



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### AGBU NEWS

#### 1. AGBU 'HAYK' OFFICE OPENED IN FRANKFURT AM MAIN [Azg, 09/23/08]

The first office of Armenian General Benevolent Union was opened last weekend in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in cooperation with local "Hayk" Armenian young professionals' organization. "Hayk" is an Armenian-German youth club, which has been operating in Manheim since 2003, and the members of which are students and academic circles from the whole territory of Germany. "Hayk" cooperates with 18 German universities.

The red ribbon was cut by Spiritual Leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Germany Archbishop Karekin Bekchian, RA Ambassador to Germany Karine Ghazinian, and President of AGBU Europe Alexis Govciyan. They made welcoming speeches, congratulating and blessing the opening of the new office.

Alexis Govciyan emphasized three issues – preservation of Armenian identity, strengthening of Armenia and the strong ties of the Armenian communities of Europe with the European Union. Given the fact that Germany has an important position in the EU AGBU decided to support these ties through the opening of this office. Ambassador Ghazinian mentioned that the embassy is always open for wide cooperation. Archbishop Bekchian emphasizing the lasting cooperation of the Holy See and the AGBU expressed hope that the new generation will continue with the same sense of devotion and patriotism.

In his speech Karen Navoyan, the co-chairman of "Hayk", said that AGBU's entrance into the Armenian-German community is historical. He also mentioned that it's an honor for their organization to start cooperation with AGBU – a structure with a 100-year history. All the further youth initiatives in Germany will have a new and better quality. The opening ceremony was also attended by Shavarsh Hovasapian, President of Armenian-German Central Board, NKR Representative in Germany Gayane Apinian, guests from different Diasporan-Armenian communities.

"Luys" choir from Armenia offered pleasant moments to the representatives of the Armenian community and German guests during the reception in the evening of the same day. The most active youngsters were awarded with symbolic "Red Pomegranate" souvenirs by "Hayk" co-chairman Paylak Mzikian.

The next day an interesting meeting took place in the "Hayk" office with Gayane Apinian, NKR Representative in Germany, and Ali Ertin, famous Turkish lawyer living in Germany. AGBU Europe Board also held its session in the newly-opened office. As a reminder, this structure was established in January of this year and was first presented during the AGBU meeting in Brussels in February.

#### 2. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN OPENING OF UN CUP [ARMENPRESS, 09/21/08]

UN Cup chess tournament was held in the yard of the Yerevan State University with the co-sponsorship of Armenian UN Association (AUNA) and Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). Armenian President, Chairman of the Armenian Chess Federation Serzh Sargsyan, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Armen Gevorgian, UN permanent representative in Armenia Consuelo Vidal, YSU rector Aram Simonian and other officials were present at the opening.

The president followed the game of the participants and got acquainted with their readiness.

Greeting those present, the minister noted that this traditional event is expanding gradually and underscored the involvement of children of provinces in it.

"This tournament proves that chess is massively spread in our country. There are no winners in this championship, the only winner is the Armenian chess," the minister said.

According to C. Vidal, the goal of the chess festival is to spread the mission, values and principles of UN in Armenia as well as spread peace culture and atmosphere of tolerance and dialogue between the children of province through sport.

The chairman of the Chess Academy Smbat Lputian underscored the conduction of such events in which children are participating. "They are the future of our chess and this tournament is not only a contest for our children, they will have only good memories from such tournaments," he said.

Chess players from 6-12 years old representing 35 towns of Armenia participated in the one-day festival.

This year the festival was dedicated to UN Peace Day.



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## POLITICS

### 3. NO DISCUSSIONS DIRECTLY REGARDING ARMENIA ENVISAGED AT PACE AUTUMN SESSION [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

There is no issue directly regarding Armenia on the agenda of PACE autumn session to be convened between September 29 to October 3 in Strasbourg. A discussion on the process of fulfillment of Resolutions N 1609 and 1620 on activity of democratic institutions in Armenia adopted in 2008 is envisaged at the PACE session of January 2009.

According to the report placed on the official website of PACE, Assembly's most important event will be special discussion of consequences of the war between Georgia and Russia. It will be held by two stages, on September 30 and on October 2. Before that, on September 22-25, a special fact-finding commission will visit Georgia and Russia.

