
Azerbaijan considers Georgia most important strategic partner.

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Azerbaijan has always considered and is considering Georgia its most important strategic partner in the region and on world scale, Artur Rasizade, the prime minister of Azerbaijan, made such a statement at the meeting with his Georgian colleague Zurab Nogaidei, Trend reports.

According to Rasizade, the sides closely cooperate with in GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) and other international organizations. "Azerbaijan has achieved high indicators in the economic development, The gross domestic product (GDP) of the country in 2006 has increased by 40%, and in 2005 the growth was 26 %," Rasizade told.

Rasizade told that by the end of the year, all districts in Azerbaijan will be provided with gas. "Over the past two and a half year, 400 thousand work places have been opened and this corresponds to the social policy of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan attaches a great importance to the military creation because the country is in the war situation with Armenia," Rasizade stressed.

According to prime minister of Azerbaijan, the military budget of the country has grown by 2,3 times as compared to 2006. "The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the biggest problem for Azerbaijan and the country tries to settle the problem peacefully," Rasizade mentioned.

Rasizade pointed out that Azerbaijan supports the territorial integrity of Georgia and expresses its gratitude to Georgian side for supporting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The Georgian prime minister told that the trade turnover between the two countries in 2005 was 72% and it will continue. "The construction of SCP is the new phase in the energy cooperation between the two countries. Kazakhstan's joining the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline is also stabilization fact in relation with oil prices," he emphasized.
