



TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. CONSTITUTIONAL LAW UNION CALLS RA AND NKR AUTHORITIES FOR MAKING ACTIVE THEIR EFFORTS IN ISSUE OF ARTSAKH RECOGNITION [Aravot, 08/30/08]

Applications to the leaderships of the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh were adopted at the August 27 special sitting of presidium of the Constitutional Law Union (CLU) in connection with the situation formed in the region. They express disagreement and concern over the so-called Madrid principles of settlement circulated in the negotiations proceeding over the Nagorno Karabakh problem.

The application addressed to the RA authorities, in particular, read: "We call the RA leadership for categorically rejecting the so-called Madrid principles voiced by Matthew Bryza and binding large one-sided concessions and for taking active steps by the international community aimed at NKR's reunification with RA or recognition of NKR independence." At the same time, CLU considers it necessary to exert efforts to make NKR a full side of the negotiations.

And CLU called NKR leadership for "at this stage more actively expressing NKR population's inflexible will on its innate and inalienable rights, conveying it to the leaders of RF and CSTO other countries, the U.S., European Union countries, the Arab world, and of other countries, their media and public."

CLU also expressed confidence that sooner or later Armenia should recognize the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, but it should be done after achieving uninterrupted work of RA transport communication and guarantees of Javakhk population's security.

2. A NUMBER OF ARMENIAN PARTIES HOPE THAT RF WILL ALSO RECOGNIZE NKR'S INDEPENDENCE IN NEAR FUTURE [Iravounk, 08/30/08]

A statement was adopted at the sixth interparty consultation of the Constitutional Law Union, Democratic Party of Armenia, United Communist Party of Armenia, Christian Democratic Party of Armenia, and the Constitutional Law Union in connection with the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. With the statement the consultation participant parties welcomed recognition of independence of Republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia by RF. It was mentioned that after the recognition of independence of Kosovo by the West and of South Ossetia and Abkhazia by RF an absolute supremacy of right of nations' self-determination to the provision of territorial integrity was established in the world.

The statement authors expressed the hope that within the framework of the same principles RF in the nearest future will also recognize as an independent state the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, which reaffirmed its independence from Azerbaijan through a national referendum in 1991 and in fact has retained it. "The delay of recognition of NKR independence can result in resumption of new operations with all unpredictable political, military, humanitarian, and economic consequences proceeding from it," the statement of the parties-participants of the interparty consultation read.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF 8 NGOs TO CARRY OUT MONITORING MISSION IN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 7 IN YEREVAN [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/02/08]

Eight NGOs have been accredited in the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) in the established term for carrying out a monitoring mission in the local self-government elections to be held on September 7 in Yerevan's Erebuni, Kanaker-Zeytun, Arabkir, Nubarashen, Malatia-Sebastia, Achapniak communities. As of September 1, the latter in total have accredited 1313 observers.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, CEC Spokesperson, Institute of Free Society has accredited 501 observers, Choice is Yours 481, Life International Association of Human Rights, Policy and Humanitarian Problems 138, Will of Youth 91, Helsinki Committee of Armenia 40, Against Legal Self-will 31, Center for Public Dialogues and Initiatives 20, Transparency International 11 observers.



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4. RA PRESIDENT TO LEAVE FOR SOCHI ON SEPTEMBER 2 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

RA President Serzh Sargsyan will leave for Sochi on a working visit on September 2, where he will meet with RF President Dmitry Medvedev. According to the report provided to Noyan Tapan by the RA President's Press Office, issues related to further development of Armenian-Russian strategic partnership, Armenia's assuming chairmanship in CSTO soon, as well as regional and international issues will be discussed during the meeting.

5. BAKO SAHAKIAN: INDEPENDENCE OF ARTSAKH IS NOT SUBJECT TO BARGAINING [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

The President of the NKR Bako Sahakian made an address in connection with the day of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic. The text of the address was submitted to NT by the Central Information Department of the Office of the NKR President. It reads:

"Dear compatriots,

On September the 2nd we celebrate the day of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, a holiday which has a special significance for our nation. On this very day a new chapter in the history of Artsakh was opened. It became the commencement of restoration of independent Armenian statehood.

17 years ago the people of Artsakh set about to realize their century-long dream of a building free and independent, democratic and social state. This extremely difficult path we have been able to overcome due to the unbreakable will, unity and cohesion. Artsakh has become the symbol of rebirth of the triumphant spirit of the Armenian people.

In the course of recent years we have succeeded both to reconstruct the economy ruined by war and but also to lay a solid foundation for further development of the state. Deepening and strengthening Artsakh-Armenia-Diaspora relations, combining efforts and potential of world-spread Armenians, we have begun to find effective solutions to various problems our republic faces, improve living standards of the population and develop construction and infrastructures.

Today we can proudly state that we have a strong and efficient army, a harmoniously developing country that meets international norms and standards and is considered to be one of the key factors of stability in the region.

We should always remember what price has been paid for the present free and peaceful life, what losses and hardship our nation suffered on its way to independence. The best sons of the nation gave their lives to the defense of the Motherland. Everlasting glory and honor to them!

We are obliged to fulfill the cherished dream of our martyrs: gain international recognition of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic and leave for the generations to come strong and independent, peaceful and prosperous Motherland. Be confident, it is a matter of time!

The NKR authorities are committed to the idea that conflicts should be settled exclusively by peaceful means through direct and frank dialogue. Everybody should realize once and forever that the independence of Artsakh has no alternative and is not subject to bargaining.

Dear people of Artsakh, I cordially congratulate all of us on this symbolic holiday and wish good health, happiness and further success to the glory of the bright and serene future of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic."

6. UNTIL NOW ONLY ONE CANDIDATE NOMINATED TO RUN IN SEPTEMBER 28 ELECTION OF YEREVAN'S KENTRON COMMUNITY HEAD [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

As of 6 pm of September 1st, only one candidate - the current head of Yerevan's Kentron community, member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Gagik Beglarian was nominated to run in the September 28 election of head of the indicated community. 14 candidates were nominated for 15 seats of the community council of aldermen. No bid of nomination for the election of the council of aldermen in Nork-Marash community to be held on the same day has been submitted so far, NT correspondent was informed by Silva Markosian, chairwoman of district electoral commission No 10 that organizes the elections to local self-government bodies in the two indicated communities. The deadline for candidate nomination is September 3rd, 6 pm.



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7. TWO CANDIDATES NOMINATED SO FAR FOR SEPTEMBER 28 ELECTION OF YEREVAN'S NOR NORK COMMUNITY HEAD [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

As of September 1st, 6 pm two candidates: the current head of Yerevan's Nor Nork community, member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Davit Petrosian and member of RPA, currently unemployed Melik Gasparian were nominated to run in the September 28 election of the head of the indicated community. 24 candidates were nominated for 15 seats of the community council of aldermen, NT correspondent was informed by Samvel Kocharian, secretary of district electoral commission No 2. The deadline for candidate nomination is September 3rd, 6 pm.

8. DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR CHINA [ARMENPRESS, 09/01/08]

Delegation headed by the Armenian Vice Prime Minister Armen Gevorgian left August 31 for China on a three-day visit.

Press service of the Territorial Governance Ministry told Armenpress that the delegation will conduct meetings with the Chinese trade minister, leadership of one of its provinces and discuss programs on mutually beneficial cooperation.

