



NEWSLETTER

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Baku Becomes Busy Venue

The week of Diplomat Day (July 9) date of 90th anniversary of diplomatic service in Azerbaijan, also was marked with a number of visits of high-level dignitaries to Baku. Following the Israeli and Russian Presidents visits to Azerbaijani capital, Polish President Lech Kaczynski, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also paid official visits which were followed by various documents signed with different state institutions of both countries. Among the international high-level visitors there were OSCE Chairperson, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, Belarusian Premier Sergei Sidorsky, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg, OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs and many others, making the capital a busy venue for the last week.

Azerbaijani President Visits London

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev paid official visit to the UK on July 13-14 where he met with British Premier Gordon Brown. The British Premier congratulated Azerbaijani leader on economic achievements his country has reached. He said that Great Britain and Azerbaijani have "successful cooperation" in various fields, including energy". British Premier also praised Azerbaijan's "active participation" in antiterrorism coalition, democratic reforms held in the country and successful development of Azerbaijan-European Union relations. He also stressed his country's further support to Azerbaijan in international arena. Azerbaijani President spoke about enhanced bilateral cooperation in various fields and informed the British Premier about Azerbaijan's economic achievements in economic, energy and non-oil sector.

Turkey, EU Countries Sign Gas Pipeline Deal

European countries on Monday sealed an important agreement aimed at diversifying the continent's energy

sources - the pipeline project to bring natural gas from Central Asia and the Middle East to Europe. The agreement was signed by Turkey and four EU countries -Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary - to allow the pipeline to cross their countries. The 2,050-mile (3,300 km) projected pipeline would run from Turkey to Austria and involves investments of 8 billion euros, according to EU data. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, hosting the event, said that the project would provide reliable transportation of natural gas from the Caspian and Middle East, including Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Iraq and Egypt. President Aliyev during his speech at Royal Institute of International Affairs in London noted that Azerbaijan actively supported the project and if Nabucco will be profitable from the economic point of view after its construction, Azerbaijan may supply Nabucco with gas. According to the President, new large oil and gas fields are expected to be explored in Azerbaijan in the next 3-5 years. Azerbaijan has one million barrel oil and 25-27 million cubic meters of gas production per day. Recently, Russia's Gasprom made a new major natural gas deal with Azerbaijan to buy 500 million cubic meters of gas annually. Rovnag Abdullayev, the president of SOCAR (State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan) also said Baku supported Nabucco and no country had been given priority for gas from its Shakh-Deniz gas fields.

EU-Azerbaijan Sign Agreement on Air Transport

Azerbaijan and EU signed an aviation cooperation agreement, enabling EU air companies to fly between any EU member state and Azerbaijan. The document will lift the national restrictions in the bilateral air services between the EU countries and Azerbaijan. Passenger numbers between the EU and Azerbaijan tripled between 2000 and 2007 to more than 210,000 per year. Among the EU countries, Britain, Germany and Austria have the heaviest air traffic with Azerbaijan.