



NEWSLETTER

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Israeli President Visits Azerbaijan

Following the one-on-one meeting and talks between the delegations, the two Presidents Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Shimon Peres of Israel attended the ceremony of signing documents on culture, education, IT and science cooperation between the two states. President Aliyev in his speech expressed his satisfaction with the level of bilateral cooperation. Azerbaijani President said that there are good prospects of cooperation of two countries in economic and humanitarian spheres. Israel supports principle of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity in the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, Israeli President Shimon Peres said during his remarks. He also voiced attitude towards the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. "Despite the occupation you have managed to preserve your culture and optimism. I understand the problem of a million of refugees and IDP in the country with a population of over 8 mln people. This means that every eighth citizen of the country is a displaced person. But you cope with this problem with dignity", said Mr. Peres. Stressing high tolerance in the country, he thanked for good attitude towards Jewish community in Azerbaijan: "This happened historically. Jews, who leave Azerbaijan for Israel, always share their kind remembrances of your country". Azerbaijan-Israel business forum, held during the meeting, brought together representatives from about 70 Azerbaijani companies and 50 Israeli businessmen.

Russian President Paid Working Visit to Baku

During their joint press conference, the two Presidents Ilham Aliyev and Dmitry Medvedev expressed their satisfaction with the high level of political and economical interaction between the countries. "Various economic projects are being successfully implemented. Today, we laid a good basis for effective cooperation in the gas field. Today, Gazprom and SOCAR signed a deal which marks a new chapter in our relations. I think this will be very successful and mutually beneficial

cooperation" said President Aliyev. Several documents, including an agreement on the Caspian Sea, diplomatic issues, real estate and memorandum on main principles of completing delimitation of the state border were signed during the visit. Russian President, reminding the agreement on friendship and partnership concluded last year, said "frequent bilateral meetings contribute to developing of bilateral strategic ties". The President also stressed that Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has all chances to be solved in a near historical prospect, and Russia is ready to do best for this. Azerbaijani President, thanking for Russia's active participation in the resolution process, said that Azerbaijan supports the solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of UN resolutions and the question of self-determination of peoples can be resolved within territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Amendments to the Law on NGOs Approved

Milli Mejlis (Azerbaijani Parliament) discussed the amendments to the laws on non-governmental organizations and freedom of faith. Both draft laws were approved after the discussions. Representatives of the US embassy in Azerbaijan, Council of Europe Information Office in Azerbaijan and other international organizations also attended the parliamentary meeting. According to the amendments, the points about administrative responsibility of the NGOs for registration and their forcible registration were removed from the draft and registered capital was reduced. According to the draft, foreigners living in Azerbaijan have a right to establish NGO and there is a new norm for establishing NGO offices and branches. Foreign NGO's can operate in Azerbaijan on the basis of agreement. According to the amendments, state body registering NGOs will send inquiry concerning the NGO's financing of terrorism, money laundering which should be investigated within 30 days. The amendments to the law on freedom of faith were approved today without changes.

Embassy's Newsletter is compiled from various sources