The delegation will also participate in the trade-investment fair-exhibition which will take place in Chanchun town where Armenia is represented with a separate pavilion.

9. ILHAM ALIYEV AND GORAN LENMARKER DISCUSS KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION [ARMENPRESS, 09/01/08]

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and special rapporteur of the OSCE PA Goran Lenmarker discussed today at the meeting in Baku the current pace of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation, prospects of the negotiations, press service of the Azerbaijani president reported.

The rapporteur visited Azerbaijan within the frameworks of his regional visit to the South Caucasus.

10. V. BADALIAN SAYS FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH RUSSIAN AND GEORGIAN REPRESENTATIVES MAKES ARMENIA MEDIATOR-RECONCILER [ARMENPRESS, 09/01/08]

Armenia does not need to defend the positions of either Russia or Georgia in the Russian-Georgian tensed relations, the co-chairman of the Armenian-Georgian Business Association Volodya Badalian said today to reporters, noting that the frequent meetings of the Armenian representatives with both Georgian and Russian sides makes Armenia a mediator-reconciler of the sides.

V. Badalian reminded that 3 years ago in the tensed relations between Georgia and Russia on the level of negotiations of the Russian and Georgian inter-parliamentary commissions the Armenian side made it possible that the railway passing through the territory of Abkhazia open.

"We must not think on the side of what country to pass. We are on the side of everybody. They must solve their issue on their own. I do not think that we can participate in the inner or foreign policy of this or that country. Of course there are a lot of difficulties in this respect, in any case these two countries are important for us: Georgia is our ancient-long friend country and Russia is our strategic partner. We must try to flatten the sharp edges," he said.

11. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT ADDRESSES WITH CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON NAGORNO KARABAKH INDEPENDENCE DAY [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsian addressed with a congratulatory message on the occasion of Nagorno Karabakh Independence Day. Presidential press service told Armenpress that the message of the president particularly says,

"Dear compatriots,

I congratulate you on the Day of Independence. The past 17 years proved that the choice of Artsakh people in the created situation was the only right way. That choice is historic for us. Today is holiday for all of us: for those who became immortal by their bravery and heroism for the sake of liberated and dignified homeland.

Dear people of Artsakh,



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You took with dignity both the trial of war and peace and today you are devoted to the construction of your free country and its defense. You are devoted to reform your state, public and economic activity, to improve your life. I am sure that with the support of Armenia and all Armenians you will solve your current issues and confront the future challenges.

I once again congratulate you on this bright holiday and wish you peaceful sky and firm progress.”

12. GORAN LENMARKER SAYS MAIN OBSTACLE OF CLOSER COOPERATION OF SOUTH CAUCASIAN STATES IS KARABAKH CONFLICT [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

Special rapporteur of the OSCE PA on the Karabakh issue Goran Lenmarker said the main obstacle of closer cooperation of the South Caucasian countries is Karabakh conflict.

“The regulation of the Karabakh conflict may become the beginning of the closer cooperation of the South Caucasian countries,” Lenmarker stated in Baku on Monday. “The conflict is the only obstacle on the way of cooperation of the three states and I consider it necessary to exert efforts for the settlement of the conflict,” he said.

Among a number of issues the rapporteur also discussed in Baku the situation in Georgia. According to him, OSCE highlights the position of such a leading country as Azerbaijan is.

13. ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENTS MEET IN SOCHI [Azg, 09/03/08]

Armenian and Russian presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Dmitri Medvedev met today in “Bocharov Ruchey”, Sochi. During the meeting D. Medvedev said that CSTO member-countries will develop their position over the South Ossetia issue at the summit which will take place in the end of the week in Moscow. “Together with you we will discuss the initial work in the CSTO format, the final position will be developed in Moscow at the CSTO summit,” he said.

Armenian president agreed with the suggestion. In few days Armenia will assume CSTO chairmanship.

“I would like to once again express my condolences over the death of Russian citizens and peacekeepers,” Serzh Sargsyan said.

14. U.S. VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY TO DISCUSS KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION IN BAKU [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney will discuss during his coming visit to Baku issues on peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, USA’s assistance to the Azerbaijani efforts towards consolidating democracy and rule of law in the country, the press release of the White House said.

It also informs that one of the discussed issues will refer to energy sphere. The press release says that USA wants to support Azerbaijan in developing its energy resources and presenting them in the market. “It corresponds not only to the interests of USA but to the interests of all the European countries as well. Azerbaijan opens great prospects for transporting additional energy resources to the international market both from Caspian region and Central Asia,” the press release said.

Within the framework of the visit issues on recent developments in Georgia and fighting against terrorism will be discussed.

U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney will visit Azerbaijan September 3 within the framework of regional visit.

15. ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENTS DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES IN SOCHI [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

Meeting of the Armenian and Russian presidents took place today in Sochi. Greeting the Armenian president, Dmitri Medvedev noted that the meetings of the two presidents are conducted on a regular basis. “During Your last visit to Moscow we had full contacts, the visit was complete and in my opinion the dialogue continues developing: You are aware of all the results but still there exists potential for increase. I would also like to exchange with You opinions over the international issues, and foreign policy. In a few days the CSTO summit will kick off and the chairmanship of the establishment will pass to Armenia. I think we can discuss issues on the organization of the work of the summit,” Russian president said.



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S. Sargsyan on his part said that the working meetings in Sochi between Armenian and Russian presidents have become a good tradition. "This is a good opportunity to discuss in calm atmosphere both issues on bilateral and multilateral relations," the Armenian president said, noting that recently "Rubezh-2008" military exercises were conducted in Armenia, the session of the ministers' council of CSTO took place and tomorrow the session of the Security Councils' secretaries will be held in Yerevan.

"Of course I would like to discuss issues on economic development of our relations, further consolidation of our relations within CSTO, issues connected with the situation created in the Caucasian region. This is our first meeting after the developments in the South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Georgia. We have spoken about it on the phone. I would like to once again express my condolences on the death of Russian citizens and peacekeepers," Serzh Sargsyan said, adding that Armenia is waiting schoolchildren from Ossetia and said that everything is ready for them.

D. Medvedev expressed gratitude for such support. "As to the rest, including the consequences of what happened, taking into consideration the work in the format of CSTO, together with You we will have an initial discussion but the final decision will be made at the CSTO summit in Moscow," Medvedev said.

16. ARMENIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO RECEIVE SPECIAL DELEGATE OF PRESIDENT OF TURKEY [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian will receive on September 3 special delegate of the president of Turkey, ambassador Unal Chevishlzi.

Spokesman for the Armenian foreign minister Tigran Balayan told Armenpress that E. Nalbandian and Turkish special delegate will discuss Turkey's initiative on establishment of "Union of Caucasian Stability and Cooperation."

17. SECRETARIES OF CSTO-MEMBER COUNTRIES' SECURITY COUNCILS ARRIVE IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

Delegations headed by Secretary of Russian Security Council Nikolay Patrushev, Secretary of Belarus Security Council Yuri Zhadobin, Secretary of Kazakh Security Council Kairbek Suleymenov, Kyrgyz Security Council Ismayil Isakov, Secretary of Tajik Security Council Amirkul Azimov and Secretary of Uzbekistani Security Council Shukurlo Makhmudakulov arrived today in Yerevan.

