



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, September 22, 2008

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. CE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES ALSO TO IMPLEMENT OBSERVER MISSION AT SEPTEMBER 28 ELECTIONS TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/20/08]

During the elections to local self-government bodies to be held in Kentron, Nor Nork, Nork-Marash, Avan, Davitashen and Shengavit communities of Yerevan on September 28, 8 local organizations will implement observer mission:

"The Choice is Yours" NGO - 419 observers

"Electoral Systems" Center - 5 observers

"Helsinki Committee of Armenia" NGO - 39 observers

"Life" International Human Rights, Political and Humanitarian Problems Association" NGO - 22 observers

"Open Society Institute" NGO - 201 observers

"Transparency International" NGO - 22 observers

"Will of the Youth" NGO - 72 observers

"Constitutional and International Human Rights Protection Congress" NGO - 9 observers.

According to a press release of the RA Central Electoral Commission (CEC), 10 observers of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will also implement observer mission at the September 28 elections to local self-government bodies in Yerevan. 13 observers of this organization will observe the elections to local self-government bodies in the communities of Armavir, Lori and Tavush marzes (provinces) of Armenia on October 19.

To recap, the RA CEC has sent invitations to observe the upcoming elections in Armenia in September and October to the foreign ambassadors accredited to Armenia, the head of the OSCE Yerevan Office, the special representative of the CE Secretary General to Armenia, the head of the Armenia Office of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the chairman of the NKR Central Electoral Commission.

2. RUSSIAN PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES SERZH SARGSYAN ON ARMENIAN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Medvedev sent a congratulatory message to Serzh Sargsyan on the occasion of Independence Day of Armenia. The message particularly says,

"Dear Serzh Azati,

I congratulate You and all the citizens of friendly Armenia on the National holiday – Day of Independence.

During the recent years Armenia has reached serious success in consolidating statehood, developing economy, it essentially consolidated its authority in the international arena.

Russia highly underscores the traditional friendly relations between the two countries. I am sure that the trust, dynamic political dialogue and effective practical cooperation will continue serving to the expansion of Russian-Armenian ties. It fully corresponds to the interests of our country, to ensuring peace, stability and security in the South Caucasus.

Dear Serzh Azati, I wish You good health and success and wish people of Armenia welfare and prosperity."

3. QUEEN ELIZABETH II SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO ARMENIAN PRESIDENT ON DAY OF INDEPENDENCE [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

Queen Elizabeth II sent a message to the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on the occasion of the Day of Armenia's Independence.

An official from the British embassy in Armenia told Armenpress that the message of the Queen says the following,



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"It gives me much pleasure to send Your Excellency my congratulations on the celebration of your National Day, together with my best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the Government and people of Armenia in the coming years."

4. PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN ADDRESSES ARMENIANS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan addressed the Armenian people on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Armenia's Independence.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that in his address the president said;

"Dear Compatriots,

I congratulate all of us on the occasion of the 17th Anniversary of our independence.

Today is conceivably our main state holiday. Seventeen years ago our collective will turned the dream of the generations of our nation into the irreversible reality.

Restoration of the Armenian statehood was a historic imperative. Our people had never come to terms with losing independence. We couldn't come to terms because our historians and writers said centuries ago that captivity and rule of invaders were unlawful.

Seventeen years ago, the citizens of the Republic of Armenia, who gave their votes for independence, created the history of contemporary and future Armenia. Not incidentally on this festive day each of us poses same questions:

- What the independence has been for me?
- What have been Armenia's achievements on this road?
- What should be our country's course of development?
- What state traditions we will leave to our children born in freedom?

I ask myself the same question. Independence is the materialization of our dream, it is our biography, with ups and downs, strives and fights, opportunity and possibility to defend our national dignity, sacrifice, national achievements obtained through that sacrifice, and the right for all of us to share the pride of these achievements.

Independence is the right to shape our history by our will, and that independence is indispensable and indisputable.

In seventeen years we have been able to protect our country, to establish state structure, to lay foundations for growing economy, and to give a new breath to our culture, education, and health care.

