



# NEWSLETTER

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

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## Commemoration of Khojaly Massacre in Ottawa

On March 2, 2009 at National Library and Archive Canada the Azerbaijani Community of Ottawa with the support of the Embassy of Azerbaijan hosted a presentation entitled "Khojaly Massacre: Crime and No Punishment" dedicated to the massacre of February 25-26, 1992 committed by the Armenian Armed Forces in the Mountainous Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Mr. Thomas Goltz, American professor and journalist, was the key speaker. His presentation was followed by comments on war crimes and accountability from Mr. Matt Eisenbrandt, Legal Coordinator from the Canadian Centre of International Justice.

## Azerbaijan Celebrates International Women's Day, March 8

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev congratulated women on this occasion, stating in his message "Azerbaijani women played significant role in enlightenment, cultural development and economic welfare of the people". He also mentioned the women being entitled with the right of vote since 1918 as a sign of great respect towards them in the society. According to State Statistics Committee, women account for 50.6% of population in Azerbaijan and the number of working women rose to 49.5% of the economically active population. Women make up 73% of school teachers, 74% of technical vocational schools, 46% of universities and 62% of doctors. 745 in 1 000 women aged above 15 are educated to the medium or higher level. Women also comprise 11.2% of MPs at Milli Majlis, 29% of civil servants, 15% of business people.

## The Construction of BTK Restarts

The construction on Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway project will restart in Georgia after March 15, Azerbaijan State Railway told. The construction in Georgia was suspended because of unfavorable weather in January.

Design engineering and small-scale work was done during this period. Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey signed the final document on the construction of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars on February 8, 2007. The project costs more than \$600 million. Construction of railroads is slated for operation in late 2011.

## U.S. Department of Commerce to Open an Office in Azerbaijan

The U.S. Department of Commerce will open an office in Azerbaijan, US Ambassador to Azerbaijan Ms Anne E. Darse told, adding that there was a decision during the Bush administration to open office in Baku, but the decision was not realized then. She said the new administration supports the idea of opening the office although the date is not known yet.

## The 1st International Mugham Festival Starts

The 1st Republic Competition of young mugham singers, who will participate in the 1st International Mugham Festival in Azerbaijan on the eve of Novruz holiday, has started. Over 100 mugham singers applied for the competition and 27 of them were selected. Abulfas Garayev, Culture and Tourism Minister addressing the event stressed that organization of the 1st International Mugham Festival in Azerbaijan was an effective project for the development of Azerbaijani national music that will last till March 25.

## National Theater Day

Azerbaijan State Academic National Theater will perform Azerbaijani dramatist's piece "Fuzuli and Esmer" on the occasion of March 10-National Theater Day. Azerbaijani professional theater was founded on March 10, 1873 when outstanding enlightener Hasan Bay Zardabi staged Akhundov's "Vizir of Lankaran Khan". This year Azerbaijani National Theater celebrates its 136th anniversary.

Embassy's Newsletter is compiled from various sources