



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. CASE OF GAGIK JHANGIRIAN SENT TO COURT [Azg, 08/23/08]

The RA Special Investigation Service has completed the investigation into the criminal case of Gagik Jhangirian, former deputy prosecutor general of the Republic of Armenia. G. Jhangirian is charged under Article 316 of the RA Criminal Code: committing violence, not dangerous for life and health, against policemen - representatives of the authorities.

NT was informed by spokesperson for the head of the RA Special Investigation Service that on August 22 the criminal case with a bill of particulars was sent to the court of general jurisdiction of Yerevan's Kentron and Nork-Marash communities for examination.

2. VICE PRIME MINISTER ARMEN GEVORKIAN PAYS WORKING VISIT TO TAVUSH PROVINCE [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/23/08]

Vice prime minister, territorial minister Armen Gevorkian, paid a working visit today to Tavush province. During a consultation with senior provincial officials in the town of Noyemberian Armen Gevorkian discussed a wide array of issues of concern for the region's population, particularly, the performance of social security bodies and the quality of their services.

The press division of the territorial ministry told Armenpress that it was reported to the vice prime minister that a great deal of work had been done to begin the new schooling year properly.

The issue of land plots located beyond the community's administrative borders was also raised with the aim of making their management more effective. Armen Gevorkian promised that the government will address this issue within next 10 days.

They discussed also the pace of construction of Karmir-Gyugh gravity irrigation system, as well as issues related to Charghoshan-Kirants-Sevkar gravity flow irrigation system and the quality of irrigation water.

Armen Gevorkian said this issue was in the limelight of the government's attention. He said the nature protection ministry was told to conduct a monitoring of industrial enterprises located along Debed river emitting their wastes into the river and take measures to reduce the river's pollution.

The vice prime minister also visited the newly built Masis Tobacco- company tobacco leaves accumulation center. He then visited the Ayrum cannery that resumed operation this year with the government support after standing idle for many years. The owner has invested 150 million Drams to upgrade the cannery which processes already locally grown fruits. It employs now 100 people.

3. PRIME MINISTER TIGRAN SARGSYAN RECEIVES CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF CHILDREN OF ARMENIA FUND [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/23/08]

Prime minister Tigran Sargsyan received today Karo Armen, the founder and chairman of board of the U.S.-based Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) and a delegation of the Fund's donors, friends and executives.

The government department for public relations and information told Armenpress that the prime minister commended the COAF for its homeland-committed activity aimed at revival and development of rural communities and helping them to overcome poverty.

The prime minister said the proportional development of all regions beyond the capital is one of the government's priorities.

Karo Armen presented what the COAF had done in the last 5 years with the focus on an Exemplary Rural Communities Cluster project that embraces 6 rural communities of Baghramian region of Arnavir province.

He said this is a comprehensive program, designed to improve social, health, educational and other facilities of the region.

The prime minister thanked the COAF for its patriotic work, suggesting that the Fund sets up cooperation with Armenian culture ministry to address also culture related problems.

At the end of the meeting Tigran Sargsyan once again assured of the government's preparedness to assist the COAF to implement all its projects in Armenia.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

4. HOVIK ABRAHAMIAN ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN BY-ELECTION [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 08/23/08]

The Central Election Commission (CEC) said to Armenpress that Hovik Abrahamian, a senior member of the governing Republican Party, was elected to the National Assembly in August 24 by-election in constituency number 17 that encompasses the town of Ashtarak in Ararat province and two dozens villages.

Tatevik Ohanian, the CEC press officer, told Armenpress that Hovik Abrahamian, who ran unopposed, received 33,322 ballots and only 155 voters voted against. Overall 33,811 people took part in the election out of 60,000 registered voters.

Under Armenian election legislation, if a candidate for parliament runs unopposed he or she is deemed elected if they win more than half of the overall votes.

