persons to hold protest action in front of the embassy. The embassy told they have no information about the identity of persons and organizations they represent. The embassy carried out relevant preparatory works because of the most actual injustice of our time – the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories by Armenia and non-recognition of the Khojaly genocide by world community. Attempting to hold protest action outside the embassy, a group of Armenians, consisting of 10-12 persons, have seen photos reflecting Armenia's aggression and Khojaly genocide on the fence while approaching the building. According to information, 10-12 Armenians attempted to hold action but their attempts failed. The action named "manifestation" and planned to be held for 30 minutes was delayed for 10 minutes and ended without any serious result. Neither the embassy nor Armenians themselves heard anything but Azerbaijani mugham Karabakh Shikastasi and Cangi because of the 1000-watt amplifiers. Azerbaijanis living in Poland have presented booklets and various materials in Polish language on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to the people.

TURKPA Secretary General: We`ve made many achievements as part of international cooperation this year

June 23 (AzerTAc). Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries, TURKPA, Ramil Hasanov has said the International Secretariat of the organization has made many achievements in the first half of 2012. Speaking to a press conference, Hasanov said being a diplomatic mission in Azerbaijan, TURKPA`s Secretariat participated in numerous international events. According to him, the TURKPA Secretariat initiated a meeting of delegations of member countries of OSCE PA this year. Hasanov said he had meetings with Secretary General of the OSCE Lamberto Zannier, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Eoin O`Leary, and Special representative of the European Parliament Dick Toornstra. Hasanov noted TURKPA maintained successful collaboration with the Cooperation Council of Turkish States. He said TURKPA`s International Observers Mission monitored the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan this January. According to Hasanov, this June TURKPA successfully held the 3rd meeting of its Assembly Council and three plenary sessions in Bishkek, Kazakhstan. “During these sessions the chairmanship of the organization passed from Kazakhstan to Kyrgyzstan, deputy chairmen and secretaries of four steering commissions were elected, and the commissions` recommendations were approved and sent to parliaments of member countries.”

“In addition, TURKPA`s international observers mission made reports on results of elections in Turkey, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. We also approved the 2013 budget of the Secretariat, and adopted the Bishkek Declaration.” On future priorities, Hasanov said they include attending international conferences, and implementing projects aimed at boosting cooperation with parliaments of regional and neighboring countries.

Resolution on establishment of friendship group between Columbia – Azerbaijan accepted

June 23 (AzerTAc). Colombian Senate accepted a resolution on the establishment of friendship group between Columbia and Azerbaijan. The friendship group includes Senate President Juan Manuel Corzo Romani and author of the decision to recognize the occupation of Azerbaijani territories and the Khojaly genocide adopted by the Senate of Colombia in March 2012 Senator Alexandra Moreno Pirakive, Azerbaijani Embassy in Mexico said.

Japanese Embassy-financed Sewage Improvement Project completed in Azerbaijan`s Lahij village

June 23 (AzerTAc). A Hand-over ceremony of the Project for “Improvement of the Sewage System in Lahij Village of Ismailli Region” has been held in Lahij. The project was implemented as part of the “Grassroots and Human Security Grant Assistance Programme” of the Japanese government. The project aims to improve the hygienic environment in Lahij throughout the installation new underground sewage pipes which will be connected to the historically existing ancient sewage system. Number of beneficiaries is about 2000 residents of Lahij village. Total amount of the Japanese Grant Assistance for this project is about \$100,112. The project saw the reconstruction of a school in Rusyan Village, the construction of a hospital in Galajig village, the Rehabilitation of a children`s polyclinic in Ismailli region, the improvement of the water supply facilities in Lahij village, the improvement of the Obstetric and Gynecological Department of Ivanovka Village Hospital, the improvement of

Waste Management System of Ismailli region, the construction of drinkable water supply facilities in two settlements of Ismailli region, and the construction of a kindergarten in Zogari village. Speaking to the ceremony, Japan's ambassador in Baku Shusuke Watanabe said Azerbaijan and Japan enjoyed close relations in all fields. The ambassador thanked President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the people of Azerbaijani for assisting Japan in tackling the consequences of last year's quake. Local residents thanked the government of Japan for financing the project of improving the village's sewage system. "Grassroots and Human Security Grant Assistance Programme" supports projects applied by municipalities, medical institutions, and NGOs, aiming directly at the improvement of living standards of Azerbaijani people. The total number of projects contracted in Azerbaijan has made 154 so far.

Turkey and Azerbaijan expands cooperation in private banking sector

June 23 (AzerTAc). Cooperation in private sector between banks of Azerbaijan and Turkey is expanding. After the opening of representations of Texnikabank ASC in Istanbul and YapiKredi Bank in Baku, the Azerbaijan International Bank also planned to open its new branch in Turkey. The assets of Yapi Kredi Bank Azerbaijan CJSC have reached USA \$301 billion. Yapi Kredi Bank will began the application of new credit cards named "world" in Azerbaijan. As today YapiKredi bank has 9 branches, 19 ATM and 183 employees in Baku. Improvement of product assortment and application of modern technologies take an important part in the line of the Bank's duties.

Qafqaz University and Turkey's Hitit University sign memorandum of understanding

June 23 (Azertac). Rectors, Ahmad Sanich of Qafqaz University and Reha Metin Alkan of Turkey's Hitit University signed a memorandum of understanding on development of relations in the fields of science and education here. Rector of Qafqaz University, professor Ahmad Sanich touched on importance of fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey. On important role of education in the modern world, Sanich stressed the importance of cooperation in this sphere. Rector of Hitit University Reha Metin Alkan told of activity and international relations of this higher educational institution and its participation in some international programs.

English language book on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict published in Paris

June 24 (AzerTAc). Paris-based L'Harmattan publishing house has published an English version of a book on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by Fazil Zeynalov, a professor at Baku State University. Titled "Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: Just Peace or Imminent War", the book was launched in French in 2011. The book highlights historic roots of the Armenia- Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The author stresses the fact that thousands of Iranian and Turkish Armenians were resettled in the Nagorno-Karabakh, Nakhchivan and other Azerbaijani lands after the signing of the Treaty of Turkmenchay. Multiple French, English, Russian, Turkish and Azerbaijani sources were used during the writing of the work, which covers the historical, geopolitical and legal basis of the conflict. Professor Zeynalov initially details historic sources from the Caucasian Albanian and Middle Ages; the work of the Russian Orientalists in the 19th–20th centuries; and outlines the discoveries of prominent Azerbaijani historians. The author researched processes in the Nagorno-Karabakh taking place after 1991 and showed the Armenian separatists' policy regarding the region. The book mainly focuses on the resolution of the conflict by

peaceful means and through negotiations, which would be based on international law and on mutual agreement of the parties. Zeynalov notes that Armenia has not yet implemented the U.N. Security Council's four resolutions on the liberation of the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions. He also writes that efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group - Russia, France, and the U.S. – which is currently mediating the peace negotiations, have not yet produced any results.

New York State Senate adopts resolution proclaiming March 31 as remembrance day of Azerbaijanis subjected to genocide

June 24 (AzerTAc). As a result of efforts made by Azerbaijan Society of America and Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), the New York State Senate has adopted a resolution J3784-2011 proclaiming March 31 as remembrance day of Azerbaijanis subjected to genocide in 1918. The resolution was presented by New York State Senator James Alesi. The document says every year since 1918, Azerbaijanis and many people around the globe observe March 31 as a day of remembrance, to honor the victims resulting from the fighting that began in March of 1918. It is the sense of this legislative body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 31, 2012 as Azerbaijani Remembrance Day in the State of New York. Ninety four years have passed since the genocide committed by the members of Armenian Dashnak party in concert with Bolsheviks against Azerbaijanis. The massacre of about 20,000 innocent people - elderly, women and children started at the night of March 30, 1918. Armenian Bolshevik troops led by Stepan Shaumyan massacred thousands of people, burnt Muslim shrines and confiscated the 400 million manats estate of Baku residents. Tezepir Mosque was bombed, and one of the magnificent architectural buildings, Ismailiyye was burnt. The genocide policy against Azerbaijanis was not limited to only Baku; Armenian dashnaks killed 8,027 Azerbaijanis, including 2,560 women and 1,277 children in 53 villages of Shamakhy on March 31 and 16,000 Azerbaijanis were murdered in 162 villages of Guba. Armenian Dashnaks burnt thousands of villages in Lenkeran, Mughan and Nagorno Karabakh and killed thousands of people. Special Investigation Commission set up by Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on July 15, 1918, gathered a great deal of documents and submitted them to the government. Azerbaijani parliament made a decision on marking March 31 as the day of Azerbaijani genocide in 1919. Though this date was forgotten during the Soviet period, a lot of investigations on the tragedies, committed on March 31 1918 were carried out and books were published after Azerbaijan regained its independence.

Argentinean Senate approves new staff of Argentina-Azerbaijan Friendship Group

June 25 (AzerTAc). Argentinean Senate approved new staff of the Argentine-Azerbaijan friendship group. The Friendship Group included 13 senators according to the order signed by Argentinean Vice-President, at the same time Senate's Chairman Amado Boudou. The staff included: Daniel Filmus – representative of “Frente para la Victoria” (The Front for Victory) political block and Chairman of Senate's Foreign Relations Commission, Walter Barrionuevo - representative of “Frente para la Victoria” (The Front for Victory) political block, Anibal Fernandez - representative of “Frente para la Victoria” (The Front for Victory) political block and Chairman of Senate's Budget and Property Commission, Ruperto Godoy - representative of “Frente para la Victoria” (The Front for Victory) political block and Deputy Chairman of Senate's National Economy and Investment Commission, Juan Carlos Marino – representative of “Union Civica Radical” (The Radical Civic Union) political block and Deputy Chairman of Senate's Foreign Relations Commission, Juan Carlos Romero – representative of “8 de Octubre” (October 8) political block and Senate's 2nd

Vice-President, Fabio Biancalani – representative of “Frente para la Victoria” (The Front for Victory) political block and Chairman of Interior Security and Drug Trafficking Commission, Pablo Verani - representative of “Union Civica Radical” (The Radical Civic Union) political block and Chairman of Science and Technology Commission, Roberto Basualdo – representative of “Produccion y Trabajo” (Production and Labor) political block, Maria Higonet – representative of “Justicialista La Pampa” political block, Josefina Mebae – “Partido Liberal de Corrientes” (The Liberal Party of Corrientes) political block, Jose Maria Roldan – representative of “Frente de Todos” (The Front for Everybody) and Chairman of Tourism Commission, Arturo Vera - representative of “Union Civica Radical” (The Radical Civic Union) political block and Chairman of Industry and Trade Commission. The first meeting of the Friendship Group in a new staff will be held in the nearest days. New chairman, deputy chairman and secretary of the group will be elected at the meeting.

Azerbaijan’s Foreign Ministry comments on tensions between Syria and Turkey

June 25 (AzerTAc). “Azerbaijan condemns the incident occurred between Turkey and Syria”, said spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Elman Abdullayev. Abdullayev said that these incidents escalate the tensions and damage the relations. “Such incidents must be investigated very seriously. Azerbaijan calls to investigate the case.” The spokesman underlined that Azerbaijan always supports Turkey. The reconnaissance aircraft of Turkish Military Air Forces was shot down by Syrian Air Forces in the international air space after short-time violation of Syrian air space on June 22. Two pilots were reportedly killed in the incident.

Azerbaijani citizens to travel visa-free to Montenegro

June 25 (AzerTAc). In accordance with a decision of the Montenegrin government, from June 21, Azerbaijani citizens will travel visa-free to Montenegro from July 15 to October 31, 2012, the Azerbaijani Embassy in Montenegro said. Azerbaijani citizens will be able to arrive or depart, use as a transit and live in the territory of Montenegro during 30 days.

Azerbaijan, Turkey sign documents with participation of President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan

June 26 (AzerTAc). Turkey and Azerbaijan have signed several documents in Istanbul with participation of President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project (TANAP). The Agreement was also signed by Azerbaijani minister of industry and energy Natig Aliyev and Turkish minister of energy and natural resources Taner Yildiz. A preliminary agreement between BOTAS and SOCAR on organizational issues with regard to TANAP was signed by Azerbaijani minister of industry and energy Natig Aliyev, Turkish minister of energy and natural resources Taner Yildiz, SOCAR president Rovnag Abdullayev and BOTAS deputy director general Mehmet Konuk. The Host Country Agreement between the Turkish Government and Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline Project Company was signed by Turkish minister of energy and natural resources Taner Yildiz and SOCAR president Rovnag Abdullayev on behalf of TANAP. Following the signing ceremony President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan made joint press statements and responded to questions from journalists.

Azerbaijani President meets Turkish Prime Minister in Istanbul

June 26 (AzerTAc). As part of his working visit to Turkey President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev met Tuesday Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The sides expressed satisfaction with successful development of Azerbaijan-Turkey friendly and fraternal relations in all spheres. They noted Trans-Anatolia gas pipeline project (TANAP) would contribute to energy security of Europe, as well as expansion of energy cooperation between the two countries. They also expressed confidence that Azerbaijan-Turkey relations would further develop.

Azerbaijani President attends BSEC 20th anniversary summit in Istanbul

June 26 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today attended the 20th anniversary summit of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in Istanbul. Turkish President Abdullah Gul welcomed President Ilham Aliyev and other Heads of State and Government. Opening the summit, Abdullah Gul said “it is a great honor for Turkey to host this gathering”. The Turkish leader spoke of the history of BSEC. He said the 20-year activity of the organization saw its member states become closer to each other politically and economically. Abdullah Gul stressed BSEC’s role in the international economic system. The Turkish leader said the organization was committed to expanding economic relations in the region and cooperation among the member states, as well as to developing the private sector, trade, culture and tourism. Abdullah Gul said “located in central Eurasia and linking the Black Sea countries, BSEC plays an important role in restoring the historic Silk Road and ensuring the exports of local energy resources”. The Turkish President said “the main task facing the organization today is to outline the priorities of economic cooperation for the coming 10 years”. President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic stressed the importance of the summit, saying it is held amid the global economic crisis. He said considerable steps were made towards boosting the economic development in BSEC member states during the Serbian presidency of the organization. The Serbian leader emphasized the significance of BSEC’s relations with leading international organizations, including the European Union and the European Commission. Tomislav Nikolic said he was happy that the chairmanship of BSEC passed to Turkey. Turkey will take over the organization’s rotating chairmanship from July 1. President Ilham Aliyev addressed the summit. The Azerbaijani leader said the history of BSEC’s founding coincided with Azerbaijan’s independence history. “Our country had gone through a difficult and important path during those years. Fundamental reforms were carried out in Azerbaijan, and the country has successfully implemented economic and infrastructure projects in the last few years.” President Ilham Aliyev said Azerbaijan’s achievements had been confirmed by world rating agencies. The Head of State noted the exploitation of oil and gas pipelines made Azerbaijan both an exporter of energy resources and a transit country. “The launch of another important project, the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, will help us restore the ancient Silk Road. These are concrete projects,” he added. President Aliyev said: “These projects will open new opportunities for bringing BSEC member states closer to each other and increasing their economic potential.” On the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Head of State said the dispute was a major barrier to the expansion of regional cooperation and the deepening of economic relations. He said the fact that “the conflict has not yet been resolved is a threat not only to economic cooperation but, in general, to peace and stability in the region”. The Azerbaijani leader thanked the Turkish President for “hospitality and excellent organization of the summit”. Other Heads of State and Government of BSEC member states also addressed the event.

Azerbaijan`s President meets Albanian Prime Minister in Istanbul

June 26 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has met in Istanbul Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha. They discussed the current state of and prospects for bilateral relations. They noted good opportunities exist for development of cooperation in energy, investment and tourism spheres. It was noted that Albania was interested in cooperation with Azerbaijan in creation of oil and gas infrastructure. Sali Berisha said works were underway for opening of Albanian embassy in Baku. He invited President Ilham Aliyev to his country.

Azerbaijan`s President meets Turkish counterpart

June 26 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has met today in Istanbul Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul. They said the 20th anniversary jubilee summit of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation would contribute to expansion of cooperative relations among member states. The presidents expressed satisfaction with rapid development of relations between the two countries in all spheres. They also underlined the necessity of expansion of activity in direction of further development of cooperation. The presidents also praised the current level of economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey. They stressed the importance of documents signed on development of this sphere. The sides also exchanged views on settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev meets delegation led by Foreign Minister of Portugal

June 27 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on Wednesday received delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal Paulo Portas. The Head of State said the visit of the minister Paulo Portas will open a new page in the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. The President said the delegation will hold productive meetings in Azerbaijan which will pave the way for the development of bilateral ties in various directions. President Ilham Aliyev said there is a huge potential for the development of relations and partnership between Azerbaijan and Portugal. Foreign Minister of Portugal Paulo Portas conveyed greetings of the President of Portugal Anibal António Cavaco Silva to the Azerbaijani leader. He has also emphasized the importance of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Portugal within the UN Security Council. Paulo Portas said Portugal will open its Embassy in Azerbaijan in nearest future. The minister said Portugal is interested in developing ties with Azerbaijan in various areas. The sides also dwelled on the peaceful settlement of the Armenia - Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh dispute, cooperation with EU and other issues. Azerbaijani President asked the minister Paulo Portas to pass on his greetings to the President of Portugal.