This year Armenia assumes chairmanship of CSTO. Presidential press service told Armenpress that the secretaries of the security councils will conduct bilateral and multilateral meetings during which they will discuss cooperation issues. At tomorrow's session the participants will sign a number of agreements on cooperation in security sphere.

In the airport they were greeted by Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Arthur Baghdasarian and other officials.

18. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES COOPERATION ISSUES WITH KARABAKH COUNTERPART [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 09/03/08]

Delegation headed by the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, who is in Karabakh on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of Karabakh's independence, participated today in the ceremony of paying tribute to the memory of freedom fighters.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that Armenian prime minister also conducted today a conversation with his Karabakh counterpart Ara Harutyunian and discussed a number of issues on bilateral cooperation.

In the evening the prime minister and members of the delegation will participate in other events dedicated to the 17th anniversary of independence of Nagorno Karabakh.

19. ARTHUR BAGHDASARIAN RECEIVES SECRETARY OF RUSSIAN SECURITY COUNCIL [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

Secretary of the Armenian Security Council Arthur Baghdasarian received today his Russian counterpart Nikolay Patrushev who is in Armenia to participate in the session of the secretaries of security councils' of the CSTO member countries.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed a number of issues on further development of cooperation between Armenian and Russian security councils, joint



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confrontation of challenges existing in the two countries and referred to the further activity within the framework of CSTO.

20. COURT DECISION ON PETITION TO CHALLENGE PROSECUTION IN GAGIK JHANGIRIAN'S CASE TO BE ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 2 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

The court sitting on the case of the former prosecutor general of Armenia Gagik Jhangirian was held in the court of general jurisdiction of Yerevan's Kentron and Nork-Marash communities presided over by Judge Zhora Vardanian on September 1. G. Jhangirian is charged under Article 316 part 1 of the RA Criminal Code: committing violence, not dangerous for life and health, against a representative of authorities. G. Jhangirian himself considers the case as false. To recap, G. Jhangirian had been also charged with keeping an illegal weapon and usurping power (Article 235 part 1 and Article 300 part 1) but later these charges were dropped.

The court dismissed the defence's petition to challenge the presiding judge on the ground that the judge cannot be impartial because his son is a member of the group conducting an investigation into the case. The court substantiated its decision by the fact that the judge's son did not participate in any investigative action related to G. Jhangirian so this circumstance, according to the court, cannot cast a doubt on impartiality of the judge.

The defence also submitted a petition to challenge the prosecution: prosecutors Hovsep Sargsian, Koryun Piloyan and Lilit Tadevosian did not control properly the preliminary investigation into the case as G. Jhangirian was taken to police and arrested in an obviously illegal way, the bringing of charges against him, the choice of arrest as a precautionary measure and the extension of his arrest twice were illegal as well. G. Jhangirian added that he without any legal status was kept in police for 28 hours, and the petition to choose arrest was filed to court two and a half hours after the law-envisaged period of arrest - 72 hours. The court will announce its decision on the petition at the September 2 court sitting.

21. IF ARMENIA RECOGNIZES THE INDEPENDENCE OF ARTSAKH TODAY, IT WILL HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH GREAT STATES,- BAKOUR KARAPETIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

"Though we gained a victory in Artsakh war, we failed to gain the maximum in that war," announced Bakour Karapetian, writer, publicist, president of the Shoushi Fund at the press conference dedicated to the 17th anniversary of the independence of the NKR. In his words, winning a war is half the job, everything should be done so that the independence of Artsakh will be recognized by the world.

Answering the question about what position Armenia should have in the issue of recognition of Artsakh, the publicist noted that Armenia de facto recognizes that independence of Artsakh, but if this is done de jure, then Armenia will have rather serious problems not only with Azerbaijan and Turkey but also with great states. "At present this recognition is dangerous. We are united, and the recognition is a matter of the future," Bakour Karapetian said, adding that Armenia should display prudence in that issue.

B. Karapetian mentioned that today Artsakh is a really democratic state with all infrastructures.

22. NZP CALLS RA AUTHORITIES FOR REFRAINING FROM ADVENTUROUS POLICY IN ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

"In case of making a one-sided and turning change in the course of Armenian-Turkish relations Serzh Sargsyan, besides superficial and ambiguous judgements, should point out to the deep motives of these changes." The Nor Zhamanakner (New Times) party made such a statement on September 2. The party, in particular, expressed the hope that President S. Sargsyan and the other coalition forces exactly realize the lack of prospect in Armenian-Turkish relations, "as in that sphere they rather come across insuperable obstacles than outline positive factors."

Calling the RA authorities for refraining from short-sighted and adventurous policy, NZP warned that otherwise Armenia can finally tangle in the vortex of clash of regional challenges and mutually contradicting interests and become an unprotected and vulnerable state.

"Before establishing good-neighborly relations with our immediate neighbor we should take into consideration historic experience and memory. Over the centuries Armenia has concluded rather successful alliances with Assyria, Persia, Roman Empire, Russia, but all attempts of establishing close political relations with Turkey as a rule have had a bad outcome," the NZP statement read.



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23. STEPAN SAFARIAN AFFIRMS THAT ARFD TRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO ROBERT KOCHARIAN'S RETURN TO BIG POLITICS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

According to Gagik Minasian, a member of the Board of the Republican Party of Armenia, the relative peace has been broken in the South Caucasus after August 8, and the instability that emerged as a result of it in the region can last very long. As he stated at the September 2 dispute, the uncertainty will go on until the issue of Georgia's membership to NATO becomes clear. The RPA figure also said that the humanitarian crisis in the region and the prospect of warming of Armenian-Turkish relations make realistic the opening of the Kars-Gyumri railway.

Stepan Safarian, a member of the Board of the Zharangutiun (Heritage) party, affirmed that Turkish President Abdullah Gul's possible visit to Armenia should not yet make RA authorities hope that the contacts between the two countries will improve. "We welcome Serzh Sargsyan's invitation to A. Gul as a precedent, as an attempt. However, if I were the RA authorities, I would not have much hopes connected with Turkish President's visit," A. Safarian said.

Touching upon the rally of ARFD to take place in the evening the same day, the Zharangutiun representative said that though the rally is dedicated to the Artsakh independence day, nevertheless, A. Gul's visit will be touched upon during the rally.

According to S. Safarian, lately it is obvious that former President Robert Kocharian strives for returning to big politics, and ARFD tries to contribute to it. "Armenian-Turkish relations were frozen under R. Kocharian and S. Sargsyan has changed serious accents in the RA foreign policy, and it contradicts ARFD's principles," S. Safarian said.

24. ARMENIA SHOULD MAKE ACTIVE ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GEORGIA, NA DEPUTY HAYK SANOSIAN IS CONVINCED [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

Armenia should make active its diplomatic relations with Georgia, as today they are at a very low level. Hayk Sanosian, a RA NA deputy, the Co-chairman of the Union of Georgian Armenians NGO, expressed such an opinion at the September 2 press conference. According to him, the diplomatic relations between the two countries are only on the economic plane. "That is, if we have no economic interest, we do not communicate with each other. While historic-cultural values should be the basis of Armenia's and Georgia's diplomacy," H. Sanosian said.

The NA deputy also said that two dozens of schools have been repaired with nearly 200m drams (about 667 thousand USD) allocated from the RA state budget this year. He expressed the hope that this process will be permanent. Meanwhile H. Sanosian said that schools in the same number have been also fundamentally repaired by the Georgian authorities.