The vacant seat had been contested earlier by a non-partisan Grisha Virabian and Hrant Khachatryan, but both who quit the race later. The seat became vacant after Henrik Abrahamian had renounced his parliament mandate.

The vote was watched by three nongovernmental monitoring organizations.

5. OFFICIAL BAKU NOT JEALOUS ABOUT TALKS BETWEEN ANKARA AND YEREVAN: AZERI DIPLOMAT [Aravot, 08/23/08]

An Azerbaijani diplomat said today the foreign ministry in Baku did not yet receive details of a Turkish plan suggesting creation of a South Caucasian Security and Cooperation Union.

Khazar Ibrahim, head of the ministry's press division, told journalists in Baku that "Nevertheless we are ready to defend all ideas that can have a positive impact on regional processes."

In a reference to Armenian-Turkish relationships, Khazar Ibrahim said that 'the official Baku is normal about talks between Ankara and Yerevan.'

6. ARMENIA GUARANTEES SAFETY FOR ALL TURKISH FOOTBALL FANS [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

In a today's story, titled 'Armenia does not demand visas for game,' the Turkish daily Hurriyet quotes president of the Turkish Football Federation M. Ozgener as saying that he received the first official letter from Armenia.

According to the Turkish daily, Ruben Hayrapetian, president of the Armenian Football Federation, sent a letter to his Turkish counterpart on August 21 saying that the September 6 qualifier between Turkey and Armenia in Yerevan for the 2010 World Cup will proceed 'in the atmosphere of football celebration.'

The Turkish newspaper says that Ruben Hayrapetian gave assurances that the Armenian authorities will have done everything to ensure the highest possible safety for Turkish fans who will arrive in Armenia to watch the game. He said also that on September 6 there will be only 'football passions.'

Ruben Hayrapetian wrote, "This game has stirred up big interest also outside Turkey and Armenia. Understandingly, there are political elements in the created condition, but the Armenian Football Federation is interested only in the sporting outcome of the game."

He said the best possible conditions are in place at Yerevan Hrazdan stadium and Turkish fans will be able to travel to Armenia without visas after the government of Armenia made a special decision to that end. He said also the safety of all Turkish fans in Armenia will be guaranteed.

"We hope that Turkish and Armenian football players will show a game that will be a football celebration," he said.

7. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ARMENIA, TURKEY, GEORGIA AND USA URGE GOVERNMENTS TO OPEN CLOSED BORDERS FOR AT LEAST 10-15 DAYS [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

Citing the transport and communication crisis in the South Caucasian region, brought about by the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict a number of non-governmental organizations in Armenia, Turkey, Georgia and the USA have called for opening of sealed borders in the region for at least 10-15 days.

In an appeal, forwarded to Armenpress, these organizations- the Armenian-Turkish Business Development Council (Turkey), the Center for Strategic Studies (Georgia), the U.S.-Russia-Georgia Research Group of the Human Rights Center (USA) and some others- say that the Georgian war has



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

placed the region's countries in the abyss of new dangers and challenges which have to be resisted as quickly as possible.

The appeal says the crisis, resulted from the unresolved conflicts, leads to a deadlock, depriving the region of one of its major commodity exchange routes.

"This is the circumstance of our big concern. The Georgian railway is actually un-operational, as a result of the explosion of a bridge near the city of Gori, while the repair work is being delayed under different pretexts. The crisis and its consequences threaten to deprive the region's three nations of their basic rights and kill hopes of stability, security and prosperity," it says.

It also says there is now a unique opportunity for the governments of Georgia, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan 'to prove that they are good neighbors, who are ready to promote establishment of peace and stability.'

"We ask the governments to get together and reopen the region's communications' lines,' the appeal said.

According to the organizations' calculations, it will take a train from the Turkish Black Sea port of Samsun 34 hours to reach Yerevan, 36 Tbilisi and 49 Baku. A train from the Mediterranean port of Mersin will reach Yerevan in 37, Tbilisi 39 and Baku 52 hours. These railways may be put into action just hours after a political decision is made, they said.