Today our country is moving forward, and if there is a progress it means that there is a force behind that progress. That force is our compatriots, their work, devotion and sacrifice. That force belongs to each of us. All this makes September 21 a proud national holiday. This pride is not haughtiness at all. Our pride is not inspired by our glorious history only, or by the achievements and victories of our predecessors, it is also inspired by our state traditions which are being formed today.

Since independence we have been creating new traditions of the Armenian statehood. Along with excellent traditions there are unfortunately some which are unacceptable.

Henceforth, we are a mature state and must be able to uproot negative trends which hamper our progress, simultaneously fostering the good, values for which the generations have fought, values we cherish: freedom, democracy, and equally before the law. We will stand by those values.

Dear Compatriots,

From year to year for us freedom and independence acquire new meaning and substance. We were able to overcome difficulties and didn't tumble. It became clear for us that only independence can give us the ability to protect the interests of Armenia and the Armenian people.

We will continue to protect those values by all possible means.

Once again I congratulate all of us on the occasion of the Independence Day and wish you all the best.

Long live the free and independent Republic of Armenia!"

5. ARMENIAN LEADERSHIP PAYS TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, Karabakh President Bako Sahakian, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Secretary General of the Armenian National Security Council Arthur Baghdasarian, Chairman of the Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunian and other officials visited yesterday Yerablur to put wreath on the tombs to Commander Vazgen Sargsyan, Andranik Ozanian, to the monument of freedom-fighters killed during the Artsakh war.



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Karabakh President Bako Sahakian said that independence is an exclusive value which gives an opportunity to ensure not only the security of our country but also to develop it. "During these years we had deprivations and many losses, we have overcome difficulties and the cost of all this is our independent statehood, independent Armenia. Luckily, today we have all prerequisites to double our success and achievements," he said.

"By visiting Yerablur we pay tribute to those people thanks to who we have independent statehood and this is a day when we all must remember them and pay tribute to their memory," Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan pointed out.

According to him, the symbol of the Independence Day is an opportunity to sum up the way the country has passed and look into the future. "Seventeen years ago we have independent state, liberated Artsakh, a conviction that we are able to solve all the issue we are facing today and we are sure that in 21st century we will have a worthy place in the family of nations," Tigran Sargsyan said.

6. NEW BUILDING COMPLEX OF DEFENSE MINISTRY OPENS [ARMENPRESS, 09/22/08]

The new building of the Armenian Defense Ministry officially opened on September 21, on the Day of Armenian Independence.

The total cost of the construction is 13 billion USD released from the state budget. Now the building is being furnished, anti-fire and security systems are being placed.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II, Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian, Chairman of the Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunian, Secretary General of the National Security Council Arthur Baghdasarian and other officials were present at the opening.

In his speech the minister pointed out that the author of the project is President Serzh Sargsyan who being defense minister in 90s sought the construction of this great complex.

"All necessary conditions are created here for heading the troops with modern technology," the minister said.

The chief architect of the project Stepan Lazarian said that the building has been built in accordance with the character to which it will serve. "That is why the building has been made very serious," he said.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and high ranked officials present at the event traveled through the building, got acquainted with its conditions and infrastructures.

7. TURKISH AND AZERBAIJANI FMs DISCUSS KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION ISSUE [ARMENPRESS, 09/22/08]

Azerbaijani and Turkish foreign ministers Elmar Mamedyarov and Ali Babajan discussed the situation in the region at the meeting in New York September 21 within the frameworks of 63rd session of UN General Assembly.

During the meeting they have discussed the issues on bilateral relations, Turkey's initiative on the creation of Caucasian security and cooperation platform, regulation of Karabakh conflict, the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey, which will take place this week probably on September 25-26.

Ali Babajan is also expected to meet today with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The sides will discuss the latest events in Caucasus.

8. BERNARD FASSIER: "WAR IS A SUICIDE, WHICH CANNOT HELP TO SOLVE KARABAKH ISSUE" [ARMENPRESS, 09/22/08]

OSCE Minsk Group French co-chairman Bernard Fassier said he considers war suicide which cannot help to solve the Karabakh conflict.