### 4. NEWLY APPOINTED U.S. AMBASSADOR PRESENTS HER CREDENTIALS TO ARMENIAN PRESIDENT [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/23/08]

The newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch on September 22 presented her credentials to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. Congratulating the ambassador on her appointment, S. Sargsyan said that Armenia attaches great importance to the development of its relations with the United States. He expressed his gratitude to the U.S. government for its consistent assistance to Armenia since the country's independence. He expressed a high opinion about the role of the U.S. as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The newly appointed U.S. ambassador conveyed U.S. President Bush's congratulatory message on the occasion of Armenia's Independence Holiday. Underlining the willingness of the U.S. to assist Armenia with its progress on the path to democracy and market economy. M. Yovanovitch stated that she will do her best for the development and extension of bilateral relations. On behalf of the U.S. government she welcomed the brave initiative to invite Turkish President to Armenia, saying that it has a great importance for the region and will promote peace and stability.

As NT was informed by the RA presidential press service, during the talk the sides also discussed the problems of economic cooperation between Armenia and the U.S, and exchanged ideas about the regional developments.

### 5. COURT SUSPENDS EXAMINATION OF VARDAN JHANGIRIAN'S CASE [Aravot, 09/23/08]

The court examination of the case of Vardan Jhangirian, brother of the former prosecutor general of Armenia Gagik Jhangirian, has been suspended because of V. Jhangirian's health problems. The Yerevan Criminal Court presided over by Judge Mnatsakan Martirosian took this decision on September 22, thus granting a petition of the defence, NT correspondent was informed by the press service of the RA Cassation Court. V. Jhangirian did not attend the court sitting scheduled for the same day due to deterioration of his health.

To recap, V. Jhangirian is charged under Article 316 part 2 of the RA Criminal Code: committing violence (dangerous for life and health) against a representative of the authorities.

### 6. ARMENIAN PM SAYS PROPORTIONAL TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IS ONE OF THE PRIOR ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

"The proportional territorial development is one of prior issues of Armenian government. Our aim is that the territories of the republic have high tempo of development, which will not concede Yerevan," Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said during his working visit to Lori province September 20.

According to him, high-level centralization is noticed in the capital now, which impedes the proportionate development of territories. Therefore, the development of other communities of the republic must be based on the implementation of complex programs.

"We must pay attention not only to the development of the economy, but also infrastructures, social importance, cultural institutions," Tigran Sargsian stated.

Armenian prime minister expressed hope that technical programs, which are already being implemented, will essentially improve the education level in the whole territory of the republic.



“The complex programs will promote that our provinces become convenient for life. People will not seek to come to the capital for career, but will have an opportunity to get qualified higher education in the provinces and have a job with high salary,” T. Sargsian noted.

## 7. ANAHIT BAKHSHIAN SAYS “HERITAGE” PARTY SEES ITSELF IN CLASSIC OPPOSITION [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

““Heritage” party sees itself in classic opposition, that is to say the good must be called good and the bad must be called bad,” the head of the administration of the “Heritage” party Anahit Bakhshian said today at a press conference, adding that “the role of the opposition is not decided by pushing the buttons only.”

According to her, discussions may play an important role during which the parliamentary majority may vote for the project suggested by the opposition like it happens in democratic states. She said with difficulties but the opposition reaches some results.

Referring to the report presented recently by the Oversight Chamber, A. Bakhshian said she made two important conclusions – the first is that the authorities are trying to show that they want to get rid of the officials who obviously steal, and the second one is the concern over re-distribution.

She also informed that secretary of the “Heritage” party Styopa Safarian, member of parliament Larisa Alaverdian and she participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> economic forum held in the Polish resort town of Krinitza Zdruy September 10-12.

She said during the forum issues on risks of regional economic cooperation, transformation of post-soviet territory were discussed.

## 8. SERZH SARGSYAN, “RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF KARABAKH PEOPLE MUST BE ACCEPTED” [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated that the right to self-determination of the people of Nagorno Karabakh must be accepted. The president stated about it during the meeting with the representatives of the international mass media on September 20, in response to the question on possible mutual concession over Nagorno Karabakh issue.

The president said that the issue is that Karabakh people lived in that territory for thousands of years and now such conditions may be created so that Karabakh people be able to continue their secure life in that territory. The time, the soviet time, when Karabakh was part of Azerbaijan, showed that secure life of Karabakh is impossible in case it is part of Azerbaijan.

“As to theoretical option, whether Karabakh may be part of Azerbaijan or not I can answer that it may be decided through a referendum, by asking the opinion of the people of Karabakh. But I am sure that whatever happens, any referendum will show that people of Karabakh will not want to be part of Azerbaijan. I have told Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev that if Azerbaijanis want to show that they are seriously interested in secure life and future of Karabakh, let them make investments in Karabakh and prove the people that they may guarantee their security. May be after that during the referendum the Karabakh people may wish to be part of Azerbaijan. If a miracle happens and Karabakh appears as part of Azerbaijan, in a very short time no Armenian will be there,” the president said.