Touching upon the construction of Kars-Akhalkalak-Baku railway, H. Sanosian said that there are rumors that allegedly the construction will be stopped. "As warming of Armenian-Turkish relations is expected, naturally, I think the Turkish and Georgian governments leaving the existing railway will not make new expenditures," he said.

25. AS OF SEPTEMBER 2, SEVEN PEOPLE HELD UNDER PRELIMINARY ARREST BY CRIMINAL CASE ON MARCH 1-2 EVENTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

The investigation into the criminal case of Felix Gevorgian and Armen Khurshudian was completed within the framework of the criminal case being investigated by the RA Special Investigation Service in connection with the March 1-12 events in Yerevan. The case of the indicated men was sent to court.

The investigators revealed and substantiated that Felix Gevorgian was a direct participant in the mass disorder in Yerevan on March 1-2, 2008. In particular, upon learning on March 1 that the meetings in Yerevan had turned into a mass disorder, F. Gevorgian came to Yerevan and took part in the mass disorder. At about 9 pm he took his AKMS rifle and several 7.62 mm cartridges and came in a taxi to Yerevan from the village of Zovuni. At about 11.30 pm on the same day, he was at house No 7, in front of "Eight" Supermarket on Paronian Street in Yerevan where he fired several shots in the air "with the aim of offering armed resistance to police". At about 3 am of March 2 when policemen prevented the mass disorder he went back to Zovuni and hid his rifle in the yard of his house.

On June 26, Marine Gevorgian, Felix Gevorgian's sister, handed a homemade machine-gun and a AKMS rifle over to policemen of her own free will in her home at 23/2 Koryun Street in Yerevan.

The investigators revealed that F. Gevorgian and Armen Khurshudian, a previously convicted person, of the village of Alashkert (Armavir marz) stole the indicated arms, as well as 2 grenades, five



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5.45-mm cartridges and 35 5.6-mm cartridges from a cellar of house No 50a on Yeznik Koghbatsi Street in Yerevan.

Based on the evidence, F. Gevorgian was charged under the RA Criminal Code's Article 34-177 part 2 points 1 and 3, Article 235 part 1, Article 238 part 1 and Article 225 part 2, while A. Khurshudian was charged under Article 34-177 part 2 points 1, 3 and 4, Article 235 part 1 and Article 238 part 1. F. Gevorgian and A. Khurshudian admitted their guilt. The criminal case has been sent to court for examination.

According to the press service of the RA Prosecutor General's Office, as of September 2, 7 accused persons are held under preliminary arrest by the criminal case on March 1-2 events. Precautionary measures other than arrest were chosen with respect to another 8 accused persons.

26. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES SPECIAL DELEGATE OF TURKEY [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today special delegate of the Turkish President Abdullah Gul, Ambassador Unal Chevikyoz.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides referred to the visit of the Turkish President Abdullah Gul to Yerevan at the invitation of the Armenian president to watch Armenia-Turkey football game scheduled for September 6.

Serzh Sargsyan positively assessed the visit of the special delegate to Armenia, and said that it creates an opportunity to speak about regulation of bilateral relations, exchange thoughts over regional developments and issues. The president said that events taking place in Caucasus demand great responsibility and create serious issues and commitments.

The interlocutors discussed Turkey's initiative on creation of Union of Caucasian Stability and Security. Noting that Turkish prime minister has initiated a very difficult but important step, S. Sargsyan said that he is for the discussion of any issue.

"Armenia always greeted and greets all the efforts directed towards consolidating atmosphere of trust in the region, establishment of stability, cooperation and security," S. Sargsyan said presenting his views over the establishment of the union.

27. ELECTIONS OF SELF-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES TO BE HELD IN MORE THAN 800 RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

In more than 800 rural and urban communities of Armenia elections of local self-governmental bodies will take place in October.

On October 12 elections of council of elders will be held in 90 communities of Ararat province and elections of head of community in 70 communities, including in Masis, Vedi towns.

In 47 communities of Kotayk people will elect head of community, including in Abovian, Hankavan, Garni, Tsakhkadzor towns. In 66 communities of Kotayk province members of council of elders will be elected. In 88 rural and urban communities of Syunik elections of head of community will be held, including in Agarak, Sisian, Meghri, Kajaran towns. Members of council of elders will be elected in 100 communities of Syunik. On the same day in 31 communities of Vayots Dzor elections of head of community will be held and in 38 communities elections of members of council of elders will pass.

On October 19 elections of members of council of elders will be held in 92 communities of Armavir, 93 communities of Lori and 50 communities of Tavush. On the same day elections of head of community will be held in 61 communities of Armavir, 86 of Lori and 50 of Tavush, including in Etchmiadzin, Metsamor, Stepanavan, Akhtala, Noyemberian, Dilijan, Berd towns.

On October 26 elections of heads of communities will pass in 93 communities of Aragatsotn province, and elections of members of council of elders in 100 communities including Ashtarak, Aparan, towns. In Gavar, Sevan, Tchambarak, Vardenis towns of Gegharkunik province and in 51 other communities people will elect head of community. In 55 communities elections of members of council of elders will be held.

On the same day in Shirak province elections of head of community will pass in 94 communities and elections of members of council of elders will pass in 100 communities, including in Ashotsk, Gyumri, Artik towns.



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28. AZERBAIJANI WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS AGAINST VISIT OF TURKISH PRESIDENT TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

Azerbaijani World Youth Congress protests against the visit of Turkish President Abdullah Gul to Armenia, press service of the organization reported.

The statement says that the Congress is against the visit of Turkish president to Armenia and finds that "the visit will have a serious impact on the Azerbaijani-Turkish relations."

"The Turkish government must refuse undertaking such steps which were undertaken by a number of states under the pressure of Armenian lobby and must continue presenting a principle position," the statement of the organization said.

BUSINESS

29. 982 WAGONS TRANSPORTED TO ARMENIA AFTER RESTORATION OF BYPASS THROUGH GORI-TBILISI RAILWAY BRIDGE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

982 wagons of various commodities, including 68 wagons of gasoline and 350 wagons of wheat, have been transported so far to Armenia after restoration of the bypass through Gori-Tbilisi railway bridge, co-chairman of the Armenian-Georgian interparliamentary commission Volodya Badalian announced at the September 1 press conference. According to him, in Georgia there is now no notable accumulation of goods to be transported to Armenia, and another 2,500 tons of gasoline will be loaded by September 3.

V. Badalian said that the restoration of the bridge will probably be completed in a month. However, due to the post-war situation in Georgia no one can guarantee that there will be no explosions. For this reason V. Badalian attached importance to the issue of having an alternative railway.

In his words, Armenia should be able to keep a neutral position in the current Russian-Georgian relations. "These countries should solve their problems themselves. Both are friendly countries for us," V. Badalian said.

30. "DIGITEC 2008" TO KICK OFF IN OCTOBER [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 09/02/08]

"DigiTec 2008" annual exhibition will be conducted in Yerevan October 3-5. The event which is being conducted for the fourth time is being organized under high sponsorship of the Prime Minister of Armenia.

An official from the Information Technology Enterprises Union told Armenpress that this year as well the main goal of "DigiTec" is to create a favorable atmosphere among information technology companies, consumers and society. It also gives an opportunity to know the real picture of the Armenian information technology field, get acquainted with the achievements, existing challenges and opportunities.

