



NEWSLETTER

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Azerbaijan's Fist Telecommunications Satellite is Under Construction

Mr. Iltimas Mammadov Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of Azerbaijan got familiarized with the process of constructing the first Azerbaijani telecommunications satellite Azerspace. The Azerbaijani delegation headed by Mr. Mammadov visited the Corporation's facilities upon the invitation of Orbital Science Corporation, located in Dulles, Virginia. The sides discussed an action plan within construction and launching the satellite into orbit as well as designing ground satellite equipment. Azerspace will provide digital broadcasting, internet access, data transmission, VSAT multi-service networks, and governmental communications. The satellite will be equipped with 24 transponders C band and 12 transponders Ku band. It will be placed in orbit at 46 degrees east longitude. The satellite's term is 20 years. Its service area will cover Europe, Central Asia and Africa. A carrier rocket will be determined in upcoming months to launch the satellite into orbit. The insurance of the satellite will be also determined. Presently, the Ministry is working to evaluate the proposals of companies producing a carrier rocket: ILS, Arianespace, SpaceX and Ukroboronservis.

Azeri Gold Reserves to Exceed 300 kg in 2010

Azerbaijan's gold reserves could exceed 300 kg this year, Minister of Finance Sharifov said on September 29, as the country uses oil export revenues to add to central bank holdings. He said Azerbaijan had received a first batch of 99.5 kg in the spring, produced in Switzerland from gold extracted in the former Soviet republic. "In the near future we will receive the second batch of more than 100 kg, and by the end of the year another batch that will exceed the previous," Sharifov told reporters. Anglo Asian Mining began gold production at Azerbaijan's Gedabek gold and copper mine, 350 km west of the capital Baku, in May 2009. The AIM-listed company, whose chief executive is Reza Vaziri, is controlled by firm R.V. Investment Group Services. The Azeri government owns 49 percent. Anglo Asian Mining said last week it was planned to boost gold production in Azerbaijan to 60,000-65,000 ounces this year from a previous forecast of 53,500 ounces. The company has extracted 1.6 tones of gold in Azerbaijan since 2009 and

plans to extract a total of 22 tones of gold from Gedabek. It envisages exploration of seven mines in western Azerbaijan with estimated gold reserves of 430 tones.

Prosperity of Jewish Life in Azerbaijan is Vivid Example of Peaceful Coexistence of Islam and Judaism

"Development and prosperity in the life of the Mountain Jews in Azerbaijan is a vivid example of peaceful coexistence of the two religions - Islam and Judaism", Azerbaijani MP Yevda Abramov said at the opening of the Jewish synagogue in the Krasnaya Sloboda in Guba region. The solemn opening ceremony of the restored synagogue Gilyaki took place on Sunday with the participation of Mr. Boris Simanduyev, Chairman of Mountain Jews Religious Community and Mr. Hidayat Orujov, Head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations. The restoration of the synagogue was carried out with the support of the Zakharyayevs family, whose representative - Herman Zakharyayev is the president of the International Foundation of Mountain Jews (STMEGI). STMEGI became the first initiator of the Islamic-Jewish dialogue in Azerbaijan. Mr. Zakharyayev said the Krasnaya Sloboda (with five thousand of the population) is the only place of compact residence of the mountainous Jews in the world and foreign visitors are always welcomed here. As a part of the restoration work, the transparent dome of the synagogue built over a hundred years ago has been fully restored. Star of David at the peak of the dome is lit in every Jewish holiday. There are three synagogues in the Krasnaya Sloboda today. According to the Jewish tradition, Rabbi of the Jewish religious community Krasnaya Sloboda Elazar read a blessing on the occasion of the opening of the synagogue. STMEGI begins preparations for the international forum "Islam-Judaism," which will be held in Azerbaijan in summer 2011. The event will be organized in the framework of the dialogue among cultures and civilizations and with the participation of the Azerbaijani National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Embassy Newsletter is compiled from various sources