## 9. SERZH SARGSYAN: “OUR AGENDA DOES NOT INCLUDE ISSUE ON RECOGNITION OF SOUTH OSSETIA AND ABKHAZIA” [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

“Today in our agenda we do not have issue on recognizing South Ossetia and Abkhazia,” Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said at the meeting with representatives of international mass media September 20.

In response to the question why Armenia did not recognize independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and whether it is ready to recognize independence of Nagorno Karabakh, Serzh Sargsyan said, “Nothing may be excluded. Today in our agenda we do not have issue on recognizing South Ossetia and Abkhazia. May be it will seem strange for you that we have always been for the right to self-determination of the people but we have not recognized Kosovo, South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Our approach is simple – we have such an issue ourselves – Nagorno Karabakh issue. We cannot recognize Kosovo, South Ossetia, Abkhazia before recognizing Nagorno Karabakh and why we have not done it yet, because we are in a process of negotiations with Azerbaijan and want to find peaceful solution. Do you remember that in case of Kosovo and other cases as well it was said that the recognition is the last



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way. If there remains no other way Armenia will recognize Karabakh's independence," Armenian president noted.

## 10. NEW BELARUS AMBASSADOR ARRIVES IN ARMENIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 09/23/08]

Newly appointed Belarus ambassador to Armenia Stepan Sukharenko handed over today the copy of his credentials to the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian.

Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that greeting the guest, the foreign minister congratulated the ambassador on his appointment and wished success in his diplomatic mission.

Edward Nalbandian noted that warm and friendly relations have been established between Armenia and Belarus.

During the meeting the sides also referred to the continuative development of bilateral relations.

## 11. SENATOR BARACK OBAMA CONGRATULATES U.S. ARMENIAN COMMUNITY ON 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE [Azg, 09/23/08]

Democratic candidate in U.S. presidential elections Barack Obama congratulated the American Armenian community on the occasion of 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armenia's independence, an official from ANCA told Armenpress.

"Armenian-American relations are necessary for the security of our countries and development of democracy in Armenia," the U.S. senator said. He pointed out the enthusiasm and contribution of the Armenian people to the sake of America.

"Great is the contribution of American Armenians in the life of the USA, in our art and science, business and politics," Obama said.

## 12. ISSUES ON APPLYING EXPERIENCE OF GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT IN ARMENIA DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

Chairman of the Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunian received today the delegation headed by the chairman of the German Constitutional Court Hans-Yurgen Papier.

During the meeting the chairmen referred to the practical functioning of the 1<sup>st</sup> point of 93d Article of German Constitution which refers to the solution of disputes in a constitutional way including the disputes among the state bodies over issues on their authorities. The sides underscored applying that experience in Armenia as well.

Gagik Harutyunian said that the countries which cannot solve their issues inside, have to do it outside and Germany is one of those unique countries which applies to Strasbourg Constitutional Court less frequently. The reason of it is that a constitutional government system is created in Germany by which all the court disputes are tried to be solved inside the country.

Hans-Yurgen Papier noted that the majority of the applications – 95 percent – are of individuals and the rest of state bodies.

G. Harutyunian said that the majority of applications in Armenia are directed against courts' decisions.

## 13. VISITS OF ARMENIAN YOUNG PEOPLE TO ARTSAKH TO BE ORGANIZED [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

Armenia's Youth Party is planning to organize visits of Armenian young people to Nagorno Karabakh. The leader of the party Vahan Babayan said today at a press conference that the goal of the initiative is to introduce to the young people the cultural centers of Artsakh: the visits will be of familiarizing and upbringing nature.

"We want young people of Armenia to know the place of Artsakh not only in a map. Besides cultural centers, we will also visit military divisions," V. Babayan said. According to him, initially visits with small groups were intended to be organized but so many applications have been received that it has been decided to extend the circles of the program.

V. Babayan said that young people from non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, higher educational establishments applied for participation in the program. He also said that financial means are necessary for involving all those who want to participate in the program and that is why the party is going to apply to 300 big companies. The leader of the party said he is sure the Armenian businessmen will respond to their request.



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The party will not be limited by this initiative only. In summer 2009 it is expected to organize gatherings in Karabakh with the participation of young people not only from Armenia but also Diaspora. V. Babayan said that such like visits will also be organized to Javakhq.