President Ilham Aliyev receives Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs

June 28 (AzerTAc). Ilham Aliyev President of Azerbaijan has today received the Iraqi delegation led by Rowsch Nouri Shaways, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs. The Head of State pointed out Iraq and Azerbaijan have great history of bilateral relations. He underlined that these ties are successfully developing, saying there are good opportunities for expanding them even more. On the political cooperation, the Azerbaijani leader said both countries support each other within international organizations. The Head of State highlighted

ample opportunities for development of economic cooperation too. President Aliyev underscored the importance of participation of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs in the Crans Montana Forum and expressed assurance the current visit would be important for discussing bilateral ties. Shawayas extended greetings to President Aliyev from Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki. He said he is satisfied to visit Azerbaijan and meet President Ilham Aliyev. Good potential for development of cooperation in energy, sector, tourism, investment and other fields. The Head of State asked Shawayas to pass on his greetings to Iraqi President and Prime Minister.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev receives former President of Croatia

June 28 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on Thursday received former President of Croatia Stipe Mesic. Former Croatian President Stipe Mesic emphasized that he has witnessed great development processes in Azerbaijan. A guest from Croatia stressed the importance of the upcoming Crans Montana Forum due in Baku. The sides emphasized that there is a good potential for further development of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Croatia and exchanged views on expanding cooperation.

President Ilham Aliyev receives Chairperson of Estonian Parliament

June 28 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received Chairperson of Estonian Parliament Ene Ergma and her accompanied delegation. The sides exchanged views on development of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Estonia in various spheres, including interparliamentary ties and prospects of cooperation within the European Union.

President Ilham Aliyev receives President of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

June 28 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received George Ivanov, President of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The sides exchanged views on significance of Crans Montana Forum, which is to be held in Azerbaijan and development of relations in various spheres. Development of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Macedonia was praised at the meeting.

President Ilham Aliyev meets President of Montenegro

June 29 (AzerTAc). President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan has today met with the President of Montenegro Filip Vujanovic who has arrived in Baku to attend the annual Crans Montana Forum. The heads of state praised successful re

President Ilham Aliyev meets Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili

June 29 (AzerTAc). President Ilham Aliyev on Friday, June 29, met with his Georgian counterpart, President Mikheil Saakashvili, who has arrived in Baku to take part in the annual Crans Montana Forum. The sides praised successful relations between the two countries in various areas and expressed confidence that these relations will develop even more in the future. Both Presidents emphasized the importance of the Crans Montana Forum which is underway in Baku.

Crans Montana Forum kicks off in Baku -President Ilham Aliyev attends the Forum

June 29 (AzerTAc). The Crans Montana Forum today kicked off in Baku. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and his spouse Mehriban Aliyeva attended the official opening of Crans Montana Forum. The 23rd yearly session of Crans Montana Forum brought together the heads of states, including Georgia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, prime-ministers, ministers, public figures, intellectuals, parliamentarians and business officials. The key goal of the Forum is to encourage the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, which is to be held in 2013 and the Baku Process on Intercultural Dialogue as well as popularize Azerbaijan as a center of this dialogue. The Crans Montana Forum is a Swiss International Organization created in Crans Montana (Switzerland) in 1986 with the support and the involvement of Swiss authorities whose importance and prestige are well-established. It is formally recognized notably for its purpose to contribute to the construction of a more Humane World: "Committed to a more Humane World". The Forum closely cooperates with the UN, the European Union, the Council of Europe, as well as UNESCO, ISESCO and other international organizations. The Crans Montana Forum works for the promotion of international cooperation and contributes to global growth while ensuring a high level of stability, equity and security. The aim is also to foster the best practices and ensure a global dialogue. Azerbaijan actively takes part at the Crans Montana Forum. President Aliyev has been conferred with Prix De La award, while the First Lady received the Forum's Gold Medal, in Brussels, in 2011. Azerbaijani President and First Lady met with the heads of states participating at the Forum and officials of numerous countries attending the event. The event was opened by Founder and Executive Chairman of the Crans Montana Forum Jean-Paul Carteron. President Ilham Aliyev addressed the Forum participants.

As stated, the event is dedicated to the state and private management issues in energy policy sphere. The participants will discuss fighting poverty and improving the management of public affairs, energy security of the Eastern Europe, implementing a regional transportation strategy, the impact of regional conflicts on energy policies, energy security and investment in Azerbaijan, cyber-security and globalization, current challenges and prospects for OIC member states on energy issues at the plenary sessions today. The Forum was also addressed by President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili, President of Macedonia George Ivanov, President of Montenegro Filip Vujanović, Prince of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad bin Mohammad Al Sharqi, the Iraqi Premier's aide, the Chairperson of the Estonian Parliament Ms. Ene Ergma, heads and members of governments of several countries. Then, discussions were held. After official opening ceremony, on behalf of the Azerbaijani President and the First Lady a dinner was arranged in honor of the Crans Montana Forum participants.

Azerbaijan, Turkey discuss prospects of cooperation in agrarian sector

June 29 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Artur Rasizade has met today visiting delegation led by the Turkish Food, Agriculture and Livestock Minister Mehmet Mehdi Eker. During the meeting, the sides touched upon the existing business relations between the agrarian sectors of the two brotherly countries, expressing the importance of widening of relations furthermore. Speaking about the political, economical and cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey, the sides pointed out that the two countries' cooperation in agrarian field, which is the important part of the economy, is on high level. "The Azerbaijani and Turkish governments will resolutely take necessary steps to support

continuing of successfully developing ties between the two countries in all fields”, the sides stressed.

Malaysia backs fair position of Azerbaijan

June 29 (AzerTAc). Speaker of Azerbaijan`s Milli Majlis Ogtay Asadov on Thursday met with Malaysian Minister in the Prime Minister`s Department in charge of parliamentary affairs Mohamed Nazri bin Tan Sri Abdul Aziz. Speaker of the Azerbaijan`s Parliament noted that Malaysia was a significant country for Azerbaijan. “We are interested in development of the relations with Malaysia. For this occasion, we consider that intensive reciprocal visits are very important”, he added. Ogtay Asadov also said that yet there is no legal ground for close cooperation between the two countries. “Now, 14 documents are being prepared to the effect. We consider that signing these documents will be new level on development of the relations”, he said. Mr. Asadov also underlined that there were favourable opportunities for deepening of the cooperation between both countries in the economic sphere. Asadov highlighted the role of the parliaments on development of the intergovernmental cooperation. He also praised activity of inter-parliamentary friendship group of both countries and added that holding the meetings between the two countries` MPs and discussing issues of mutual interest would serve further deepening of the relations. The Speaker also hailed Malaysian support on Azerbaijan`s election as the non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and also noted that relations of both countries were in high level within the OIC Parliamentary Union. Touching upon the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Ogtay Asadov noted that Azerbaijan supports the conflict`s resolution in the frame of norms of international law. The Speaker praised the recognition of the Khojaly genocide by Congress of Mexico, Senates of Pakistan and Columbia, some States of the US and expressed hope that Malaysian Parliament would implement works in the relevant direction. Mohamed Nazri bin Tan Sri Abdul Aziz, in his turn, noted that Malaysia were interested in further deepening of the relations. He also praised development of the inter-parliamentary relations, stressing confidence that expanding of the cooperation would positively impact on the economic, cultural, humanitarian spheres. The Malaysian Minister also said that Malaysia would support Azerbaijan`s just position on the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijani Businessmen Union to function in Turkey

June 29 (AzerTAc). Today, Azerbaijani Business Association (TAIB) has officially started to function in Turkey. At the official opening ceremony, Economic Development Minister of Azerbaijan Shahin Mustafayev said that Association`s activity will create conditions for expansion of Azerbaijani businessmen`s activity in Turkey as well as new cooperation opportunities. According to Ministry of Economic Development, officials, entrepreneurs, representatives of businessmen union, public organization of both countries attended the event. Mr. Mustafayev informed about Azerbaijan`s successes and noted that, Azerbaijan had sustainable economy and was a leader state in the Southern Caucasus. He said that, the Union would extend the operation of Azerbaijani businessmen in Turkey, open new opportunities for collaboration. Mustafayev also noted that, quick development of Azerbaijan`s economy created useful condition for increase of financial opportunities and investing abroad: “Today, Azerbaijan is investment exporter and invested in Turkey, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Balkan states and other countries”. “Economic and political relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey have reached strategic cooperation level. Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline and Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway projects are example of this relation. Contracts signed on TANAP are new beginning

of our cooperation”, he said. In turn, the head of the Association of business people of Azerbaijan to Turkey Seymur Agayev spoke about the purpose of creating the Association, its tasks and duties. He added that the structure was of great importance in coordinating the activities of the Azerbaijani business people operating in Turkey, it would encourage new investments.

The Association of business people of Azerbaijan to Turkey signed several memorandums of understanding with Azerbaijan-Turkish Businessmen Association, the Office of Foreign Economic Relations of Turkey, the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO).

Azerbaijani President meets Hungarian Premier

June 30 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today met Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. The Hungarian PM said he had eye-witnessed big development in Baku since his first visit to Azerbaijan, adding development in the country made a deep impression on him. The Head of State hailed rapid and successful development of relations between the two countries, particularly political one. President Ilham Aliyev expressed hope economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Hungary would further develop even more. The Azerbaijani leader said strong partnership relations were established between the two countries.

The Head of State underlined energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and Hungary expanded. Touching upon international importance of the Crans Montana Forum in Baku, President Ilham Aliyev stressed the importance of participation of Viktor Orban in the event. The President expressed confidence the Hungarian Premier`s visit to Azerbaijan would be fruitful in terms of discussions of development of bilateral relations. President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Viktor Orban then were joined by their delegations. The Head of State underlined the importance of bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Hungary, as well as cooperation within the European Union. President Ilham Aliyev said Hungary was partner and friendly country for Azerbaijan. The President said Azerbaijan was interested in developing relations with Hungary even more. The Head of State noted Azerbaijan and Hungary enjoy strong political relations. President Ilham Aliyev added the two countries have good prospects to expand cooperation in the fields of economy, energy, security and culture. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban underlined the importance of the Crans Montana Forum in Baku, noting he was happy to participate in the Forum. The Prime Minister expressed assurance Azerbaijan-Hungary cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral formats would expand even more. President Ilham Aliyev also hosted a dinner in honor of Hungarian Premier Viktor Orban. Then they posed for photographs.

EU ready to help solve Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

June 30 (AzerTAc). “We are concerned at the slow progress in the negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict,” President of the European Union Herman Van Rompuy said in an interview to Armenpress. Rompuy said the EU is concerned over recent violence along the Line of Contact. He said military force will not resolve the conflict. Only a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible. The EU has reinvigorated its support to the work of the OSCE Minsk group. The responsibility to reach an agreement is essentially in the hands of Armenia and Azerbaijan,

“The European Union has repeatedly expressed readiness to contribute to confidence building measures, where it can help the work of the OSCE Minsk Group,” he said. On the question concerning a recent resolution the European Parliament adopted, expressing the wish to have unconditional access to Nagorno-Karabakh, Rompuy said this does not constitute any form of recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh. He once more said EU does not recognize so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh” republic.

President receives Chairman of Bulgarian Constitutional Court

July 2 (AzerTAc). President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan on Monday received Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria Evgeny Tanchev. Reminding his visit to Azerbaijan two years ago, Mr. Tanchev noted extensive development changes in the country. He stressed international significance of the Eurovision song contest and Crans Montana Forum hosted in Azerbaijan. The head of the Azerbaijani state noted importance of international contests and forums to present the country’s achievements reached in the socio-economic field, stating that such events will be organized regularly in the years to come. The talks revolved around the expansion of bilateral relations in versatile fields, including cooperation among the constitutional courts of both countries.

Argentine portal highlights Azerbaijan`s economic achievements

July 2 (AzerTAc). An article on economic achievements of Azerbaijan was published in an Argentine portal. The article says: “Azerbaijan`s economic growth made up 11% over the past 10 years, while the world financial crisis constituted 8%. In accordance with the World Bank, a level of inflation reduced by 27% till 2008, and will not exceed 1.8% in 2012. “900 000 job places were opened in the country, average annual increase of direct foreign investments made up 5.2%. Besides, positive balance increased in foreign trade, currency reserves constituted 29 billion dollars, foreign trade grew by 34% in 2010 and banking assets were 25%. All this development is carrying out under the conditions of military aggression of Armenia.” “In spite of transition to the market economy, the country preserves the State Oil Company. Over the last years large gas fields were discovered here. Apart from investments, Azerbaijan receives big incomes and allots credits and subsidies to the agrarian sector. The readers may visit <http://www.lapoliticaonline.com/noticias/val/83374-7/moreno-buscaran-en-a...>

Azerbaijan`s President receives Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship

July 3 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received Argentina`s minister of foreign affairs and worship Héctor Timerman. The Head of State recalled his meeting with Timerman held in New-York. The President noted relations between Azerbaijan and Argentina were developing dynamically. He underlined the importance of reciprocal visits in expansion of bilateral cooperation. Timerman in turn said bilateral relationship between Azerbaijan and Argentina was expanding. He added great potential existed to strengthen this relationship even more. The Minister noted he was accompanied by a delegation of businessmen and this visit would create good opportunities for establishment of business relations between the two countries. They exchanged views on development of bilateral cooperation in a range of fields, including energy and agriculture.

Monument to Azerbaijani hero unveiled in Netherlands

July 3 (AzerTAc). A memory of one of the heads of Resistance Movement in Netherlands during the World War II, Azerbaijani Mammad Mammadov under the pen name “Medo”, who was awarded with the highest title “Royal knight”, was immortalized in Holland. The municipality of Oisterwijk city, where Mammad Mammadov had lived, adopted a decision to erect a monument to the hero, Azerbaijani embassy in the Kingdom of Netherlands said. The opening ceremony brought together representatives of Netherlands government, Azerbaijani State Committee on Work with Diaspora, delegation of Zagatala executive authority, employees of Azerbaijani embassy in Hague, activists of Azerbaijani Diaspora and members of Mammadov`s family. The participants watched a film “Medo is in Holland” directed by Tahir Aliyev and scripted Elkhan Alasgarov. Oisterwijk mayor Hans Janssen said Mammad Mammadov`s life is an example for every citizen of Netherlands. He stressed a role of “Medo” in liberating Holland from fascism and restoration of the country. The mayor told of joint work done with the government of Azerbaijan to perpetuate the memory of “Medo”. Minister of Integration and Immigration of Netherlands Gerd Leers told of dynamic development of relations between the two countries. He stressed Mammadov`s glorious way as a model of integration of other nations to the Netherlands community. The minister said immortalization of memory of the hero is an important for new generations and expressed his gratitude to the government of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani ambassador to Netherlands Fuad Isgandarov said his country played an important role in liberating Europe from fascism reminding Mammad Mammadov in Holland, Mehti Huseynzade in Italy and Slovenia, Ahmadiye Jabrailov in France. The ambassador said the postwar life of “Medo” again testifies of active participation of Azerbaijanis in construction of new Europe. He recalled the meetings of national leader Heydar Aliyev with Azerbaijanis living abroad, who had always recommended being active citizens of the countries, where they live. Isgandarov underlined social integration of Azerbaijanis to the European countries again demonstrates that Azerbaijan is an integral part of Europe. This process gives an impulse to further strengthening of relations with the European partners. Mayor of Zagatala region of Azerbaijan Mubariz Ahmadzade and Hans Janssen signed Declaration of Friendship between Zagatala and Oisterwijk, which is to serve for developing relations between Azerbaijan and Netherlands. Minister of Integration and Immigration of Netherlands Gerd Leers and first Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Work with Diaspora Valeh Hajiyev unveiled the monument and put a wreath on it. The ceremony to the memory of Mammad Mammadov was broadly covered by mass media outlets.

Baku hosts Azerbaijan-Argentina business forum

July 3 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan-Argentine business forum organized by Ministry of Economic Development and Azerbaijan`s Export and Investments Promotion Foundation started here. The event brought together representatives of companies engaged in agriculture, foodstuff, wine-making, agro-chemistry, oil, industry, ICT, construction. Azerbaijani minister of economic development Shahin Mustafayev told of economic reforms and socio-economic achievements. The Minister stressed the importance of business forum and bilateral meetings of businessmen in widening economic and trade relations between the two countries. He invited the Argentine businessmen to actively participate in projects being implemented in various fields of Azerbaijan`s economy. Argentine FM Hector Timerman and Secretary of State on domestic trade Guillermo Moreno updated the participants on goal of the country`s trade mission to Azerbaijan. The guests stressed significance of boosting cooperation between the Argentine and Azerbaijani businessmen. AZPROMO Vice-president Gulshan

Rzayeva told of the structure's activity, favorable business milieu and investment opportunities in the country. The forum featured Argentina's presentation. The bilateral meetings were held within the business forum.