Already 30 local and international companies presented applications for participation in the "DigiTec 2008". Last year the exhibition had 8,000 visitors, this year it is expected to have 12,000 visitors and 70 participants.

The chief sponsor of the exhibition is Microsoft RA company, sponsor is Virage Logic company. Within the framework of the event seminars will also be conducted.

DIASPORA

31. RICHARD AND TINA CAROLAN FUND PUBLISHES MANUEL KESHISHIAN'S MOKEGAN HAYELINER (MAGIC MIRRORS), A SERIES OF PLAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

The Richard and Tina Carolan Publishing Fund, established under the auspices of the Catholicosate of Cilicia, introduced its most recent publication, Manuel Keshishian's Mokegan Hayeliner (Magic Mirrors), a series of plays.

As the Mother See of Antilias reports, the jury, appointed by Aram A, the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, enjoys the immediate patronage of His Holiness, providing an opportunity to Diaspora Armenian scholars, especially those of the modern generation to publish their literary and research works.

During the two-year activity of the Fund four volumes have been published: Vartan Matiossian's Haravayin Goghmn Ashkhari (The Southern Side of the World); Hagop Tcholakian's Andioki Mertsaga Roudgi Hovidi Hayere (The Armenians of the Valley of Roudge near Antioch); Dr. Saleh Zahreddine's



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Hayots Yegeghetsvo Teragadaroutyoune 1915-i Tcharteroun (The Role of the Armenian Church in the Massacres of 1915); and the most recent volume mentioned above.

It is mentioned that before being published all the works should be certified by the jury and then sent to printing as Richard and Tina Carolan Publishing Fund's new volumes.

32. 110th ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PRELACY OF ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA TO BE MARKED IN OCTOBER [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

The dual anniversaries of the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America and the 50th anniversary of the Prelacy's affiliation with the Great House of Cilicia will be marked with a gala banquet on October 25, in New Jersey. An exhibit about the history of the Prelacy and a DVD film, "A Journey of Faith" will be on display during the cocktail hour.

33. ARCHBISHOP OSHAGAN TO MESSAGE FOR OPENING CEREMONIES OF ATF'S 75th ANNUAL OLYMPICS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan is traveling to Detroit, where on Saturday evening he will attend the 75th anniversary celebration of the Armenian Youth Federation. Early afternoon on Sunday he will offer the invocation and message for the opening ceremonies of the AYF's 75th annual Olympics.

34. GIBRAHAYER E-MAGAZINE INITIATES AN ONLINE GAME-COMPETITION FOR ITS SUBSCRIBERS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

Gibrahayer e-magazine will be launching an Educational online Trivia Game in which the subscribers of the magazine can take part. In the framework of the game the e-magazine will provide an educational forum on important historical and political happenings of Armenian reality. A team across Armenia and the Diaspora has already started working on the project and the Game will be officially launched this autumn.

More than 100 major prizes have been donated.

35. BISHOP ANOUSHAVAN WILL ATTEND WCC MEETINGS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian will attend the World Council of Churches' Faith and Order consultation on "Tradition and Traditions: Early Sources of Authority in the Church," in Cambridge, United Kingdom, from September 1 to 6. Bishop Anoushavan will present the Armenian Church's approach to this topic.

Other participants include the Syrian Orthodox Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Anglican Church, and Methodist Church. Bishop Anoushavan is Vicar General of the Eastern Prelacy and the Ecumenical Officer in the United States on behalf of the Catholicosate of Cilicia.

36. HRANUSH HAKOBIAN MEETS WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/01/08]

Head of the Diaspora State Committee of the Armenian Foreign Ministry Hranush Hakobian met today with the Indian ambassador to Armenia Rina Pandey.

Press service of the ministry told Armenpress that during the meeting Hranush Hakobian noted that Armenian community in India is one of those ancient communities which played a big role in the development of Armenian-Indian relations.

She also spoke about the ministry functioning inside the Indian government which deals with the issues of Indians who are abroad and asked the ambassador to present the details of the work of the ministry.

R. Pandey greeted the idea of creation of Diaspora Ministry in Armenia and underscored all the initiatives connected with it. She also presented the structure of the Diaspora Ministry of India, its functions and programs it is carrying out.

Hranush Hakobian considered it useful to study the experience of India in the Diaspora sphere for the creation of Diaspora Ministry in Armenia.

During the meeting the two sides also underscored the exchange of experience between the two countries and deepening of the cooperation.



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37. ARMENIAN AMERICAN SINGER PERCH TOURAPIAN TO ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

Perch Tourapian, a well-known Armenian American author of songs, singer and guitarist is arriving in Istanbul soon.

Perch Tourapian is a singer faithful to the school of French chanson who unites lyrics and music with great skill and turns them into a song. At first he entered the sphere of song as an author of lyrics, then he released complete albums on the poems by Vahan Tekeyan and Yeghishe Charents. Then he made the poems of three Istanbul-based Armenian poets: Zhurat, Khrakhouni and Inga Sareaslan his source of inspiration, they were turned into songs and found their place in a separate album.

As Marmara reports, on September 11 at Shirinoghli hall of Ferigyugh St. Vardanants Church, Perch Tourapian's intimate concert is envisaged for the lovers of Armenian song and poetry.

38. ONE OF SLOVAKIAN NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHES YAN CARNOGURSKY'S ESSAY "NAGORNO KARABAKH LIVES" [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

On August 28 one of the leading Slovakian newspapers published the country's former Prime Minister Yan Carnogursky's essay entitled "Nagorno Karagakh Lives", which refers to his recent visit to Nagorno Karabakh.

The essay presents the everyday life and work of the people of Nagorno Karabakh who has survived the Sumgait Massacre and declared independence, the warm reception given to the Slovakian delegation and Armenian hospitality, and a visit to the front line of the conflict.

"The Armenian people, who survived a genocide at the beginning of the past century, rapidly repelled the attack of Azerbaijan, defending its motherland and gained the right to declare independence," Yan Carnogursky says, adding, "The day of the visit to the front line surprisingly coincided with Georgia's attack on Southern Ossetia, making all of us speak loudly of Nagorno Karabakh and remember its current state." The former Prime Minister underlines with surprise the fact that "Karabakh defends that difficult border alone, without the help of foreign peacekeeping forces."

Y. Carnogursky also mentions with delight that "the program of Slovakian businessmen's investment proposals received an exclusively positive response: it will be implemented in the coming months."

It is noteworthy that the leader of the above-mentioned delegation was Ashot Grigorian, Chairman of the Forum of Armenian Unions of Europe.

39. SURB GRIGOR LUSAVORICH CHURCH IN NOVOKUZNETSK CONSECRATED [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

The Armenian Surb Grigor Lusavorich Church in the Russian city of Novokuznetsk was consecrated on August 24.

According to the press service of the Armenian diocese of Nor Nakhijevan and Russia, on that historical day the primate of Armenian diocese of Nor Nakhijevan and Russia Bishop Yezras Nersisian travelled from Moscow to Novokuznetsk (Kemerovo region) and with the help of spiritual fathers of Moscow, Krasnoyarsk and Barnaul priests Ter Tadevos, Ter Shahan and Ter Mashtots consecrated the five crosses on the church dome, after which a holy liturgy was celebrated and the church itself was consecrated.