## 14. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR NEW YORK [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan left today for New York to participate in the 63d session of the UN General Assembly, where he will deliver a speech.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that in New York Serzh Sargsyan will meet with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon as well as with his counterparts of different countries.

The president will also have meetings with the representatives of the American Assembly of America, Armenian community of New York, will visit St. Vardan Church.

In the honor of the Armenian president a reception will be organized on behalf of the Armenian embassy in USA, Armenia's permanent representation in UN and Armenian-American leading organizations.

## 15. TIGRAN SARGSYAN RECEIVES CHAIRMAN OF GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today chairman of the German Constitutional Court Hans-Yurgen Papier and the delegation headed by him.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that during the meeting Tigran Sargsyan underscored the cooperation with the German Constitutional Court which has 60 years of experience and traditions.

"Armenia's Constitutional Court is younger but it passed through serious trials," the prime minister said, giving a short outline of consolidation of Armenia's statehood after the independence and formation of the powers, as well as establishment of the Constitutional Court.

"If in the first years of consolidation of the state it was important to create necessary legislative bases today it has become important to maintain laws and constitutional norms," Tigran Sargsyan pointed out.

Chairman of the German Constitutional Court Hans-Yurgen Papier expressed readiness to share the experience with Armenia, noting that Germany is interested in sharing its experience with Eastern and South Eastern countries.

At the end of the meeting Tigran Sargsyan thanked the chairman of the German Constitutional Court for readiness to cooperate and expressed hope that his visit will be useful and effective.

Using the opportunity Tigran Sargsyan also referred to the cooperation between Armenian and German governments, highly assessing the technical support of the German government to Armenia.

## 16. ARMENIAN VICE PRIME MINISTER A.GEVORGIAN VISITS VEDI [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

Armenian vice prime minister, Minister of Territorial Governance Armen Gevorgian visited today Vedi.

Press service of the ministry informed Armenpress that the vice prime minister first visited the Azat water reservoir with 70 million cubic meters capacity in Artashat region, which is the main feeding reservoir of the irrigation system of Artashat region and is intended for irrigation of nearly 10,000 hectares.

The ways of optimal usage of the reservoir's limited resources and perspective programs have been discussed. The vice prime minister got acquainted with the reconstruction works of the reservoir.

During the consultation in Vedi municipality a wide-range of issues have been discussed, including the issues on irrigation water, grape sale, construction of new Vedi water reservoir which is of vital importance for the region.

Armenian vice prime minister underscored the efficiency of the social service work, the collection of local taxes and budget implementation.



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## 17. DELEGATION OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES' CONGRESS TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTAL ELECTIONS [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

A delegation of the Council of Europe local and regional authorities' Congress will be in Armenia September 25-29 to observe elections of local self-governmental bodies which are going to take place in Armenia September 28.

The delegation of the congress will be headed by member of the Ron Alp community council Veronik Moreyra (France).

Press service of the Council of Europe Armenian office told Armenpress that on the eve of the elections the delegation will meet with the Armenian National Assembly speaker, human rights defender Armen Harutyunian, vice prime minister, territorial governance minister Armen Gevorgian, Yerevan mayor Yervand Zakharian, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Garegin Azarian, Armenian delegation to Congress, nominated candidates, as well as with mass media and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

On September 28 the delegation will follow the pace of elections in different polling stations.

## 18. ELECTIONS TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BODIES TO BE HELD IN ARARAT MARZ ON OCTOBER 12 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

Elections to local self-government bodies are scheduled to be held in the communities of Ararat marz, including the towns of Vedi and Masis, on October 12.

NT correspondent was informed by spokesperson for the RA Central Electoral Commission Tatev Ohanian that 6 candidates: the current mayor of Vedi, member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Varuzhan Barseghian, members of RPA Grisha Hayrapetian, Tamara Danielian, Surik Safarian, and non-party men Sisak Simonian and Vahram Shahinian were registered to run in the election of Vadi mayor.

The candidates for the post of Masis mayor are the current mayor, RPA member Sasha Hakobian, RPA member Dmitry Nazarian and member of "Orinats Yerkir" party Ruben Atanesian.

## 19. ALI BABAJAN: "TURKEY, AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA HAVE POLITICAL WILL TO SOLVE THE CONFLICTS" [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babajan stated in the USA that Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia have political will to solve the conflicts, press service of the Turkish Foreign Ministry reported.

"The political will to solve the conflicts today exists in Turkey, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Such position of the sides inspires hope that during trilateral meeting of Turkish, Azerbaijani and Armenian foreign ministers it will be possible to reach changes," Babajan said during his speech in the USA foreign political council, which is one of the leading research centers of the country.