“TANAP will be significant part of “South” corridor”, US Department of State

July 4 (AzerTAc). “The Trans-Anatolian natural gas pipeline (TANAP) will be significant part of “South” corridor”, the US Department of State official said. Thus, the United States government demonstrated its support for the inter-governmental agreement signed between Turkey and Azerbaijan on natural gas pipeline. The diplomat said his government backs the agreement on the South corridor to strengthen the ties between Azerbaijan exporting natural gas to Europe and the Euro-Atlantic communities. “We work together with Azerbaijan on energy security which is of strategic interest for both countries”, he noted. “Our cooperation will strengthen sovereignty and independence of Azerbaijan, as well as provide Europe with diverse energy sources”. According to the Department of State official, the natural gas of Azerbaijan's Shadeniz deposit will make up the major part of the South corridor, and the Trans-Anatolian pipeline will be the significant element of this corridor to pass via Turkey and thus, diversify gas export routes from the Caspian basin.

Azerbaijan Central Bank's currency reserves exceed \$11 bn

July 4 (AzerTAc). The Central Bank of Azerbaijan (CBA) has announced that its currency reserves have overcome the psychological mark of \$11 bn for the first time. The CBA reports that as of 1st July 2012 its currency reserves totaled \$11.046 bn (absolute maximum) versus \$10.89 bn by 1 June. This June's rise of CBA currency reserves totaled 1.42% against May 2012 and a rise of 5.4% (\$564.8 million) was observed since early 2012. The CBA announced the forecast of currency reserves growth up to \$12 bn for 2012.

Baku hosts 3rd Azerbaijan International Insurance Forum

July 4 (AzerTAc). The 3rd Azerbaijan International Insurance Forum (AIIF) on the topic “New prospects in the Caucasus region” has today started here. The event brought together representatives from insurance and reinsurance companies from Turkey, Central Asia, Europe, Russia and CIS countries. A wide range of issues including common cooperation in insurance sector, experience of Azerbaijan in this field, innovations will be discussed at the forum. The two-day forum will feature discussions on “Common view to insurance market in the Caucasus region,” “Compulsory insurance types and their influence to market's development,” “Prospects for reinsurance in the Caucasus countries and Central Asia,” “Life insurance in developing market,” and “Insurance division.”

AZAL starts flights on Baku-Tabriz route

July 4 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) launched a direct flight on Baku-Tabriz-Baku route from July 3. The flights, which will last till November 27, will be implemented every Tuesday and Friday at 22:00 and 01:15, respectively by ATR-42 aircraft. The minimum cost of the round-trip ticket is AZN 190.

Presidents of Azerbaijan and European Council meet in presence of delegations

July 5 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy have today met in presence of delegations. President Ilham Aliyev said a visit of President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy to Azerbaijan is manifestation of partnership and friendship of Azerbaijan with the European Union. President Ilham Aliyev noted relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union cover all fields and expressed his confidence Rompuy`s visit to Azerbaijan would be successful. The Head of State said this visit will create a good opportunity to closely acquaint with the country. President Ilham Aliyev hailed relations between Azerbaijan and the European institutions, as well as with one of the main energy partners of the country – the European Union. He expressed his confidence Herman Van Rompuy`s visit to Baku would give impetus to further expanding of partnership of Azerbaijan with the EU. President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy expressed satisfaction with the visit to Azerbaijan. On good relations between Azerbaijan and the European Union, Herman Van Rompuy said alongside with economic and energy spheres, there is a good potential for developing relations in other fields. President of the European Council noted this visit would open new opportunities for further widening of bilateral relationship.

Montenegro-Azerbaijan Interparliamentary Friendship Group established

July 5 (AzerTAc). A Friendship Group on interparliamentary ties with Azerbaijan has been founded in the Parliament of Montenegro. According to Azerbaijani Representative Office in Montenegro, vice-president of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro and deputy speaker of the Parliament Rifat Rastoder was appointed chairman of the Friendship Group. The friendship group includes 14 deputies representing all political parties of the parliament. Rifat Rastoder addressed a letter on occasion of the friendship group establishment to Azerbaijani ambassador Eldar Hasanov. He noted in the letter that Montenegro is interesting in cooperation with Azerbaijan and expressed his assurance on contribution of the friendship group for boosting of the relations between the two counties.

President of Azerbaijan receives RF State Duma`s delegation

July 6 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received the delegation led by Chairman of the RF State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Compatriots Leonid Slutsky. The Azerbaijani President praised conducting of regular meeting of the RF State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Compatriots in Baku, noting that it was a good indicator of the friendly relations between the two countries. The relations between the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan are multi-faceted and encompass all fields of cooperation, President Aliyev said, noting that humanitarian cooperation between Russia and Azerbaijan can be example for other countries. This cooperation, according to the head of state, bases on friendly and partnership relations. The president estimated these relations as strategic partnership. The head of state especially stressed the role of parliaments of both countries in strengthening of bilateral relations. As stated, inter-parliamentary relations open new opportunities for intensive cooperation. President of Azerbaijan expressed confidence the visit will enable the delegation members to widen their knowledge and information about current socio-economic conditions in the republic. Chairman of the RF State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Compatriots Leonid Slutsky expressed pleasure with their visit to Baku, stressing the importance of the joint meeting of the Azerbaijan Milli Majlis international relations and inter-parliamentary ties standing committee and State Duma

Committee for CIS Affairs and Compatriots. According to him, the inter-parliamentary cooperation will certainly contribute to deepening of the bilateral relations even more.

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister meets NATO Secretary General`s Special Representative for South Caucasus and Central Asia

July 6 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov has today met with NATO Secretary General`s Special Representative for South Caucasus and Central Asia James Appathurai. The sides discussed developing of the existing cooperation on Afghanistan between NATO and Azerbaijan, also exchanged views on ongoing developing processes in Afghanistan.

President Ilham Aliyev receives OSCE Secretary General

July 9 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier. They exchanged views on prospects of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the OSCE, as well as the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

OSCE secretary general: The status-quo in settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is unacceptable

July 9 (AzerTAc). Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov has met today OSCE secretary general Lamberto Zannier. They discussed settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh conflict, bilateral relations, as well as other issues of mutual interest. The meeting was followed by a press conference. Minister Mammadyarov expressed regret over the fact that the 20-year mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs to resolve the conflict had yielded no results. Zannier expressed satisfaction with his first visit to Azerbaijan as a secretary general of the OSCE. He noted co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group would visit the region on July 10. Zannier also noted incidents on the contact line between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops causes concern, and necessary measures must be taken to stop them. He added the status-quo in settlement of the conflict was unacceptable. The secretary general said the OSCE put forward some proposals on withdrawal of snipers from the front line, investigation of incidents and building trust between the sides. He added the OSCE was ready to contribute to reaching agreement between the sides.

President Ilham Aliyev receives State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

July 10 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received a Spanish delegation led by State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Gonzalo de Benito. The Head of State expressed confidence Gonzalo de Benito`s visit to Azerbaijan would be successful in terms of development of the bilateral relationship. The State Secretary said Spain had been keeping a close eye on Azerbaijan`s economic achievements in recent years. Gonzalo de Benito noted Spain was interested in expanding cooperation with Azerbaijan in various fields. The State Secretary handed over Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy`s letter to President Ilham Aliyev. They also discussed expansion of ties between Azerbaijan and Spain on a range of fronts.

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

July 10 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received OSCE Minsk group co-chairs Robert Bradtke of the United States, Igor Popov of Russia and Jacques Faure of France, as well as Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk. The meeting focused on current state of and prospects for the peace talks on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Azerbaijani President chairs Cabinet meeting on results of socio-economic development in first half of 2012 and further priorities

July 11 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today presided over a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on the results of the country`s socio-economic development in the first half of 2012 and further priorities. The President made opening remarks in the meeting, saying Azerbaijan`s Gross Domestic Product grew 1.5 per cent in the first six months of the year. He said the country`s non-oil sector increased 11.3 per cent during the period. "This is the best economic indicator on a world scale," said the Head of State, adding development of the non-oil sector would remain one of the key priorities in the years to come. President Ilham Aliyev noted that although the industrial output decreased 3 per cent in the first half of the year, driven by the falling oil production, the country`s non-oil industry saw a 8.3 per cent growth. "The macroeconomic situation is stable, inflation stood at just 2.2 per cent, while the population`s incomes grew 14.2 per cent. The agricultural sector saw a 10.4 per cent increase." The Head of State touched upon a quake, which hit the country`s northern-western part this year, saying the consequences of the natural disaster were removed. He added that thanks to immediate measures new houses for quake-hit people were built with the government funding. President Ilham Aliyev said tremendous work had been done in Baku and adjacent districts, including infrastructure and social projects, under a State Program. He noted 46,000 jobs, of them 37,000 permanent, had been created in the first six months of the year under a State Program for the development of the country`s regions. The President touched upon the situation on the labor market, stressing the importance of ensuring employment of Azerbaijani citizens. He also emphasized the significance of taking necessary measures to ensure the regulation of the activity migrants and keep the situation in order.

President Ilham Aliyev said social issues had always been the focus of attention, adding the process of reimbursing citizens for Soviet-era deposits continues. He noted this boosted the social nature of the government`s policy. The Head of State said: "Our political and economic power dictates that the population of Azerbaijan should increase." He added the country`s population already reached 9.3 million. The President said Azerbaijan saw its international positions strengthen, adding the number of the country`s partners grew. He noted the country expanded its foreign policy. President Ilham Aliyev spoke of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: "Our position with regard to the settlement of the problem is based on justice and international principles." He said there was a certain halt in the peace talks, and underlined the necessity of changing the status-quo. Finance minister Samir Sharifov, culture and tourism minister Abulfas Garayev, chairman of the State Customs Committee Aydin Aliyev made reports on what had been done in the country in the first six months of the year, and outlined further priorities. In his closing remarks, President Ilham Aliyev said he believed "positive trends in the national economy will strengthen until the end of the year". The President gave instructions to appropriate officials with regard to

maintaining the inflation level and the manat's rate, speeding up economic reforms, and improving the business environment in the country. President Ilham Aliyev emphasized the necessity of putting an end to state bodies' groundless interference in businesses, speeding up the transition to electronic system, creating new industrial parks and large farms across the country, and moving old industrial facilities from the capital's center to the outskirts. He also noted the necessity of improving drinking water supply to some villages and towns, encouraging the use of alternative energy sources, and ensuring the energy security of Azerbaijan and its partner countries. The President underlined the importance of TANAP project. The Head of State said next year's budget will be socially and investment oriented, and noted the significance of improving the environmental situation and building new and redeveloping old educational facilities in the country. President Ilham Aliyev said Azerbaijan's strategic currency reserves made \$44 billion, with the country's external debt making 7 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. The Head of State spoke of the Eurovision-2012 song contest, which was hosted by Baku. He said the contest was perfectly organized, describing it as "the best show in the Eurovision's history". The President expressed regret over a slander campaign against Azerbaijan, which was carried out ahead of the Eurovision contest by the Armenian lobby and some external circles helped by anti-national forces. "We are powerful, and our power is in our people's support," President Ilham Aliyev concluded.

President Ilham Aliyev receives vice-president of Mexican Senate

July 11 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received a Mexican delegation led by vice-president of the Senate Francisco Arroyo Vieyra. Mr. Vieyra said Mexico was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence. The vice-president praised successful development of the diplomatic relations between the two countries established 20 years ago. He stressed importance of the implemented cultural and humanitarian projects in Mexico with support of Azerbaijan's government in terms of expansion of bilateral ties. Francisco Arroyo Vieyra said he was proud of Azerbaijan's national leader Heydar Aliyev. The vice-president of the Mexican Senate noted the national leader's policy was successfully continued by President Ilham Aliyev. He said Azerbaijan's achievement in recent years made deep impressions on them. Vieyra noted a monument to national leader Heydar Aliyev was erected in Mexico. He added a monument devoted to Azerbaijani-Mexican friendship and the Khojaly monument would be erected in one of the Mexican squares. The vice-president said the two countries enjoy good opportunities to expand economic cooperation. Touching upon the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the vice-president said Mexico supports peaceful settlement of the conflict within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The Head of State hailed vice-president of the Mexican Senate Francisco Arroyo Vieyra's visit to Azerbaijan. President Ilham Aliyev expressed hope this visit would contribute to developing bilateral relationship between Azerbaijan and Mexico even more. The President said Azerbaijan attaches great importance to expanding relations with Mexico. President Ilham Aliyev expressed assurance these ties would continue to strengthen in the years to come. The Head of State praised the Mexican Senate's resolution on the Khojaly tragedy. The President thanked for the Senate's resolution. The Head of State said that the people of Azerbaijan were happy that the architect of modern Azerbaijani state, national leader Heydar Aliyev was held in great respect in Mexico. During the meeting, also was underlined that Azerbaijan and Mexico have good opportunities to develop political, economic, trade, cultural, humanitarian and inter-parliamentary cooperation even more.

Azerbaijani President receives Turkish Labor and Social Security Minister

July 12 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today received a Turkish delegation led by Minister of Labor and Social Security Faruk Celik. Faruk Celik extended greetings of Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the Head of State. During the meeting, they said bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey were developing successfully in all fields. They stressed the necessity of conducting experience exchange between the two countries` relevant authorities. The parties expressed confidence cooperation between the Turkish Ministry of Labor and Social Security and Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population would be fruitful. The Head of State asked the Turkish Minister to pass on his greetings to Turkish President Abdullah Gul and Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Azerbaijani, Tajik presidents meet in private

July 12 (AzerTAc). Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon have today had a one-on-one meeting as the Tajik leader started an official visit to Azerbaijan. The two presidents praised the relations between their countries, saying they were developing on different fronts. They pointed out there was good potential for expanding the bilateral ties. They stressed the importance of the Tajik leader`s visit in terms of strengthening the two countries` cooperation. President Ilham Aliyev and Emomali Rahmon exchanged views over bilateral, regional and international issues.

Ukrainian President: We are interested in cooperation with Azerbaijan in oil and gas sector

July 12 (AzerTAc). Ukraine is interested in developing cooperation with Azerbaijan in gas and oil refining industries, Ukrainian President`s official website reported. President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich made this statement during an informal meeting with the Club of Chief Editors of CIS countries, Baltic States and Georgia. "We are constantly in talks with our partners from Azerbaijan. We believe that it is profitable for Azerbaijan and Ukraine to establish relationship in the gas and oil refining spheres," resident Yanukovich said. He said part of this work has been already done. According to Yanukovich, now Ukraine receives about four million tons of oil from Azerbaijan annually. President Yanukovich also said Ukraine is interested in participating in multi-faceted energy projects. The question, in particular, is about the construction of gas transportation systems. Yanukovich reminded that the country has the relevant resources and experience for that.

AZAL starts charter flights on Baku-Split-Baku route

July 13 (AzerTAc). AZAL has launched direct charter flights on Baku-Split-Baku (Croatia) route. The flights from Baku to Split will be realized once in 10 days. The charter flight will be implemented on July 10, 19, 28, August 6, 15, 24, respectively. The flights will be realized by Airbus aircraft. The ticket price for economy class is 634, 23 for business class is 877,44.

Investment in Azerbaijan`s economy grew 30 per cent, President

July 15 (AzerTAc). "The total volume of investment made in Azerbaijan`s economy saw a 30 per cent growth in the first half of the year," President Ilham Aliyev has said.

The Head of State spoke at a Cabinet meeting, which he chaired to discuss the results of the country`s socio-economic development in the first half of 2012 and further priorities. “If we work at such a high rate until the end of the year, we will be able to bring the volume of investment to 18 or even 19 billion dollars. And this is a big figure for a country like Azerbaijan, which has a relatively small population.” The President noted: “If we take into account that every year our economy sees no less than 10 billion dollars in investment, we will solve all infrastructure and social issues in the years to come.” “The macroeconomic situation is stable, inflation stood at just 2.2 per cent, while the population`s incomes grew 14.2 per cent. The agricultural sector saw a 10.4 per cent increase in the country in the first six months of 2012,” the Head of State added.