The organizations say they have participated for years in people's diplomacy programs having established very good relations with each other. "Now we call on the governments of Turkey, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan to revise their positions on this issue. We ask our leaders to display their governance skills at this volatile and unstable time and prevent further deterioration of the atmosphere of confidence in the region," the appeal says.

8. WASHINGTON'S POLICY ON NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT DID NOT CHANGE [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

A senior U.S. diplomat in Armenia said today Washington's policy on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict did not change.

The statement was made by Joseph Pennington, U.S. charge d'affaires in Armenia, in response to Armenpress question to comment on media speculations that the Georgian-Russian confrontation that has led to deterioration of U.S.-Russia relations, makes their joint work in the OSCE Minsk Group, mandated to help Armenia and Azerbaijan forge out a peace deal, senseless.

One such comment was made, in particular, by Zeyno Baran, Eurasia Policy Programs director of the U.S. Hudson Institute, who is the wife of U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state Mathew Bryza. The latter is also the U.S. cochairman in the OSCE Minsk Group.

"The remark was not made by a U.S. administration official and therefore it does not reflect the U.S. administration's policy with regard to Nagorno-Karabakh, that has not been altered,' Joseph Pennington said.

BUSINESS

9. TIGHTENED MONITORING OF LIVING ESSENTIALS AND CONSUMER GOODS BEING DONE [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

The monitoring of living essentials and consumer goods has been tightened by a decision of the chairman of the RA State Commission on Protection of Economic Competition with the aim of preventing the negative impact of the regional situation on the Armenian market, as well as possible anticompetition agreements, abuses and attempts to raise prices under the pretext of the current situation.

According to spokeswoman for the Commission Armine Udumian, since August 8, everyday monitoring has included goods of 16 types (35 product names) in tens of shops in Yerevan, as well as Lori, Shirak and Tavush marzes.

By the results of the first ten days of monitoring, the prices of granulated sugar, Russian and "Anchor" types of butter, sour cream, beef, "Otmennoye" vegetable oil, "Yerevan Poultry Factory" eggs, some meat products, gasoline, and diesel fuel remained unchanged.

Prices of the following goods fell: high-quality flour (0.4%), bread (1.5-1.9%), sausages (0.1-5.6%), local macaroni (21.3%), "Zolotaya Semechka" sunflower oil (6.6%), pork (2.3%) and "Lori" cheese (0.4%).



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

Prices of the following goods went up: vegetable oil ("Inessa" - 0.6%, "Sloboda" - 1.5%, "Shchedry Dar" - 2.4%), butter from New Zealand (0.9%), "Chanakh" cheese (2%), "Lebo" coffee (2.1%), "Hrazdan" bread (4%), "Lusakert" eggs (5.6%) and rice (8.5-11.6%).
Monitoring continues.

10. EXPORTS FROM ARMENIA DECLINE BY 0.8%, IMPORTS INTO COUNTRY GROW BY 40.3% IN JANUARY-JUNE 2008 ON SAME PERIOD OF 2007 [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

The foreign trade of Armenia made 747.6 bln drams or 2 bln 428.6 mln USD in current prices in January-June 2008, including exports of 160.2 bln drams or 520.7 mln USD and imports of 587.1 bln drams or 1 bln 907.9 mln USD. The foreign trade balance was negative by 426.9 bln drams (1 bln 387.2 mln USD), the foreign trade balance without goods received as humanitarian aid was negative by 418.2 bln drams (1 bln 359 mln USD).

According to the RA National Statistical Service, exports from Armenia declined by 0.8% in January-June 2008 on the same period of 2007, while imports grew by 40.3%.

Exports from Armenia into CIS countries made 154 mln 459.8 thousand USD, declining by 5.1% in January-June 2008 on the same months of 2007, imports from CIS countries into Armenia made 517 mln 430.3 thousand USD, growing by 34.4%.