The meeting of the foreign ministers Ali Babajan, Elmar Mammedyarov and Edward Nalbandian will take place September 26 in New York within the frameworks of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of UN General Assembly, during which among a number of issues Karabakh conflict regulation will be discussed.

In his speech Babajan also spoke about the priorities of Turkish foreign policy and told about the Turkey's initiative to create Caucasian platform of security and cooperation.

## **BUSINESS**

## 20. RUSSIAN COMPANY VIMPELCOM VIOLATES RIGHTS OF ARMENIAN BI LINE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

VimpelCom company (Russia) - the owner of ArmenTel company violates intellectual property rights of Bi Line company (Armenia), Bi Line's chairman Hayk Khanjian and lawyer Hayk Harutyunian stated at the September 22 press conference.

In the words of H. Khanjian, the problems of their company, which has operated under the name "Bi Line" since 1996 and has a registered brand of the same name, began in 2006 when VimpleCom, a Russian company operating under the brand "Beeline", purchased ArmenTel, entered Armenian market and started using illegally a brand not registered in the country.

He said that the court examination of Bi Line's suit was delayed for a long time and has not been finished until now, whereas VimpleCom's suits were promptly examined and the company was allowed to register its brand. "As a result, being inspired by their impunity and privileged position, VimpleCom and



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ArmenTel not only started using the brand Beeline but they also illegally called ArmenTel "Beeline", H. Khanjian said. Thus, according to him, the Armenian law on firm names is violated. Besides, it causes confusion among consumers and has a negative impact on activities of Bi Line company.

H. Harutyunian announced that Bi Line has filed three applications to the European Court of Human Rights and is determined to struggle for its rights. In his words, the court decision in favor of VimpleCom is based on the motivation that the brands of the two companies do not resemble each other to the point of confusion, but this motivation, as he put it, does not correspond to the reality.

## 21. 330 THOUSAND SQUARE METERS COVERED WITH ASPHALT IN YEREVAN IN FIRST 8 MONTHS OF 2008 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

Asphalt laying (330 thousand sq.m) and crack filling work, as well as repairs of streets and pavements was done in Yerevan in the first eight months of 2008. The deputy mayor of Yerevan Vano Vardanian said at the September 22 press conference that reinforcement of eight third-degree accident prone buildings was completed in the indicated period, and reinforcement of another two will finish in late September.

In his words, 15 city bridges were repaired with 70 million drams (233.3 thousand USD) allocated from the state budget. Tram lines in Malatia-Sebastia and Bagratunyats Streets were dismantled this year, and asphalt laying (250 thousand sq.m) and crack filling (125 thousand linear meters) was done in these streets. Construction of a 83 linear meter breast-wall of the Hrazdan River was completed, thanks to which the residents of the houses near the river will not have problems after floods. Major repairs of the outdoor lighting networks in 17 streets of Yerevan will finish in October.

V. Vardanian announced that 419 elevators were repaired in the city in the first quarter of 2008 and 719 ones in the second quarter. It is planned to finish repairs of 2,464 elevators by October.

## 22. WORLD BANK RESPONDS TO DISCLOSURES OF RA CONTROL CHAMBER [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

The World Bank pays serious attention to the RA Control Chamber's observations on the possible deviations from the implementation of the City Heating Program, is said in a statement of the WB Yerevan Office.

To recap, at the September 17 press conference, the chairman of the RA Control Chamber Ishkhan Zakarian stated that by the conclusion of Control Chamber, the City Heating Program implemented with the WB's assistance was a failure. To substantiate this opinion, he indicated the fact that in 2006-2007, only 193 poor families of the envisaged 4,000 ones were supplied with heating.

However, according to the WB Yerevan Office, the World Bank has not yet received the report of the Control Chamber. Nevertheless, using the information available to it, the WB Yerevan Office presents its explanations about the two main problems pointed out by the Control Chamber: the transfer of 500 thousand dollars to a Panama-based off-shore organization and the slow implementation of the program's component "Allocation of Capital Grants to the Poor".

According to the WB's explanation, 460 thousand dollars was transferred to the supplier registered in Panama. The indicated sum was transferred by Ardshinvestbank, one of the banks - participants in the program's subcredit component. It was 500 thousand dollar subcredit's portion that Ardshinvestbank provided to Yerfrez company for the purchase of heating, hot water and power supply equipment for 4 buildings. Yerfrez CJSC gave a payment order to Ardshinvestbank to transfer 460 thousand dollars of the subcredit resources to the Panama supplier for the purchase of 4 combined heating and electric power microturbines.