President: Azerbaijan`s non-oil sector enjoys the best development indicator on a world scale

July 15 (AzerTAc). President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has said the country`s non-oil sector increased 11.3 per cent in the first six months of the year. Speaking to a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on the results of the country`s socio-economic development in the first half of 2012 and further priorities, the President said “this is the best economic indicator on a world scale”. The Head of State noted the development of the non-oil sector would remain one of the key priorities in the years to come. President Aliyev said the country`s Gross Domestic Product had grown 1.5 per cent since the start of the year. “What stands behind the fact that our economy grew just 1.5 per cent is a certain decrease in the oil production.” “Given that our economy is based mostly on oil sector, it is natural.” The Head of State noted that although the industrial output decreased 3 per cent in the first half of the year, driven by the falling oil production, the country`s non-oil industry saw a 8.3 per cent growth.

KAZAKHSTAN

6 June 2012, 12:48

Belarus, Kazakhstan won't levy recycling duty on imported vehicles - Medvedev
ST. PETERSBURG. June 16. KAZINFORM Belarus and Kazakhstan will not levy the recycling duty on imported vehicles, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said after Friday negotiations with the Belarusian and Kazakh colleagues.

"We reached a compromise. Our partners will retain the current tariff protection policy, and we will use this formula for a certain period of time," he said.

A source in the Russian delegation said that Belarus and Kazakhstan would keep tariff protection on the current level until their entry into the WTO. In Medvedev's words, a final decision "will protect our markets and will not create problems for our partners in the entry into the WTO."

He said Russia had introduced the recycling duty on imported vehicles due to its accession to the WTO and the related reduction of import duties. "They will bring in rubbish, they are already doing that and the scale will become enormous. We will have little chance to resist that, and, finally, that will impede the development of the domestic car industry," he said.

As for Russia's relations with Belarus and Kazakhstan after the accession to the WTO, the premier said the relations would not change. "Relations will develop on the same principles; there will be no change," Medvedev said, Kazinform cites Itar-Tass.

16 June 2012, 14:50

Astana presents its EXPO-2017 bid in San Marino



ASTANA. June 16. KAZINFORM Kazakhstani delegation headed by Executive Secretary of Foreign Ministry, national coordinator of EXPO-2017 project Rabil Zhoshybayev paid a working visit to San Marino, press service of the Kazakh MFA informs.

Within the working meetings R. Zhoshybayev handed a letter of Prime Minister Karim Massimov to San Marino authorities seeking support of Astana's bid for hosting EXPO-2017.

San Marino authorities expressed interest in strengthening relations between two countries, both on bilateral and multilateral levels.

The sides noted it was necessary to expand the contractual basis between the countries, in particular in taxation, tourism and economic cooperation.

Kazakh MFA's Executive Secretary made a presentation of Astana's bid. R. Zhoshybayev stressed that the topic suggested by Kazakhstan for EXPO-2017 "Energy of future" would attract intense interest, especially taking into account Kazakhstan's energy potential.

The negotiations laid the foundation for development of fruitful cooperation between Kazakhstan and San Marino.

18 June 2012, 12:47

Bursa province, E Kazakhstan to deepen cooperation



UST-KAMENOGORSK. June 18. KAZINFORM A delegation from Bursa province, Turkey is expected in Ust-Kamenogorsk.

According to the regional press center, the main goal of the visit is to establish the partnership relations and business cooperation.

The Turkish delegation includes businessmen from various spheres - energy, construction, telecommunications, furniture and textile industry, tourism, agriculture, insurance, and chemistry.

As was reported earlier, East Kazakhstan delegation and Bursa authorities signed the twinning arrangement back in autumn 2011 when Kazakhstani delegation paid a visit to Turkey.

The Turkish business delegation is to visit Kazzinc Company, Asia Auto plant, Nur Orda International School, a museum on the left bank and to participate in the roundtable.

Agreements on cooperation in the field of economy and culture will be signed within a three-day visit of the Turkish delegation.

18 June 2012, 15:39

Financing of science increased by 80% in 2012



ASTANA. July 18. KAZINFORM The total volume of financing of scientific projects made KZT 48 bln in 2012, Minister of Education and Science of Kazakhstan Bakhytzhon Zhumagulov said at the Governmental Hour in the Majilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, according to Kazakh Prime Minister's official website pm.kz.

"The volume of funds allocated for development of science has significantly increased over the last two years. It was at the level of KZT 26.8 bln in 2011 and it made over KZT 48 bln in 2012 which is an 80% increase comparing with the previous year," B. Zhumagulov said.

As is known, scientific projects are financed on grant and program-targeted system. According to the Minister, KZT 14.7 bln was allocated for grant financing of 1174 scientific projects in 2012 and KZT 24.7 bln - for program-targeted financing and KZT 8.6 bln - for basic financing.

Besides, the Minister noted that one of the key aspects in the scientific sphere was development of innovations for industry and economy as a whole.

"In order to develop the offices of commercialization, the contest of innovations and selection of research institutes and universities were held. This year, 9 pilot offices of commercialization are planned to open in the country," B. Zhumagulov added.

It is worth noting that the issue of ensuring access to foreign resources of scientific and technical information was addressed for the first time in the territory of the CIS member countries. "We have signed the National License of Thomson Reuters (USA) and the agreements with Springer Company (Germany) and Netherland's scientific publishing company Elsevier.

A new model of science management in the Law "On science" has been introduced in Kazakhstan. This Law has changed the scientific sphere and it primarily touched upon distribution of administrative and expert functions. Now, scientific community itself takes a decision on financing of scientific projects.

18 June 2012, 18:09

Kazykhanov tells Kabul Ministerial Conference about Kazakh-Afghan coop plans

ASTANA. June 18. KAZINFORM Kazakh Minister for Foreign Affairs Yerzhan Kazykhanov told the Kabul Ministerial Conference about Kazakhstan's plans on cooperation with Afghanistan, Kazakh MFA's official spokesman Altay Abibullayev said at a weekly briefing.

Last week Minister Kazykhanov attended "Heart of Asia" Ministerial Conference in Kabul within the Istanbul Process. During his visit to Afghanistan Kazykhanov met with President Hamid Karzai, Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul and Speaker of the Lower House of Afghanistan's Parliament Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi.

In addition, the Kazakh Foreign Minister held a number of important meetings with heads of other delegations. On the whole, 42 delegations took part in the conference.

19 June 2012, 09:49

Rich Kazakhstanis add to Istanbul real estate boom



ASTANA. June 19. KAZINFORM Wealthy Kazakhstanis are investing into Istanbul real estate market, 'Express K' newspaper reads.

Thanks to recent amendments to the Turkish legislation, it is way easier for foreign nationals to buy property on the Bosphorus coast now.

The real estate market in Istanbul is booming. Deep-pocketed citizens of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Arab countries are highly interested in purchasing luxurious villas with a view of Bosphorus Strait.

Approximately 10 000 real estate units, half of them in Istanbul, will be sold to international clients in the nearest future. The real estate agencies concentrate on work with these clients and that means the sales will grow. The Turkish real estate market is predicted to go from USD 2 billion up to USD 10 billion in the short run.

It is worth mentioning that property prices in Turkey bite and range from EUR 3 to 16 million. But obviously that does not put off well-to-do clients that have invaded Istanbul in search for the 'perfect pad'.

9 June 2012, 11:00

Venice Commission commends Kazakhstan's success

ASTANA. June 19. KAZINFORM The 91st plenary session of the European Commission for Democracy through Law, better known as the Venice Commission, took place in Italy.

Chairman of Kazakhstan's Constitutional Council I. Rogov made a presentation of the country at the forum. The session brought together President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio, heads of the constitutional control agencies from all over the world and members of the authoritative international organizations.

As was reported earlier, President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev signed the Decree "On membership of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the European Commission for Democracy through Law" on March 13, 2012. The document was inked after the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe had endorsed corresponding bid from Kazakhstan. This is a reflection of the fact the world community has acknowledged our achievements in strengthening the rule of law.

As a member of the Venice Commission I.Rogov informed the participants of the meeting of Kazakhstan's law police. He noted that further improvement of the national legal system is aimed at its democratization, humanization and liberalization.

20 June 2012, 19:17

West Kazakhstan's capital investment reached KZT 41 bln



URALSK. June 20. KAZINFORM Capital investment in West Kazakhstan region has reached KZT 41.7 billion over the five months of 2012.

According to the regional statistics department, investment in manufacturing industry made 68.3 percent, in real estate business - 13 percent, in transport and storage - 5.3 percent, in

education - 5.1 percent, in the field of information and communications - 1.7 percent, in trade - 1.1 percent.

21 June 2012, 12:39

Astana proposes new initiatives in Jeddah for OIC's better tomorrow



ASTANA. June 21. KAZINFORM The Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has begun its 35th session in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on June 18. Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kairat Sarybay, is heading the country's delegation at the event, which lasted until June 20.

In three days, the ICECS considered 24 draft resolutions relating to various aspects of the OIC's work in socio-economic and cultural fields. Approved resolutions will then be submitted to the 39th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Djibouti for their final adoption, the Kazakh MFA's press service said.

Addressing the Commission at the opening ceremony, Deputy Foreign Minister Kairat Sarybay spoke about Kazakhstan's current chairmanship in the OIC and its achievements. In particular, he marked the major international events held in Astana under the auspices of the Organisation such as the third Health Ministers Conference (September-October, 2011) and the 5th Conference of Environment Ministers (May, 2012).

Kairat Sarybay also highlighted Kazakhstan's contribution to the adoption of the OIC Water Vision in March this year, as well as the country's significant role in providing OIC humanitarian assistance to Libya and Somalia and in implementing the OIC Action Plan for Cooperation with Central Asia.

During the meeting in Jeddah, Kazakhstan proposed a number of important initiatives, including the idea of establishing an OIC Food Security Fund for Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran, with headquarters in Astana.

The Commission approved a package of solutions aimed at the implementation of President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiatives within the OIC, including the establishment of a dialogue platform for 10 leading economies of the Muslim world, a special Islamic Development Bank fund to support small and medium-sized businesses, and others.

At the Session, Kazakhstan also transferred its chairmanship in the ICECS to Djibouti, elected Chairman of the 39th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers. The full transfer of chairmanship will be held during the session in Djibouti on November 15-17.

As part of the 35th session, Kazakhstan's delegation held meetings with OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and President of the Islamic Development Bank Ahmed Mohammed Ali.

The Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs is a major preparatory event for the session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which considers resolutions in socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is an authoritative inter-governmental organisation. As the largest organisation after the United Nations by the number of participants, geographic coverage and network of specialised structures, it is now comprised of 57 states with a total population of about 1.5 billion people.

In 1995, Kazakhstan became a full-fledged member of the OIC. Over seventeen years of participation in the work of the Organisation, Astana has reached a high level of interaction with the OIC and its institutions.

Nazarbayev signed amendments into anti-money-laundering legislation



ASTANA. June 21. KAZINFORM Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed a law "On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of Kazakhstan on combating money-laundering and financing of terrorism," the Kazakh President's press service informed.

The law is published in the press.

2 June 2012, 17:00

Budget sequestration possible this year - Kazakh Prime Minister



ASTANA. June 22. KAZINFORM Budget 2012 in Kazakhstan can be sequestered. This was announced by Prime Minister Karim Masimov at a joint session of the Kazakh Parliament during the discussion of the Government's report on the implementation of the national budget for 2011.

"The Republican Budget Commission was instructed to consider options for economic development in case oil prices fall to 50 dollars per barrel in the second half of this year. It's not a fantastic, but quite realistic scenario," said Massimov.

According to him, in case of continued adverse trends, it is possible that in September this year the Government will make proposals to the Parliament on downward revision of the

budget for 2012. The Prime Minister also noted that the decline in oil prices is taken into account by the Government in the design of the national budget for 2013.

22 June 2012, 18:52

Kazakhstan not to change centrally managed budget policy- Massimov



ASTANA. June 22. KAZINFORM "We will not forgo centrally managed budget policy," announced Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Massimov speaking at the joint meeting of Parliament's Houses.

According to K. Massimov, the centrally managed budget system was introduced because of uneven income generation.

23 June 2012, 11:00

Belarus invites SES partners to pursue common industrial policy



MINSK. June 23. KAZINFORM Belarus offers Russia and Kazakhstan, its partners in the Single Economic Space (SES), to pursue a coherent industrial policy, First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Vladimir Semashko told Belarusian MPs, according to BelTA.

On 15 June at the meeting of the heads of government of the Customs Union member states, Belarus submitted a proposal to develop, under the auspices of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) a document for a common industrial policy in the SES, said Vladimir Semashko. A proposal was also made to accelerate the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Industry at the EEC. Its activities should be aimed at formulating proposals for a coherent industrial policy, involving representatives of the ministries and departments concerned, academia and the business community.

A separate section in the manufacturing industry development program of Belarus for the period up to 2020 is dedicated to the formation of common approaches in industrial policy in the Single Economic Space, the creation of equal economic conditions. "Now we are talking about the need for a common industrial policy in the SES. By this we mean coordinated action by the parties in areas such as joint major infrastructure projects, policy regarding markets of minerals, materials, equipment, land and natural resources, a uniform tax policy in respect of producers, minimum regulation of internal product markets, promotion of competition, regulation of ownership and corporate structures, joint action on foreign markets," Vladimir Semashko said. In addition, in the course of economic development the countries face individual problems which are extremely sensitive. Their solution today and in the future will be difficult without a coherent industrial policy.

A number of common rules on industrial policy are outlined in the agreements signed by the Customs Union member states including the ones on common rules of granting industrial

subsidies, on common competition rules, organization, management and development of the common markets of petroleum and petroleum products, free economic zones on the territory of the Customs Union and others. "Within the framework of the coherent industrial policy the SES countries will outline priority sectors that provide innovative breakthrough results. Here it is not so much the experience exchange that is important as concerted action to support the industries," Vladimir Semashko said.

4 June 2012, 19:07

KazMunaiGas EP appoints Mendibayev as Chief of Uzenmunaigas unit



КазМунайГаз
NATIONAL COMPANY "ҚАЗМУНАЙГАЗ" ЖАҚ

LONDON. June 24. KAZINFORM KazMunaiGas Exploration Production (RDGZ), the London-listed unit of Kazakhstan's state energy company, appointed Abzal Mendibayev as chief executive officer of its Uzenmunaigas division.

Uzenmunaigas, which pumps oil in western Kazakhstan, also named Abat Nurseitov as chairman at its first board meeting in Zhanaozen today, KazMunaiGas EP said in an e-mailed statement.

Uzenmunaigas suffered labor strikes and violent protests in 2011 as workers demanded higher pay. The disruption underpinned a 7 percent drop in oil output at KazMunaiGas EP over the year.

KazMunaiGas EP made Uzenmunaigas a joint stock company this year on the instruction of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazinform quotes Bloomberg.

25 June 2012, 17:38

The Lord Mayor of the City of London to visit Kazakhstan



ASTANA. June 25. KAZINFORM The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of the City of London Alderman David Wootton will visit Kazakhstan on 26-30 June.

The main purpose of The Lord Mayor's visit is to promote the City of London as the world's leading International Financial Centre as well as promoting UK Financial and Business Services. The Lord Mayor also aims to assist in the development of greater trade and investment between the two countries and to promote English Law within the region, the press service of the UK Embassy in Kazakhstan.

In Almaty, The Lord Mayor will focus on sharing experience and expertise with Almaty in its aim to become a Regional Financial Centre during a roundtable chaired by Chingiz Kanapyanov, Deputy Chairman at Committee for the Regional Financial Center of Almaty

(RFCA), National Bank of Kazakhstan. He will also promote the expertise and experience of the City of London in the context of Kazakhstan's forthcoming People's IPO programme and the floating of shares in several national companies. During his stay in Almaty, The Lord Mayor will meet with the Almaty City Akim, Mr Akhmetzhan Yesimov and the Chairman of the National Bank of Kazakhstan, Mr Grigory Marchenko.

The Lord Mayor will then travel to Astana, focussing on UK work with Kazakhstan in the Education and Training Sector and supporting development of the special economic zone. The Lord Mayor will open the new BG Centre for Energy and Research at Nazarbayev University and address education professionals at a reception in partnership with University College London. He will also emphasise the benefits of the UK rule of law, and good corporate governance in terms of establishing and sustaining a strong investment and business climate at a roundtable lead by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Kairat Kelimbetov. The Lord Mayor will make several calls on important government officials, including the Astana City Akim, Mr Imangali Tasmagambetov, Chairman of Samruk Kazyna, Mr Umirzak Shukeyev and the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr Bakytzhan Sagintayev.

25 June 2012, 19:07

Kazakhstan participates in PACE summer plenary session

ASTANA. June 25. KAZINFORM Deputies of the Parliament of Kazakhstan attend the PACE summer plenary session running from June 25 through June 29.

The Kazakh parliamentarians participate in the session under the agreements on promotion of cooperation reached by President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland in 2011.

25 June 2012, 19:26

Kazakhstan, Germany to discuss economic coop



ASTANA. June 25. KAZINFORM Members of Kazakhstani and German governments will convene for the sixth time in Hamburg.

The 6th session of the Kazakh-German Intergovernmental Group on Commercial and Economic Cooperation is to be held on June 25-26, official spokesperson of the Kazakh MFA Altai Abibullayev told a Monday briefing in Astana.