Exports from Armenia to EU countries amounted to 301 mln 701.5 thousand USD in January-June 2008, growing by 19.6% on the same period of 2007, while imports from EU countries made 542 mln 544.9 thousand USD, growing by 32%.

11. GOODS BROUGHT TO ARMENIA BY TRUCKS [Aravot, 08/23/08]

Gagik Martirosian, an aide to prime minister and head of a task force that was set up to coordinate transportation of commodities to Armenia after the explosion of a key railway bridge in Georgia, told Armenpress that authorities in the Georgian port of Poti resumed today unloading of ships.

He said 107 containers with wheat, 10 with fuel and 50 containers with other commodities, as many as on August 21 are waiting near the exploded bridge to be taken to Armenia.

He said unloading of cargo ships goes on also in another Georgian Black Sea port of Batumi. A convoy of 37 trucks bringing goods from Batumi has crossed today into Armenia at Bagratashen border crossing bringing 517,000 liters of petrol.

According to Gagik Martirosian, a convoy of trucks with Armenia-bound goods has arrived in Yerevan from Meghri on the border with Iran, as these goods came through Armenia's southern neighbor. They and other trucks are bringing 10 containers of flour, 19 of petrol and 4 of diesel fuel.

12. ARMENIA'S NATIONAL AIR CARRIER FACE NO FUEL-CONNECTED PROBLEMS [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

Officials in Armenia's national air carrier Armavia said today the company did not face fuel-connected problems. As a result the company operates, apart from regular flights, also additional ones.

Nana Avetisian, a press secretary for the company, told Armenpress that extra flights will be carried out to Russian Moscow on August 24-27, to Saint Petersburg on August 25 and to Nizhny Novgorod on August 26.

An extra flight will be carried out to Krasnodar on September 6, in addition to three weekly flights.

Until now the company operated additional flights to Moscow, Minvody, Samara, Krasnodar and Stavropol.

DIASPORA

13. ON AUGUST 25 ARMENIANS OF GLENDALE TO DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED BY COMMUNITY [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

On August 25 at 7:00pm at the Glendale Public Library the next open meeting of HASK will be held where issues raised by the community will be discussed. The topic of the meeting is motherland-diaspora relations under the light of the opening of Diaspora Ministry.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

14. RICHARD HAGOPIAN AND ZAKIR HUSSAIN TO PERFORM LIVE IN LOS ANGELES [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

NEA Folk Arts Heritage Award Winners Richard Hagopian and Zakir Hussain will perform live at California Plaza, Los Angeles on August 24.

Richard Hagopian was born in the small town of Fowler in the San Joaquin Valley of California. He demonstrated his musical interest and immense talents early, at 11 he took up the oud. By 13, Hagopian started studying the oud with the internationally renowned Armenian artist Kanuni Garbis Bakirgian. He also learned the clarinet and the dumbeg and the kanoun, essential elements in a traditional Near Eastern orchestra, and he mastered the accompanying musical theory, notation techniques, and both the classical and folk repertoires. He was given the title "Oudi" in 1969 by the internationally famous virtuoso Oudi Hrant, a blind master. This is the highest honor an oudist can receive.

15. ARMENIAN CITIZEN ARRESTED IN RUSSIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

An Armenian citizen wanted by the police of Belarus for a murder was arrested in the Russian city of Kurgan.

Radio Liberty reported that according to information of the Kurgan regional prosecutor's office, the Armenian citizen (his name was not given) was arrested during an attempt to steal a car. It turned out that he was internationally wanted for committing a murder in Belarus.

The court imposed an arrest on the man, and he was transferred to an isolation cell. The prosecutor's office is now conducting checks, after which a decision will be made to extradite the Armenian to Belarus.

ARTS

16. ARMENIA'S STATE CHAMBER MUSIC ORCHESTRA LEAVES FOR USA [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

Armenia's State Chamber Music Orchestra have left today for the USA to play for the audience in Fresno, California, as part of events dedicated to the centenary of American-Armenian author William Saroyan.

