



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, May 26, 2008

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

AGBU NEWS

1. OUR TRIP TO ARMENIA CHANGED OUR LIVES [Azg, 05/24/08]

13 graduating students of the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian school of Detroit, Michigan, accompanied by the Director of the school Hovsep Torossian and Armenian language and literature professor Anahit Tumajian, were in Armenia for eight days. One of the peculiarities of the school is that Ukrainians, Christians from Iraq, Africans, Americans, Romanians and Jews study together with the Armenian students with the same curriculum.

We learned from Hovsep Torossian, the Director of the school, that the quality of education in the school is very high. During the year the school celebrates many Armenian state and church holidays including the Translators' Day, Vardanants, the Independence Day, etc.

"Our students' visit to Armenia, especially on April 24, has three goals - it's connected with the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Together with the AGBU staff and the AGBU scouts we ascended to the Genocide Memorial to pay our tribute to the innocent victims", said Mr. Torossian.

One of the students, Michael Galfayan, joined our conversation and told about his feelings, "For a moment I thought that we too were passing through the same path that our ancestors were driven to. When I bowed at the memorial fire I felt that my life has changed..."

Maral Kalanjian and Vazken Harutiunian felt the same excitement, which they will never be able to forget. Professor Torossian emphasized the importance of the visit to Armenia and said, "We believe that the days that our students spent in Armenia are equal to their one-year's upbringing abroad".

Accompanied by His Holiness Karekin II the students visited the tombs of Alex and Marie Manoogian, where they prayed and put flowers. After that they had an hours' long meeting with Catholicos Karekin II. Some of the students, Alex, Nairi and Abigail had once been in Armenia and asked the administration to allow them continue the visits.

They students were amazed at their visit to the Nork Children's Center and the short performance that the students of the center had prepared.

Vazken, Vahan and Michael mentioned, "For 10-15 years we've been learning things about our homeland only through photos and films. Now when we have visited Armenia and have seen everything with our own eyes, it's a completely different feeling. We will return and tell everyone so that they too visit Armenia and feel the indescribable feeling of having an independent Homeland".

Certainly they went sightseeing too and despite the cold weather the boys dared to swim in the waters of Sevan. Angelica has moved to the school from Tehran. She is so much excited about Armenia that she wants to stay here.

"I'm glad that the school provided me this opportunity to come and see my homeland. When my mother called me and asked whether I have missed my home, I said, 'No Mom, I am home now and I've been baptized in Sevan, I have drunk blessed water in Etchmiadzin and Geghard'. I will lead my family to Armenia and will show them what I saw with my own eyes", said Michael Galfayan.

Vazken Basmajian said that he has always dreamt of coming to Armenia. "When I saw these beautiful places, the churches I was embarrassed, I thought I was still in my dreams. After 16 years I am now seeing and feeling these places. Most of all I liked Amberd. I stretched my hands and felt like I was a king. It was an indescribable feeling. There was a big stone on our way to Aragats. I sat on that stone, marked it and promised to return and sit on that same stone".

Before departing Vazken Harutiunian told another interesting observation, "If I wasn't very attentive I would have caught in different car accidents for about 45 times during these eight days, without breaking any rules. I am thinking of inventing something so that nobody gets hurt in a car accident in this free, safe and secure country".

Karen Demirjian said that he like the Armenian girls very much and that he is planning to return to Armenia to choose his bride from Yerevan.

With these impressions the students of Alex and Marie Manoogian School returned to America, with strong belief to return to their homeland again.



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POLITICS

2. HUNGER STRIKE ON DEMAND OF RELEASING ARAM KARAPETIAN STOPPED [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Aram Karapetian, the Leader of the Nor Zhamanakner (New Times) party, on May 20 turned to the ten citizens, who had gone on hunger strike six days before with the demand of setting him free, persuading them to stop the action. Meeting the persuasion of the leader of the given party, New Times Party administration member Hrachia Sargsian, opposition activists Eduard Grigorian, Gevorg Petrosian, Astghik Haroutiunian, Karen Suvarian, Samvel Khloyan, Ruzanna Hovhannisian, Violeta Ghazarian, Karine Asaturova and Khachatour Davtian stopped the hunger strike.

3. ZHARANGUTIUN TO MAKE SUGGESTION ON INVALIDATING AMENDMENTS AND ADDENDA TO LAW ON MASS EVENTS AND RETURNING IT TO ITS FORMER FORM [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Arthur Sakunts, the Head of the Vanadzor office of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly considers incomprehensible the amendment to the RA Law on "Holding of Meetings, Rallies, Marches and Demonstrations", according to which spontaneous mass actions can last up to six hours. "An action, in general, should last as long as its participants are satisfied, that is to say, as long as their demands are met," Arthur Sakunts declared at the May 21 press conference. As an example he brought one of the recent protest actions in Czechia, which was organized on the occasion of being against the appointment of the new director of the public television company of that country. As Arthur Sakunts made assertions, there was no corresponding information about that action and the organizers had not mentioned any time limit.

Zaruhi Postanjan, a member of the Zharangutiun (Heritage) faction of the National Assembly, mentioned that Point 12.3 of Resolution 1609 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) defines that the March 17 amendments of the RA Law on Mass Events made yet under the state of emergency "should immediately be recognized as repealed." That, in the words of Zaruhi Postanjan, means that the law should be returned to its former form. The Zharangutiun faction made a suggestion on invalidating all the amendments and addenda and restoring the law in the National Assembly on May 21 and 22.

4. IF LIMITATIONS OF FREEDOMS CONTINUE, OPPOSITION WILL HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT TO GATHER PEOPLE IN SQUARE, ZHARANGUTIUN REPRESENTATIVE IS CONVINCED [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

As long as there is even if one political figure or activist, who is groundlessly prosecuted, no dialogue between the authorities and the opposition will take place. Vardan Khachatryan, a member of the RA National Assembly Zharangutiun (Heritage) faction, expressed such an opinion at the May 22 press conference.