Representatives of the Russian Orthodox and Catholic Churches and the local Muslim community attended the holy ceremony. Members of the regional and city authorities, the heads of parish communities of the neighboring cities of Barnaul and Krasnoyarsk, numerous Armenian pilgrims and believers were present.

Bishop Yezras Nersisian addressed those present with words of blessing, urging them to keep this church with their constant prayers. He also expressed gratitude to the benefactor of the church, the chairman of the Parish Council Sarik Abrahamian, on whose initiative the beautiful church was constructed.

To recap, by official data, about 12 thousand Armenians live in this region of Russia.



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40. EXPOSITION "THE ARMENIAN SPORTS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE" OPENS AT ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MUSEUM-INSTITUTE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

An exposition "The Armenian Sports in the Ottoman Empire" opens in the temporary show room of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute on September 2. It includes about 70 photos, documents and periodicals that present the history of the formation of sport clubs and football teams in the Ottoman Empire before 1915.

According to a report of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Armenian sport clubs and sportsmen made a significant contribution to the development of sports in the Ottoman Empire: there were about 100 Armenian sport clubs in the empire.

Armenian Olympic Games were organized in Constantinople in 1911-1914. "Gymnast" sports newspaper (editor Shavarsh Krisian) was published in that period, which was the first periodical on sports in the Ottoman Empire.

Two Armenian sportsmen, Vahram Papazian and Mkrtych Mkrian took part in the 5th International Olympic Games in Stockholm in the summer of 1912, representing the empire for the first time at Olympic Games.

In 1915-1920, many Armenian sportsmen became victims of the genocide and the majority of sport clubs stopped functioning.

41. TURKISH TV COMPANY TRT INTENDS TO PREPARE PROGRAMS IN ARMENIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

One of the first steps on bringing Armenia and Turkey closer was carried out through an agreement on cooperation signed between Turkey's TRT TV company and Armenia's Public TV company, the Marmara reports, citing the Aksham newspaper (Turkey).

The Director Generals of the TV companies Ibrahim Shahin and Alexan Haroutiunian signed an agreement, by which the two stations will cooperate in the direction of preparing programs and establishing technical ties. It is mentioned that programs of public interest will be made in cooperation so that the two nations could understand each other better.

In this connection TRT intends to broadcast programs in the languages of neighbouring countries, including Armenian.

42. CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF BIRTH OF LATE CATHOLICOS VASKEN I TO BE HELD IN U.S. WESTERN DIOCESE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

The special Centennial Celebration of the Birth of the Late Catholicos Vasken I will be held at the U.S. Western Diocese on September 17, 2008.

Vasken I was born in Bucharest in 1908. His Holiness led the Armenian Holy Apostolic Church from 1955 to 1994 as the Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians. During the Communist regime, the Armenian Church endured persecution and financial hardship. Despite the numerous challenges, His Holiness was able to successfully lead the Church through those difficult times.

43. VP NOMINEE REITERATES SUPPORT FOR ARMENIANS AT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08] By Harut Sassounian Publisher, The California Courier

Now that both political parties have selected their presidential and vice presidential nominees, we can better judge which side is more supportive of Armenian issues.

As the Democratic National Convention came to a close last Thursday night, Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama and his running mate Sen. Joe Biden, briefly met at a private reception with a large and enthusiastic group of supporters.

As they were hastily making the rounds and shaking the hands of supporters, my young son, Aram, told Sen. Biden: "Thank you for your commitment to the Armenian community." Sen. Biden, looking squarely in his eyes, emphatically replied: "I don't know anybody more committed than me."

Those who have followed Sen. Biden's distinguished career in the U.S. Senate have no doubt about the accuracy and sincerity of his statement. Not surprisingly, ever since his vice presidential nomination over a week ago, the Turkish press has published dozens of hysterical articles about Sen. Biden's long-standing "anti-Turkish" and "pro-Armenian" positions.

Topping Sen. Biden's solid pro-Armenian record, Sen. Obama himself has repeatedly made supportive statements on Armenian issues, which explain why Turks and Azerbaijanis prefer Sen.



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McCain who refuses to acknowledge the Genocide. The best example of Sen. Obama's strong commitment to the truth manifested itself during his visit to Baku in 2005, when he was harassed by Azeri journalists for having sent a letter to Pres. Bush asking him to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Instead of ducking the issue, Sen. Obama boldly told the irritated Azeris that the Armenian Genocide was a historic fact and that "killing civilians anywhere in the world should not be allowed."

Although we need to be weary of promises made by politicians, Armenian-Americans no longer need to beg presidential candidates to acknowledge the Genocide. That was already accomplished by Pres. Reagan back in 1981. Just as the Jewish community does not ask presidential candidates to say Holocaust, Armenians do not need to ask them to say Genocide either.

However, should a candidate refuse to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, as is the case with Sen. McCain who voted against a Senate Resolution on this issue sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole in 1990, Armenian-Americans should condemn him rather than support him. In a statement Sen. McCain issued earlier this year, he referred to the Armenian Genocide as "painful experiences," "tragedy" and "brutal murder." How many American Jews do you think would vote for a presidential candidate who would dare to call the Holocaust mere "killings" or a "massacre?" Since Sen. McCain is adamantly refusing to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide in a close race when he needs every vote to win, the chances slim to none that he would use the term "genocide," after he becomes President!

Therefore, voting for Sen. McCain should be out of question for any self-respecting Armenian who cares about the Armenian Cause. As to Sen. Obama, we should expect him to do much more than merely acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. He should be asked to increase foreign aid to Armenia and Artsakh, pressure Turkey and Azerbaijan to lift their blockades of Armenia, denounce the violations of civil, cultural and religious rights of the Armenian minority in Turkey, urge Turkey and Azerbaijan to preserve Armenian historic and religious monuments, and appoint qualified Armenian-Americans to senior positions in his administration.

In my opinion, there is a clear contrast between the two presidential candidates. Sen. Obama stands for change, while Sen. McCain is for the continuation of Pres. Bush's failed policies.

Those who vote for Sen. McCain, they would be voting for four more years of Armenian Genocide denial by the White House and the State Department, continued blockade of Armenia by Turkey and Azerbaijan, and an increased threat to Artsakh's survival by an emboldened Azerbaijan.

Beyond Armenian affairs, Sen. McCain's election would negatively impact important issues affecting America and the world, such as: U.S. troops remaining in Iraq indefinitely; possible American military involvement in new wars in Iran and Georgia; more U.S. soldiers losing their lives around the globe for no good reason; trillions of dollars added to the national debt; millions of Americans joining the poverty rolls; more Americans without health insurance; and more terrorism around the world.

Sen. Obama may not be able to deliver on all of his promised changes, but at least he won't make the situation any worse than it is now!

ARTS

44. SECOND YEREVAN FESTIVAL WILL KICK OFF TODAY *BUT WITHOUT ARMENIAN SOMPOSERS* [Aravot, 09/02/08]

Second Yerevan International Music Festival will be opened today at Aram Khachatrian music hall. The Artistic Directors of the Festival are famous cellist Alexander Chaushian from Great Britain and Artistic Director and Conductor of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) Maestro Eduard Topchian from Armenia. Symphonic and chamber music concerts will take place during the festival correspondingly in the Aram Khachatrian and music hall and Komitas Chamber Music House. Accompanied by the APO, young Norwegian pianist Christian Ihle Hadland will open the festival. Hadland is considered to be one of the most talented and famous musicians of the new generation of Norway. Taking the opportunity "Aravot" daily asked a few questions to the famous Norwegian pianist.