He added that the 4th session of the Kazakh-German Business Council for strategic partnership is expected to be held as well. It will focus on the pressing issues and perspectives of the development of bilateral commercial and economic cooperation.

A. Abibullayev reminded that sales turnover between Kazakhstan and Germany amounted to USD 3.7 billion following results of 2011. Upon results of four months of the year 2012 that indicator made USD 900 million.

26 June 2012, 13:13

Spain in effort to relax visa requirements for Kazakhstan



ASTANA. June 26. KAZINFORM "Spain makes every effort to relax via requirements for Kazakhstan's citizens," Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Spain to Kazakhstan Alberto Anton Cortes told a briefing following the meeting with Kazakh Foreign Minister Yerzhan Kazykhanov.

"Spain is the first European Union's country, which is working on the issue of simplification of visa requirements for the diplomatic passport holders and Kazakhstan's citizens in general, and is ready to encourage talks between the Schengen group and your country to relax visa regime," stressed the Ambassador of Spain.

According to him, Kazakhstanis feel a great interest in Spain.

26 June 2012, 12:00

Kazakh President to kick off World Blitz and Rapid Chess Championships

ASTANA. June 26. KAZINFORM Official World Blitz and Rapid Chess Championships will be held in the capital city of Kazakhstan, Astana, on July 1-11, 2012. It is worth noting that the Rapid Chess Championship will be held for the first time in the history of the FIDE, according to www.worldchess.kz

Famous sportsmen, world champions are among 16 participants of the finals of the World Championships.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev will attend the championship and start the contest.

The top ten players of the current FIDE rating list have the personal right to take part in the championships.

The names of Kazakhstani grandmasters nominated from the Kazakh side are already known. These are Murtas Kazhgaleyev and Anuar Ismagambetov in rapid chess and Pavel Kotsur and Rinat Dzhumabayev in blitz.

Qualifiers are planned to be held prior to the finals. Chess players from all over the world will have a chance to advance to the main event. The only requirement for participants is their international ratings should be not less than 2300. Three winners of every qualifier will take part in the finals and be able to win prizes.

The fact that this international event coincided with the Day of the Capital of Kazakhstan is symbolic and not occasional.

Apart from the serious intellectual battles, the guests of Astana will be able to attend different festive events, enjoy the hospitality of Kazakhstanis, familiarize with the modern metropolis - new capital city of Kazakhstan.

27 June 2012, 11:02

Kazakhstan and Norway fruitfully cooperate in protection and promotion of human rights



ASTANA. June 27. KAZINFORM Kazakh Human Rights Commissioner Askar Shakirov has met with Ambassador of Norway Dag Malmer Halvorsen, who is finishing his mission to Kazakhstan, in Astana, the Ombudsman's press service said.

It was noted that Kazakhstan and Norway established fruitful cooperation in the field of protection and promotion of human rights. At the beginning of 2012 the countries launched the joint project on establishing a sustainable and integrated system of child protection in Kazakhstan with participation of the Kazakh Ombudsman's Office and UNICEF.

The sides expressed readiness to continue mutually beneficial relations.

27 June 2012, 12:24

Best journalists of Kazakhstan awarded in Akorda



ASTANA. June 27. KAZINFORM Kazakh Secretary of State Mukhtar Kul-Mukhammed congratulated Kazakh journalists on the professional holiday - Day of Journalism and presented awards, grants and Kazakh President's letters of gratuities to the best Kazakh journalists.

Among the awardees were journalists from "Khabar" channel, "Egemen Kazakhstan" newspaper, "Bnews.kz" news agency, JSC "TV and Radio Complex of the Kazakh President", "Express K" and "Business Kazakhstan" newspapers.

Congratulating the journalists, M. Kul-Muhammed said that this year's awards and grants from the Head of State to the media are given for the sixteenth time.

"Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has created all necessary conditions for free development of the media. Today Kazakhstan has 2514 newspapers and magazines, 238 electronic media, including about 100 TV channels and radio stations. Journalists contribute

to the achievements and success of the country, strengthening of piece and accord in our common house. I believe you will continue worthy assistance to all initiatives of the Nation's Leader in the name of prosperity of our native country," Kazakh Secretary of State stressed.

28 June 2012, 05:15

Innovative regulators of plants' growth produced in Kazakhstan



ASTANA. June 28. KAZINFORM Low-tonnage production of regulators of plants' growth that received an innovation grant from the National Agency on Technological Development, manufactured its first products for KZT 750 thousand.

According to Pm.kz, The uniqueness of this production is in fact that the plants' growth regulators are produced by a Kazakhstan company. These regulators can safely and effectively increase the productivity of plants. Currently, this project does not have analogues in Kazakhstan and produced products called "Akpinol-alpha" have been fully developed in Kazakhstan.

The project was presented at the republican contest of innovative business plans where it won the grant for further development from the National Agency on technological Development in the amount of KZT 7.5 mln which allowed to purchase modern equipment: reactor, diaphragm vacuum pump and circulation bath.

Author of "Akpinol-alpha", chief research scientist of the A.B. Bekturov Institute of Chemical Sciences Nurzhan Kurmankulov emphasizes that the product is universal.

"This product increases productivity of crops, establishment of plants, strength of plants and it also allows to replace natural phytohormones in plants," Kurmankulov noted.

Presently, the first batch of the product in the number of 250 packages, 1 gram each and amounting to KZT 750 thousand has already been sold. The product with high added value has been created. The price is 3 thousand tenge for 1 gram.

In whole, to meet the demands of agriculture of Kazakhstan, about 500 kilograms of this product is required for a year.

According to N. Kurmankulov, presently, the work on promotion of the product to the market of agricultural chemicals of Kazakhstan is conducted. "We have a goal to realize the first kilogram of this product in the season of 2012-2013 and then we will work on fulfillment of higher goals, selling the first 10 kilograms totaling 30 million tenge," he said.

Production of low-tonnage product in form of regulator of plants' growth will allow to qualitatively and quantitatively improve agricultural products and exclude usage of harmful pesticides and elevate agricultural production to a new level.

Besides, the scientist is confident that the state support is very important for innovators as long as it helps them to introduce their innovations.

"Thanks to the instruments of the state support and development of innovative infrastructure of the country, many innovators have an opportunity to realize their ideas and turn them into real productions. There is real confidence that rendered measures of state support to innovative development will result in emergence of new products with high added value in the nearest future and it will allow to increase the share of the GDP in the non-oil and gas sector," the professor concluded.

28 June 2012, 09:34

Belarus offers Kazakhstan, Russia to cancel permits on road transportation to third countries



MINSK. June 28. KAZINFORM Belarus has sent Kazakhstan and Russia the draft agreement on permit-free system of international road transport to third countries, Minister of Transport and Communications of Belarus Ivan Shcherbo told reporters, Kazinform has learned from BelTA.

"The draft has been prepared by the Belarusian side. We have sent it to our Russian and Kazakh colleagues," said Ivan Shcherbo. He explained that, in particular, there is no definite answer on the part of Kazakhstan.

"We want to cancel permits for all means of transport. The categories are many. We are most interested in, of course, transportation to third countries," the minister said.

Ivan Shcherbo noted that last year Belarus received additional permits: "Instead of 50,000, we have 75,000 of such permits. It is a lot? It is sufficient because this market works better today." He also explained that Belarus has permits from all countries. But at the same time permits on the following routes remain in short supply: Russia - third countries, Kazakhstan - third countries and Uzbekistan - third countries.

The minister added that forwarders can use the permits of other countries: "It is possible to find a niche there. The course of events has already proved it. Those forwarders who started working with Turkey, they do business, receive good salaries and even find money to buy new vehicles. Euro-5 is no longer enough. Many of them use Euro-6 today."

The minister said that in 2010-2011 Belarusian forwarders acquired 2,000 vehicles. Belarus has been recently registering an annual 25-30% increase in highway transportation operations.

29 June 2012, 18:54

President visits Theater of Opera and Ballet under construction in Astana



ASTANA. June 29. KAZINFORM President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev paid a visit to the construction site of the Classical Theater of Opera and Ballet in Astana and surveyed the progress of work on the threshold of the Capital's Day on Friday (June 29).

"I would like to congratulate all people of Kazakhstan on the forthcoming holiday. Traditionally the Capital's Day has become a milestone to see the results of the work done. Soon Kazakhstanis will get this beautiful modern center of culture as a gift," President Nazarbayev told a briefing after surveying the construction progress.

The new theater is located in the center of Astana. The building designed in Italian style will room 1250 visitors. The building is equipped with all necessary facilities. It has a chamber music hall, a museum, a restaurant, a canteen, a parking lot and an underground parking. It is to be commissioned in December 2012.

30 June 2012, 03:15

Kazakh Consulate-General and Trade Mission to open in Tatarstan this autumn



MOSCOW. June 30. KAZINFORM "Consulate-General and Trade Mission of Kazakhstan will open their doors this autumn in Tatarstan," Kazakh Ambassador to Russia Galym Orazbakov told at the meeting with President of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov in Kazan.

Besides, he told about the opening of Almaty-Kazan direct service this June.

The parties debated a wide range of issues concerning promising directions for cooperation, development of regular state, business, cultural and humanitarian relations.

30 June 2012, 12:59

700 km of "Western Europe – Western China" highway to be built in 2012

ASTANA. June 30. KAZINFORM Construction of "Western Europe - Western China" highway is one of the biggest and large-scale projects of the Industrialization Map. Implementation of the project will allow Kazakhstan to become one of the most important international transport and transit hubs on the Eurasian continent, according to Pm.kz site

"Completion of the Kazakhstan section of the road bears a high priority in the process of implementation of the project. It is a really people's construction of the century. We have to finish our part the next year," President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev said in his

Address to the Nation "Socio-economic modernization - main direction of development of Kazakhstan".

According to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the works are now held on 34 sections, 1621 km of length. 21 general contractor and 66 subcontractor organizations are involved in the construction process. 700 km of the road are planned to be ready at the end of this year.

Besides, it is also planned to start works on 448 km of the road by the yearend.

It should be noted that construction of the highway has some significant social impact. This international transit corridor creates conditions for development of small and medium business, service industry, tourism, industrial and agricultural activity which will ensure creation of additional jobs.

Thus, more than 35 thousand people are currently involved in the construction process. 34.4 thousand people of them are Kazakhstanis and 579 people are foreigners.

In accordance with the information of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan, 1391 km long section of the road is now planned to be the 1st technical category road with four driving lanes - from Khorgos near the border with China to Kyzylorda town, 1062 km long section from Kyzylorda to Martuk village will become the 2nd technical category road. 1079 km long section of the full length of the highway from Khorgos to Turkestan will be built with cement concrete surface.

The full length of this international corridor makes 8445 km, the length of the highway run in the territory of Kazakhstan makes 2787 km and 2452 km are subject to reconstruction.

In whole, construction of international corridor "Western Europe - Western China" will allow to increase transit and export potential of Kazakhstan, open new trade opportunities in the conditions of active integration processes on the Eurasian continent.

01 July 2012, 09:51

Kazakhstan to produce high quality 3D products



ASTANA. July 1. KAZINFORM "Kazakhstan Computer Graphics" company participating in the park of innovative technologies of Almaty introduces an innovative technology in the sphere of computer graphics and animation of Kazakhstan that will help increase the Kazakh segment in the media market, according to the Kazakh Prime Minister's official website pm.kz.

"Thanks to the state support and participation in the Innovation Technology Park we managed to implement our project. We believe that the measures of state support for

innovations will result in production of quality products and their promotion at the global market," co-founder of KCG LLP Ernar Kurmashev said.

KCG company is involved in creation of computer graphics and visual effects for the film industry. Thanks to cooperation with the Innovation Technology Park the company implemented projects on equipping its studio with 3D equipment Vicon Motion Systems.

The equipment is used for creation of 3D animation of personages and facilities in the real time using optical system of motion capture and digitalization.

"Vicon Motion Systems are not used in Central Asia. Such systems are only applied in Moscow. This fact increases attractiveness of the product created with the help of this technology for the international film studios," project developer Ernar Kurmashev said.

Apart from the opportunity to produce high-quality 3D products, the project will allow to increase the Kazakhstani segment at the media market.

KCG company has already participated in production of three Kazakhstani films - "The sky of my childhood", "The gift to Stalin" and "Return to "A".

01 July 2012, 10:14

Construction of first module of Balkhash TPP starts in Sept 2012



ASTANA. July 1. KAZINFORM The construction of infrastructure of the first module of the Balkhash Thermal Power Plant will be started this year within the State Program of Forced Industrial Innovative Development. This project will help to resolve the issue of energy deficit in the southern regions of Kazakhstan, according to pm.kz.

"In order to resolve the issues of energy deficit and to emancipate the southern region from energy dependence, I charge the Government to ensure beginning of the construction of the first module of the Balkhash TPP with the capacity of 1320 megawatt totaling 2.3 billion U.S. dollars this year," President of Kazakhstan N.Nazarbayev said in his recent Address to the Nation.

It is worth noting that the works on 8 preparatory facilities totaling 9.1 billion tenge are conducted at the Balkhash TPP since 2010.

Presently, construction and reconstruction of a sluice, drinking water supply system, sewerage and railway siding is underway there.

As "SamrukEnergo" JSC informs, the process of designing of the first module will be started in July 2012 and the construction of the first stage starts as early as September 2012.

Besides, the construction of the main facilities of the first module will start after the project is approved in May-June 2013. The capacity of the first stage of the Balkhash TPP is expected to make 1320 megawatt. The construction of the first stage will last 60 months.

Innovative energy efficient technologies such as modern gas cleaning equipment, water treating membrane technologies, integrated automotive management system, flaring of fuel in pulverized-coal fired boilers, etc. will be used during construction of the Balkhash TPP and its infrastructure.

The project also has social importance as long as 3500-5500 new jobs are to be created during its implementation.

As earlier reported, the launch of the first block of the Balkhash TPP is scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2017, the second block - for the 2nd quarter of 2018. The design capacity of the first module of the Balkhash TPP is planned to be reached in the 3rd quarter of 2018.

Implementation of the project on construction of the Balkhash TPP will create a necessary power reserve, increase reliability of energy supply and allow to eliminate the deficit of energy in south Kazakhstan.

02 July 2012, 12:55

Nursultan Nazarbayev received President of Macedonia Gjorge Ivanov

ASTANA. July 2. KAZINFORM Today Head of State Nursultan Nazarbayev has received President of Macedonia Gjorge Ivanov who is paying his first state visit to Kazakhstan.

Nursultan Nazarbayev said that Kazakhstan and Macedonia enjoy friendly relations and have no political or some other differences.

"We have discussed issues of mutual interest. The key is our trade and economic ties. We debated political issues between Kazakhstan and Macedonia. We have no problems hindering our cooperation. We are open for cooperation," Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed.

02 July 2012, 15:58

Nazarbayev to meet with Olympic athletes July 4



ASTANA. July 2. KAZINFORM On July 4 Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev will receive Kazakhstani sportsmen, who will go to London, Deputy Chairman of Sports and Physical Culture Agency Yelsiyar Kanagatov told a press conference in Astana.

"Let's hope that in London we will be more successful than in Beijing. Our athletes have the potential and we hope that they will show good results," he said.

The Olympic Games will start in London on July 27 and will last until August 12. More than 10,000 athletes from 205 countries around the world will fight for 302 sets of medals in 39 sports.

The Kazakh Government has determined the amount of remuneration for the prizes: the first place - USD 250 000, the second - 150 000, the third - 75 000, the fourth - 30 000, the fifth - 10 000, and sixth - 5 000.

Kazakh athletes won more than 102 licenses to participate in the 2012 Olympics.

03 July 2012, 10:50

Contracts worth KZT 15 bln to be signed at Astana Industrial Forum

ASTANA. July 3. KAZINFORM Memorandums of cooperation and agreements between large Kazakhstani and foreign companies are expected to be signed within the framework of the Industrial Forum that starts this morning in Astana.

Kazakhstan's Ministry of Healthcare will sign memorandums with Sauda Ltd. and SaryarkaAvtoProm Ltd. Agreements on cooperation are to be inked between JSC NC Kazakhtelecom and East Industry Company Ltd., JSC Kaztsentrelektroprovod, and Emergokabel Ltd. JSC KEGOC is to enter into agreements with Promstroyenergo Company and East Industry Company Ltd. Pavlodar petrochemical plant, Atyrau oil refinery, PetroKazakhstan Oil Products, JSC Intergas Central Asia, Petropavlovsk construction materials plant, Samruk-Kazyna Invest Ltd and other companies will conclude memorandums and treaties.

43 memorandums and agreements worth KZT 15 billion are to be signed with in the forum.