According to him, the first President Levon Ter-Petrosian's "team took even if half a step" towards that dialogue. According to the deputy's observation, judging by the last press conference of L. Ter-Petrosian's Spokesperson Arman Musinian, the opposition has left only one out of several preconditions of agreeing to a dialogue, the demand to release the arrested figures. As regards the authorities, according to V. Khachatryan, both the forces making a coalition and other representatives of the power camp do not take even "half a step" for the dialogue.

In response to the question of whether Zharangutiun will agree to receive posts, the speaker said that "Zharangutiun cannot consider any step in its relations with the authorities as start of cooperation until the picture of the March 1 events becomes clear." He considers that those guilty for the March 1 events should be revealed and punished by all means, "as impunity will result in new crimes."

V. Khachatryan also touched upon the statement voiced by Levon Zurabian, a member of L. Ter-Petrosian's headquarters, lately that unless the authorities fulfil the requirements of PACE Resolution N 1609 until the term set by PACE, June 20, the radical opposition will call the people for gathering in Liberty Square. According to the Zharangutiun representative, the party has not discussed that idea yet. "However, if the freedoms remain so limited like now, the opposition will have nothing else to do but to gather the people in the square," he concluded.



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5. AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP ETHICAL RULES FOR ARMENIAN MASS MEDIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Ethical rules for the mass media will be developed by common efforts of Armenia's government and parliament, member of the NA Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) faction Naira Zohraboan told reporters during the May 23 parliamentary briefing.

In response to the reporters' concern about restriction of the mass media activities, the deputy, who was previously a journalist of "Armenian Time" paper, stated that she was also concerned by the prime minister's statement that relations between "responsible press" and "responsible authorities" will be regulated by law. However, the prime minister reassured her that the expected amendment "will not be used as a baton against the mass media".

The amendments to be made soon in the form of a law or ethical rules (these versions are being considered) will aim to raise responsibility of the mass media, which will also increase responsibility of officials. "The issue of mutual counterbalances should be solved," N. Zohrabian noted.

Responding to the question about whether the country's legislation allows to punish responsible mass media outlets, the deputy said that a tradition has formed, by which the officials and political figures, whose reputation was unduly damaged, do not apply to court in order to avoid trouble.

6. RICHARD HOVANNISIAN: IDEA OF PATRIOTISM IS BROUGHT TO BACKGROUND IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Day of Declaration of Armenia's Independence - May 28 is of exceptional value in the Armenian history, Prof. Richard Hovannisian of the University of California stated at the May 23 press conference, adding that if there had not been May 28, there would have been neither Soviet Armenia nor the current independent state. According to him, the fact of Eastern Armenia's becoming independent in 1918 was unexpected. The situation in the country: the Russian revolution, the ruin of the Caucasian front, the invasion of the Turkish army left Armenians with no choice but to defend and save this small piece of land. At that time both the Armenian leaders and intellectuals were concerned very much about the fate of Western Armenia. "They never thought that Yerevan would become a capital city, around which a state would be created," the historian said.

In his words, patriotism and a sense of statehood should be instilled more deeply into the Armenians. That is, they should remember this not only on that day but they should live with this feeling every day. However, as he pointed out, for this the people should be free and well-off, whereas today many in Armenia are more concerned over their daily problems, as a result of which the idea of patriotism is being brought to the background.

R. Hovannisian noted that favorable living conditions should be created in the country so that people will not emigrate. According to him, each people should live and create in its own country for the welfare of homeland.

Speaking about the March 1 events, R. Hovannisian described these events as a great tragedy, noting that everybody is to blame for it. In his words, to forgive is the only way to solve the problem. The existing situation and hatred will aggravate if people continue to accuse and not tolerate each other.

7. ISSUE OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE IS STILL AT STAGE OF RECOGNITION, HISTORIAN RICHARD HOVANNISIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The issue of the Armenian Genocide is still at the stage of recognition, - historian, Professor of the University of California Richard Hovannisian expressed an opinion at the May 23 press conference. He disagreed with the historians who believe that this issue is already in the legal field. According to him, the next step to be taken after the Genocide's recognition is the issue of compensation, whose solution will be more difficult.

In his opinion, even the states to have recognized the Armenian Genocide do not address the problem of compensation. In his words, the Armenian authorities should achieve the problem's solution through dialog with Turkey. The historian stated that the issue of the Genocide's recognition will not be solved until the Turkish government is prepared for it. He welcomed the fact that by opposing their authorities, some Turkish scientists today started to raise this issue. "We should encourage these scientists - in the hope that they will blow up from inside Turkey's policy of denial," he stated.

As for recognition of the Genocide by the U.S. Congress, the historian noted that the Congress will eventually recognize it.



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8. DEPORTATION OF ZHIRAYR SEFILIAN FROM ARMENIA STARTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The Armenian police made a decision to start the process of deporting Lebanese citizen, coordinator of the civil initiative "In defence of Liberated Territories" Zhirayr Sefilian from Armenia. The police filed a suit to the Administrative Court with the request to take a decision on deportation of Z. Sefilian, NT correspondent was informed by Sefilian's lawyer Vahe Grigorian. According to him, the process is illegal because Z. Sefilian has under-age children in his care, and the ban is stipulated in Article 32 of the RA Law on Foreigners.

To recap, Zhirayr Sefilian was found guilty of carrying illegal arms. His imprisonment term ends on June 9.

9. ARMENIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONDUCTS MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADORS AND UN COORDINATOR IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/23/08]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received on May 22 UN permanent coordinator in Armenia, representative of the UNDP Consuelo Vidal.

Armenian Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that during the meeting C. Vidal said that Armenia is an active member of UN and has its positive contribution to the work of the organization. She added that close and constructive cooperation has been established between Armenian authorities and 12 specialized agencies of the UN and expressed readiness to continue the effective cooperation with the new government. She said that the grant programs which are being carried out in Armenia this year amount to 19 million USD.

