



NEWSLETTER

Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

275 Slater Street, Suite 904. Ottawa ON K1P 5H9 Canada

Tel: (613) 288 0497 Fax: (613) 230 8089

E-Mail: azerbaijan@azembassy.ca

December 16, 2011

№ 21

President Ilham Aliyev Received Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command

On December 12, the President of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev received the Commander of the United States Transportation Command, Mr. William Fraser. The two sides exchanged views on further expansion of joint Azerbaijani-US activities in the fight against international terrorism, security, energy and other spheres. Indicating that Azerbaijan had been part of the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan from the very first day, President Aliyev said humanitarian cooperation in relation to the mission was gradually expanding. Mr. Fraser then gave a high assessment to Azerbaijan's contribution to the transportation supply of the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijani Cultural Centre Opens in Canada

On December 6, 2011 the first Azerbaijani cultural and community centre opened in Vancouver. The centre will organize Azerbaijani language courses, as well as lessons in national dance and music. The centre was opened thanks to the generous donation and investment of a member of the Azerbaijani community in Vancouver, Mr. Mohammad Pourazad. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Canada Mr. Farid Shafiyev attended the opening ceremony of the centre. The event concluded with a concert of Azerbaijani music.

Blood Donation Campaign Organized in Azerbaijan

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus Muslims Administration organized the annual blood donation campaign on the Day of Ashura on December 6, 2011. This year about 3500 people donated blood in 13 mosques of Azerbaijan. The collected blood

mainly will go to meet the needs of patients suffering from hemophilia and thalassaemia. Azerbaijan, like other countries with a prevalent Shiite population, holds ceremonies of commemoration of a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad Imam Hussein and his supporters killed in the Battle of Karbala in 680 on the day of Ashura - the 10th day of the month of Muharram. Religious leaders of Azerbaijan converted the medieval tradition to annual blood donation campaign.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Trade Turnover Increases

Azerbaijan's import-export operations with 147 foreign countries during January-September, totaled \$29.8 billion, including exports in amount of \$22.2 billion or 74.4% and imports - \$7.6 billion or 25.6%, the State Statistical Committee reported.

Non-oil Sector Share in Azerbaijan's GDP Jumps

According to the Minister of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, the share of non-oil sector in Azerbaijan's GDP increased from 40.7 percent to 44.4 percent over the last five years.

Investments in Azerbaijan's Processing Complex Top \$790 million

According to the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan, in ten months of the year, investments in processing complex of Azerbaijan amounted to \$795.8 million. Compared to the same period of the last year, investments in processing sector have increased by 86.6%. Investments in processing sector hit 7.2% in the overall volume of investments in country's economy.