03 July 2012, 12:05

Kazakhstan's GDP grew 5.6% in 2012, Minister



ASTANA. July 3. KAZINFORM According preliminary data, Kazakhstan's GDP grew 5.6% in 2012 against the same period of the previous year," Economic Development and Trade Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev told the Industrial Forum started in Astana.

"Besides, real income of the population increased by 12.8%, real wages by 9.5%," he added.

04 July 2012, 12:06

Kazakhstan to provide investors with deposits without tenders in exchange for realization of large projects

ASTANA. July 4. KAZINFORM "Kazakhstan will provide investors with deposits without tenders in exchange for realization of large projects," Industry and New Technologies

Minister Asset Issekeshov said addressing the Mining and Metallurgy Congress at the Palace of Independence.

"Kazakhstan adopted this year the law to support industrial and innovation activities that creates conditions for large companies and processors. There are too many facilities to take advantage of. The country realizes a package of measures to fund and rehabilitate enterprises, boost production. There are above 100 measures of state support in Kazakhstan," he added.

04 July 2012, 12:55

Grain export to China increased, Kazakh Agriculture Minister



ASTANA. July 4. KAZINFORM Agriculture Minister of Kazakhstan Assylzhan Mamytbekov wrote about significant rise in grain export to China on his Twitter micro-blog. "Grain exports to China gather pace. For the past five months, as per June 1, 2012 volumes of grain export reached 128.8 thousand tons against 13.5 thousand in 2011."

04 July 2012, 13:43

President of Kazakhstan to attend London-2012 Olympic Games



ASTANA. July 4. KAZINFORM President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev met with members of the National Olympic Team on Wednesday (July 4) at Akorda Presidential Residence.

At the meeting the Head of State said he knew all the athletes, kept an eye on their achievements and that London 2012 Olympic Games was a turning point for Kazakhstani sportsmen.

107 athletes from Kazakhstan will compete in 20 sports at London-2012. "I see that you feel the responsibility because you represent the whole country. It is your chance to prove that you have trained for a reason," President Nazarbayev noted.

"I don't think I have to encourage you. You are success-oriented. I have invited you to wish you a safe trip to London," Nursultan Nazarbayev concluded.

The Kazakh Leader is expected to attend London-2012 Olympic Games.

05 July 2012, 10:03

Kazakhstan's 18-year-old girl graduated from Milan Conservatoire

PAVLODAR. July 5. KAZINFORM For the first time in the history of the Milan Conservatoire (Conservatorio di musica "Giuseppe Verdi" di Milano) founded in 1807, 18-year-old Kazakhstan's girl Mariya Mudryak will receive tomorrow her Graduate Diploma.

Traditionally, young people at this age enter such educational establishments, but Masha is exclusion.

Last year she was recognized the best young singer of Italy winning the national contest of singers broadcasted by Rai Uno TV Channel throughout Europe.

05 July 2012, 09:09

Astana's 14th anniversary celebrated nationwide

ASTANA. July 5. KAZINFORM Astana, Kazakhstan's dazzling capital, has begun a week-long celebration of its 14th anniversary coming on July 6. The Kazakh capital has progressed greatly since the Parliament agreed to President Nazarbayev's proposal to move the capital in 1994 and today belongs to one of the most unique cities in the world. As one of the few metropolis built chiefly in the 21st century, it is also among the world's youngest capitals.

Astana's 14th birthday has been highly anticipated not only by residents of the city but every citizen of Kazakhstan, as the event schedule promised a lot of amazing surprises and discoveries, the Kazakh MFA's press service reports.

The celebration traditionally started with the opening of the III Astana International Action Film Festival on July 1, organized by the famous Kazakhstan-born filmmaker, Timur Bekmambetov. This year a Cesar Award-winning French actor Vincent Cassel, an English actor Dominic Cooper, an American film and television producer Jim Lemley and other prominent figures in the film industry were among the festival invitees. A total of 20 full length feature films by directors from all over the world, a number of round table discussions, as well as press conferences by movies stars were held throughout the festival workdays.

The 7th international festival "Operalia 2012" was held on July 1 and 3 in the capital city. The event included performances by world ballet and opera stars. On the first day, performers from China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Britain and the United States showed the art of ballet through excerpts from acclaimed compositions such as the Nutcracker, Don Quixote, Swan Lake, and other, as well as through modern ballet. On July 3, world opera stars Giuseppe Varano and *Silvia Dalla Benetta gave a concert, which seized the hearts of the audience.*

One of the most widely anticipated events is a performance of the world famous Cirque du Soleil troupe that will take place from 4 to 6 July at the Sports Palace "Kazakhstan".

Cirque du Soleil is a Canadian entertainment company, self-described as a "dramatic mix of circus arts and street entertainment." Based in Montreal, Canada, and located in the inner-city area of Saint-Michel, it was founded in Baie-Saint-Paul in 1984 by two former street performers, Guy Laliberté and Daniel Gauthier. The entrance to the show will be by invitations only, which had been distributed among orphans, children from lower-income families, the disabled kids, war and labour veterans, as well as best students and winners of national and international Olympiads.

The circus arts will be performed from 1 to 8 July, as the new season of the International Circus Festival "Echoes of Asia" kicks off in Astana. The winners and laureates of the world's festivals will take part in the festival. Among them will be the past masters,

representatives of circus dynasty: the tightrope walkers and gutta-percha girl from Mongolia and China, along with trapeze artists from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Performance of the most contemporary of all the classical singers of the world Sumi Jo on July 5 is another big present for Astana citizens and capital visitors dedicated to Astana's anniversary. It's not the performer's first time in Astana. She took part in the opening ceremony of the 7th Asian Winter Games.

A nomadic civilization festival, called "'Astana through the millennium," will be organized for the 5th time this year in the square in front of the Khan Shatyr city mall in Astana. The grand opening of the nomadic civilization festival took place on June 29, while the festival itself is scheduled for July 4-7. The guests will be able to visit a makeshift nomadic city and view gunsmiths, weavers, hunters and jewellers in the streets.

Therewith, international equestrian competitions for the World Cup and the Kazakh President's Cup are to be held at "Kazanat" racetrack. Riders from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and India will participate in the competitions.

An unforgettable ice show of Ilia Averbukh from Russia, as well as the benefit performance of the Russian actor Sergei Makovetsky, and the first International Festival of the Club of Cheerful and Witty are also planned to take place in Astana.

Other events include a festival of contemporary street art called ArtBatFest. Classical music and ballet nights will be held on the bank of the Yesil River on July 5-7.

The celebration of the Capital Day will include 59 events in four days in total. Only 15 of them require buying tickets.

According to the Mayor of Astana, Imangali Tasmagambetov, all the money collected from the ticket sales will go to the charity specially organized every year during the festival to help children in need of medical care.

The celebration of Kazakh capital's 14th anniversary will be traditionally completed with a gala concert with the participation of such popular groups and headline performers from Kazakhstan and abroad as "Metiss", "Orda", "Serebro", Yerbolat, Makpal Issabekova, Nyusha, Timati, GeeGun, Ivan Dorn, Dan Balan, and Kelly Rowland.

06 July 2012, 14:59

Kazakhstan's centuries-old traditions don't go against Islam: Nazarbayev



ASTANA. July 6. KAZINFORM "Our centuries-old traditions do not go against Islam," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said at the unveiling ceremony of a new mosque on Friday (July 6) in Astana.

"We should not forget we have customs and traditions that have been transmitted from generation to generation and that we have our own way. Our centuries-old traditions do not go against Islam. Astana became a host city of four Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions," Nursultan Nazarbayev said.

President Nazarbayev stressed Kazakhs had always been tolerant and did not classify people by religions.

The Head of State also noted the new Khazret Sultan mosque is the biggest in Kazakhstan and was likely to range among the biggest mosques in the region in future.

07 July 2012, 14:49

Tajik, Kazakh entrepreneurs discuss cooperation issues



DUSHANBE. July 7. KAZINFORM Representatives from business communities of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan met here on July 5 to discuss cooperation issues.

Senior representatives from sixteen Kazakh companies as well as the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan's Export/Credit Insurance Corporation KazExportGarant participated in the forum that aims to promote establishment of contacts between the business communities of the two countries and further expansion of mutually beneficial economic cooperation, Asia-Plus reports.

Senior representatives from more than 100 Tajik enterprises and companies participated in the forum.

The forum participants discussed issues related to attraction of Kazakh investments into development of Tajikistan's economy, expansion of bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and Kazakhstan in sectors like transportation, logistics, petrochemistry, mechanical engineering, construction, pharmaceuticals, and food industry.

A ceremony for the presentation of two Kazakhstan's companies - Hyundai Auto Truck & Bus Kazakhstan and the South Kazakhstan Machine Building Plant - was held on the sidelines of the forum.

In 2011, a two-way trade between Tajikistan and Kazakhstan was estimated at 357.4 million U.S. dollars, which is 49 percent more than in 2009.

07 July 2012, 18:06

55 orphans of S Kazakhstan to receive free university education

SHYMKENT. July 7. KAZINFORM 55 orphans of South Kazakhstan region will receive free university education there. South Kazakhstan region governor Askar Myrzakhmetov presented education grants to the orphans who left school this year.

290 orphans and children without parental care graduated from the school this year. 175 of them will study at colleges, 11 at the vocational schools, and 22 decided to start career development and obtained job at the South Kazakhstan enterprises. 27 school leavers made decision to enter higher institutions in other cities of Kazakhstan.

09 July 2012, 13:00

Kazakhstan joined Intra-European Organization of Tax Administrations

ASTANA. July 9. KAZINFORM Kazakhstan became a full member state of the Intra-European Organization of Tax Administrations (IOTA) at the annual session in Oslo, Norway.

Our country became the only Asian country, which was admitted to the IOTA. The IOTA member states - European countries - took a vote on amendments to the IOTA Statute. An exception was made for Kazakhstan taking into accounts its high rating and success in the tax administration reforming.

According to the Chairman of Tax Committee of the Kazakh Finance Ministry Anuar Zhumadildayev, Kazakhstan intends to participate actively in the IOTA's work.

The Intra-European Organization of Tax Administrations (IOTA) is a non-profit intergovernmental organization, which provides a forum to assist Members in the European countries to improve tax administration.

The formal decision to establish the Organization was made during the 3rd Conference of Tax Administrations of Central and Eastern Europe and Baltic Countries, which was held in Warsaw, on 28-30 October 1996. The European Commission, tax administrations from nine EU Member States, the IMF, OECD, CIAT and the US IRS supported this decision.

In 1997 the operating conditions were formulated and the Charter of the Organization was drafted. Simultaneously IOTA signed a Seat Agreement with the Republic of Hungary.

To date, IOTA has 46 Member tax administrations: 45 full Members and 1 associate Member.

The Secretariat of the Organization is located in Budapest, the Republic of Hungary.

10 July 2012, 15:16

Kazakhstan chooses UPMC to help plan oncological center

PITTSBURGH. July 10. KAZINFORM The Kazakhstan government selected UPMC to study which services a planned oncology treatment and research center in that country should offer, the health giant said on Monday.

A team of UPMC experts will work with Nazarbayev University, which the government chose to manage a National Research Cancer Center it wants to build in Astana, the capital.

The study could lead to more UPMC involvement in the project, which is expected to include a 300- to 400-bed hospital, officials said, Tribune Review reports.

"This agreement underscores the excellent reputation that our clinicians and staff have developed worldwide for offering high-quality cancer care through an extensive network of sites, providing easy access to patients," said Charles Bogosta, president of UPMC's international and commercial division.

UPMC targeted several countries over the past decade to offer clinical services and management. It operates a specialized hospital in Sicily that provides organ transplantation and other services and is behind a planned biomedical research and biotechnology center there.

In 2008, UPMC began managing a 183-bed hospital in Dublin.

Last year, UPMC officials said they met with officials in China to talk about potential projects, including cancer centers. Plans for services in China are not finalized although UPMC provides pathology consultation to KingMed Diagnostics, the largest independent medical diagnostic laboratory in China.

The Kazakhstan project will involve outpatient care, a research facility and a hotel. More than 30,000 cases of cancer are reported in Kazakhstan every year, UPMC officials said. Doctors diagnose half of the patients in the late stages of the disease, they said.

Officials did not disclose financial terms of the deal.

10 July 2012, 14:58

Kazakhstan opens direct flights to Mumbai and Goa



ASTANA. July 10. KAZINFORM Kazakhstan plans to open direct flights to India's largest financial center Mumbai and the tourist resort of Goa, the press service of the Ministry of Transport and Communications said.

Such an agreement was reached during bilateral talks in New Delhi. In turn, Indian airlines will be able to open flights to Astana, Karaganda and Shymkent.

According to the memorandum of understanding, it is also planned to increase the frequency of flights from 3 to 14 per week.

11 July 2012, 13:17

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Almaty



ALMATY. July 11. KAZINFORM Today the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay has arrived in Kazakhstan for a two-day working visit, the UN mission in Kazakhstan informs.

N. Pillay met with the Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs in Almaty, before flying to the capital Astana. In Astana, she is scheduled to meet the Deputy Prime Minister, ministers of foreign affairs, internal affairs and justice, Chairman of the Constitutional Council, Prosecutor-General, Ombudsman and other government officials.

The UN High Commissioner will discuss a wide range of issues including Zhanaozen situation, rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, access to justice and many others.

The UN former High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour visited Kazakhstan in 2007.

The appointment of Navanethem Pillay as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was approved by the General Assembly on 28 July 2008. She took up the post on 1 September 2008. Her mandate has been renewed for two years beginning on 1 September 2012.

She also worked as a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and later was appointed Vice-President of the Council of the University of Durban Westville. In 1995, after the end of apartheid, Ms. Pillay was appointed a judge on the South African High Court, and in the same year was chosen to be a judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where she served a total of eight years, the last four (1999-2003) as President. She played a critical role in the ICTR's groundbreaking jurisprudence on rape as genocide, as well as on issues of freedom of speech and hate propaganda. In 2003, she was appointed as a judge on the International Criminal Court in the Hague, where she remained until August 2008.

In South Africa, as a member of the Women's National Coalition, she contributed to the inclusion of an equality clause in the country's Constitution that prohibits discrimination on grounds of race, religion and sexual orientation. She co-founded Equality Now, an international women's rights organization, and has been involved with other organizations working on issues relating to children, detainees, victims of torture and of domestic violence, and a range of economic, social and cultural rights.

Ms. Pillay received a BA and a LLB from Natal University South Africa. She also holds a Master of Law and a Doctorate of Juridical Science from Harvard University. She was born in 1941, and has two daughters.

11 July 2012, 12:36

Export contracts worth \$620 mln signed within Industrialization Program

ASTANA. July 11. KAZINFORM Kazakhstan intensively develops non-primary sector by rendering service and financial support to domestic enterprises - potential exporter. Export contracts worth 620 million U.S. dollars were signed as a result of state support, Pm.kz site informs.

A complex system of export support and development is established within the industrialization program which is implemented by the Government on the instruction of the President.

"KAZNEX Invest" National Agency for Export and Investments works on development and promotion of the national non-primary export in two directions: service and financial support.

About 60 special activities presenting Kazakhstani goods and brands, 14 trade missions, meetings of suppliers and customers in more than 20 countries were organized within "Exporter - 2020" Program. 67 Kazakhstani exporters participated in 50 foreign exhibitions. As a result of these activities, export contracts worth 620 million U.S. dollars were signed.

In accordance with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, 81 national exporters received compensation for their expenses for promotion of products at the foreign markets. Over 1.5 thousand entrepreneurs receive state support.

Such products as transformers, accumulators, agricultural machineries, oil and gas equipment, metal and plastic pipes fertilizers, construction materials, etc. refer to non-primary export.

As the National Agency for Export and Investments reports, the foreign trade turnover of Kazakhstan made 30.9 billion U.S. dollars over the first quarter of 2012. This is 34.1% more than in the corresponding period of 2011. Thereat, the export of Kazakhstan increased by 32.3%, while import - by 38.8%.

12 July 2012, 12:37

Kazakhstan among top three borrowers of World Bank

ASTANA. July 12. KAZINFORM This year Kazakhstan became one of the three largest borrowers of the World Bank in the Emerging Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, according to public relations department of the World Bank's representation in Kazakhstan.

"The total volume of financial support to the ECA region reached USD 6.6 billion in this financial year; this amount includes USD 6.2 billion allocated by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and USD 362 million provided by the International Development Association (IDA). The largest borrowers were Romania (USD 1.9 billion), Turkey (USD 1.1 billion), Kazakhstan (USD 1.1 billion) and Poland (USD 1 billion)," the bank said.

As noted, the borrowed funds are used to support the three areas in the region: further deepening of reforms with the aim to enhance competitiveness, promoting social reform in the interest of economic growth that favors the interests of the broader population groups, and assisting countries to implement activities leading to "greening" of economic growth.

All in all, the World Bank Group provided to the ECA region more than USD 10.4 billion in 2012 fiscal year that ended June 30.