The UN coordinator said that Armenian Foreign Ministry as the main partner of the UN Armenian office has its contribution to the further consolidation of the existing cooperation.

Minister Nalbandian expressed his satisfaction towards the established cooperation and assured that the Armenian side will continue boosting it more, especially taking into consideration the coming discussions over working out the 2010-2014 development program.

The Armenian minister also met with the Greek ambassador Ioanis Korintios. During the meeting Nalbandian highly assessed the level of bilateral cooperation between Armenia and Greece. He noted that there exists great potential for development of cooperation between the two countries which is being promoted by mutual visits and active political dialogue.

The ambassador pointed out the efficiency of the Armenian-Greek cooperation in international organizations. The interlocutors also referred to regional issues and negotiation process over Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation.

Edward Nalbandian also received German ambassador Andrea Wiktorin. The minister highly assessed the level of relations between the two countries.

The ambassador on her part noted that German treats Armenia with a special warmth and underscored the deepening of cooperation with Armenia in all the spheres.

The interlocutors discussed concrete spheres of bilateral cooperation as well as issues connected with the coming visit of the minister to Germany.

10. ARMENIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PAYS WORKING VISIT TO GEGHARKUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 05/23/08]

Armenian Deputy Prime Minister, Territorial Governance Minister Armen Gevorgian paid a working visit to the Armenian province of Gegharkunik. Nature protection, urban, health ministers, deputy territorial governance minister and governor of Gegharkunik were accompanying him.

In the governor's office the deputy prime minister conducted an expanded session and discussed issues on illegal constructions in the territory near the Lake Sevan, referred to the performance of the local budgets, and other issues.

The deputy prime minister gave relevant instructions over the discussed issues. He particularly instructed the leadership of "Sevan" national park to conduct the competitions on hiring land publicly and exclude the illegal constructions near the shore of the lake.

After the session Gevorgian visited school # 3 of Martuni town which is being capitally constructed by the "Lincy" funds. He instructed that the building be ready before the new academic year.

The deputy prime minister wrapped up his visit in Vardenis where he participated in naming one of the central streets of the town after General-Lieutenant Hrachya Andreasian.



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11. HOVHANNES HOVSEPIAN APPOINTED HEAD OF PRESIDENT'S OVERSIGHT SERVICE [ARMENPRESS, 05/24/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sarkissian signed a decree on May 23 dismissing Artashes Bakhshian from the office of the head of the Armenian President's Oversight Service.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that with another decree Hovhannes Hovsepian has been appointed in the office of the head of the President's Oversight Service.

Hovhannes Hovsepian was born in 1973, January 28 in Ijevan. In 1990 he graduated from the Vanadzor school. In 1995 he graduated YSU Legal Faculty.

From 1996-98 studied in the Russian State Service Academy affiliated to the Russian president. In 1996-2002 worked in the legal department of the Armenian president's staff, then worked as a chief specialist of the state-legal department, consultant. From 2002-2006 worked as the head of the staff department of the president.

In January 21, 2007 was appointed consultant to the Armenian territorial governance minister. On December 22, 2007 was appointed deputy territorial governance minister.

12. EDWARD NALBANDIAN RECEIVES DELEGATION HEADED BY ADAM SCHIFF [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received on May 24 delegation headed by the member of the U.S. House of Representatives Adam Schiff. The delegation consisted of congressmen Allison Schwartz and Wein Gilkrest.

Armenian Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that Nalbandian, greeted the members of the delegation and underscored the relations with the USA, noting that Armenia will continue its steps directed towards the development and expansion of the bilateral cooperation.

Minister Nalbandian thanked congressman Schiff for the draft law he presented in the House of Representatives which demands lifting of Armenia's blockade.

With the request of the guests Nalbandian presented the pace of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation process and determination over the peaceful regulation of the conflict. The interlocutors also referred to the regional security and cooperation issues.

13. ROBERT HARUTYUNIAN APPOINTED CHIEF DIRECTOR OF ADA [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian has appointed Robert Harutyunian as chief director of the Armenian Development Agency (ADA) closed joint stock company.

The news was reported by the government department on public relations and information.

14. ARMENIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS MILITARY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian met on May 23 with the staffs of the Armenian military prosecutor's office and Defense Ministry's investigative department to get acquainted with them and clarify the further steps.

Spokesman for the Armenian Defense Ministry Seyran Shahsuvarian told Armenpress that military chief prosecutor A. Khachatrian greeted the visit of the minister and on behalf of the staff congratulated on being appointed in the office of the defense minister. Afterwards, the heads of the departments presented their employees to the minister.

"The reforms conducted in the army are first of all structural changes, which include importing civil element, i.e. the issues of the Defense Ministry and Chief Headquarter are being specified and will be reflected in the law on defense. The civil element will first of all be included in the central apparatus of the ministry and then in other institutions analyzing the results," the minister said.

He said that this year a plan of development of the armed forces will be worked out which will be approved by the president.

At the end of the meeting the minister gave assignments and wished success to the staffs in their service and further activity.



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15. PRESIDENT APPOINTS JURIST-SCIENTIST MEMBERS OF JUSTICE COUNCIL [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

President Serzh Sarkisian signed a decree on May 24 on appointment of jurist-scientist members of the Justice Council.

The presidential press service said to Armenpress that Taniel Barseghian, doctor of jurisprudence and Hovsep Panosian, a candidate of jurisprudence, were appointed jurist-scientist members of the Justice Council.

16. CEC REGISTER RUBIK HARUTYUNIAN FROM PROSPEROUS ARMENIA AS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Armenian Central Electoral Commission decided at its today's urgent session to register Rubik Harutyunian, from Prosperous Armenia party, as a member of parliament. The decision was based on the suspension of the parliamentary authorities of Vahe Harutyunian as well as self-withdrawal of Ofelia Petrosian and Gagik Santrosian.

17. PRESIDENT SARKISIAN SIGNS INTO LAW SEVERAL BILLS [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

On May 24 President Serzh Sarkisian signed into law a number of bills passed earlier by the National Assembly.

