



# NEWSLETTER

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## New Proposal on Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict

OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs (France, Russia and the US) dealing with the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict have presented both sides with a new revised plan to end the conflict. Mr. Bernard Fassier, the French Co-Chair of the OSCE's Minsk group, said, "it's a comprehensive presentation of all the basic principles which could pave the way for drafting a peace settlement." He said the offer was handed to the foreign ministers of both countries so that they "will have a basis for discussion at any moment," particularly in view of upcoming presidential elections in both Armenia and in Azerbaijan in 2008. Commenting about the new proposals, Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov noted that Nagorno-Karabakh could be given a special status within Azerbaijan, but normal relations must first be established between the two communities and infrastructure must be restored in the occupied territories. The World Bank made a statement on December 11 expressing its readiness to provide financial resources for reconstruction efforts in the war-torn areas, should a peace agreement be reached.

## WB to allocate \$100 mln for reclamation of Absheron oil polluted lands

The World Bank will assign \$100 millions for the implementation of the first stage of the project of reclamation of oil polluted lands in Absheron. The WB vice president on Europe and Central Asia Shigeo Katsu informed, "this is a long-term program and the first stage envisions the exploration, selection of a diagnosing method, purchase of equipment and pilot reclamation. The reclamation of subsoil waters, utilization of housing wastes, purification of radioactive wastes, reclamation of oil polluted lands are envisioned.

The first stage aims to create technical potential and carry out preliminary works."

## Azerbaijan Receives First Profit from *ShahDeniz*

The State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan received the first payment of 1,8 mln. dollars from Azerbaijan Gas Supply Company (operated by Statoil) on November 28, 2007 in accordance with the agreement signed between the Government of Azerbaijan and the foreign extractive sector companies on the exploration, development and production sharing for the *Shah Deniz* giant gas field in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea.

## Azerbaijani Classical Music Concert in Ottawa



On December 9 the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Canada organized at the National Gallery Auditorium a concert of Azerbaijani classical music. Toronto Silk Road Chamber Orchestra conducted by Ismayil Hajiyev performed the music of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Kara Karayev, Niyazi, Jovdet Hajiyev and others.

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Embassy's Newsletter is compiled from various sources