

THE AZERBAIJANI PERSPECTIVE:

News from the Heart of the Silk Road

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President Aliyev meets with Sarkisian

On October 8, President Ilham Aliyev met with his Armenian counterpart Serj Sarkisian for another round of talks during the CIS summit in Chisinau, Moldova.

Following the meeting, President Aliyev spoke to Azerbaijan's State TV channel. Mr. Aliyev said that despite some positive dynamics, no tangible progress has been achieved due to Armenia's lack of constructive vision. Commenting on the signing of bilateral protocols between Armenia and Turkey, President Aliyev stated that no positive changes in the South Caucasus are achievable without addressing the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, the region's main challenge. The full text of the interview is available at www.azconsulatela.org. This message was later reiterated in the official statement of the Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan.

Turkic Summit in Naxcivan

On October 2-3, President Aliyev welcomed his Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish counterparts, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kurmanbek Bakiyev and Abdullah Gul, respectively, at the 9th Turkic Summit in the historic Azerbaijani region of Naxcivan.

The presidents discussed relations among the Turkic nations of Eurasia and signed an agreement to establish the Turkic Cooperation Foundation, TURKSOY, to preserve, protect and promote Turkic cultural heritage in the world.

Earlier, President Nazarbayev traveled to Baku on an official visit. The presidents discussed, among other things, projects to transport Kazakhstan's energy resources through Azerbaijani territory.

Foreign Minister at UNGA

On September 21-26, FM Elmar Mammadyarov visited New York to participate in the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly. During his visit, Mr. Mammadyarov met with several of his counterparts, participated in GUAM-US and GUAM-Czech Republic consultations and in the meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference. At a meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, both sides stressed that the current status-quo in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is unacceptable. In his address to the UN General Assembly, Minister Mammadyarov outlined Azerbaijan's vision for a secure, stable and prosperous South Caucasus.

In other news:

*On September 16, Consul General Elin Suleymanov joined his Israeli counterpart Jacob Dayan for a seminar on Azerbaijan-Israel relations hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

*CG Suleymanov and Consul Elman Abdullayev visited Utah, where they met with Governor Gary Herbert, spoke at the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce and addressed students at the University of Utah, Brigham Young University and the Utah Valley University.

*On October 6, CG Suleymanov and Consul Abdullayev addressed the Orange County Board of Supervisors in Santa Ana.

*Consul General also participated in the Fletcher School Symposium on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict; spoke at Princeton University as well as at UC Irvine, Chapman University, the University of San Diego and UCSD.