"The latest events in Georgia clearly showed that Minsk group co-chairing countries were right insisting that war is suicide, it will give no results and cannot serve for the regulation of Karabakh conflict," Bernard Fassier said at a press conference in Baku dedicated to his regional visit. During the visit the French diplomat visited Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

He noted that in case military activities start irrespective of who wins and who loses, it will be a suicide for all.

The French co-chairman pointed out the importance of applying new approaches in the conflict regulation process and positively assessed the steps in Yerevan-Ankara relations.



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"May be they are only changes but very symbolizing and essential changes," Bernard Fassier said.

BUSINESS

9. CBA ISSUES "SAGITTARIUS" GOLD AND SILVER COMMEMORATIVE COINS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/20/08]

The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) has issued "Sagittarius" gold and silver commemorative coins under the international numismatic program "The Signs of the Zodiac".

According to the CBA PR service, the coat of arms of the Republic of Armenia is depicted in the center of the obverse of the gold and silver coins, below which the nominal value is inscribed in a circle in Armenian and English: "10 000 Drams" on the gold coin and "100 Drams" on the silver coin. The year of the issue is inscribed above the coat of arms: "2008". All this is encircled by a striped line. There is a second striped circle between this line and the edge of the coin. The surface between the two circles is divided into 12 equal parts, with each of the 12 signs of the zodiac being depicted on each part. There is an inscription "Republic of Armenia" in a circle near the edge: on the top - in Armenian, on the bottom - in English.

An image of Sagittarius is depicted in the center of the reverse of the gold and silver coins. Below on the right the symbol of this sign of the zodiac is presented. There is a star made of yellow zirconium above the image on the reverse of the silver coin. All this is encircled by a striped line. The name of the constellation is inscribed between the circle and the edge: on the top - in Latin, on the bottom - in Russian.

The commemorative coins were designed by U. Walerzak and minted at the Mint of Poland. The nominal value of the gold coin is 10,00 drams, alloy: gold (900), weight: 8.6 grams, diameter: 22mm, quantity: up to 10,000.

The nominal value of the silver coin is 100 drams, alloy: silver (925), weight: 28.28 grams, diameter: 38.61 mm, quantity: 12,000.

10. SERZH SARGSYAN RECEIVED THE CONCESSIVE MANAGER OF ARMENIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM, PRESIDENT OF "RUSSIAN RAILWAYS" VLADIMIR YAKUNIN [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today the concessive manager of the Armenian railway system, president of the "Russian Railways" company Vladimir Yakunin and the delegation headed by him.

Armenian presidential press service told Armenpress that the interlocutors discussed the current state of the Armenian railway and development prospects.

Noting that Armenia has great expectations that under the management of Russian company it will be re-equipped and become an effectively functioning infrastructure, President Sargsyan at the same time underscored the transparency of its activity and control of the investment program.

Vladimir Yakunin said that the Russian side is now registering the property of the whole system and analyzes the situation for increasing the efficiency of management. He guaranteed the full and on-time implementation of the commitments.

During the meeting the sides also referred to the issue on alternative ways of communication.

11. CONFERENCE ON ACTIVITY OF LAWYERS IN BUSINESS SPHERE TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

On the initiative of the Armenian Bar Chamber a conference on the "Activity of Lawyers in the Business Sphere" will be conducted in Yerevan October 1-4.

Monika Hakobyan, a lawyer from the chamber, told Armenpress that lawyers from Armenia, France will participate in the conference.

"Our European partners have quite large experience in respect of activity in business sphere. For already 50 years a system of activity of lawyers in the business sphere is functioning there and we want it to apply in Armenia as well. The conference will help us to get acquainted with the experience," she said.

Representative of Armenian state establishments, businessmen will be present at the conference.



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12. TIGRAN SARGSYAN SAYS ISSUE ON CLOSING ALAVERDI COPPER-MOLYBDENUM FACTORY TO RAISE IN CASE OWNER FAILS TO CARRY OUT ASSUMED COMMITMENTS [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

The issue on closing Alaverdi copper-molybdenum factory will raise in case the owner fails to carry out the assumed commitments, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said September 20 during his visit to Lori, commenting on the information about closing the factory.

