



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, August 15, 2008

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. LPA LEADER CALLS FOR EARLY PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN ARMENIA [Aravot, 08/13/08]

The only way out of the current internal political crisis in Armenia is to hold early parliamentary and presidential elections, leader of the newly-created Liberal Party of Armenia (LPA) Hovhannes Hovhannisian stated at the August 13 press conference.

He expressed confidence that the country's authorities headed by Serzh Sargsyan will manifest a political will in solution of internal political problems and will eventually agree to hold early elections: "Otherwise, it will turn out that they think more about extension of the period of their power rather than about the people and the future of the country."

In the opinion of H. Hovhannisian, September will be quite an active month from the political point of view. By his forecasts, it is expected that the opposition forces will become even more active and the outside pressure on the Armenian authorities will grow.

H. Hovhannisian said that the LPA, which has already joined the Armenian National Congress, will - after its registration - become a full and equal member of this big political union.

The LPA leader leveled heavy criticism at the Armenian authorities for the absence of any position on the issue of strained Russian-Georgian relations. In his words, in the current strained situation, Armenia should have offered its services of a mediator in the normalization of relations between its strategic partner Russia and the neighboring Georgia.

2. KARABAKH FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES TO RELATIVES OF PEOPLE WHO DIED IN SOUTH OSSETIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/14/08]

Nagorno Karabakh Foreign Ministry made today a statement expressing its condolences to the relatives and friends of the innocent peaceful people who became the victims of the tragic events in South Ossetia.

"People of Karabakh who felt the pain and bitterness of ethnic cleansing and war on their own skin understand the tragedy of the people who felt that awe. We strictly condemn any use of force in the solution of the conflicts and call on the sides to solve the disputes in peaceful and political way.

We grieve the death of the innocent people and wish strength to their relatives and friends to overcome the tragedy," the statement said.

3. ARMENIAN PARLIAMENT TO CALL AN URGENT SESSION AUGUST 19 [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

Armenian Parliament Speaker Tigran Torosian signed a decree on calling an urgent session of parliament on August 19 at 12.00 p.m. with the initiative of the government, parliament public relations department official told Armenpress.

4. ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENTS HAVE A PHONE CONVERSATION [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

A phone conversation took place yesterday between Armenian President Serzh Sargsian and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Presidential press service told Armenpress that Armenian president on his behalf and on behalf of the Armenian people expressed his condolences to Dmitry Medvedev on the death of innocent people who became the victims of the tragic happenings in the South Ossetia, among which are Russian citizens and peacekeepers.

During the conversation Dmitry Medvedev informed Serzh Sargsian about the pace of negotiations directed towards the solution of the created situation.

The presidents of the two countries agreed in case of necessity to conduct additional consultations over the further developments.



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5. TWO "RPA" CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR SEPTEMBER 7 ELECTIONS OF EREBUNI DISTRICT HEAD [Aravot, 08/14/08]

By the established deadline: 6 pm. August 13th, 2 candidates were nominated for elections of the head of Yerevan's Erebuni community to be held on September 7. 20 candidates were nominated for elections of a 15-seat council of aldermen. NT was informed by spokesperson for the RA Central Electoral Commission Tatev Ohanian that the current head of the community Mher Sedrakian and Armen Harutyunian (both are members of the Republican Party of Armenia - RPA) submitted bids by the self-nomination order for running in the elections of the community head.

The deadline for registering the candidates is 6 pm, August 18th.

6. TWO CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR SEPTEMBER 7 ELECTIONS OF NUBARASHEN DISTRICT HEAD [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/14/08]

By the established deadline: 6 pm August 13th, two candidates were nominated for elections of the head of Yerevan's Nubarashen community to be held on September 7. 14 candidates were nominated for elections of a 11-seat council of aldermen in this community. NT was informed by spokesperson for the RA Central Electoral Commission Tatev Ohanian that the current head of the district, member of "Prosperous Armenia" party Mher Hovhannisian and member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Garik Hovsepian submitted bids by the self-nomination order for running in the elections of the district head.

The deadline for registering the candidates is August 18th, 6 pm.

7. FOUR CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR SEPTEMBER 7 ELECTIONS OF KANAKER-ZEYTUN DISTRICT HEAD [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/14/08]

By the established deadline: 6 pm August 13th, 4 candidates were nominated to run in the elections of the head of Yerevan's Kanaker-Zeytun district to be held on September 7. 67 candidates were nominated for the elections of a 15-seat council of aldermen in this district. NT was informed by spokesperson for the RA Central Electoral Commission Tatev Ohanian that the following persons: the current head of the district, member of the Republican Party of Armenia Arayik Kotanjian, non-party men Melsik Grigorian and Varuzhan Mkrtchian, and the son of the founding chairman of "Democratic Way" party Manuk Gasparian, member of the same party Manuel Gasparian submitted bids by the self-nomination order for running in the elections of the district head.