Q: How did you succeed in attracting the specialists and the audience in this "abundance" of pianists?

A: Today, we have a huge market and we have bigger opportunities to reveal your talents. In my case I would first of all mention the state subsidy towards art. Then came the financial support from rich people. Today, I am financially secure, which gives me the freedom to think not only about career. Success found me in 2005, when I gave a concert with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra.

We noticed that not a single work of an Armenian composer is included in the festival program. To this Mr. Eduard Topchian answered: "We had included Alexander Harutyunian's violin concert and had invited famous violinist Graf Murza from Russian, who is considered to be one of the best performers of



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this piece of art. Murza got sick and will not be able to participate in the festival. But later, on October 24, he will arrive in Yerevan and perform Harutyunian's violin concert".

In response to our statement that no new Armenian talents are revealed lately and that Armenian composers' works are presented very rarely during the concerts Topchian assured us that during the 2008-2009 concert season the APO will perform Vache Sharafian's, Davit Halajian's, Argentinean-Armenian Alicia Terzian's and other Armenian composers' works. Young talented musicians like violinist Anush Nikoghossian, pianist Arous Atjemian, singers Liana Alexanian, Hovaness Ayvazian, David Babayants, and others will perform with the APO during the next concert season.

45. WEEK OF LEBANON'S CULTURE BEING HELD IN ARMENIA FROM AUGUST 27 TO SEPTEMBER 2 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

Naregatsi Art Union (NAU) with the support of Ministries of Culture of the RA and the Republic of Lebanon, as well as with the support of the two countries' Embassies holds a Week of Lebanon's Culture from August 27 to September 2. During these days the Armenian audience will get acquainted with Lebanon's rich culture. A celebration devoted to the Lebanese poet Gibran Kahlil Gibran will be held at the RA Writers' Union, Fayha Choir will give concerts, the performance of An Unfinished Novel will be on in Hovhannes Toumanian State Puppet Theatre based on the play of the same name by Lebanese-Armenian writer Ara Artsrouni.

Within the framework of the week an exhibition of Lebanese-Armenian artist Raffi Antonian's works opened at NAU on August 27. The traditions and everyday life of the inhabitants of Mousa Dag prevail in the thematics of the artist's works.

As Fayha's artistic director Pargev Taslakian noted during the press-conference on the same day, Arabic, French, Iraqi and Armenian songs are included in the song-list of the choir founded in 2003. Fayha is a laureate of a number of international contests, it released its first album in 2007, it has also participated in the musical setting of a number of films. In 2008 the choir will perform in Italy, Egypt, France and Lebanon.

In the words of contemporary Arab poet Henri Zogeyb, he is very glad that Gibran Kahlil Gibran's works are being translated into Armenian. He hopes that Armenian readers who strive for peace, love and justice will also be inspired with the works of the great poet.

Riad Alamedi, director of the Culture Department of Safadi Fund of Lebanon, said that there is a great wish to organize a Week of Armenia's Culture in Lebanon. It was also mentioned that 500 thousand Armenians live in Lebanon and that they have made a great contribution to the development of Lebanese culture.

46. DANCING FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN GYUMRI [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

A dancing festival will be held in the Armenian town of Gyumri October 17-19 on the initiative of "Vardevanian" dancing school in joint collaboration with Armenian State Philharmonic. The festival will be the continuation of the dancing festival held in summer. Unlike the previous one, this time besides dancing groups of Gyumri, other ones from different Armenian provinces may participate in it.

During the summer festival around 16 dancing groups of Gyumri presented their performances. The organizer of the festival Hovhannes Vardevanian said that the festival in the province is the best way to show creative opportunities of the dancing groups.

The festival is intended to become a traditional one and pan-Armenian.

47. DIRECTORS OF ART AND LITERATURE INSTITUTES RE-ELECTED [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/03/08]

The session of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences elected today directors of institutes of art and literature.

Press service of the academy told Armenpress that professor Ararat Aghasian was unanimously re-elected director of Art Institute, just like professor Avetik Isahakian was re-elected as director of Literature Institute.



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SOCIAL

48. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT ATTENDS OPENING CEREMONY OF YEREVAN SCHOOL NO 194 RECONSTRUCTED WITH LINCY FOUNDATION MONEY [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

On September 1 Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan took part in the opening ceremony of Yerevan school No 194 reconstructed with money of the Lincy Foundation under the School Construction Project. The school named after Armen Hovhannisian was built in 1959 and was in need of major repairs.

The director of the School Construction Project Implementation Office Hrayr Sargsian said that about 900 million drams (3 mln USD) was spent on the school's major repairs. The school designed for 720 pupils will now ensure instruction of 960 in one session.

According to Yerevan mayor Yervand Zakharian, the project on ensuring all schools and kindergartens of Yerevan with heating systems and modernization of all important infrastructures, buildings and property will be finished within the next two years. The mayor stated 140 schools were repaired and 148 boiler-rooms were built. 157 out of the 202 city comprehensive schools will be heated in 2008. Investments of 1 bln 460 mln drams were made in 2006, investments of 6 bln 500 mln drams were made in this sector in 2008. The total investments in the education system amounted to 17 bln drams in recent years.

49. WATER SUPPLY OF PART OF YEREVAN'S SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT TO BE CUT OFF ON SEPTEMBER 3 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

The water supply of B1, B2 and B4 South-Western districts of Yerevan's Malatia-Sebastia community will be cut off on September 3 from 10 am to 10 pm due to construction work, NT was informed by Yerevan Water CJSC.

50. 65 ARMENIANS TO STUDY IN FOREIGN MILITARY EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS [Hayots Ashkhar, 09/02/08]

Around 65 Armenians will study in foreign military educational establishments this year. Overall 83 applicants participated in the entrance exams. Besides, 49 officers from Armenia will leave for Russia to study in the Russian military academies.

Murad Isakhanian, head of staff and military education department of the Armenian Defense Ministry, told Armenpress that around 110 officers applied for studying in Russian military academies, but only 69 of them participated in the exams, as the rest did not comply with the terms of the exams.

51. STEPANAKERT MARKS 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF KARABAKH'S INDEPENDENCE [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/02/08]

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Karabakh independence President Bako Sahakian, delegation headed by the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan visited Stepanakert memorial to pay tribute to the memory of freedom fighters who died defending their homeland.

Karabakh presidential press service told Armenpress that Karabakh President Bako Sahakian conducted today meeting with the Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian who also arrived in Karabakh to participate in the celebrations dedicated to the 17th anniversary of Karabakh's independence.

At the meeting the sides discussed a wide-range of issues on bilateral relations. Movses Hakobian, Karabakh defense minister, was also present at the meeting.

52. ARMENIAN STATE BUDGET PROVIDES FUNDS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS IN JAVAKHQ [ARMENPRESS, 09/02/08]

Around 20 schools are being reconstructed in Javakhq with the funds released from the Armenian state budget. The works are still in process. The co-chairman of the "Unity" non-governmental organization of Georgian Armenians Hayk Sanosian said today at a press conference the means of Armenian philanthropists are also used in that direction. He expressed hope that the provisions will be continuative.