According to the presidential press service, they were the bills on making changes to the 2006-2007 Law on State Property Privatization Program, the Law on Flora and the Law on Fauna, on making amendments to the Criminal Code, to the Law on Narcotics and Psychoactive Substances, to the Law on Arms.

BUSINESS

18. GROSS AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT OF ARMENIA GROWS BY 0.5% IN JANUARY-MARCH 2008 ON SAME PERIOD OF 2007 [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The gross agricultural output of Armenia made 44.8 bln drams (about 120 mln USD) in current prices in January-March 2008, exceeding the respective index of last year by 0.5%.

The gross output of plant growing made 5,533.4 mln drams in the indicated period, growing by 4.9% on the same period of 2007, while the gross output of cattle breeding made 39,266.4 mln drams (0.1% decline).

According to the RA National Statistical Service, fishing amounted to 524.7 mln drams in January-March 2008, declining by 20.2% on the same period of last year.

19. DRAFT CONCEPT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT TO BE DISCUSSED AT ITDSC SITTING [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

After a year's interruption, on May 26, a sitting of the IT Development Support Council (ITDSC) chaired by the Armenian prime minister will be held in order to discuss the draft concept of development of the Armenian IT sector. The director of the E-Content Association of Armenia (ECA) and chairman of the IT Foundation Garegin Chugasdzian announced this at the May 23 press conference held jointly with the chairman of Bi Line company Hayk Khanjian and the director of Center of Information Technologies (CIT) company Gagik Karapetian.

In the words of G. Chugasdzian, last week a consultation to discuss the concept was held with the participation of the minister of economy Nerses Yeritsian, and the disagreement and criticism voiced at the consultation was not covered by the press. He said that the process of developing the concept was not a transparent one: the names of the members of the working group to have prepared the draft concept were not published, while the draft was submitted to the government without being discussed by the ITDSC, the RA National Academy of Sciences and authoritative representatives of the sector, whereas during a consultation conducted by the former president of Armenia Robert Kocharian in April 2004, the president instructed that the draft shall be discussed by the ITDSC before being submitted to the government. These questions remained unanswered at the consultation with the participation of N. Yeritsian in charge of the concept's development. Besides, G. Chugasdzian expressed concern about the fact that N. Yeritsian has proposed submitting comments on the draft concept within 6 days, while a new



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consultation will be held in 10 days, and "the issue will be closed". "It is incorrect to take not serious approach to the busy people who have waited for a year so that the concept will be discussed by the working groups of the ITDSC," G. Chugaszian noted.

H. Khanjian said that the draft concept does not address properly the problems of Armenian e-content development, whereas the society uses ITs to make e-content accessible. According to G. Karapetian, the draft concept did not take into account the necessity to ensure continuity of projects and work done in Armenia's IT sector in the past.

20. ARMAVIA ACQUIRES NEW A-320 PLANE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Armavia airline has aquired a new A-320 plane from Airbus plant on leasing for 6 years. The plane arrived in Zvartnots Airport on May 23. According to Armavia's director Norayr Belluyan, it is for the first time in the Armenian aviation history that a new plane has been acquired. "Hovhannes Ayvazovski" plane has 164 seats, including 8 business-class ones. The leasing money was provided by Armavia. It is planned to operate the plane in all 36 destinations of Armavia.

N. Bellunyan said that Armavia currently has the following fleet: 2 A-320, 2 A-319, a YAK-40, a Boeing-737, an IL-86, and a SRG-100. Negotiations are being conducted with Airbus to acquire an A-340 for Yerevan-Los Angeles flights. Besides, it is envisaging acquiring another A-319 plane in March 2009.

21. ARMENIAN FINANCE MINISTER AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL BANK DISCUSS COOPERATION ISSUES [ARMENPRESS, 05/23/08]

Armenian Finance Minister Tigran Davtian received today delegation headed by the deputy chairman of the Iranian Central Bank Reza Rayii.

Finance Ministry press service told Armenpress that the delegation consists of chief consultant to the chairman of the Iranian Central Bank, secretary of the bank's executive commission, and executive director of "Mellat" bank and other officials.

During the meeting the sides discussed issues of economic cooperation between the two countries and prospects of its expansion.

Armenian finance minister underscored the consolidation of bilateral economic relations established in the pre-context of the friendly relations between the two countries. In this respect he also underscored the circumstance of existence of attractive atmosphere for involving investments thanks to favorable legislative field and improvement of tax administration.

The deputy chairman of the Iranian CB said that he is impressed with the economic progress of Armenia and referred to the issue on improvement of the banking systems of the two countries, noting that it is one of the important infrastructures for development of business.

The sides also discussed a number of issues referring to the activity of "Mellat" bank in Armenia.

22. FINANCIAL-BANKING FIRST CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN DILIJAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/24/08]

First financial-banking conference took place today in Dilijan at the invitation of the Union of the Armenian Banks. The conference was aimed at clarifying the main directions of development of the system as well as its role in the programs of development of Armenia.

"Armenia's financing system has real potential for becoming regional finance center, and I believe in that prospect, and I am sure that this idea must become guideline for our work in the coming years," Armenian President Serzh Sargsian said at the conference.

"We know all our privileges here, but we also know the existing issues and obstacles. We must work towards the increase of our privileges and be aggressive in bringing anything new to Armenia," he said. The country will bring experience, modern methods, and will establish stable traditions in the finance market. In this respect the president positively assessed the entrance of OMX into Armenia, noting that such like influential steps must be continuative.

"We must be able to view Armenia's economic reality with new eyes. Our issues have changed and the demands from the economy too. Hence for the assessment of the tempos of stable financial system we will demand from responsible bodies not compare our figures with other regional countries, but facts on how close the system of the country has come to the standards of the world leaders," S. Sargsian said.



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According to the president, the development of the financial sector is very much important because the developing financial-banking system may play a role of locomotive for the solution of issues of all the sectors of the economy and the people.