The deadline for registering the candidates is August 18th, 6 pm.

8. FOUR CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR SEPTEMBER 7 ELECTIONS OF ARABKIR DISTRICT HEAD [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

By the established deadline: 6 pm August 13th, 4 candidates were nominated to run in the elections of the head of Yerevan's Arabkir community to be held on September 7. 65 candidates were nominated for elections of a 15-seat council of aldermen in this community. NT correspondent was informed by spokesperson for the RA Central Electoral Commission Tatev Ohanian that the following persons: the current head of the district, member of the Republican Party of Armenia Hovhannes Shirinian, the owner of Yeritsian & Sons company, non-party man Albert Yeritsian, member of "Heritage" party, former member of the Central Electoral Commission Zoya Tadevosian, and representative of the Progressive Party of Armenia Ashot Mnatsakanian submitted bids by the self-nomination order for running in the elections of the district head.

The deadline for registering the candidates is August 18th, 6 pm.

9. SERZH SARGSYAN EXPRESSES CONDOLENCE TO RUSSIAN PRESIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH TRAGIC EVENTS IN SOUTH OSSETIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/14/08]

During his phone conversation with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on August 13, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on behalf of the Armenian people and himself expressed condolence in connection with numerous deaths of civilians, including Russian citizens, and Russian peacekeepers as a result of the recent tragic events in South Ossetia.

During the conversation, D. Medvedev informed S. Sargsyan about the process of negotiations aimed at finding a way out of the current situation.



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According to the RA president's press service, the presidents of the two countries agreed to hold, in case of necessity, additional consultations on further developments.

10. GRISHA VIRABIAN GIVES UP STRUGGLE FOR VACANT MANDATE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

Non-party man, unemployed Grisha Virabian - one of the two candidates to run in a by-election of a National Assembly deputy by the majoritarian electoral system at electoral district No 17 in Ararat marz on August 24, announced his decision to withdraw his candidacy in by the envisaged deadline, NT correspondent was informed by the chairman of the district electoral commission Armen Margarian. Thus, the only remaining candidate who will run for the vacant mandate of NA deputy is the chief of the RA presidential staff, member of the board of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Hovik Abrahamian. He was nominated by a decision of the RPA board. The four parties forming the coalition: RPA, ARF, "Orinats Yerkir" and "Prosperous Armenia" on August 1 issued a joint statement about their endorsing H. Abrahamian's candidacy.

Electoral district No 17 includes the city of Artashat and 24 adjacent rural settlements of Ararat marz.

11. ANC DEVELOPS MODEL OF "SHADOW GOVERNMENT" [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

The Armenian National Congress (ANC), whose short-term goal is resignation of president Serzh Sargsyan, also has a long-term goal: to create a union that will undertake the function of governance in the country. ANC today is already developing a model of "shadow government", coordinator of the ANC Center Levon Zurabian stated at the August 14 press conference.

He appealed to Armenian citizens to join ANC and announced that individual admission of citizens to ANC starts on August 18. As regards political forces, L. Zurabian said that the ANC consisting of 16 parties is open to other parties for joining it.

Speaking about the next steps of the opposition, L. Zurabian said that in the future too ANC will exercise its constitutional right to apply to the mayor's office for notification about holding a meeting. In his words, ANC is more interested in holding sanctioned meetings that "pass in a less strained atmosphere".

According to L. Zurabian, ANC tries to prove to PACE and other international organizations that the amendments made in the law on meetings are in essence false and the authorities continue to prevent the opposition from holding its meetings.

As for the position of outside forces on the internal political situation in Armenia, the ANC Center coordinator said that the visits of ANC representatives to various countries and the response of the press of these countries bear evidence of the fact that the opposition movement in Armenia has received international recognition.

12. ANC URGES ARMENIAN AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ACTIVE POSITION ON SITUATION IN GEORGIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

The Armenian National Congress (ANC) is concerned about the situation in neighboring Georgia and the possible undesirable political, social and humanitarian consequences (for Armenia) of the current developments in the region, coordinator of the ANC Center Levon Zurabian stated at the August 14 press conference.

During the press conference, a statement of ANC was read, in which the Congress expresses its perplexity at the passive position of Armenian authorities on the issue of the strained situation in Georgia. The statement contains a call for the de facto Armenian authorities to take a number of active steps, in particular, to express officially condolence to all the conflict sides on their casualties, announce a willingness to provide humanitarian aid to those who suffered as a result of military operations, to organize visits of representatives of the respective Armenian departments to Moscow and Tbilisi with the aim of ensuring regular supply of Armenia, etc.

