

NEWS FROM THE CASPIAN

EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN, LONDON NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER, 2021



WELCOME

Welcome to the October edition of News from the Caspian! In this inaugural edition, we welcome Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's new Ambassador to the UK - read his first interview to London Diplomat Magazine at: <https://diplomatmagazine.com/heads-of-mission/middle-east-asia/azerbaijan/>

We also cover recent news from Azerbaijan, major Embassy events, current developments in Azerbaijan – UK relations and as the sun takes a step back and we start feeling autumn chills, we present to you the most delicious “Saffron Chicken with Quince” recipe in our “Taste of Azerbaijan” section.

Do please forward this to any friends, family or your acquaintances living in the UK. If you want to receive this newsletter, simply email to london@embassy.az

Follow us in **Twitter** (@AzerbaijaninUK); **Facebook** (@azembassylondon) and **Instagram** (@azerbaijan_in_uk). Find more Embassy news at: <https://london.mfa.gov.az/en>

AZERBAIJAN IS COMMITTED TO GREENER FUTURE



On September 23, President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev reiterated our country's green aspirations in an address to United Nations General Assembly:

“Azerbaijan ratified the Paris Climate Agreement, with a voluntary commitment to achieve a 35 percent reduction in

greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to the base year 1990. Furthermore, we are exploring the possibilities for setting conditional targets for 2050 under the Paris Agreement.

Currently the share of the renewables in the total energy capacity of our country is 17 percent. The target is to increase this number to 30 percent by 2030. Agreements have been signed with three major international energy companies to invest in the construction of three wind and solar power plants with total capacity of over 700 megawatts in the coming 3-4 years. One of these projects will be implemented in the Eastern Zangazur region liberated from Armenian occupation during the 44-day Patriotic War. This 240-megawatt solar power plant

will be so far the major foreign direct investment project in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. I invite other international energy companies to come and invest in green energy in the liberated Azerbaijani territories.

I announced the recently liberated Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur as Green Energy Zone. The liberated territories of Azerbaijan have the proven potential of 7200 megawatts of solar energy and 2000 megawatts of wind energy”, said the President.

GOLD RUSH FOR AZERBAIJAN



As Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games ended on September 5, 2021 the national team of Azerbaijan has shown a historical result, having won 14 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze medal. Azerbaijani team took an incredibly high 10th place, behind China, Great Britain, USA, Russia, Netherlands, Ukraine, Brazil, Australia and Italy. Two of our athletes have set world records in Tokyo. Hamid Heydari threw a javelin to the previously unattainable 51.42 metres, and Elvin Astanov put the shot by 8.77 metres, which was also the best result in history. Swimmer Vali Israfilov and runner Lamiya Veliyeva set Paralympic records at distances of 100 and 400 metres, respectively.



BBC WORLD NEWS SAYS “EXPLORE AZERBAIJAN”



Very recently, BBC World News started to run a video footage from Azerbaijan. Do watch the video embedded below saying: “Explore Azerbaijan: where mountains meet the clouds and the bright blue sky is reflected in the sea. It is where history lives in every neighbourhood...”
<https://youtu.be/iDQEY6ZMEIQ>

NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE COURT OF ST JAMES’S



“Come visit Azerbaijan! Enjoy our nature, listen to our music, taste our cuisine and, most importantly, build new friendships and meet our people. Azerbaijan offers great promise and we invite our friends to come experience it. As you learn more about our country, all of us at the Embassy stand ready to assist with your needs”, says Elin Suleymanov - our new Ambassador to the UK.

A career diplomat, Elin Suleymanov served as Azerbaijan’s Ambassador to the USA for a decade before being appointed to the UK. You can read his full bio at: <https://london.mfa.gov.az/en/content/65/ambassador>

Follow Ambassador Elin Suleymanov on Twitter (@ElinSuleymanov)

FIRST FLIGHT TO KARABAKH



Azerbaijan's flag carrier Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) operated the first flight from the capital Baku to the Fuzuli International Airport in the Karabakh region on Sunday.

Airbus A340-500, which is the largest passenger aircraft in AZAL's fleet, completed the flight 35 minutes after departing Baku. Journalists, travel bloggers, and representatives of various other organizations were the first passengers to arrive in the air harbour. Two more airfields are currently under construction in Zangilan and Lachin districts to become operational sometime in 2022:

#WEREMEMBEROURHEROES #PATRIOTICWAR

September 27 is marked as the Commemoration Day in Azerbaijan. This year, on the first Anniversary of Second Karabakh War, Azerbaijan paid tribute to all its martyrs who died for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva joined the commemorative march held in Baku city in honour of the fallen heroes.