Armenian president underscored the consolidation of the culture of functioning based on trust in the relations and in economic processes: when a person raises a loan in bank he/she trusts the bank and the legal field functioning in the country. "I am sure the quickly developing financial sector will spread that culture in all the spheres of business and time will come when the trust factor in economic processes will be stronger than the institute of legal agreement," the president said, expressing assurance that it will be the way of the country.

Serzh Sargsian also said that on the way of real development, Armenia's financial sector must solve another problem too for reaching equal development of the regions of the country.

"We cannot reach serious results if all our citizens do not feel the economic growth, if only Yerevan is in the core of all activities. We all love Yerevan but Armenia is not only Yerevan," the president said.

It is impossible to promote the equal development of the country if active business poles are not functioning outside of the capital. In that respect, he said the role of the financial sector will be big and the fact that Armenia's Central Bank is carrying out notable steps in Dilijan is very positive.

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian considered it necessary to discuss how the banks imagine building financial center, study the international experience and which the country's relative privileges will be. According to him, the works on making the country financial regional center must be carried out in six directions which must disclose country's relative privileges, strengthen the potential where it is necessary. Among those directions Tigran Sargsian pointed out providing functional services, creating investment funds and managers of assets, providing Islamic financial services, providing financial services in the "Armenian World" which may also be promoted by the National Competitiveness Council set up by the Armenian president.

During the conference the participants exchanged thoughts over how each bank pictures the establishment of the financial center and what obstacles exist on that way.

Twenty of the members of the Banks' Union (from 21) were present in the conference.

Armenian president, prime minister and deputy chairman of the Central Bank visited the construction area of the building of the education center of the Central Bank and Armenian Stock Exchange.

DIASPORA

23. BOLTON HAS NOT OFFERED NEW DEAL TO ANDRANIK TEYMOURIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

English Premier League team Bolton Wanderers have not offered a new deal to Andranik Teymourian. "Andranik has done well for Bolton and I'd like to express my gratitude to him," said the Trotters boss. Armenian-Iranian international Andranik joined Bolton after impressing during the 2006 World Cup but has only made nine appearances this season.

24. VARNA CITY COUNCIL DECLARES APRIL 24 AS COMMEMORATION DAY OF GENOCIDE VICTIMS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The Bulgarian Varna city council has adopted a declaration, which condemns the 1915 Armenian genocide. As Azatutian (Liberty) reports, citing The Sofia Echo periodical, the council has also declared April 24 as Commemoration Day of Armenian Genocide victims.

The city council members expressed hope that their decision will contribute to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide both by the other cities of the country and the state of Bulgaria.

The opposition has raised the issue on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide in the Bulgarian parliament for several times, the latest of which on January 17 of this year. However, the parliamentary majority refuses to include the presented drafts on the agenda, avoiding spoiling relations with Turkey.



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25. GREGORY AND EMMA MELIKIAN COUPLE AWARDED ARIZONA UNIVERSITY MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The Gregory and Emma Melikian couple, who founded the Armenian Church and Cultural Center in Scottsdale, was honored with the University Medal of Excellence.

Arizona State University President Michael Crow presented Gregory and Emma Melikian with the University Medal of Excellence for their leadership and civic engagement during the ASU graduation ceremonies on May 8.

The Melikians have also supported ASU for more than three decades. They have also invested in historic preservation of more than a dozen properties in Scottsdale. The University Medal of Excellence honors innovative leaders who have advanced awareness and action on issues that affect the well-being and positive development of their communities.

26. ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA - EASTERN REGION TAKES PART IN EVENT DEDICATED TO ANNIVERSARY OF PONTIAN GENOCIDE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of America - Eastern Region took part in an event dedicated to the 89th anniversary of the Pontian Genocide, which took place in New York.

The event was organized by the Hellenic Societies of the Greater New York and in the Pan-Pontian Federation of the United States of America and Canada. Dimitris Milohides, the Secretary of the Pan-Pontian Federation of the United States of America and Canada, turned to those present calling to take decisive steps in the direction of the recognition of the Pontian Genocide.

Karine Birazian as well addressed the crowd on behalf of the Armenian National Committee of America. "The tragic sufferings of Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks will never be forgotten. The Turkish government is trying to silence us but we will not keep silent and together will we reach the recognition of this great crime," she said.

The Pontian Genocide has officially been recognized by Greece, Cyprus, and in the United States of America by New York, New Jersey, Florida, South California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Illinois states.

27. ARMENIAN SPECIALISTS FROM 15 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUBMIT BIDS FOR TAKING PART IN CONFERENCE OF FORUM OF ARMENIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF EUROPE, REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS CONTINUES [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Armenian political and cultural figures, businessmen, media representatives, scientists, and lawyers from more than 15 European countries have expressed willingness to participate in the conference of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe to be held on May 29-30 in Bratislava (Slovakia). France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Belarus, Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh are among these countries. The United States will be also represented at the conference.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Ashot Grigorian, the Chairman of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe, the goals of this conference dedicated to the 90th anniversary of proclamation of the First Republic of Armenia and the 10th anniversary of creation of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe are discussion of measures undertaken against Turkish-Azeri anti-Armenian lobbying that has become active, and information war, putting forward the issue of recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic parallel with the issue of recognition of the Armenian Genocide, elaboration of lobbying in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement and general approaches over it, support to spreading of Armenian culture in European countries, coordination of programs aimed at preservation of the Armenian nation in the Diaspora.

According to him, the conference will also pursue consolidation of the huge potential of Armenian businessmen acting in various countries of the world, creation and strengthening of business contacts between them. One of the goals of the conference to be held in Bratislava will be also creation of FAAE four permanently acting departments, juridical, business, information, as well as science-education-culture-sport.

The conference is envisaged to make amendments to the FAAE Regulations and programs, elections of FAAE Board of Trustees will be held. FAAE Declaration will be adopted by the results of the conference.