As for the statement of deputy chairman of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Galust Sahakian that in case of an attack on Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan would have interrupted his vacation in Olympic Beijing, L. Zurabian said: "I am glad that at least in case of an attack on Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan would return to the country".



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13. ARMENIAN SIDE HANDS AZERI CITIZEN OVER TO AZERBAIJAN [Haykakan Zhamanak, 08/14/08]

The Armenian side handed Azeri citizen Arzu Noradin-ogli Eyubov over to representatives of Azerbaijan at the Kayanavan-Kazakh section of the Armenian-Azeri border at 2:40 pm on August 14, NT was informed by the press service of the RA ministry of defence.

14. SLAUGHTER OF CIVILIANS WAS COMMITTED IN SOUTH OSSETIA, GALUST SAHAKIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

Armenia's policy in the South Caucasus has not changed and the country remains faithful to peaceful solution of problems, deputy chairman of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Galust Sahakian said at the August 14 press conference. He avoided accusing some or other person of what happened in South Ossetia. In his words, he who instigated these actions is to blame. He expressed an opinion that a slaughter of civilians was committed in South Ossetia.

G. Sahakian called on Armenia's political forces and in general everyone in the country to make reserved judgements, including on the behavior of the Armenian authorities.

G. Sahakian has come to the conclusion that the CIS will strengthen in the near future. He said that if the CIS structures had been strong, the situation would not have become so strained. He expressed confidence that the Georgian-Ossetian process will have no relation to the Karabakh problem.

15. CRIMINAL CASE OF MUSHEGH SAGHATELIAN SENT TO COURT [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

The investigation into the case of Mushegh Saghatelian - within the framework of the criminal case on the March 1-2 events under investigation of the RA Special Investigation Service - has been completed. The criminal case of M. Saghatelian was sent to court.

Based on the evidence obtained by investigators, M. Saghatelian was charged under Article 316 parts 1 and 2 of the RA Criminal Code for committing violence (dangerous to life and health) against the commander of the 2nd platoon of the 8th company of the State Defence Service police regiment A. Arshakian and committing violence (not dangerous to life and health) against policeman of the same regiment's 3rd company A. Arushanian when the above mentioned policemen were performing their official duties. He was also charged under Article 235 part 4 for illegal keeping of cold steel weapons.

The case was sent to the Yerevan Criminal Court.

According to the press service of the RA Prosecutor General's Office, as of August 14, 12 accused persons are under preliminary arrest. Precautionary measures other than arrest were chosen with respect to another 9 accused persons.

84 criminal cases on 97 persons were sent to court: the examination of 67 cases on 77 persons was completed. The examination of the remaining cases is underway.

Out of the indicated 77 persons, 5 were acquitted, the case on one person was quashed - due to reconciliation with the accused person by the order envisaged by Article 183 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code, fines were imposed on 5 persons, 33 were sentenced to imprisonment, another 33 persons received suspended sentences and were put on probation.

16. AZERBAIJANI CIVILIAN REPATRIATED UNDER ICRC AUSPICES [Iravounk, 08/15/08]

An Azerbaijani civilian internee previously detained in Yerevan, Armenia, has been repatriated under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The operation took place on 14 August on the road between the Armenian town of Ijevan and the Azerbaijani town of Gazakh, at the international border.

An official from the ICRC told Armenpress that delegates of the committee had visited the civilian internee on several occasions prior to his repatriation in order to assess his treatment and conditions of detention.

Acting as a neutral intermediary and in accordance with its mandate, the ICRC facilitated the civilian's repatriation at the request of both the Armenian and the Azerbaijani authorities. Before the operation took place, the detainee had confirmed to ICRC delegates that he was returning of his own free will.



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17. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA SAYS USE OF FORCE IN REGULATION OF ALL CONFLICTS MUST BE EXCLUDED [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

The use of force in the solution of all the conflicts must be excluded, they must be solved only around the table of negotiations, including the Karabakh conflict regulation issue, Russian ambassador to Armenia Nikolay Pavlov said today at a press conference in the Russian embassy in Armenia. He did not want to comment on the statement of the Azerbaijani side which says that the step of Georgia shows that Azerbaijan also can restore its territorial integrity through force. "I do not want to comment on such statements," Pavlov said.

According to him, the best way of the Karabakh conflict regulation is the negotiation process conducted with the frameworks of the OSCE Minsk Group. "It is important that the negotiations between the two countries continue – presidents, foreign ministers meet with each other. It gives hope that the Karabakh issue will be solved in a peaceful way. The latest Georgian-Ossetian developments may be a good lesson for all the countries who want to solve issues using force," the ambassador said.

18. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO GEORGIAN PRESIDENT MIKHAIL SAAKASHVILI [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsian sent today a message of condolences to Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili. Presidential press service told Armenpress that the message particularly says, "On behalf of Armenian people and myself I express our true deep condolences on the death of many people caused during the recent happenings in Georgia. Please convey our true sympathy and support to the relatives and friends of the victims.

We want to see peace and restoration of stability in our neighbor Georgia which is an important element of regional security.

Armenia is ready to provide necessary humanitarian assistance and solve the issues which may occur."

19. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT CALLS SESSION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsian called today a session of the National Security Council to discuss the situation created recently in the region. Presidential press service told Armenpress that Secretary of the Council Arthur Baghdasarian and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian delivered reports.

Armenian president expressed his concern towards the created situation and greeted the existing constructive positions which are directed towards the establishment of peace and stability in the region.

It was noted that the attempts of military solutions of the existing issues will always have tragic consequences. The president once again pointed out that Russian Federation is Armenia's strategic ally and Georgia – a friend country, thus Armenia is interested in quick regulation of the issue.

Serzh Sargsian reconfirmed Armenia's readiness to be a "humanitarian corridor" and pointed out that our country on its own is ready to provide humanitarian assistance to the sides.

At the session the participants also discussed the issues which appeared for our country in the created situation. The president was also reported about the activities which were carried out by now.

Stemming from the created situation the president assigned to let transit move of the citizens of the EU member countries without entrance visas.

BUSINESS

20. ACCORDING TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF "STAR", LEGISLATION IMPEDES WORK OF SUPERMARKETS [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/13/08]

The tax legislation of Armenia does not respond to the challenges faced by retail trade in recent years - to the introduction of information technologies and the best IT equipment, as a result of which the work of self-service supermarkets becomes either extremely difficult or impossible. Vahan Kerobian, executive director of Star company owning "Star" network of supermarkets, stated this at the August 12 press conference. In his words, his statement was prompted by the fact that in accordance with the Law on Suspension of Operation of Cash Register Users, the work of several shops in Yerevan was suspended for 5 days recently by the State Tax Service (STS).



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Welcoming the government program on most transparent and open reforms in the economy, "Star" at the same time urges to cooperate with businessmen with the aim of improving the legislative field. V. Kerobian said that the government and the STS view tax reforms only from the punitive point of view which rules out the tendency to cooperate with business circles and perceive their needs and proposals.

In particular, it was proposed legalizing the technological solutions used at "Star" supermarkets. According to V. Kerobian, it will facilitate administration by STS. He expressed confidence that the solutions proposed by the RA ministry of trade and economic development concerning the use of cash registers cannot be applied in Armenia. 100 types of cash registers envisaged for small shops are allowed for use in Armenia. "We propose also legalizing cash registers intended for use in supermarkets," V. Kerobian said, adding that this proposal has received no response.

Besides, it was proposed to give some time to ensure "Armenization" of checks of the cash registers used in supermarkets so that the requirements of the RA Law on Language will be fulfilled. There was no response to this proposal either.

By forecasts of V. Kerobian, the share of supermarkets in retail trade will continue to grow and their operation will extend beyond Yerevan. According to him, 5-7% of food retail trade in Armenia is conducted at supermarkets, while half of supermarket trade is conducted at "Star" supermarkets. "Star" supermarket network employs 1,400 people. The average daily amount of sales per an employee of the network makes 55-60 thousand drams (\$183-200) exceeding several fold the same index of shops and fairs.

21. CBA PUTS INTO CIRCULATION GOLD COMMEMORATIVE COIN DEDICATED TO 10th ANNIVERSARY OF RA CASSATION COURT [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/13/08]

The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) has put into circulation a gold commemorative coin dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Cassation Court of the Republic of Armenia.

According to the CBA PR Service, the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia is depicted on the obverse of the coin. Below the coat of arms, the nominal value is inscribed in two lines: "10000" and "DRAMS". All this is surrounded by a striped circle. There is an inscription "REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA 2008" between the circle and the coin's edge.

A statue of the goddess of justice is depicted in the middle of the reverse, below which there is an inscription in two lines: "10th" and "ANNIVERSARY". The picture and the inscription are separated on their outer sides by perpendicular lines from the two other sections of the reverse. In the right section, "CASSATION" is inscribed in a semicircle, while in the left side, "COURT" is inscribed in a semicircle.

The designer of the commemorative coin is Edward Kurghinian. The coin was minted at the Mint of the Czech Republic. Its nominal value is 10,000 drams, it is made of gold (900 hallmark), its weight is 8.6 grams, diameter - 22 mm, the number of minted coins is 500.