"The Control Chamber considered this deal a deviation based on the fact that the equipment is not yet in Armenia. Under an agreement between Yerfrez CJSC and the Panama-based supplier, the microturbines shall be supplied in December 2008. No requirement of the legal documents regulating the program's implementation has been violated. The credit resources have been spent for the envisaged goal, that is, for the purchase of gas-operated heating and hot water supply systems," is said in the WB's statement.

As for the implementation of the program component "Allocation of Capital Grants to the Poor", according to WB, it is true that it was slowly implemented, which was noted in WB's memoranda and the Armenian government was informed about it. By the statement of the World Bank, in recent period the speed of this component's implementation has increased, and as of September 2008, the gas supply connection and the installation of heating appliances in the apartments of more than 4,000 thousand poor families was completed.



## 23. ARMENIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IS MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY OF RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN REGION, STEPAN GRIGORIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

The proposal of Russia to build a new nuclear power plant in Armenia bears evidence of Russia's intention to strengthen its influence in the South Caucasus. The Chairman of the Globalization and Regional Development Analysis Center Stepan Grigorian expressed this opinion during a talk with NT correspondent. He said that the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP), which was constructed by a Russian design and, under an Armenian-Russian agreement, has been transferred to the Russian side for trust management, is the most important priority of Russia's influence in the region. As for Armenia, according to S. Grigorian, a vital necessity has arisen to build a new nuclear power plant in Armenia, taking into account the obligations of our country to the EU to close down the ANPP in 2016 as well as the growing prices of oil products and gas. In his words, atomic energy is the only stable source of electricity generation for Armenia that is not rich in energy resources. The political scientist reminded that the Armenian government has also received proposals on construction of a new nuclear power plant from the U.S. and France. "In any case it is worth working with Russia and other possible investors in this sector. In this respect Armenia has some choice," S. Grigorian noted.

To recap, issues of Armenian-Russian cooperation in the atomic energy sector, including the possibility of constructing a new nuclear power unit, were discussed during the meeting of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and the Director General of Rosatom state corporation (Russia) Sergei Kirienko two weeks ago.

Reference: The Armenian Nuclear Power Plant consists of two power units and has an installed capacity of 815 megawatts. After the 1988 earthquake the plant was stopped by a special decision of the Soviet government. In November 1995, the second unit of the ANPP was put into operation again. The ANPP currently generates 2 billion kwh of electricity a year.

## 24. SERZH SARGSYAN: WITH CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, SECURITY QUALITY OF OUR COUNTRY WILL CHANGE [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

"It would be incomprehensible for our people if the Armenian-Russian strategic relations did not transform into other relations, and it would be incomprehensible for us as well," Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated at the September 23 meeting with the members of the ArmRusgazprom CJSC Board. In his words, the signing of the 2009-2015 agreement on natural gas supply completely fits into the logic of Sargsyan-Medvedev negotiations.

He said that the tariffs to be used from April 1, 2009, will allow Armenia to increase slightly the social load and will also provide business with a great opportunity to become much more competitive in the region. "Despite the size of our transport component - as compared with others, this circumstance gives an opportunity to be in much better conditions: to ensure quite high indices of GDP in the visible future," the president noted. According to him, it is necessary to find the golden mean so that on the one hand the enterprise's business will be successful, on the other hand its business will not be aggravating for the economy and population. "It is good that we have succeeded in raising the gas supply network index from 21% to 91% over a few years, but we also have many settlements where residents cannot use natural gas and improve the quality of their life because it is economically unprofitable for the enterprise to build gas supply networks in these settlements," the president said, adding that some opportunities of state assistance exist in this issue, and the major goal is to construct a gas supply network throughout Armenia in the next 2-3 years, and there will be a possibility to finance this work both from the state budget and other sources.

S. Sargsyan attached great importance to the highly professional operation of the Iran-Armenia gas pipeline. In his words, this work must be done within the envisaged period so that the launching of the pipeline will be in line with the completion of construction of the Hrazdan Thermal Power Plant's 5th unit and its operation - for successful management of the economy. The Armenian president said that the calculation of technical and economic indices of the new nuclear power plant has begun. "We believe that we are starting the construction of a powerful unit with a capacity of 1,000-1,200 megawatts. In my opinion, it will change the security quality of our country," the president stated.