The prime minister said that the business program of the factory, and works on preserving ecological norms are being studied in details. If any diversion is registered the public will learn about it.

The prime minister said that the government is interested in preservation of environment protection norms by the factories and it is principle position of the government in the opposite case it is impossible to ensure stable development.

According to Tigran Sargsyan, the alarms about illegal exploitations in environment protection sphere are a lot. "Now we are carrying out a comprehensive study to find out how the field must be regulated and how the oversight must be implemented. We need time as well as serious legislative changes to apply best relevant norms which will correspond to international standards," he said.

T. Sargsyan said that the Armenian side asked the EU to provide a technical support for working out legislative and sub-legislative standards in environment protection sphere.

DIASPORA

13. EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE ARMENIAN HOLY CHURCH OF NAZARETH, KOLKATA [Azg, 09/19/08] By Haik H. Sookias Jr., Chairman of the Armenian Church Committee

The Committee of Armenian Church in Calcutta is delighted to announce the celebration of the historic 300th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Holy Church of Nazareth in 1707, between the 8th November and 15th November 2008, in Calcutta.

Included in the events is the re-consecration of the equally historic St. Mary's Church in Chennai (formerly Madras), the birthplace of Armenian newspaper journalism, which has recently been renovated.

The Committee of the Armenian Church takes this opportunity to extend an invitation to all those who are interested to participate in these events to join in this special and unique occasion.

A diverse range of events will take place throughout the week, which will include a thanksgiving service at the Holy Nazareth church, visit to the historic and renowned Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy, a cultural seminar featuring distinguished Armenian speakers and historians, tours to the two other Armenian churches in Calcutta as well as visits to the Armenian churches in Chinsurah and Saidabad.

It is expected that His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of all Armenians will grace the occasion with his presence and blessings.

It is also expected that as many members of the community, local, national and international will attend all or some aspects of the events.

Anyone wishing to participate should email the Pastor of the Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth, the Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian at the Armenian Church manager@armeniancollege.in, the Wardens of the Armenian Church at armenianchurch@sify.com, or the event assistant liz@chater-genealogy.com, as soon as possible to register their interest. You can also register your desire to attend at www.chater-genealogy.com.

The sooner you communicate with one of the above the sooner we can assist you with the details of your visit to India.

We look forward to seeing you in Calcutta.

14. PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM ACQUIRES ASSISTANCE FROM ARMENIAN COMMUNITIES [Azg, 09/19/08]

For decades, the triumphant triumvirate of the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Latin Catholic churches, have stood firm guard over the panoply of Christian sacred places in the Holy Land, protecting, refurbishing and maintaining them. Often at enormous cost, the burden shared equally by all.

It has been a practical and productive arrangement that has seen, among others, the roof of the Holy Sepulcher, one of Christendom's holiest structures, restored to a brilliant display of inspiring color,



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after lingering as a painful eyesore buttressed by rickety scaffolding that soared upwards in an ungainly tangle of tubing.

The three guardians co-operate under the aegis of a special Status Quo committee that oversees all preservation efforts and attempts to smooth out any differences of opinion that may arise. And there have been more than one. But although harmony has not always been a prevalent feature of their deliberations, the custodians are united in their aims.

The committee derives its authority from a historic pledge made by the Turkish Sultan, Abdul Majid, whose 1852 "firman" (declaration) officially established the principle of "Status Quo" (i.e., existing "as is" condition) in the Holy Places.

"The edict defines, regulates and maintains, without change, the proprietary rights in the Holy Places granted exclusively to the three major Christian rites - Greek, Armenian and Latin Catholic - thus making the Armenian Church equal in stature to the Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches despite its relatively small size," according to the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. However, on more than one occasion, the disagreements, particularly between the two Orthodox churches, have festered for too long, with restoration work unduly protracted. It took a lifetime for the Status Quo committee to ink an agreement for renovation work at the Holy Sepulcher church, while for decades the roof of the Nativity church in Bethlehem, remained in a serious state of disrepair.