22. "LOGOS EXPO" CENTER TO CONDUCT INTERNATIONAL AND SPECIALIZED EXHIBITIONS IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

"LOGOS-EXPO" center is going to carry out a number of exhibitions October 14-17 in Armenia. Press service of the center told Armenpress that there will be international and specialized exhibitions such as – "BUILD EXPO-2008", "AUTOSHOW EXPO-2008", "Polygraph, Publication, Advertisement EXPO-2008", "Industrial Armenia EXPO-2008", "EXPO FOOD & DRINKS-2008", "COMP-EXPO-2008", "Furniture Saloon EXPO-2008".

The thematic departments of the "Industrial Armenia EXPO-2008" will be heavy, light mining industry, chemistry, electrical technology, stone processing, machine-building, jewelry production etc. The main goal of the exhibitions is to find new partners, markets, attract the attention of foreign investors towards Armenia's economy, present the country's economic potential.

The main thematic departments of the "COMP-EXPO-2007" will be software, local and global networks' projecting, internet provider, means of communication, banking devices and technology.

In "EXPO FOOD & DRINKS-2008" dairy produce, meat, non-alcoholic and alcoholic drinks, cigarettes, candies, ice-cream and other goods will be presented. During the "Furniture Saloon EXPO-2008" furniture for kitchens, bedrooms, offices, restaurants, children rooms will be displayed.

"LOGOS EXPO" center is planning also to conduct "Education and Career EXPO-2008" ninth international specialized exhibition, the main thematic departments of which will be education in average and higher educational establishments, the role of international organizations in the education sphere.



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December 10-12 it is expected to organize "EXPO Beauty-2008" 5th international specialized exhibition during which different cosmetics, jewelry, wedding means, shoes and clothes will be displayed.

23. GOVERNMENT TO 'LIBERALIZE' THE PROCESS OF GRANTING AUDITING LICENSES [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

The government of Armenia decided today to 'liberalize' the process of granting licenses to companies wishing to implement auditing activities by approving two relevant draft decisions.

The Finance Minister Tigran Davtian told journalists after the regular government session that now the license is provided by the Finance Ministry. He said after the decisions become effective the right to carry out auditing activity will be extended to professional firms and non-governmental organizations, which he will have to go through a procedure to meet the government-set requirements.

He said the decisions will also recognize the validity of auditing certificates issued by international auditing firms. He said as a result the number of companies offering this kind of services will grow in Armenia.

24. CBA PUTS INTO CIRCULATION GOLD COMMEMORATIVE COIN "CENTENNIAL OF WILLIAM SAROYAN" [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) has put into circulation a gold commemorative coin on the occasion of the centennial of William Saroyan.

According to the CBA PR Service, the obverse design features mountains and the sun. Below these images, the coin's nominal value is inscribed in two lines: "10000" and "DRAMS". There is an inscription "My Heart's In the Highlands" above the images. All this is encircled. An inscription "Central Bank of Armenia 2008" appears along the edge.

The background of the reverse is formed by an inscription "William 1908 1981 Saroyan" in the form of repeating horizontal lines. There is an image of William Saroyan against this background. The designer is Edward Kurghinian. The coin was minted at the Mint of the Czech Republic.

The nominal value of the coin is 10,000 drams, it is made of gold (900 hallmark), its weight is 8.6 drams, diameter is 22 mm, the number of issued coins is 1,000.

25. CBA ISSUES SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COIN DEDICATED TO 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDATION OF SPENDIARIAN STATE ACADEMIC THEATRE OF OPERA AND BALLET [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) has issued a silver commemorative coin dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Alexander Spendiarian State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet.

According to the CBA PR Service, the obverse features an image of Monument to A. Spendiarian against the background of Spendiarian State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet. The nominal value "1000 DRAMS" is inscribed in embossed letters on the monument. All this is encircled. "Central Bank of Armenia 2008" is engraved between the circle and the edge.

Two ballet dancers are depicted on the upper right of the reverse. Various musical instruments are depicted on the remaining part of the reverse. The lower left part has an inscription in two lines: "75" and "Anniversary".

There is an inscription "Spendiarian Opera and Ballet Theatre" in a circle at the edge.

The designers are Harutyun Samuelian (obverse) and Edward Kurghinian (reverse). The coin was minted at the Mint of the Czech Republic.

Its nominal value is 1,000 drams, it is made of silver (925 hallmark), its weight is 33.6 grams, diameter - 40 mm. The number of issued coins is 500.