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## 25. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARMRUSGAZPROM, RISE IN GAS TARIFFS IN ARMENIA FROM APRIL 1st NOT TO BE BURDENSOME FOR ECONOMY AND POPULATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

The rise in the gas tariffs in Armenia starting from April 1st of next year will not be burdensome for the economy and residents - gas users, the director general of the board of ArmRusgazprom CJSC Karen Karapetian gave his assurances during the September 23 briefing with reporters. He refrained from announcing the tariffs, noting that these tariffs will be determined by the RA Public Services Regulatory Commission. ArmRusgazprom will soon submit a bid to the commission which will determine the tariff sizes.

K. Karapetian underlined the importance of signing the 2009-2015 agreement on natural gas supply of the Republic of Armenia, which is based in particular on the fact that Gazprom is not only a gas supplying and selling company but also "one of our shareholders and it is interested in developing the gas market and the economy." The head of ArmRusgazprom also attached importance to the provision, by which the gradual change of gas prices shall be in line with the rates in Russia, in the domestic markets .

He also expressed a positive opinion about the use of the new tariff from April 1st, 2009, which will enable to spend the winter and to adapt to new prices in milder conditions.

During a consultation with the participation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, Karen Karapetian pointed out, among the achievements of the company, the growth of the gas supply network installation - from 21% to 91%, the growth in imports and sales of natural gas in Armenia - more than 2.4fold, including the volumes by filling stations - 10fold, by the population - 6.4fold and by industry - 2.3fold. He announced that the number of actual users increased 5.1fold, the gas distribution network was expanded 2.1fold, and the volume of stored natural gas grew 2fold. "The natural gas used as engine fuel in the transport sector substitutes for about 300-330 thousand tons of oil product, thanks to which the annual savings make 380-400 million dollars, according to our calculations," K. Karapetian said. As regards the financial economic indices, he attached special importance to 2,5fold growth in the average salary of the company's employees: ArmRusgazprom has become a profitable enterprise from an unprofitable one, with its profit reaching nearly 12 billion drams.

Among the tasks of their company, K. Karapetian indicated the signing of an agreement on natural gas supply of Armenia through 2015: ensuring a not sharp growth of the gas price, as well as improving the safety level of the gas supply of users.

According to K. Karapetian, the investments of the company will amount to 720-750 million dollars in 2008-2010, including the implementation of gas energy programs. Among the biggest investment programs he indicated the purchase, construction and modernization of the 5th power unit of Hrazdan Thermal Power Plant which cost about 430 million dollars.

## 26. THE TRADE TURNOVER IN ARMENIA INCREASES BY 7.8 PERCENT IN JANUARY-JULY 2008 [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

The trade turnover in Armenia in the first seven months of the year reached 809 billion 452.3 million drams which is 7.8 percent more as compared with the same span of the last year.

Armenian National Statistics Service told Armenpress that in the same period of time the amount of the retail trade circulation reached 5.8 million drams and wholesale trade circulation 252 billion 561.9 million drams and the circulation of cars' sale 56 billion 889.6 million drams.

In the same period the services provided in the republic in different spheres amounted by current prices to 389 billion 082.9 million drams which is 15 percent more as compared with the same span of the last year.

The services provided by hotels and restaurants reached 14 billion 268.5 million, transport services 85 billion 216.1 million, communication services 92 billion 367.3 million etc.

## DIASPORA

## 27. ISABEL BAYRAKDARIAN SINGS SONGS OF GOMIDAS ON A NEW CD TO BE RELEASED SOON [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

On September 23 Nonesuch will release songs of Gomidas in the performance of famous Canadian-Armenian soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian.

Isabel Bayrakdarian: "Gomidas Songs, to be released on September 23, offers the first authentic major-label recording of a variety of music by Gomidas in all its hauntingly melodic glory – from folk songs



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and love songs to prayers, songs for children, songs of nature, and solo dances for piano, all reconstructed and arranged by Kradjian, who also performs on the album." We should mention that Isabel Bayrakdarian's husband, pianist and musicologist Serouj Kradjian is meant here.

## 28. 20th ANNIVERSARY OF NAGORNO KARABAGH MOVEMENT MARKED AT CAPITOL HILL PROGRAM [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

The 20th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic (Artsakh) freedom movement was marked at a Capitol Hill program headlined by prominent lawyer and humanitarian Mark Geragos.