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28. GEORGETOWN BOYS PERFORMANCE STAGED IN CANADA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Director Sam Hancock staged The Georgetown Boys performance at the John Elliott Theatre on May 14 on the basis of author Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch's "Aram's Chioce" book. The story is about 110 Armenian orphan boys, who were brought to Canada in 1923 after surviving a genocide to live in Georgetown.

29. ARMENIAN YOUNG MAN KILLS HIS COMPATRIOT DURING FIGHT IN GLENDALE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Hayk Torosyan, 20, an Armenian man, was stabbed during a fight in Glendale in the night of May 17. He was taken by ambulance to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police spokesman John Balian of the Glendale Police Department said that Torosyan had been involved in an argument with his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend on May 16. Later that day, Torosyan and a friend, Brian Herbert, 38, went looking for the ex-boyfriend, Avetis Barnasyan, 23, also Armenian. The two men found Barnasyan early Saturday. Balian said Torosyan and Barnasyan fought and during the fight, Torosyan was stabbed once in the chest with a knife. Balian said the knife punctured his heart.

Police arrested Herbert and Barnasyan on suspicion of murder. Balian said the two men were released by the court on May 20, because Torosyan had initiated the fight and Barasyan was simply defending himself.

30. MAYOR OF U.S MANCHESTER TOWN PRESENTS A DECLARATION ON RECOGNITION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE [ARMENPRESS, 05/23/08]

Mayor of the town of Manchester of the U.S. New Hampshire State Frank Gint presented on May 20 a declaration on the recognition of the Armenian genocide.

An official from the American office of the ARF Armenian Cause told Armenpress that the representative of the office Aram Tchgnavorian thanked the mayor of Manchester on behalf of the Armenian community.

ARTS

31. DELEGATION OF ARMENIAN WRITERS TO TAKE PART IN A NUMBER OF EVENTS ON MAY 24-30 IN TBILISI [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

On May 24-30, a delegation of Armenian writers will leave for Georgia to take part in the events dedicated to the 110th anniversary of Varnatun founded by Hovhannes Tumanian in Tbilisi, in the annual Vardaton (rose holiday) dedicated to Sayat-Nova's memory to be held in the Saint Gevorg Armenian church, as well as in the Festival of Armenian Poetry. As Levon Ananian, the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia, said at the May 23 press conference, not only Armenian, but also Georgian intellectuals will take part in the events. The events will be held jointly with the RA Ministry of Culture and the Union of Writers of Armenia.

According to L. Ananian, like every year, this year also it is envisaged to solemnly organize the annual Vardaton dedicated to Sayat-Nova's memory. The holiday originated in 1913, when Sayat-Nova's 200th birth anniversary was marked on Hovhannes Tumanian's initiative in Tbilisi. Since that day, every year on the last Sunday of May, a festivity, Vardaton, is organized in the yard of the Saint Gevorg church, during which lovers of Sayat-Nova's songs lay red roses to the great goosan's (Armenian national poet) grave. The Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia expressed the hope that Vardaton, which has been also marked in Yerevan since 2006, will be also marked in Azerbaijan in the future.

Touching upon the Festival of Armenian Poetry to be held in Tbilisi, L. Ananian said that though the two peoples' literary ties were broken off in the 1990-s, it is two years that literary bridge has been restored. In particular, steps are undertaken in the two countries to translate creations of Armenian and Georgian writers into Armenian and Georgian, as well as various events are organized. L. Ananian also said that a launching of Modern Armenian Poetry's Anthology will take place within the framework of the festival.



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32. ARMENIA COMES 4th AT EUROVISION SONG CONTEST [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Russia won the Eurovision Song Contest for the first time having competed eleven times before. Dima Bilan scored 272 points, the third highest score in the history of the Eurovision Song Contest.

Armenia, which finished 4th, received the highest 12 points from Belgium, France, Poland, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Greece, Russia and Georgia. Armenia gave its 8, 10 and 12 points to Greece, Georgia and Russia respectively.

The final of the song contest took place on May 24 in Belgrade with the participation of 25 countries.

Next year "Eurovision 2009" song contest will be held in Moscow.

33. 6TH CULTURAL INTER-UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL OF DIASPORA STUDENTS CONDUCTED [ARMENPRESS, 05/23/08]

For already the sixth year an inter-university cultural festival of Diaspora Armenian students is being held in Yerevan. Around 30 Diaspora Armenian students from state universities and "Movses Khorenatsi" and "Urartu" private universities participated in the festival.

The organizer Norayr Andreyan who is working in the department of ties with Diaspora at the Armenian Education and Science Ministry and who is also the head of "Diaspora" pan-Armenian Students Union, said that the goal of the event is to integrate the Diaspora Armenian students into the Armenian public.

"The Diaspora Armenian students have arrived from different countries and have different way of thinking and culture. Within the framework of the event we want to unite everyone and which is most important to make closer with the compatriots living in different countries," he said.

During the festival the participants sang and danced.

34. CULTURE MINISTER OUTLINES PRIORITIES [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosian told a news conference today that the ministry has developed a plan of major events to be held both in Armenia and outside it in 2008-2012. She said the list was made to group all existing priorities and outline programs for their implementation.

She said the proportional development of the cultural field – its decentralization – will be the main priority. To this end there is a variety of different programs designed to revive cultural life outside Yerevan. In three years the ministry will conduct a monitoring to find out the extent of these programs' efficiency.

Another priority is making art and art education accessible to as many people as possible. She said the main focus in this respect will be on musical schools which need urgently new equipment and new teachers. She said 1,993 students of musical schools were assisted financially for purchase of musical instruments.

She said other programs are underway aimed at reviving and preservation of traditional arts and crafts. As an example she said a workshop operates in Kashatagh for production of souvenirs, carpets and needlework.

The third priority, according to the minister, is preservation and use of cultural heritage. She said the focus here will be on rehabilitation and restoration of cultural and historical monuments. She said in recent years monuments of Armenian culture located outside it sustained heavy damages. Now, the super task is to develop joint programs with these countries to preserve what has remained.