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DIASPORA

26. 12 ARMENIAN POLICEMEN OF JAVAKHK GO TO SOUTH OSSETIAN CONFLICT ZONE [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/13/08]

The situation in Georgia's Samtskhe-Javakhk region populated by Armenians is calm but the local Armenians are storing up food. A-Info news agency reported that in connection with military hostilities in South Ossetia, the young men subject to call-up have been forbidden to leave Georgia.

By unofficial information of A-Info, so far 12 Armenian policemen from Akhalkalak and Ninotsminda regions have gone to the war zone, and almost all the policemen of Aspindza and Akhaltskha regions have been moved to Tbilisi.

There is a panic among Turkish experts and builders of Kars-Akhalkalak railway. Early on August 10 they took their equipment and left the region for Turkey.

Members of a special detachment keep control of Tsalka-Borzhomei section of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline.

27. HRANUSH HAKOBIAN MEETS WITH PARTICIPANTS OF 6th All-ARMENIAN YOUTH CONGRESS [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/13/08]

The chairwoman of the State Committee for Relations with the Diaspora of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hranush Hakobian on August 9 met with young Diasporan Armenians participating in the 6th All-Armenian Youth Congress.

During the meeting she spoke about the problems of the Armenian youth, underlining the importance of the role of young people in promotion of relations between Armenia and the Diaspora. She presented the activities of the Committee for the Diaspora and the youth programs to be implemented. H. Hakobian said that the primary task of the Ministry of the Diaspora to be created in October within the framework of youth programs is to bring every Armenian under 30 to Armenia at least once.

At the conclusion of the meeting, H. Hakobian answered questions of young Diasporan Armenians.

28. FOOTBALL MATCHES IN MEMORY OF "THE LISBON 5" HELD IN NOR JUGHA [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/13/08]

The opening ceremony of football matches in memory of the Lisbon 5 took place in Nor Jugha on July 27. Tehran's Aliq daily reported that the matches were held under the patronage of Central Board of Nor Jugha's "Ararat" Armenian Cultural Union. The opening ceremony was attended by primate of Isfahan diocese Bishop Babken Charian, representatives of the Diocesan, Religious Councils and other national bodies, as well as by hundreds of Armenians.

The opening ceremony started by the entry of a group bearing the pictures of 5 fighters of the Armenian Revolutionary Army: Vatche Daghljan, Ara Kuhrjulian, Sargis Aprahamian, Simon Yahniyan and Setrag Ajemian.

The matches were held for six days, with "Aghtamar" and "Bruntsk" groups reaching the semifinals. The final match ended in a 3-0 score: "Aghtamar" won.

29. LITURGY TO BE CELEBRATED ON OCCASION OF THE ASSUMPTION IN SURB SARGIS CHURCH OF DAMASCUS ON AUGUST 17 [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/13/08]

A Holy Liturgy will be celebrated and the head of the Armenian diocese of Damascus Bishop Armash Nalbandian will preach a sermon in Surb Sargis Church of Damascus on August 17 on the occasion of the Assumption. At the conclusion of the liturgy, a ritual Blessing of the Grapes ceremony will be held.

According to the rules of the Armenian Church, no requiem service is conducted on the day of the Assumption. A service for the repose of the dead will be conducted at the National cemetery with the participation of priests on August 18.



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30. FOOTBALL MATCHES IN MEMORY OF "THE LISBON 5" HELD IN NOR JUGHA [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

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31. DIOCESE OF ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND CELEBRATE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF FORMATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/14/08]

On August 2 in Sydney "1968: A Year of Significance" celebration was held devoted to the 40th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand and the ordaining of the future Primate.

After the formation of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand on January 15, 1968, the future Primate of the Diocese was ordained a celibate priest in Jerusalem on 28 July of the same year.

Among the list of distinguished guests were clergy, local government and community representatives. The occasion also welcomed guests from the Armenian Church of Kolkata, India, Father Oshagan Gulgulian and Wardens Mrs Susan Reuben and Mrs Sunil Sobti with their spouses.

32. ARMENIAN HUMANITARIAN COLLEGE OF CALCUTTA MARKED THE 61-ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

The Armenian Humanitarian College of Calcutta, India, marked the 61-st anniversary of India's independence. A press release by the College said after the opening speech of the College's inspector, the students staged a small performance made up of recitals and speeches.

The College's wall paper was also presented. It was followed by handing certificates to winners of previous quizzes.

SOCIAL

33. OTHER 1,520 ARMENIAN CITIZENS RETURN BACK FROM GEORGIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 08/14/08]

From 10.00 p.m. August 12 to 15.00 p.m. August 13 around 1,520 Armenian citizens arrived back in Armenia from Georgia.

Armenian Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that in the mentioned period of time around 695 foreigners entered Armenia from Georgia.