12 July 2012, 17:11

S Korean oncologists give master classes in Kazakhstan

UST KAMENOGORSK. July 12. KAZINFORM Today in Ust Kkamenogorsk well-known South Korean oncologists Nam Sunn Pyak and Baek Nam Son have performed two breast cancer surgeries, the healthcare department said.

Director of the South Korean Cancer Center for Women Baek Nam Son is expected to deliver a lecture for the local doctors.

The three-day visit of the South Korean doctors to Kazakhstan foresees tomorrow a meeting with the regional administration and a presentation of the Ewha Centre.

13 July 2012, 21:10

Concerned parties attracted to develop journalists' code of ethics, Kazakh Minister



ASTANA. July 13. KAZINFORM "All the concerned parties are attracted to develop the journalists' code of ethics of Kazakhstan," Culture and Information Minster Darkhan Mynbai told the meeting on the country's socioeconomic development issues.

"We do all necessary work to have your tasks fulfilled. We start digitizing books; develop the journalists' code of ethics. Besides, the Ministry formed the mass media council consisting of 29 people. Majority of them are reps of NGOs and journalists' organizations," he added.

13 July 2012, 20:15

Media-related legislative reform in Kazakhstan discussed at OSCE-supported conference



ASTANA. July 13. KAZINFORM An OSCE-supported conference to discuss legislative reform related to freedom of expression in Kazakhstan was held on Thursday in Astana.

The event brought together some 60 participants, including government officials, parliamentarians, international and national media experts, and representatives from non-governmental and international organizations.

Participants discussed media legislation reform issues, including the need to decriminalize libel and defamation, the regulation of moral compensation claims, the access to information draft law, and the implementation of the law of television and radio broadcasting, the press release of the OSCE Centre in Astana reads.

"I hope the state's regulation of the media will continue to reflect the country's aspirations to ensure that its national policies conform to its international obligations. The OSCE is ready to

continue to assist Kazakhstan in these efforts," said Ambassador Natalia Zarudna, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana.

Bolat Kalyanbekov, the Chairperson of the Information and Archives Committee within the Ministry of Culture and Information, added: "From the time Kazakhstan became independent it has worked to guarantee citizens' rights and freedoms, in particular in the media sphere. Over these years many new non-governmental media outlets and holdings have been established."

"Recent changes to media-related legislation have created a disbalance by strengthening the protection of privacy to the detriment of freedom of speech," said Tamara Kaleyeva, the President of the Adil Soz International Foundation for the Protection of Freedom of Speech, "Disproportionate moral damage claims have the potential to drive media outlets to bankruptcy. The time has come to address these issues by revising the legislation."

The conference is co-organized by the OSCE Centre in Astana, the Article 19 Global Campaign for Free Expression, and the Adil Soz International Foundation for the Protection of Freedom of Speech with the support of the Embassy of Norway in Kazakhstan.

14 July 2012, 12:24

Top-priced Kazakh headpiece on sale at eBay for \$15 thousand



ASTANA. July 14. KAZINFORM The most expensive skull cap made in Kazakhstan in XVII century is up for sale at eBay.

According to Express K newspaper, the starting price for this stunning ancient headpiece encrusted with gemstones amounts to USD 15 500.

"The skull cap was put up for sale by Nadine Krakov Collection Store that specializes in jewels and antique trade. The headpiece made in Kazakhstan in XVII century is encrusted with gold embroidery, pink diamonds, rubies, sapphires and pearls," the newspaper says.

15 July 2012, 11:39

OSCE Centre supports creation of expert councils to monitor implementation of largest infrastructure project in Kazakhstan



ASTANA. July 15. KAZINFORM Some 40 representatives of state entities, non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, banks and businesses met on Friday for the first meeting of the National Expert Council for Transparency and Sustainable Development.

The event is part of an OSCE Centre in Astana project to support Transparency and Sustainable Development Expert Councils in the southern Kyzylorda and Zhambyl regions. The councils will be established at locations along the "Western Europe-Western China" International Transport Transit Project. The road construction project, which is popularly known as the Silk Road Motorway, crosses five of Kazakhstan's regions, the press release of the OSCE Centre in Astana said.

The meeting was convened to discuss activities agreed in a recently signed memorandum of understanding between government entities, international firms monitoring the project and the Azamatyk Kuryltay (Citizens Convention) non-governmental organization. A number of local expert councils will monitor the economic, environmental and social aspects of the project's implementation.

"The active participation of civil society and other stakeholders in the decision-making process is a prerequisite for sound democratic development and stability. It will help all parties achieve consensus and develop optimal solutions that are in the best interest of both the state and the people of Kazakhstan," Natalia Zarudna, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Astana, said in her opening statement.

The meeting builds on the Centre's previous efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Kazakhstan, and encourage participatory decision-making practices which lead to increased efficiency, more transparency and better accountability in the private sector and government.

15 July 2012, 12:08

Team Kazakhstan gears up for the Olympics



ASTANA. July 15. KAZINFORM Two weeks ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games, Kazakhstan's 115-strong team is preparing to compete in 24 sports, with two cycling athletes yet to be selected.

On July 4, Kazakhstan's President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, addressed the team's athletes and coaches: "Our country has always had great results in sports. Last year alone our athletes won 15 medals, including 32 gold medals at the Asian Winter Games. Your achievements and daily exercise are a powerful testimony to sports and a healthy lifestyle." He highlighted how athletes can promote Kazakhstan as a country before handing over the national flag to flag-bearer and Greco-Roman wrestling champion Nurmakhan Tynaliyev. Speaking on behalf of the team, Tynaliyev promised they would do their best to live up to the president's confidence and the confidence of the entire country.

Chair of Kazakhstan's Sports Agency Talgat Yermegiyayev said on July 5 that Kazakhstan's national team is aiming to win at least 13 medals, including at least three gold medals. Kazakhstan's hopes are pinned on weightlifting champions Ilya Ilyin, Maya Maneza, Svetlana

Podobedova and Zulfiya Chinshanlo, as well as on wrestling champions Nurmakhan Tynaliyev and Almat Kebesbayev, judo champions Sergey Lim and Rinat Ibragimov, tennis champions Galina Voskoboeva, Yaroslava Shvedova and Mikhail Kukushkin, and boxers Serik Sapiyev, Daniyar Elieusinov, and Adilbek Niyazymbetov.

The first members of Kazakhstan's Olympic team will fly to London July 18. The rest will follow according to the competition schedule. A total of about 180 people will travel to London, of which about half are support staff, the kazakh MFA's press service said.

Yermegiyayev explained that the team would bring its own food to London. "Some athletes' stomachs do not easily adjust to different food so we'll take our own food to the Olympics," he said.

Olympic medalists can expect cash prizes ranging from \$250,000 for 1st place to \$5,000 for 6th place.

At the last Olympics in Beijing, Kazakhstan competed in 23 sports, qualifying among others for fencing, water polo, and women's boxing, which is newly included in the Olympics programme.

The XXX Summer Olympic Games will be held in London from July 27 to August 12. Participants will compete for a total of 302 medals in 39 sports.

KYRGYZSTAN

Kyrgyzstan Government establishes a working group to coordinate CASA-100 project

19/06-2012 12:19, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Tolgonai OSMONGAZIEVA

Kyrgyzstan Government has established a working group to coordinate CASA-100 project preparation. A relevant decree is endorsed today at the Cabinet's meeting.

Recall, the project envisages construction of high-tension transmission line through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan to export electric energy from Central Asia to Southern Asia.

According the Minister of Energetics and Industry, Askarbek Shadiev, relevant memorandums were signed in 2006-2007. He said that according to the technical and economic feasibility study of SNC-Lavalin Canadian Company prepared in 2011, line of 500 kv AC (alternating current) will be run from Datka electric power substation to Khodzhent electric power substation in Tajikistan. Line of 500 kv DC (direct current) will be run from a converted station in Sangtuda (Tajikistan) through Kabul (Afghanistan) to a converted station in Peshawar (Pakistan).

“The project's cost is \$953 million whereof the World Bank is ready to allot 40 percent and the Islamic Development Bank – 20 percent. The issue on 40 percent of the Asian Development Bank has not been addressed yet. Transmission route length is 1 thousand 342 kilometers whereof 457 kilometers will go through territory of Kyrgyzstan. Following results of the session of the intergovernmental commission on this issue in Bishkek, September 2011, it was decided to create a working group in each country,” said Askarbek Shadiev.

Alongside with that the Minister noted that in followup of the meeting of the intergovernmental commission in Dubai city in May 2012 the World Bank recommended to intensify the group on negotiations as the project entered into active phase. “Therefore we suggest including all specialists from all relevant ministries and departments for technical and legal expertise of incoming documents and participation in negotiations,” said the official.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan negotiate on opening new frontier markets and cancelation of migration cards

19/06-2012 09:57, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Irina DUDKA

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan negotiate on opening new near-border markets, free passing of mail transport and cancelation of migration cards. All these issues were considered at the 11th session of the Kyrgyz-Tajik Intergovernmental Commission for Complex Consideration of Bilateral Issues, held in Bishkek, Jun 15-16, 2012.

The session was chaired by heads of ministries of transport of two countries – Kalykbek Sultanov and Nizom Khakimov.

The parties noted that cooperation potential is not used adequately. In this connection they recommended local executing departments to create favorable conditions to increase volume of trade and economic turnover. As for intermutual events for 2012-2013, participation in exhibitions and fairs, business meetings, prompt exchange of information about commodities and companies.

Executive authorities were ordered to assist business circles in concluding contracts on mutual supplies of industrial products and experience exchange in light industry.

The National Electricity Grids of Kyrgyzstan OJSC and Barki Tojik Open Stock Holding Power Company were ordered to provide near-border areas with reliable and quality electric power supply. As for sound water use, the Commission suggested continuing work in interdepartmental working groups.

Concerning transport issues the Tajik side will consider unhampered crossing Kyrgyz-Tajik national borders by mail cars in the presence of relevant accompanying documents. To ease procedure of international carriage they will speed up intrastate procedure for the new project of the Intergovernmental agreement on international highway service.

As for bear-border cooperation, authorities of both countries have to establish new wholesale markets in frontier zones and establish orderly marketing.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Tajikistan will accelerate intrastate procedures bringing the Agreement on Migration Control and Protection of Migrants' Rights into effect. The parties will consider issue on holding negotiations on order of registration of citizens of both countries in territory of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

As for frontier cooperation it was ordered to solve a question on putting a domestic passport and a birth certificate for minors into a list of documents for entry, departure and transit passage, migration and staying in the territory of both countries.

The Commission also told to consider the issue on cancelation of migration cards for citizens of Kyrgyzstan and prolongation a period of their registration at arrival place in Tajikistan on parity basis.

Besides, they discussed issues concerning education. They will establish joint working groups for preparation and impression of textbooks for Kyrgyz schools in Tajikistan and for Tajik schools in Kyrgyzstan.

The Asian Development Bank to allocate \$ 55 M to support the energy sector of Kyrgyzstan

26/06-2012 14:19, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Darya PODOLSKAYA

The Asian Development Bank will allocate \$ 55 million to support the energy sector of Kyrgyzstan. Moreover, KGS 7 million is co-financing from the Government. Minister of Energy Askarbek Shadiyev reported at today's session of the parliamentary Committee on Industries Development.

He asked the Committee members to ratify the corresponding agreement with ADB. “\$15 million of these funds is a credit; \$40 million is a grant. The funds will be used to upgrade the equipment at the Toktogul hydroelectric power station, to maintain the Karspay hydroelectric power station, as well to establish the center for energy payment control,” Askarbek Shadiyev explained.

He added that today the state of hydroelectric power station is deplorable and acknowledged that system blackouts occur in various parts of Bishkek and throughout the country because of worn-out equipment.

Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan to go to Kazakhstan with official visit

28/06-2012 12:01, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Anastasia MOKRENKO

Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Omurbek Babanov will go to Kazakhstan with official visit on July 1. The Information Policy Department for Kyrgyz Government’s Office informs.

Reportedly, the third session of the Kyrgyz-Kazakh Intergovernmental Council is planned during the visit on July 1-2, where the sides will discuss the issues of trade and economic, border, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, as well as in the field of agriculture.

In Astana city Omurbek Babanov will meet with Kazakhstan’s President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Karim Masimov. Besides, a meeting with the representatives of Kyrgyz Diaspora and attending of some facilities are expected during his stay in Astana.

Former President of Kyrgyzstan Rosa Otunbaeva received highest award of France - Legion of Honor

13/07-2012 11:46, Bishkek – 24.kg news agency , by Tolgonai OSMONGAZIEVA

Former President of Kyrgyzstan Rosa Otunbaeva received highest award of France - Legion of Honor with commander title, reports Rosa Otunbaeva Initiative Fund press service.

According the press service Rosa Otunbaev received the medal with French President’s decree from April 20, 2012 for transcendent merit in human rights and democracy protection.

“The award is the symbol of France’s acknowledge of Your brave and resolute work at Kyrgyz President’s position in transcendent period which was full of difficulties and tragic events,” the press service quotes the letter of French Ambassador in Kyrgyzstan Thibaut Fourrier.

As noted, Legion of Honor medal was founded by Napoleon on May 19, 1812 as equivalent of knights’ orders. Membership in Legion of Honor means acknowledgement of merits before France. President (Legion’s Grand Master) selects the order members for eminent merits in military and civic spheres.

Legion’s insignias will be given to Rosa Otunbaeva by head of French embassy in Kyrgyzstan on July 13 (Bastille Day).

TURKEY

Turkey to be IMF's Executive Board Director in 2014

Turkey will be the head of executive directors board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2014.

Turkey will also be the acting director of the board in 2012, stated Turkish Treasury on Wednesday.

The board has 24 members.

After Turkey chaired the board in 2014-2016 period, Czech Republic or Hungary will undertake the post for 2016-2018 term.

Then, Turkey will again chair the board in 2018-2020 period.

IMF executive board is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of the IMF. It is composed of 24 directors, who are appointed or elected by member countries or by groups of countries, and the managing director, who serves as its chairman. 12/07/2012

"Turkish Military Jet Downed by Syria in International Air Space"

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday said that a Turkish military jet downed by Syria on June 22 was hit in international air space, 13 miles off the coast of Syria.

Speaking at a meeting of provincial leaders of his Justice and Development (AK) Party, Erdogan stated that the military jet immediately lost altitude and speed after getting hit and fell on to the sea some 8.5 miles off the coast of Syria.

No warning was made to our military jet before it was attacked by Syria, Erdogan noted.

Once the parts of the military jet get removed from the sea, we will be able to find out if it was hit by a missile or an anti-aircraft weapon, Erdogan stressed.

The military jet was attacked in an hostile manner, Erdogan said.

Stressing that every country could violate the air space of another for a brief moment, Erdogan said that the unarmed Turkish military jet was hit without a warning.

In recent days, Syrian helicopters violated Turkish air space for five times. Turkey made the necessary warnings and forced the helicopters to leave Turkish air space, Erdogan also said.

Downing incident

The Turkish RF4 military reconnaissance plane was shot down by Syria on June 22 while on an unarmed training and test mission in international airspace after unintentionally straying into Syrian airspace.

The incident has drawn widespread international condemnation amid the continuing violence in Syria.

Turkey has said the Syrian act constituted "a clear and a grave violation of international law" and that Ankara would take "every necessary measure."

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said rules of military engagement of the Turkish Armed Forces had been revised in the face of the incident, adding, "any Syrian military element approaching the Turkish border from Syria will be considered as a military threat and dealt with accordingly." 11/07/2012

Turkish PM to Visit Russia to Discuss Syria Crisis

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is planning a one-day visit to Moscow on July 18 to seek ways to end the 16-month violence in Syria that has now left more than 15,000 Syrians dead, Today's Zaman reported.

The crisis in Syria will dominate the Turkish prime minister's agenda, but he will also discuss regional and international affairs in his talks.

Russia, which is hosting Syrian opposition groups for talks, is under international pressure to exert influence over Assad's government to make it stick to a peace plan laid out by UN envoy Kofi Annan. Moscow, along with China, has protected President Bashar al-Assad from harsher sanctions in the UN Security Council.

The foreign ministers of the UN Security Council's five permanent members - Russia, the United States, China, France and Britain - all attended the Geneva meeting along with Turkey, Kuwait, Qatar, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Arab League chief Nabil Elaraby and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, where they agreed that a transitional government should be set up in Syria but left open the question of what role Assad might play.

Diplomatic sources said Erdoğan is scheduled to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and exchange views on transition period in Syria with the Russian president, Cihan news agency reported.

Diplomatic sources also added that Erdoğan will discuss the recently downed Turkish warplane by Syrian forces and will ask to share with Turkey any possible data Moscow has regarding the jet.

Russian news agencies said on Monday that Russia planned to suspend arms shipments to Syria, possibly signalling a shift in its stance towards Assad, whom it has defended from harsher sanctions at the UN Security Council.