According to Archbishop Aris Shirvanian, director of Ecumenical and Foreign Relations at the Armenian Patriarchate, the delay was due to the "divergent positions among the three custodian churches."

With the Greeks insisting that they alone had the right to undertake the restoration, nothing could be accomplished, he noted.

But a solution to the impasse has now been found, he said, thanks to the Palestinian Authority to which the matter was referred and which has agreed to supervise the work that needs to be done. Shirvanian revealed the three guardians have also achieved another milestone, with an agreement to finally revamp and restore the lavatories in the Holy Sepulcher church, at a cost of US\$136,000.

"This issue had been a contentious one for decades until intensive negotiations yielded a breakthrough," he said. Although he did not spell it out, the unsavory smells and unhygienic conditions emanating from the dilapidated utility have always repelled visitors, tourists and pilgrims.

The restoration work is unending, and the demands on the resources of the churches, daunting. "The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem needs the financial support of each Armenian community worldwide to preserve and maintain the priceless legacy of heritage and presence left by past generations of faithful pilgrims in the Holy Land," Shirvanian stresses.

"Time, attention, prayers and donations are all essential to the success of Armenian Jerusalem," he adds.

The Armenian Patriarchate oversees sacred sites all over the Holy Land, but possesses only limited resources, human and material, to help carry out its mandate. Because of this, its ability to protect its possessions becomes strained. Vandalism has become a particularly acute problem for the church.

This summer alone, vandals struck at two of the church's properties, one in Ramleh, an hour's distance from Jerusalem, and one at Baron Der, a 33-1/2 acre olive grove between the towns of Bethlehem-Beit Jala and Jerusalem.

In Ramleh, the criminals took advantage of the temporarily uninhabited St George's Armenian monastery to ransack the interior as well as to destroy doors and windows. (Shocked, the Armenian Patriarch, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, despite the ill health that has troubled him recently, traveled all the way to the site to inspect the damage.)

Shirvanian notes that the monastery "dates back to the 1600's and its ancient history is linked to Armenian pilgrims, who, before the invention of modern transportation, regularly disembarked from boats in the nearby port of Jaffa on their way to Jerusalem. After resting at St. Nicholas Armenian Monastery in Jaffa, overlooking the harbor of Tel Aviv, they would proceed to Ramleh and St George's Monastery. After another rest period, they would resume their journey to Jerusalem."

Barely a month after the Ramleh attack, a "fire of suspicious origin" broke out at Baron Der, damaging up to 20 trees.

Despite all the turmoil and travails, the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem continues to live up to its legacy, its standing and authority as the second most important Armenian spiritual center (after Etchmiadzin, in the Motherland), permanently inscribed on the throne of St James now occupied by an incumbent whose unbridled enthusiasm, devotion and determination, open-mindedness and pragmatic approach, have evoked widespread appreciation and support.



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15. NECESSITY OF NEW PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS [Azg, 09/19/08]

Head of State Committee for Relations with Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received the Chairman of the Union of Armenians in Russia Ara Abrahamian

Head of MFA State Committee for Relations with Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received September 13 the Chairman of the Union of Armenians in Russia, the President of the World Armenian Congress Ara Abrahamian.

The interlocutors exchanged views on ways of development of Armenia-Diaspora collaboration underlining the necessity of new programs and projects.

Mrs. Hakobian mentioned that they have recently stirred up the cooperation with the Union of Armenians in Russia; mainly solution of several issues raised during a meeting with the Armenian community in Moscow is in the process.

Hranush Hakobian attached importance to assistance for Armenological Chairs, training of specialists in the sphere of studies of Diaspora, digitalization of Armenian classics' works by way of formation of an electronic library.

Mr. Abrahamian in his turn welcomed the started works and programs and expressed his readiness to participate in the mentioned undertakings and support them.

Hranush Hakobian and Ara Abrahamian came to an arrangement to build an International Educational Center of Diaspora under the patronage of the future Ministry of Diaspora. The project will be wholly financed by Ara Abrahamian.