H. Sanosian noted that the issue of the Javakhq schools is under the limelight of the organization and it follows that schools are ensured with books and necessary furniture.



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53. ARMENIAN ATOMIC POWER PLANT TO STOP FUNCTIONING FOR 85 DAYS STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER 5 [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

Armenian Atomic Power Plant will stop functioning from September 5 for 85 days because of capital reconstruction. Director of the plant Gagik Markosian told Armenpress that the plant is being capitally reconstructed once in every four years within the frameworks of initially developed plan. This reconstruction supposes a wide range of work thus the plant will stop operating not for 65 days as usual but for 85.

G. Markosian said that the suspension of the work of the plant will not cause lack of electricity in the republic. He said that the reconstruction will be made by the funds of the plant and taking into consideration the security norms.

As to the project of gradually stopping the functioning of the plant by 2016, G. Markosian said that it must be ready five years before the final suspension of the work of the plant. Currently the international experience is being studied for the development of the project.

54. MEMBERS OF "FRENCH ARMENIAN MEDICAL UNION" CARRY OUT A CHARITY PROGRAM IN 7 RURAL COMMUNITIES OF LORI [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

On the initiative of the French local body of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund members of the "French-Armenian Medical Union", who were in Armenia, conducted a charity program in 7 rural communities of Lori province.

An official from the Fund told Armenpress that within the frameworks of the program they examined eyes of more than 400 children and adults.

55. ARMENIAN EDUCATION MINISTER RECEIVES GROUP OF BELGIAN STUDENTS [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/03/08]

Armenian Education and Science Minister Spartak Seyranian met today with a group of Belgian students. Press service of the ministry told Armenpress that during the two-week visit the students, majoring in economics, will be presented the economic peculiarities of Armenia.

The minister presented to the students the reforms taking place in the higher educational system of Armenia, their goal, and answered to the questions they were interested in which referred particularly to the entrance exams, qualification of professors. One of the students asked on what resources Armenia's economy is based, as it has neither gas, nor oil and other useful resources.

"Armenia's invaluable resource is human being and it is not accidental that today our state directs its steps towards increasing the quality of human capital. With that purpose the reforms are being carrying out in the educational system," the minister said.

At the end of the meeting he expressed hope that during the visit the students will get acquainted not only with our economy but with Armenia's history and culture as well.

SPORTS

56. NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM OF ARMENIA STARTS PREPARING FOR QUALIFYING STAGE OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

On September 1 Armenia's national football team started preparing in Yerevan for the September 6 match with Turkey and the September 10 match with Spain of the qualifying stage of the 2010 world championship.

The chief coach of the Armenian national team Jan Poulsen invited 25 players to a training assembly in Yerevan. In addition to football players from Armenian teams, those from clubs of Russia, Denmark, Belarus, Ukraine, Sweden, Romania, the Netherlands and Iran have been invited.

57. LILIT MKRTCHIAN BEATS EVA MOSER AT BEGINNING OF WOMEN'S WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

A Women's World Knockout Chess Championship started in Nalchik on August 29. Armenian GM Lilit Mkrтчian played against Eva Moser of Austria at the start and defeated her (3.5-2.5).

In the 2nd round L. Mkrтчian will play against Anna Gasik (Poland). US-based Katerina Rohunian also passed to the next round. She beat Natalia Zhukova (2.5-1.5).



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58. RAFAEL VAHANIAN SHARES 4-5th PLACES IN ANTWERP CHESS TOURNAMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/01/08]

The traditional international chess tournament with the participation of 10 grand masters ended in Antwerp (Belgium) on August 31. Bu Xiangzhi of China took first place with 7 points. 57-year-old Rafael Vahanian was the oldest chess player in the tournament. He earned 5 points and shared 4-5th places with Hungarian chess player Zoltan Gimesh.

59. 165 SPORTS SCHOOLS FUNCTION IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

The sports schools of Armenia opened their doors before pupils on September 1st. NT correspondent was informed by Samson Hakobian, the head of the Unit for Organizing Work on the Training of Young Sport Generation, that there are 165 sports schools in Armenia, including 49 in Yerevan, with a total of 1,814 coaches (729 in Yerevan). Out of 43,471 sportsmen and sportswomen engaged in 43 kinds of sports, 17,212 ones live in Yerevan. 56 out of 927 Armenian communities have sports schools.

Among the most popular sport kinds are wrestling (7,452 sportsmen), football (5,631), boxing (3,314), weightlifting (2,599) and judo (2,169).

In 2001-2007, 52 gyms, 2 athletic maneges, a stadium, 3 shooting-grounds, as well as swimming-pools, educational and dormitory buildings of 38 sports schools, 2 colleges and other sports organizations were constructed and repaired with funds of the Social Fund, the state budget and "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund.

The average salary of coaches is 33 thousand drams, the salary of those with a seniority of over 20 years makes 42 thousand drams (about 140 USD).

More than 12,000 sportsmen and sportswomen were engaged in athletics in the early 1990s. Today their number has declined to 2,411. Not to mention a small number of those engaged in games such as basketball (3,419), volleyball (1,549) and handball (880).

60. LILIT MKRTCHIAN DRAWS IN FIRST GAME OF SECOND ROUND AT WORLD KNOCKOUT CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

First games of the 2nd round of the Women's World Knockout Chess Championship were held in the city of Nalchik, Russia on September 1. Armenian GM Lilit Mkrtchian drew with Anna Gasik of Poland, while US-based Katerina Rohunian was beaten by Inna Gaponenko (Ukraine).

Second games of the 2nd round are scheduled for September 2.

61. LEVON ARONIAN TO PLAY AGAINST MAGNUS CARLSEN AT START OF GRAND SLAM IN BILBAO [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/02/08]

A Chess Grand Slam started in Bilbao, Spain on September 2. Armenian GM Levon Aronian will play against Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the first round.

The Grand Slam with the participation of Viswanathan Anand (India), Vasily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria) and Teymur Rajabov (Azerbaijan) will end on September 13.

62. LILIT MKRTCHIAN ENTERS THIRD ROUND OF WOMEN WORLD CHESS CUP [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

Armenian grand master Lilit Mkrtchian defeated Polish chess player Anna Gasiki and entered the 3d round of the Women World Chess Cup held in the Russian town of Nalchik.

Katarin Rohonya from USA played draw with Inna Gaponenko from Ukraine. The winner of this couple will be decided at the additional blitz-chess games.

63. LEVON ARONIAN DEFEATED BY MAGNUS KARLSEN [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

Armenian grand master Levon Aronian was defeated by Magnus Karlsen from Norway in the first round of "Grand Slam" international tournament held in the Spanish town of Bilbao.

In others games of the round Teymur Rajabov from Azerbaijan played draw with Vesselin Topalov from Bulgaria and Vishvanatan Anand from India also played draw with Vassili Ivanchuk from Ukraine.



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64. EUROPEAN BASKETBALL FEDERATION TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIAN BASKETBALL [ARMENPRESS, 09/03/08]

European Basketball Federation is going to provide 25,000 euros for 2008 and 2009 development of Armenian basketball.

Executive director of Armenian Basketball Federation Vahagn Harutyunian told Armenpress that besides it the European Basketball Federation will support Armenian federation within the framework of a special program.

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