Read the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 27 September – Commemoration Day:
<https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/no36221>

EMBASSY OF AZERBAIJAN HOSTED A COMMEMORATION EVENT

Ambassador Elin Suleymanov was joined by embassy staff, members of Azerbaijani community living in London and Azerbaijan's friends in the UK for the commemoration event held at the Embassy in London on September 27.



PROUD RESIDENTS OF RBKC

Ambassador Elin Suleymanov paid a courtesy call on Councillor Gerard Hargreaves, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea where the Embassy of Azerbaijan is located.



SUPPORT FROM STRATEGIC PARTNER TOWARDS DEMINING EFFORTS IN KARABAKH



The United Kingdom has allocated half a million pounds in early September to assist mine clearance operations in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

“These funds will help with training and personnel to support de-mining and the UK is now calling on other countries to support the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiative,” the statement reads.

“We’re calling on our international partners to also support the collective effort needed if we are to ensure the safety of all people in the region” British Minister for the European Neighbourhood and the Americas, Wendy Morton, said, adding the Karabakh region is amongst some of the most heavily mined in the world, with frequent reports of civilians being injured or killed by landmines.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-500000-fund-to-support-undp-to-respond-to-last-years-nagorno-karabakh-conflict>

“THE CONTRACT OF THE CENTURY” BECOMES 27



September 20 marked the 27th Anniversary of signing of the “Contract of the Century” – Production Sharing Agreement between Azerbaijan’s SOCAR and 11 foreign oil companies, including BP for the development of three major oil fields in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea – Azeri, Chirag and Gunashli (ACG). Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC) which was formed in 1999 to implement the ACG PSA has since been operated by BP. ACG PSA, initially signed for 30 years was extended until mid-century in 2017.

Ambassador Elin Suleymanov tweeted on that day saying: “This event transformed Azerbaijan into key international player and opened our region for economic development and integration”.

Building on this almost three decades of successful cooperation Azerbaijan and BP is currently exploring the further grounds for collaboration in renewable energy.

On May 3, 2021 President of Azerbaijan signed a decree on measures to create a ‘green energy’ zone in the country’s territories liberated from Armenian occupation last year.

In June this year, Azerbaijan and BP signed an Implementation Agreement to build a 240MW solar power plant in the liberated Zangilan and Jabrayil regions: <https://www.azernews.az/business/179714.html>

TASTE OF AZERBAIJAN

SAFFRON CHICKEN WITH QUINCE



Serves 6

Ingredients

4 medium quinces (about 2 pounds / 1 kg)
6 tablespoons vegetable or corn oil
1 teaspoon powdered saffron threads (using a mortar and pestle powder 2 teaspoons saffron threads) dissolved in 1 tablespoon hot water
3 pounds (about 1.5 kg) boneless chicken parts, cut into serving size pieces (I used thighs)
1 medium onion, chopped
2 tablespoons tomato paste dissolved in 1/2 cup water
About 10 dried sour plums, pitted and halved (if it is difficult to remove the pit, simply cut the flesh into strips to use and discard the stone) – substitute with 1/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
Salt, Ground black pepper



Directions

1. Do not peel the quinces. Quarter them and remove core with a knife. Cut into wedges not too thin and not too thick.
2. In a large frying pan, heat 3 tablespoons oil over medium heat. Add the quince and cook for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add saffron powder and cook together, for another 5 minutes, stirring occasionally to coat the quince with the saffron. Remove from heat.
3. In a large deep frying pan, heat the remaining 3 tablespoons of oil over medium heat. Add the chicken and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 5 minutes.
4. Add the onion and cook together for another 6-7 minutes. When the chicken starts to release the juices, add tomato paste dissolved in water. Cook together for another 10-15 minutes, or until the juices have slightly thickened. The chicken will be almost but not completely cooked at this point.
5. Add the quince and dried sour plums to the chicken and season with salt and pepper, to taste. Reduce the heat to medium to low, and simmer, covered, for about 30 minutes, or until the chicken and quince are tender (quince should not be mushy). Note that cooking times may vary depending on the chicken and how hard the fresh quinces are.

TEXT AND IMAGE CREDIT: FERIDE BUYURAN, AUTHOR OF “POMEGRANATES AND SAFFRON” (AZCOOKBOOK.COM)