Russian Foreign Ministry sources said Erdoğan and Putin will discuss trade, commercial and political relations, along with High-Level Cooperation Council meeting that will be held in Turkey in the fall.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu is expected to accompany Erdoğan in his visit to Moscow and will likely meet with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov.

Meanwhile, Russia said on Tuesday it would be ready to host a new meeting of world powers aimed at ending the conflict in Syria and proposed broadening the talks to invite other countries, including Iran.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said Moscow had made the proposal at an international meeting in Geneva on June 30.

Bogdanov repeated Russia's position that any similar meetings in future should include other countries that have influence over the Syrian situation - namely Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Opposition representatives - in Moscow for talks - said they would only take part in discussions with the Syrian government after changes in leadership, a precondition Russia rejects and one which is not stipulated in Annan's plan.

Speaking ahead of talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday Bassma Kodmani, a spokeswoman for the Syria National Council, said the opposition would be looking for signs of change in Russia's stance.

"We think we and Russia share some positions we can talk about. Russia fears chaos and complete anarchy in Syria and we also fear for our country," she told a news conference.

Repeating Moscow's assertions that it is not backing Assad, Bogdanov said Russia was not "linked to any concrete personalities". 11/07/2012

Bagis: Turkey has no Aspirations to be a "Model" for the Mid-East

Turkey's EU Minister Egemen Bagis said that Turkey had no aspirations to be a "model" for the Mid-East.

But we are ready to share any experience and provide any support if asked, said Bagis in his letter published in the Observer as a response to a previous news story of Guardian newspaper as "There is no peace and there is no plan. Syria rebels are past talking to the enemy".

"Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister, clearly outlined this when he said Turkey was ready to do its fair share to promote democratisation in the Middle East," said Bagis.

He noted, "if Turkey is seen as proof that Muslim nations can advance through democracy, let it be. Meanwhile, some try to muddle minds through another "Turkish model" - namely, a bizarre concoction of a military government that controls civilians; an anti-democratic system, where elected governments are curbed or sidelined. It is true that a sham called "custodian democracy" ruled Turkey in the past few decades but this tragedy ended with the election victory of the Justice & Development (AK) Party in November 2002."

Bagis said, "we cannot and will not condone any political system that falls short of addressing the full democratic aspirations of its people, whether it's in Egypt or Syria."

The news story in the Guardian as "There is no peace and there is no plan" written from Antakya, Turkey's south, quoted a Syrian who was being treated at a hospital in Turkey and said "Nobody listened to Kofi Annan. Not the regime, and not us. There is no dealing with these people, and that is the truth. It's the regime that needs to go." 09/07/2012

Commercial Code Brings Many Innovations to Local Business Life

By Sarp Kalkan, TEPAV

The new commercial code, which brings numerous innovations to Turkish business life, has been discussed extensively within the Turkish business community. Although the business community praised the improvements of the corporate legal structure, they also have complained about the extent of the compliance costs associated with the new rules and procedures.

A recent TEPAV study calculates the annual compliance cost at more than 6.3 billion Turkish Liras. It also claimed that small and medium enterprises are the most disadvantaged group, bearing 85 percent of this cost. The study identified the main compliance cost items as independent auditing, transaction auditing, book approvals, website obligation, and disclosure requirements. However, there are also other implicit costs associated with new rules and regulations such as increased liabilities and penalties and the borrowing ban.

The huge compliance cost and the increasing slowdown in the global economy increased the complaints about the new code in the business community. The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) has coordinated the concerns of the business community to ensure that they were heard by the government.

Featured Changes

After three successive Economic Coordination Council meetings, late last month Parliament amended the new code.

More precisely, 109 articles of the code have been changed just three days before the code came into force.

These changes have removed most of the compliance costs while dissolving some of the rules and exempting SMEs from the remaining costly ones.

Below are the most important changes in the amendment package:

*The scope of independent auditing was narrowed. The Cabinet will have the authority to decide upon the scope of independent auditing. SMEs will most probably be excluded. The changes decrease SMEs' associated auditing costs by more than 4.5 billion liras annually.

*Transaction auditing was completely abolished. Originally, the new code was going to control important structural transactions. This new instrument was removed in order to decrease red tape and associated costs.

Book Approval

*The book approval requirement was relaxed. Before the amendment, the new code required seven legal books to be approved biannually (opening and closing) by a notary. The recent amendments scrapped one of those requirements.

The closing approval is limited to only two books, and the annual opening approval is no longer required for running books. This change is expected to decrease companies' annual notary costs by about 300 million liras.

*The website requirement was limited. Originally, each company, irrespective of its size or operations, was obliged to build and operate a website through which it was to disclose certain legal documents. This has changed, and only companies with independent auditing requirements will have the website requirement.

Financial Statements

*The mandatory disclosure of financial statements was scrapped. The Turkish business community spoke out very aggressively against the new rule to disclose all financial statements (to be disclosed in detail on their website and in the Turkish Trade Registry Gazette).

This rule was aiming for greater transparency, but the business community claimed that it would lead to the abuse of company secrets.

The publication costs of financial statements were expected to exceed 600 million liras.

*Borrowing limits were relaxed. Originally, the new code had prohibited the shareholders, the members of the board of directors, their relatives and their associated firms from borrowing from the company.

The recent amendments changed this, and shareholders can now borrow from their company if it satisfies two conditions: Firstly, shareholders need to fulfill their capital commitment.

Secondly, the firm needs to have a net cumulative profit. Additionally, the ban on borrowing in kind for independent board members and their relatives was removed.

*The protocol for a negative audit opinion was changed. Originally, the boards were required to resign and call for the general assembly in the case of a negative audit opinion.

With the recent amendments, the boards will call for the general assembly without resignation, and the assembly may ask the same board to continue its operations.

*Discrimination against Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) was scrapped. There are two major company types in Turkey: Joint Stock Companies (JSCs) and LLCs. The new code removes most of the dissimilarities between these two types of companies, but there were originally two important new distinctions working against LLCs. With the recent amendments, LLCs will not be required to pay all of their capital in advance. A down payment of 25 percent and a capital commitment of up to 24 months will be enough to form an LLC. LLCs will also be able to distribute advance dividends.

Board Membership

*Board membership was widened. The requirement of at least one member of the board of directors being a Turkish citizen and have his/her domicile in Turkey and the obligation of at least one-fourth of board members to be graduates of higher education were abolished.

*Penalties were reduced. The most important argument against the new code was that the increased penalties of imprisonment were excessive. The recent amendments changed the penalties for 32 crimes into administrative fines. The penalties for five acts likewise changed from prison sentences to judicial fines. Only the penalties for seven acts have remained unchanged. 06/07/2012

EU to Adapt to New Global Dynamics Better with Turkey, Says FM Davutoglu

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Thursday said that the European Union (EU) would adapt to new global dynamics better with Turkey's membership.

Delivering a speech on Turkish-French relations at the Paris-based French Foreign Policy Institute, Davutoglu said that Turkey's membership would make crucial contributions to the EU.

I am optimistic about the future of Turkish-French relations. We want to start a new term in bilateral relations by developing a new vision, Davutoglu stressed.

The development of Turkish-French relations with a new vision would make crucial contributions to the future of the EU, Davutoglu noted.

Pointing out to Turkey's high level talks with the United States and Russia, Davutoglu underlined that Turkey wanted to enter a phase of interactive relations with France.

Turkey and France could increase cooperation in many international fields. Certain crisis experienced recently have created an image that the two countries were rivals, Davutoglu stated.

We do not want a new crisis with France. We want to approach relations with a new vision, Davutoglu said.

Touching on the countries that went through the Arab Spring, Davutoglu said that the EU had to support the movements for democracy in these countries.

Ahmet Davutoglu will attend the meeting of "Friends of Syrian People" in France on Friday.
06/07/2012

Turkey, World's 19th Most Valuable Nation Brand

Research held by branding valuation consultancy, the Brand Finance decided Turkey to be the 19th most valuable Nation Brand with 487 billion USD brand value.

According to the Brand Finance, Turkey is in the top ten fastest growing brand between other nations. According to their "Nation Brand" research, Turkey boosted its brand value 114 billion USD comparing to last year and leaving Poland, Austria, Belgium, Greece and several other European Union (EU) countries behind.

The U.S. leads the top of the list with 15 trillion USD brand value and China comes second on the list with 5 trillion USD.

Brand Finance is a brand valuation consultancy, advising branded organisations on how to maximise their value since 1996.

The world's most valuable 50 Nation Brands and their changes in one year: (billion USD)

Country	2011	2012	Change
U.S.	12.351	14.641	2.290
China	3.018	4.847	1.829
Germany	3.091	3.903	812
Japan	1.960	2.552	592

England 1.895 2.189 294
France 1.829 1.963 134
Canada 1.251 1.611 360
Brazil 941 1.376 435
India 1.218 1.247 29
Italy 1.570 1.104 -466
Russia 847 1.058 211
Australia 673 952 279
Spain 725 908 183
Switzerland 549 885 336
Holland 801 872 71
Mexico 672 767 95
South Korea 572 722 150
Sweden 449 666 217
Turkey 365 487 122
Poland 271 472 201
Austria 301 418 117
Taiwan 297 383 86
Belgium 363 380 17
Denmark 236 366 130
Saudi Arabia 363 364 1
Singapore 213 290 77
Finland 222 278 56
Norway 202 268 66
Indonesia 187 260 73
Thailand 195 252 57
South Africa 157 222 65
Malaysia 167 205 38
Hong Kong 216 202 -14
Argentina 127 201 74
UAE 140 193 53
Venezuela 133 180 47
Czech Republic 108 166 58
Chile 112 161 49
Romania 108 158 50
Philippines 101 141 40
Colombia 106 139 33
Ireland 122 137 15
Qatar 98 135 37
Israel 107 135 28
Ukraine 73 124 51
Vietnam 79 114 35
Egypt 82 112 30

New Zealand 93 111 18

Peru 90 107 17

Kuwait 106 95 -11

03/07/2012

Turkey's Catalhoyuk Inscribed on World Heritage List

UNESCO World Heritage Committee has decided to add Turkey's Catalhoyuk Neolithic City on the World Heritage list at their meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russia on Sunday.

World Heritage Committee is formed by experts from 21 countries. According to the World Heritage Committee, Catalhoyuk met the conditions of the World Heritage Agreement and maintained its integrity as well authenticity.

In the report, they stated that the history of Catalhoyuk reaches to B.C. 7400 and Catalhoyuk stands as a unique witness of the Neolithic Period.

Turkey has eleven World Heritage Sites in the list including Catalhoyuk. The committee accepted Selimiye Mosque in Edirne to the list last year.

Experts of UNESCO stated that it is important for the development of history to have Catalhoyuk Neolithic City in the World Heritage list.

Archaeological excavations continue in Catalhoyuk. Catalhoyuk was a large Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlement in southern Anatolia, near Konya. 02/07/2012

Turkey's EU Ties on Hold

Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot State will try to use Greek Cyprus's term presidency as an opportunity to bring the decades-old Cyprus problem before the relevant European Union institutions and to inform ignorant European politicians about northern Cyprus.

According to a plan crafted by Ankara and Nicosia, an effort to add northern Cyprus to the itinerary of European bureaucrats and politicians, who will pay visits to the southern part of the island as part of its term presidency, will be carried out.

"Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots have agreed on an action plan," İrsen Küçük, prime minister of the Turkish Cypriot State, told a group of journalists over the weekend. The plan suggests massive protest campaigns by Turkish Cypriots in Brussels and elsewhere, with the first such protest already having taken place last week in the Belgian capital.

The activities and political statements of Greek Cyprus will be closely followed and any action to use its term presidency in its bid against Turkish Cypriots' rights will be brought to the world's agenda. This also includes Greek Cypriots' oil and gas explorations in the eastern Mediterranean, which are seen as violating the rights of Turkey and Turkish Cypriots.

“Turkish Cypriots will invite politicians and members of civil society who are coming [to the island] to participate in EU meetings to be held [in southern Cyprus],” Küçük stated. The reason for this action is the fact that many European politicians have little or biased information about the Cyprus problem, Küçük said, which he observed on a recent trip to Strasbourg, home of the European Parliament.

Greek Cyprus is expected to host nearly 700 meetings during its six-month presidency, but is also expected to delegate many to the outgoing term president, Denmark, due to its financial restrictions.

“We don’t expect a high-profile term presidency from Greek Cyprus due to their financial crisis,” Foreign Minister Hüseyin Özgürkün told reporters over the weekend. “The Greek Cypriots will have to chair more than 700 meetings during their presidency. However they declared EU that will not be able to hold meetings such as farming, environment and forestry. They try to delegate its missions to previous term president Denmark and upcoming president Ireland,” he said.

Ankara to scrap meetings with term presidency

The Greek Cypriot term presidency will also have some consequences for Turkey’s accession talks with the EU, as Ankara has already announced that it won’t join meetings to be held by the Greek Cyprus as term president.

However, Ankara said relations will continue with other EU bodies, especially with the European Commission. 02/07/2012

Turkey Says Air Force Jet Downed by Syria

A fighter jet of Turkish Air Forces, crashed over the Mediterranean on Friday, was shot down by Syria, said a statement from the Turkish premier's office.

"It is understood from the data provided by related institutions and information gathered in the framework of a joint search and rescue efforts with Syria that our plane was downed by Syria," said the statement released after a late night security meeting chaired by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan with Cabinet members and military officers.

The statement said Turkey would show "its final attitude" and make necessary steps after the incident is fully clarified.

The statement added that search and rescue efforts were still underway.

A Turkish air force jet, reportedly an F-4, went off the radar earlier Friday 8 miles away from the Syrian town of Latakia over the Mediterranean Sea. 23/06/2012

Turkey-Brazil Joint Declaration Issued

A joint declaration "Turkey and Brazil: A Lasting Partnership in New Global Order" was issued after the meeting between Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff in Rio De Janeiro on Thursday.

The declaration said that Turkey and Brazil were determined to contribute to international peace and stability.

Erdogan and Rousseff welcomed increase in trade volume which was 3 billion USD in 2011, it said, adding that they also reiterated their determination to reach the goal of 10 billion USD trade volume.

The declaration said that cooperation in several areas such as the defense industry and energy between the two countries should be boosted.

The two leaders committed to continue their joint efforts to find solutions to problems of the least developed and developing countries, the declaration said.

Erdogan and Rousseff expressed their full support to legitimate demands of the people in the Middle East and North Africa, it said, adding that they condemned use of force and violence against the people who tried to make their rightful demands be heard.

The declaration said that Erdogan and Rousseff reiterated their full support to establishment of a Palestinian state within the June 4, 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital.

The two leaders also expressed their concern over violence against civilians in Syria, it said, stating that they supported UN-Arab League Special Envoy to Syria Kofi Annan's initiatives on the matter. 22/06/2012

Turkey Makes Active Contributions to International Efforts in Counter-Terrorism, Says Turkish Parliament Speaker

Turkey's Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek on Friday said that Turkey made active contributions to international efforts in counter-terrorism.

We expect all our friends and neighbors to assume a clear stance against the terrorist organization PKK, Cicek stressed.

Our expectation in this direction must be fulfilled as a requirement of international laws, Cicek said.

Speaking at the Third General Assembly meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) in Bishkek, Cicek said that parliamentarians began having closer relations thanks to the activities of TURKPA.

Ties that bring together peoples present immense opportunities for countries, Cicek stated.

We would have wished that our Turkmen and Uzbek brothers and sisters were included in this institutionalization process and contributed to our happiness. I would like to reiterate that we want to see Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in our group of brotherly countries, Cicek stressed.

Touching on the issue of terror, Cicek said that terror could be solved through international cooperation.

On Karabakh, Cicek said that this issue could not be solved due to Armenia's stance.

The issue of Karabakh is one of the most important foreign policy issues of the region, Cicek remarked.

On Syria, Cemil Cicek stated that the Syrian regime was a threat to the whole region.

Touching on the Cyprus issue, Cicek said that the unfair isolation of the Turkish Cypriots should be ended soon.

During the Bishkek meeting, TURKPA's term presidency was handed over to Kyrgyzstan from Kazakhstan. 15/06/2012

Bi-communal State with Equal Rights should Be Established in Cyprus

Turkish deputy premier has said that Turkey supported establishment of bi-communal state structure with equal rights in Cyprus.

Turkey has been continuing its efforts for economic improvement in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Besir Atalay said during his visit to Anadolu Agency (AA) Editorial Desk.

The Greek Cypriot administration has never assumed a compromising attitude, he said.

"The Greek Cypriot administration will assume EU rotating presidency on July 1. It is an opportunity for them. They will use it," he said. Atalay said that there would be no progress in Turkey-EU relations during its rotating presidency for six months.

There was a great recovery in TRNC economy, he said, adding that Turkey had been doing its best for several areas such as tourism, education and agriculture in TRNC. 15/06/2012