The Armenian ministry of culture told Armenpress that the orchestra will play also for music lovers in Los Angeles and Toronto, Canada.

17. "DIALOG OF CULTURES" 3rd ANNUAL YOUTH FESTIVAL BEING HELD IN TSAKHKADZOR [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

"Dialog of Cultures" 3rd annual youth festival opened in Tsakhkadzor and will last until August 27. Cultures, rituals and cuisine of various nations will be presented at the festival.

The RA deputy minister of sport and youth issues Arthur Poghosian stated that the purpose of the festival is to display cultures of various peoples and promote the cooperation of young people in this process. Among participants are young people from France, Egypt, Romania, Poland, China, Lithuania, Greece, India, Syria, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Artsakh and Armenia, as well as representatives of Armenia's Assyrian and Yezid communities. In the words of A. Poghosian, representatives of about 10 countries, including Turkey, Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria refused to take part in the festival due to the events in South Ossetia.

In the opinion of executive director of "All-Armenian Youth International Center" Foundation Armen Sinanian, "it is evident from the fact that so many countries expressed a desire to participate in the festival that "Dialog of Cultures" festival has the right to live."

The festival was organized on the initiative of the RA ministry of sport and youth issues, the Center for Organization of Youth Events, the International Center of Intercultural Studies, Training and Dialog and the "All-Armenian Youth International Center" Foundation. 18 million drams (about 60 thousand USD) was allocated from the RA state budget for holding the event.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

RELIGION

18. EPISCOPAL ORDINATION TO TAKE PLACE IN MOTHER SEE OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN ON AUGUST 24 [Azg, 08/23/08]

Episcopal ordination and anointment will be conducted by the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II in the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on August 24. According to a press release submitted to NT by the information system of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the spiritual head of the RA armed forces Archimandrite Vrtanes Abrahamian and inspector of the Gevorgian Theological Seminary Archmandrite Sahak Mashalian will be ordained bishops.

19. GENERAL SECRETARY OF CEC TO VISIT ARMENIA AT INVITATION OF CATHOLICOS KAREKIN II [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

At the invitation of the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, a delegation led by the General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) Colin Williams will pay an official visit to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin on August 24-31.

The delegation will visit Armenia's historical sacred places and dioceses, Tsitsernakaberd, the Gevorgian Theological Academy and the Vazgenian Theological Seminary and will meet with representatives of Armenia-based ecumenical organizations.

According to a press release of the information system of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the delegation will also have meetings with the speaker of the RA National Assembly Tigran Torosian and the Armenian foreign minister Edward Nalbandian.

20. SECRETARY GENERAL OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES CONFERENCE VISITS ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

On August 23 a delegation, led by Colin Williams, secretary general of the European Churches Conference, arrived on an official visit in Armenia.

The department of information of the Holy See Mother Etchmiadzin told Armenpress that on August 24 the delegation members were present at a holy liturgy and a ceremony of bishops ordination. They also visited the Holy See's museums, other churches and historical structures.

Today the delegation was received by Catholicos Karekin II, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Karekin II was reported to express his pleasure on the cooperation between the Armenian Church and European Churches Conference focusing also on the need of forging closer ties.

The head of the Armenian Church spoke on challenges faced by Armenian Church, the current status of the Church and its relations with the government.

The delegation visited also the Gevorgian Seminary and met with representatives of several ecumenical organizations stationed in Armenia.

Armenia joined the European Churches Conference in 1997. It has a representative in its central headquarters and three representatives in its committees.

SOCIAL

21. THIS YEAR'S HUNTING SEASON TO LAST IN ARMENIA FROM AUGUST 23 TO MARCH 15, 2009 [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

The hunting season starts in Armenia on August 23. The chairman of "National Alliance of Armenian Hunters" NGO Grigor Grigorian said at the August 22 press conference that some positive changes were observed this year as compared with the previous ones. In particular, the necessary arms-ammunition were obtained for hunters. Besides, the hunting season has been extended: the previous hunting season was until February 28, whereas this year's season will last until March 15.