Enhancing modern art development is the next priority. According to the minister in this sense the country faces lack of skilled professionals and equipment.

SOCIAL

35. "TEGHUT PROTECTION GROUP" STAGES YET ANOTHER PROTEST [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Members of "Teghut Protection Group" organization staged yet another protest against the operation of Teghut mine outside the Armenian government's building on May 22. The citizens carrying placards "Put an End to the Country's Plundering", "Teghut is a Crime against Generations", "Teghut is Biggest Tailing Dump in the World" demanded that the operation of the mine be immediately stopped.



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The group member, National Assembly deputy Zaruhi Postanjian said that a week ago the indicated organization and she as an MP applied in writing to the government with the demand to stop the work on the mine's operation, to revise the government decisions on the mine's operation and to make an international expert examination of the project on operation of Teghut mine. According to her, no answer has been received so far. Besides, a number of questions have been put, in particular: "Who is behind the Liechtenstein-based organization that owns 81% shares of ACP company holding a licence for operation of Teghut mines". Z. Postanjian stated that they will take all possible steps in order to prevent the implementation of this decision of the government: they will apply to court and international environmental protection organizations.

In her words, ACP company cannot be trusted as it has not fulfilled its obligations on relaunching of Alaverdi copper foundry.

36. THIS YEAR CLASSES WILL FINISH ON MAY 24 IN ARMENIAN SCHOOLS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

Classes for all forms of Armenian comprehensive schools will finish on May 24 this year. As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by the Public Relations Department of the RA Ministry of Education and Science, on June 2-20, pupils of the 4th, 9th, and 11th forms will take exams of passing to the next form and final exams.

On June 3, pupils of the fourth form will take exams in Mother Tongue, a dictation or a test, by the option of the school administration. Exams in Mathematics will be held on June 6, the examination tasks will be made up by schools' methodical unions, by 5 variants. Marks for exams will be given by a 5-point system.

9th-form pupils of comprehensive schools will take exams in Armenian Language, Literature (exposition), Mathematics, and Foreign Languages in the written form. History of Armenia, Geography, and natural sciences subjects by pupils' option are among the oral exams. For the first time this year exams in Mathematics will be held by tests made up by the Estimation and Testing Center of the RA Ministry of Education and Science. Marks to all examination works will be given by a 5-point system. The examination in Physical Culture will be held at least 5 days before the exams in other comprehensive subjects. The dates of the first two exams are set by the Ministry of Education and Science, on June 3 and 7, and the others are set by school administrations.

The number of exams for 11th-form leavers is almost the same as the number of final exams to be taken by the 9th-form pupils. Exams in Armenian Language, Literature, Mathematics, and Foreign Languages subjects will be held by the final and united system, the same day, on June 2, 11, and 17, respectively. One of the tasks of the June 5 oral examination in History of Armenia will be written, in the form of a test. Exams in natural sciences subjects, Chemistry, Physics will be organized on June 14. Marks will be given for all exams by a 20-point system, only Physical Culture by a 5-point system.

37. BY RA GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, 90th ANNIVERSARIES OF APARAN, SARDARAPAT, AND GHARAKILISA HEROIC FIGHTS TO BE SOLEMNLY MARKED THIS YEAR [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

By the RA government's decision, the 90th anniversary of Aparan heroic fight will be officially marked on May 25, the 90th anniversary of Gharakilisa heroic fight on May 27, and the 90th anniversary of Sardarapat heroic fight on May 27-28. As Gagik Manasian, the Director of the State Philharmony of Armenia, said at the May 22 press conference, a governmental commission has been created for organization of events dedicated to the May heroic fights. According to him, all year long, in total, more than 100 regional and republican events dedicated to the heroic fights' anniversaries will be organized, but the main events will be held on May 25-28.

According to G. Manasian, "among May heroic fights, Avarayr battle was the only one in the Armenian people's history when we did not have a danger of losing our homeland, while Sardarapat battle was the only one, with the defeat of which we would be deprived of our homeland, our land, our native country for ever." "May is a month of victories, and with May heroic fights we showed that Armenians win when force and spirit are joined. The idea of unity of Armenian people's force and spirit is also the basis of the events," G. Manasian said.

Tigran Petrosiants, a member of the Board of the Nig Aparan compatriotic union, said that a number of events will be organized on the union's initiative, as well. The monuments of distinguished participants of Aparan heroic fight are envisaged to be placed in Aparan central square. Monuments to Sedrak Jalalian and Drastamat Kanayan are ready at present. Their opening will take place on May 25.



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38. EDITOR OF "ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARMENIA" HOPES THAT NEW GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST WITH CREATION OF GREAT NATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The first volume of the first book of the Great School Encyclopedia was recently released. The editor-in-chief of the publishing house "Encyclopedia of Armenia" Hovhannes Aivazian told reporters on May 23 that the encyclopedia for schoolchildren is illustrated with colored pictures and aims to widen their outlook. The school encyclopedia will consist of several books, each of which will have 4 volumes. The second volume of the first book will be printed in the autumn.

The indicated encyclopedia is the second one published since Armenia's independence - after "Voskeporik" which came out in 1993. In the opinion of H. Aivazian, any encyclopedia should be renewed every 10-15 years. For example, the Great Soviet Encyclopedia was renewed 3 times over the 50 years of the existence of the USSR. "We should have a will-power and resources to create a new national encyclopedia. Let's hope that the new government will assist with its creation," he said.

According to the head of the literary publishing agency of the RA ministry of culture Edward Militonian, the state allocated 20 million drams for the first volume of the first book of the Great School Encyclopedia. The volume will cost 8,000-8,500 drams in bookstores. E. Militonian said he will request the price formation commission of the ministry that the volume's price be lower than its cost price.

39. PRESIDENT SERZH SARKISSIAN CONGRATULATES GRADUATES OF HIGH SCHOOLS [ARMENPRESS, 05/24/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sarkissian addressed a congratulatory message to the graduates of the Armenian schools. Presidential press service told Armenpress that his message particularly says.