The ministry also informs that no Armenian citizen suffered during the happenings in Georgia as of 15.00 p.m. August 13.

34. ARMENIAN EYECARE DOCTORS VISIT SYUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

A team of eye doctors from Yerevan are visiting the southern province of Syunik to offer free services to local population as part of Armenian EyeCare Project sponsored by US-based Armenian doctors and benefactors.

The mobile clinic furnished with modern equipment allows doctors to perform free operations on eyes for eligible groups of population such as disabled persons, veterans, insecure families and families of servicemen having their mandatory army service.

The project was started five years ago for the province. Tsokhik Shakunts, a local eye doctor, told Armenpress that more local people apply to the project's doctors and the majority is diagnosed with cataract.



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This time the team will work in Kapan until August 16 and then they will move to Goris and Sisian towns of the province. They will also visit some rural communities.

35. YOUTH CONGRESS OPENS AT SAINT VIRGIN MONASTERY OF GREAT HOUSE OF CILICIA [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

A youth congress opened today at Saint Virgin monastery in Antelias, Lebanon, the seat of the Armenian Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, Aram I. The congress is sponsored by Aram I. He also chairs the gathering.

The youth division of the Cilicia Great House has helped to organize the gathering, entitled Armenian Youth in the Face of 21st Century's Challenges. It has brought together 110 young Armenians from different countries.

The press division of the Cilicia Catholicosate said a special commission has selected a restricted number of young people so that the gathering does not develop into a tourist adventure.

The participants will discuss a wide scale of issues on the concerns of young Diaspora Armenians. A special resolution will be adopted with priorities that will be submitted to Catholicos Aram I for his consideration in his future plans.

36. GOVERNMENT TO SET UP TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS RISING LAKE SEVAN ISSUE [Iravounk, 08/14/08]

Deputy nature protection minister Simon Papian told journalists after the government session today that the government's goal is to raise the level of Lake Sevan to 1,903.5 meters above sea level. He reminded that the decision to that end was approved in 1998.

He said the efforts will continue to reach that objective as prescribed by the law. But he added that the rising level has brought about some problems and some facilities erected on the shores will have to be replaced not to go under water.

He said the government has decided to create a task force to address this issue. The task force will be led by prime minister.

37. FREE ENTRANCE REGIME TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR CITIZENS OF TURKEY FROM SEPTEMBER 1-6 [Aravot, 08/15/08]

Armenian government decided at its today's session to establish free entrance regime for citizens of Turkey during September 1-6. The chief of the Armenian police Alik Sargsian said that the decision is connected with the necessity of creating an opportunity for Turkish football team's fans to be present at the Armenia-Turkey football game which will take place on September 6 in Yerevan.

As far as there is no Armenian embassy in Turkey, its citizens cannot get entrance visa there and have to get it in the Armenian state border check-point but as far as a large number of citizens of Turkey are expected to arrive in Armenia, the granting of visas will be a long process which will create a number of difficulties. Taking it into consideration it was decided to give the Turkish citizens an opportunity to enter Armenia from September 1-6, 2008 without having entrance visas.

38. GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE MILLIONS OF DRAMS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES IN VAYOTS DZOR PROVINCE [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

Deputy territorial minister Vache Terterian said Thursday the government will allocate millions of Drams from its reserve fund for implementation of several projects in Vayots Dzor province.

He said 75 million Drams will be allocated for construction of the 6-km long drinking water pipeline for the village of Arin.

It will also release 71 million Drams for repair of the drinking water network of the village of Rind and 4 million Drams for development of additional research and design documents for construction of a drinking water pipeline for the village of Getikvank-Yeghegnadzor.

According to Vache Terterian, accomplishment of semi-finished drinking water Getikvank-Yeghegnadzor pipeline will solve the region's drinking water problems, as it will supply water to the villages of Vernashen, Gladzor, Yeghegnadzor, Getap, Arpi, Agarakadzor and Malishka.

The length of this pipeline is 39 km, part of it- 11.6 km- was built in 1993-99 and some 220 million Drams were spent on it.



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39. ARMENIA MAY BECOME REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER IN 3-5 YEARS: HEALTH MINISTER [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

Health Minister Harutyun Kushkian told Armenpress that the government is taking stock of the national program designed to make Armenia a regional health center. He said during the elaboration process all proposals and observations of stockholders are taken into consideration.

The minister said more specifically Armenia seeks to become a regional center in providing first class medical services in 8 directions. One of these directions is treatment of cancer. The minister said the first steps in this direction are in the process. The cancer treatment center is supposed to be built on the basis of the National Cancer Institute.