G. Grigorian informed those present that the hunting season will start with the fowling of ducks, then also partridges, waterfowls and pigeons. The largest animal which is allowed to hunt is the hare. There are also other animals such as goats and wild boars that may be hunted in small numbers and with special permission.

According to chief expert of the State Environmental Protection Inspection of the RA Ministry of Nature Protection Arthur Beglarian, about 60 kinds of animals, birds and fish have been allowed for



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

hunting. The hunting of animals considered as harmful such as stray dogs and cats, grey crows, magpies, wolves and jackals is allowed in unlimited numbers during the whole hunting season.

The criminal responsibility envisaged for hunting the animals included in the Red Book and the amounts of large fines were announced. For example, a fine of up to 3 million drams (about 9 thousand dollars) is envisaged for hunting Armenian moufflon, chamois, panther, and Caucasian bear.

A. Beglarian also announced that the hunting of hares and partridges has been extended until January 31 during this hunting season. He gave assurances that as usual, the law-envisaged control will be done this year too.

22. NOTHING THREATENS LIFE OF IMPRISONED JOURNALIST, REPRESENTATIVE OF JUSTICE MINISTRY SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

The RA ministry of justice denied the information in the essay "They Threatened to Spoil" in the August 22 issue of Aravot day, according to which the imprisoned journalist Arman Babajanian was given a disc showing some criminals committing an act of sexual violence against another prisoner. A. Babajanian was threatened that the same may happen to him.

Spokeswoman for the RA justice minister Lana Mshetsian said that A. Babajanian submitted a petition to the heads of the penitentiary with the request to deny this information.

It was stated that nothing threatens A. Babajanian's life, and the penitentiary's management has taken the respective measures to ensure personal security of the journalist and the normal course of his treatment.

23. ABOUT 80% OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL FIGURES IN ARMENIA ARE MEMBERS OF UNION OF HUNTERS [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

Favorable conditions for hunters have been created in Armenia, the chairman of "The National Alliance of Armenian Hunters" Grigor Grigorian stated at the August 22 press conference. One of the future projects of their NGO is to create a special area for hunting. With this aim the organization purchased a 1,000-ha land plot and envisages to breed several types of animals there.

G. Grigorian said that about 80% of high-ranking officials and political figures are members of their organization. However, according to him, about 30% of them regularly go hunting. Among them are the former president and many ministers. In the past, some statesmen were engaged in hunting the animals whose hunt is illegal and did so in the forbidden season. As a result, according to G. Grigorian, many animal species, for example, grey partridge, have become extinct. In his words, today the picture is different: officials do not take such illegal steps.

24. ACADEMICIAN SERGEI MERGELIAN DIES [Azg, 08/23/08]

The RA National Academy of Sciences and the RA State Science Committee inform that the prominent scientist and citizen, a classic of the Armenian science, Academician Sergei Mergelian passed away at the age of 81.

Taking an external degree of Yerevan State University's Physico-Mathematical Department, the talented youth became actively engaged in creative work at the age of 19 and soon occupied his place in the constellation of distinguished modern mathematicians. Aged 21, he became a Doctor of Sciences, at 25 he was elected a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR, while at 28 he was elected an academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian SSR. In that period he received a Stalin Award.

In the mid 1950s S. Mergelian performed a real feat by creating a new scientific and technical direction in applied mathematics and computer engineering of Armenia, which later brought great fame to our country. Under his direction, the Yerevan Research Institute of Mathematical Machines was founded, and later some production enterprises were set up and the production of computers launched. Thanks to the scientific and organizational talent of Academician Mergelian, Armenia became one of the USSR's major centers in this field.

S. Mergelian's services to the Academy of Sciences and Yerevan State University (YSU) are of great value. He was the vice president of the Academy of Sciences, the founder and first director of the Data Center of the Academy of Sciences and YSU, and the head of a YSU chair.