"Dear Graduates:

The last bell is a momentous event since its jingle announces a new beginning in every person's life.

Today, graduating from the school you step at the threshold of a vital decision making. Many of you have already decided what you want to do next; the others have yet to determine in which area they would demonstrate their abilities and fulfill desires best.

You are destined to make new discoveries and record new achievements. It is very important that you find your place in our country, which is your contemporary, and become high class professionals, and worthy citizens of the Republic of Armenia. Our Motherland needs that kind of people.

I am confident that on this festive day you will address your words of gratitude to your teachers who opened for you the world of knowledge, assisted you in shaping your identity and inspired confidence. The school years gave you real friends, taught you to be patriotic and humane. I hope that these values will become the first signs of your maturity.

Dear Graduates:

I once again cordially congratulate you, as well as the parents and teachers and wish you all happiness and all the best. Let success accompany all your undertakings."

40. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS CONGRATULATES GRADUATES OF SCHOOLS [ARMENPRESS, 05/24/08]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II congratulated the graduates of the Armenian schools.

Press service of the Holy See told Armenpress that in his message the Catholicos particularly said, "From the Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin we send our love and blessing to you, dear graduates, on the occasion of ending the school period.

During the study years you received knowledge from your devoted teachers stepping on the path of wisdom. Today you are going to enter new period of life and hopes of your parents, our people and homeland are tied with you."

In his message the Catholicos wished the graduates new achievements, happiness and success.

41. 142 SCHOOL GRADUATES CLAIM TO GOLD MEDALS [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Some 142 school graduates this year claim to 'gold medal', a distinction of finishing school with honors. The press division of the Education and Science Ministry told Armenpress that there are 34 such graduates in Yerevan, who are from a special school with a focus on physics and mathematics, from Anania Shirakatsi, Kvant state-run and Mesrop Mashtots private schools.



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The southern province of Syunik has 32 such graduates, Kotayk 18, Tavush and Shirak 13 each, Gegharkunik and Lori 11 and 10 respectively, Armavir, Ararat and Vayots Dzor 2 each and Aragatsotn 5.

To win gold medals applicants will have to take two exams—one in Armenian language and literature and the second in mathematics. They can do it by participating in either so called state graduation or unified examinations. The Armenian language and literature examination is set for June 2 and the mathematics examination is for June 11. Those who will get excellent marks in both will get gold medals.

42. CENTER FOR ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH EVENTS TO HOLD YOUTH CONFERENCE [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

The Center for Organization of Youth Events of the Sport and Youth Affairs Ministry said it has received funding from the ministry for organization of a youth conference entitled "Youth, Reality and Prospects", scheduled for June 25-27 in Yerevan. It said the conference will be held in the government's Conventions Hall.

A representative from the Center told Armenpress, the goal of the conference is to raise awareness of the youth public field, to encourage cooperation between youth non-governmental organizations, government agencies and international organizations, to raise all urgent issues which are a concern for young people and discuss ways for their solution.

The conference will have two parts, one will be for topical discussions and the second for a fair on exchange of opinions and ideas. Topical discussions will be moderated by experts and representatives of state agencies.

The conference will bring together non-governmental youth organizations from Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Javakheti province of Georgia, as well as representatives of international organizations.

The fair will give these organizations an opportunity to show what they have done and show their priorities and prospects. The participants will be provided with pavilions to display printing materials about their activities. A competition will be organized to choose three youth-related projects for further funding.

43. STUDENTS MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO VAYOTS DZOR [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

The Youth Center of the Armenian Apostolic Church organized a youth pilgrimage on May 23 to Saint Gayane Church in the resort town of Jermuk and Gndevank monastery. The pilgrimage was headed by Father Suren Gevorkian. About 30 young people from 5 universities participated in it.

The information department of the Mother See Holy Etchmiadzin told Armenpress that the pilgrimage commenced from Saint Gregory the Illuminator Church in Yerevan. The young pilgrims first visited the Saint Gayane Church in Jermuk where they offered a common prayer and then they headed for the 10-th century Gndevank monastery where father Gevorkian spoke about its history and the significance of prayers in a Christian's life.

Then the pilgrims headed for Gitelik University of Vayots Dzor province where they were welcomed by Bishop Abraham Mkrtychian, head of the Syunik Diocese. The pilgrims met and communicated also with the students of the University emphasizing the importance of such meetings.

SPORTS

44. FOUR ARMENIAN GRECO-ROMAN STYLE WRESTLERS TO TAKE PART IN LAST OLYMPIC RATING TOURNAMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The last Greco-Roman Wrestling Rating Tournament will start in the city of Novi Sad of Serbia on May 23. Karen Mnatsakanian (60kg), Arsen Julfalakian (74kg), Denis Forov (84 kg) and Arman Geghamian (96 kg) from Armenia will struggle for the Beijing Olympic passes. Those, who take the first three places in the tournament will be awarded with participation passes for the Beijing-2008.

45. ELITE STAGE GROUP TOURNAMENT OF EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP UNDER 19 STARTS IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/24/08]

The elite stage seventh group tournament of the European Football Championship under 19 started in the Abovian city and Yerevan Mika club sports grounds on May 22. The national team of



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Armenia competed with the football players of Turkey in Abovian and was defeated with the score of 1:2. The 1:3 score was registered in the Ukraine - Spain game, which was held in the sports ground of Mika.

46. DAVID NALBANDIAN ELIMINATES FIRST ROUND RIVAL [ARMENPRESS, 05/26/08]

Argentinean Armenian tennis player David Nalbandian eliminated his country fellow Karlos Berloki in the first round of the French Open (Rolland Garros) tournament 6-2, 6-4, 6-1.

It took David Nalbandian 113 minutes to upset his rival. In the second round he is to play against Jeremy Chardin of France.

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Established in 1906, AGBU (www.agbu.org) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.