The minister said Armenia may become a regional health center in 3-5 years. He said Armenia has the resource and personnel to offer high class treatment of cardio-vascular diseases, infertility, rehabilitation, stomatology, ear implants and collection and transplantation of bone marrow cells.

40. BIRTH RATE IN SYUNIK ON THE RISE [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

Some 848 babies have been born in the province of Syunik in the first six months of this year-287 in Kapan, 310 in Goris, 16 in Sisian and 85 in Meghri regions.

Overall, five more babies were born against the same time span last year. The growth was registered in Goris region and the town of Kajaran. No cases of maternal death were reported.

SPORTS

41. ARMENIA WINS THIRD BRONZE IN BEIJING OLYMPICS [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

Armenian weightlifter, twice champion of Europe Gevorg Davtian (77 kg) won bronze medal in the Beijing Olympics, thus bringing the third bronze to Armenia. The winner of the gold became South Korean San Chzhunyuki.

Armen Vardanian, representing Ukraine in Greco-Roman style wrestling, also won bronze, defeating Bulgarian Nikolay Gerkov.

42. LEVON ARONIAN CLOSE TO VICTORY IN GRAND PRIX TOURNAMENT [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/14/08]

Armenian grand master Levon Aronian played draw with Azerbaijani Teymur Rajabov in the 12th round of the Grand Prix tournament held in Sochi and gaining 7.5 scores continues to be the leader of the tournament. In the 13th round he will play with the Russian Alexander Grishchuk and in case he wins his Russian rival his victory in the tournament will be unbreakable.

In this round Pyotr Swidler from Russia beat his compatriot Dmitri Yakovenko. In the other games Van Yue of China – David Navara from Czechia, Boris Gelfand from Israel and Sergey Karyakin from Ukraine, Gata Kamski from USA and Vugar Gashimov from Azerbaijan, Alexander Grishchuk from Russia and Vasili Ivanchuk from Ukraine, Ivan Cheparinov from Bulgaria and Mohamed al Modeiki from Qatar, all played draw.

43. DAVID NALBANDIAN DOWNED BY PROFESSIONAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION [ARMENPRESS, 08/14/08]

Argentinean-Armenian tennis-player David Nalbandian was downed by the Professional Tennis Association to 24-th ranking in the list of best players.

The list is topped by Span's Rafael Nadal who has 1,100 points. He is followed by Novak Jokovic of Serbia with 744 points and Roger Federer of Switzerland with 711 points.



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44. YURI PATRIKEYEV BRINGS FOURTH BRONZE MEDAL TO ARMENIA [Haykakan Zhamanak, 08/15/08]

Armenian Greco-Roman style wrestler Yuri Patrikiyev (120 kg) became the winner of the fourth bronze medal in Beijing Olympic Games.

Patrikeyev was defeated by world champion from Cuba A. Lopes but got a right to fight for the bronze in additional competition where he defeated Sergey Artyukhin from Belarus and Swedish Yalmar Syoberg.

The previous winners of bronze were Greco-Roman style wrestler Roman Amoyan (55 kg), weightlifters Tigran Martirosian (69 kg) and Gevorg Davtian (77 kg).

45. LEVON ARONIAN WINNER OF GRAND PRIX TOURNAMENT [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/15/08]

Armenian grand master Levon Aronian became the winner of the Grand Prix tournament which ended in Sochi. In the 13th round Aronian defeated Russian chess player Alexander Grishchuk and gaining 8.5 points became the winner of the tournament.

46. ARMENIA SHARES 38-39 TH PLACES AT BEIJING GAMES [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

With a population of 1.3 billion China has so far won 22 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals at the Beijing Olympic Games. China is followed by the USA that has taken 14 gold, 11 silver and 17 bronze medals. Germany with 5 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals is third.

Armenian athletes have won 4 bronze medals sharing 38-39 th places with Brazil. Armenia's neighbors Georgia has won 2 gold and one silver medal and is now 13-th, Azerbaijan has won 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals and is 17-th, Turkey is 35-th with one silver and one bronze medals. Iran has not taken any medal so far.

Out of 203 participating countries medals have been won by athletes from 43.

47. BOXER HRACHYA ZAVAKHIAN MOVES INTO THE QUARTER-FINAL [ARMENPRESS, 08/15/08]

Armenian boxer Hrachya Zavakhian, 60 kg, crushed Rashid Laval of Nigeria to move into the quarterfinal at Beijing Olympic Games. His next bout will be against Czhan Sun Pak of South Korea.

If the Armenian boxer eliminates the South Korean he will secure a bronze medal at least.

Armenian woman weightlifter Hripsime Khurshudian, 75 kg division, came in 11-th with the total result of 235 kg.

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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.