S. Mergelian was also the founder and head of the Complex Analysis Unit of the Institute of Mathematics after Steklov of the USSR Academy of Sciences. His contribution to the training of qualified personnel is invaluable.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

His services were appreciated by the government of independent Armenia as well: in 2008 he was awarded a Mesrop Mashtots order, the highest award of the Republic of Armenia.

The death of Academician Sergei Mergelian is an irrecoverable loss for the Armenian people, first of all, Armenia's scientific community and intellectuals.

25. COAF REPAIRS AMBULANCE STATION AND KINDERGARTEN IN LERNAGOG VILLAGE OF ARMAVIR PROVINCE [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

The ambulance station and the kindergarten of the village of Lernagog in the province of Armavir were reopened on Sunday after major repairs, funded by the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) within the frameworks of its Comprehensive Development Inclusive Program.

The repairs were made to comply with all construction standards. The ambulance station and the kindergarten are provided with all necessary equipment and furniture. The COAF donors, friends and members of its board of trustees were yesterday in the province to see the status of all projects, both implemented and in the process.

Karo Armen, the American-Armenian businessman and chairman of the COAF board, said a great job was done and that he was happy to see both facilities repaired.

The COAF provided funds for repair of 11 buildings in the province of Armavir. Karo Armen highlighted their proper maintenance. Governor Ashot Ghahramanian said he gave special instructions to community heads to that end. He expressed hope that other provincial communities will be encompassed by such projects too.

Larry Fineberg and Gregory Ekizian, two of COAF donors, were awarded by the village community leadership the title of honorable citizens of Lernagog.

26. NO ARMENIAN CITIZEN ABOARD BOEING-737 THAT CRASHED IN KYRGYZSTAN [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

No Armenian citizen was aboard a Boeing-737-200 that crashed on August 24 in Kyrgyzstan, Tigran Balayan, a spokesman for the ministry, told Armenpress.

The accident at Manas airport of Kirghiz capital Bishkek claimed 68 people's lives injuring 22 others.

Among the passengers were citizens of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Canada, China and Turkey.

27. SCHOOLS IN YEREVAN READY FOR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 08/25/08]

A deputy Yerevan mayor Kamo Areyan said today the capital's schools, including 193 secondary, 4 special and 5 vocational, are gearing up for the beginning of a new academic year that begins on September 1.

He said some 8,314 teachers work for these schools. According to him, 8,314 children will be admitted as first-graders.

He said this schooling year is different from previous as the education and science ministry is launching a new senior school program, the strategy of which was approved by the government. It also approved the list of schools that will be embraced by the program- 3 in Yerevan and 7 outside it.

The deputy mayor said the students will not face any text-book problem and the process of providing all schools with computers is underway. Now 189 secondary schools in Yerevan, run by the municipality, have 1,800 computers, many of which are connected to Internet.

He said the number of schools that will offer inclusive education will grow to 21 from current 12 to embrace 247 children with special needs.

Kamo Areyan said the municipality has instructed Yerevan Gaz (natural gas), Yerevan Water and Yerevan Electrical Networks companies to accomplish their repair works in schools by September 1 and road police was told to be vigil through September 1 to September 10 to ensure the children's safety on road crossings.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, August 25, 2008

SPORTS

28. BOXER HRACHIK JAVAKHIAN CONTENTS HIMSELF WITH BRONZE MEDAL AT BEIJING OLYMPIC GAMES [NOYAN TAPAN, 08/22/08]

On August 22 Armenian boxer Hrachik Javakhian (60 kg) was defeated by Olympic champion, Russian Alexey Tishchenko in the semi-final at the Beijing Olympic Games and had to content himself with a bronze medal.

This is the 6th bronze medal of Armenia's Olympic delegation. Thus, the Armenian sportsmen have finished their participation in the 29th Summer Olympic Games.

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