



# NEWSLETTER

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## President of Ukraine Visits Azerbaijan

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received his Ukrainian counterpart Victor Yushchenko who paid official visit to Azerbaijani capital on June 30-July 1. The leaders of the two countries have discussed a wide range of bilateral issues. During press-conference Mr. Yushchenko outlined the progress in a number of joint projects, including energy ones. President Ilham Aliyev and Viktor Yushchenko attended the unveiling ceremony of the monument of famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko in Baky. In his address at the event President Yushchenko thanked President Aliyev for his efforts in implementation of the project. He also praised the event as an exhibit of great respect towards Ukraine and Ukrainian-Azerbaijani relations. "It is a tribute to values, which bring us closer together", he said.



## GUAM Summit in Batumi

A meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM was held in Batumi, Georgia, on Tuesday. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Georgian leader Mikhail Saakashvili, Ukrainian President Viktor Yuschenko and Moldavian Internal Affairs Minister Valentin Mejnshchi attended the summit. In his speech President Ilham Aliyev pointed out that GUAM is expanding its ties with other international organizations. He emphasized the role of Azerbaijan in promoting joint energy projects and transregional transport corridor. At the sideline of the event President Aliyev met with Polish President Lech Kaczynski. They expressed satisfaction with the enhancement of the Azerbaijan-Poland relations, and stressed the role of high-level meetings in strengthening the bilateral ties.

## UN-backed Program to Advance North Rural Development

More than 22,000 rural households in north-western Azerbaijan are expected to benefit from a new United Nations-backed scheme to strengthen local irrigation systems, improve farming methods and widen access to rural finance. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is providing a loan of \$17 million to finance the project, worth over \$32 million, under an agreement with the Azerbaijani Government. The project is focused on four districts in the northwest -- Agstafa, Gazakh, Shamkir and Tovuz. "The project will enhance the capability and self-reliance of communities to look after their own affairs and plan and implement their own development initiatives more effectively," IFAD's country programme manager for Azerbaijan, Abdallah Rahman, said.