ARTS

16. MOSCOW DRAMATIC THEATRE TO PERFORM IN YEREVAN FROM SEPTEMBER 23 [ARMENPRESS, 09/22/08]

The performances of Moscow's dramatic theatre headed by Armen Jigarkhanian will kick off in Yerevan September 23 and will last until September 29.

Press service of the Armenian Culture Ministry told Armenpress that the theatre arrived in Armenia within the frameworks of "Season of Russian Culture" cultural events.

The Russian theatre will perform in Sundukian theatre.

The Russian cultural days in Armenia started from May.

RELIGION

17. CEREMONY OF ECUMENICAL PRAYER TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 27 IN ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR CHURCH [ARMENPRESS, 09/22/08]

The ceremony of ecumenical prayer, presided by Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I will be held September 27 in Saint Gregory the Illuminator Church in Yerevan.

The press service of the Holy See told Armenpress that more than 25 representatives from Eastern Orthodox, Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican and other Christian churches, representatives from ecumenical and inter-religious organizations, as well as state officials and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Armenia will participate in the ceremony.

SOCIAL

18. AREA ADJACENT TO MATENADARAN SMOOTHENED FOR A NEW BUILDING [Azg, 09/20/08]

The area in the back of the Matenadaran building is being cleaned and smoothed for the construction of a new building, which will occupy a total area of 18,000 sq.m., of which 3,000 sq.m. will be occupied by the book depository

According to preliminary estimates the construction of the new building of Matenadaran will cost about 8 mln dollars. This was announced last October, when Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan visited Matenadaran and got acquainted with the model of the new building, the author of which is architect Artur Meschian.



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As opposed to the old building, the new one will not be seen from the Mashtots Avenue. After the construction of the new building, the old one will become a museum, while all the scientific studies and researches will be held in the new building. This project of development of Matenadaran will give opportunities for rich exhibitions and effective scientific activities.

19. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM STARTS IN SOME ARMENIAN SETTLEMENTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/20/08]

Food distribution began on September 17 in Yerevan and the urban settlements of Shirak and Lori marzes under the Food Aid, Food Distribution project of the UN World Food Program. NT correspondent was informed by the RA ministry of labor and social issues that the number of beneficiaries makes 36,312. A package of aid contains 25 kg of flour, 2 liters of vegetable oil and 1 kg of lentils.

20. FORUM OF ALL-ARMENIAN MASS MEDIA HEADS HELD IN TSAKHKADZOR [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/20/08]

A forum of the heads of the All-Armenian mass media outlets started in Tsakhkadzor on September 18 within the framework of the All-Armenian festival "One Nation, One Culture". Welcoming the forum participants, the Chairwoman of the Union of Armenian Journalists Astghik Gevorgian said that the forum has an important mission and the time has come to form an All-Armenian Journalistic Council.

A message of welcome of the President of the World Armenian Congress Ara Abrahamian was read by his deputy Aram Sargsian. The message in particular read: "We must establish links with the Diaspora by words and deeds, and we have developed a number of programs on these problems. We must jointly lobby for solution of all-Armenian problems, we must have a common information network and organize an action, in which we will present a single position on the Artsakh problem, and the press plays a great role in this issue. We will soon invite meetings in all communities and adopt a resolution showing our position and the definite solution of our demand."

According to Azg daily, some critical speeches, in particular, those on the First Channel's low quality programs, language distortion and serials were made at the forum.

21. ABOUT 65 ALARM CALLS RECEIVED LAST WEEK IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/22/08]

About 65 alarm calls were received in Yerevan during the last week.

Deputy Yerevan mayor Vano Vardanian said today that in different districts of the capital 23 cases of fire of them 9 domestic, were registered.

During this week 14 calls of unsatisfactory electricity supply, one call of garbage removal and one call of sewage pipeline damage were received.

V. Vardanian says that as a result of the implemented analytical work it was found out that cases of unsatisfactory water supply have increased by 26 percent and water pipeline damages by 28 percent against the same span of the last year.

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