The evening, titled "Nagorno Karabakh Republic/Artsakh: 20 Years of Freedom, Democracy and Progress," was hosted by the Congressional Caucus of Armenian Issues in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, the Nagorno Karabagh Representation in the U.S., and Armenian American organizations, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

In his keynote address, Geragos challenged Members of Congress to increase their support for Nagorno Karabagh, calling the \$30 million in U.S. assistance allocated to date to Nagorno Karabagh insufficient, and asserting that this aid package, to a democratic nation in a troubled region, should be at least at the \$100 million level.

Armenian Ambassador to the U.S. Tatoul Markarian and NKR Representative in the U.S. Vardan Barseghian provided insight on the current peace talks over Nagorno Karabagh and the ongoing commitment of both countries to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. A special video marking the 20th anniversary of the Artsakh movement highlighted the economic progress and strengthening of democracy in the Republic.

## 29. DR. DER YEGHIAYAN TO LECTURE ON HISTORIC ARMENIA AND CILICIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

On October 12 Dr. Garbis Der Yeghiayan, President of Mashdots College, will present a lecture titled, "Embracing the Land of Our Ancestors: The Presence of the Past".

The power-point presentation, organized by the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of North Hollywood, will cover the historic Armenian cities and villages in Cilicia, Cappadocia and Western Armenia.

Mashdots College organizes annual pilgrimages to Historic Armenia. In July, 2008, forty Armenians from the United States and other Diaspora communities joined Dr. Der Yeghiayan in a 17-day pilgrimage which offered the participants an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the centuries-old heritage of the Armenian people, and to observe firsthand the unparalleled accomplishments of our martyred ancestors and the immense sacrifices endured by the survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

## 30. BIPARTISAN GROUP OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVES CALL FOR POST-CONFLICT AID TO JAVAKHK AND ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

Twenty Members of the U.S. House of Representatives today joined with Representatives Frank Pallone (D- NJ) and George Radanovich (R-CA) in formally calling upon President Bush to dedicate portions of the proposed \$1 billion post Georgia- Russia conflict aid package to Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia, populated by Armenians. According to ANCA's (the Armenian National Committee of America) report, in a September 12th Dear Colleague letter, Reps. Radanovich and Pallone explained to their fellow Representatives that Armenia, which continues to be materially harmed by the fighting to its north, has remained "a constructive partner to Georgia through ensuring safe transit for humanitarian needs, reconstruction assistance, and diplomatic measures." They also stressed the urgency of providing funds specifically for Samtskhe-Javakheti.

The Congressional letter suggests that the Administration implement two specific policy recommendations:

1) Ensuring that a meaningful level of the new Georgia aid program is specifically targeted to the vital Samtskhe-Javakheti region. This largely Armenian-inhabited area, home to roughly five percent of Georgia's overall population, remains, in great measure, economically undeveloped. Of the \$1 billion being proposed for Georgia, a proportional share on a per capita basis, should be officially dedicated to developmental programs in Samtskhe- Javakheti, with a special focus on alleviating poverty, developing transportation and communication links, promoting international trade and investment, and supporting sustainable economic growth.



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2) In light of Yerevan's extensive assistance during this crisis and also the large-scale harm it has endured as a result of the fighting in the region, portions of the new Georgia assistance package should be used to help offset the damage to Armenia's economy. This damage, estimated up to \$1 billion, has largely been the result of higher transportation costs, increased prices for basic commodities such as food and fuel, and a slow down in international investments.

## 31. MANAKI TO HONOR MOSFILM BOSS SHAKHNAZAROV TO RECEIVE GOLDEN CAMERA 300 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

The head of Russia's top moviemaking complex, Mosfilm Studios, Karen Shakhnazarov is to be honored with a lifetime achievement award at Macedonia's 29th International Cinematographers' Film Festival Manaki Brothers., The director will receive a special Golden Camera 300 award at the festival, which runs September 27-October 3 in Skopje.

K. Shakhnazarov, one of Russia's top directors who has headed Mosfilm since 1998. Shakhnazarov, 56, has a career stretching back to the mid-1970s. His latest film "The Vanished Empire" will be screened at the festival.

## 32. ONE OF FRESNO'S LARGEST ARMENIAN FESTIVALS TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26-28 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

The Second Annual Grand Armenian Festival is taking place on September 26th through the 28th at the California Armenian Home in Fresno. The three day festival is one of Fresno's largest Armenian-American cultural events of the year. Some of the festivities include a traditional Armenian dance performance by the Hamazkayin Nairi Dance Ensemble, traditional Armenian "duduk" performance, Armenian dance lessons, Saroyan Theatrical performance by the FSU Theatre Arts Department and children's entertainment. Traditional Armenian food will be served all weekend long.

## 33. AMBASSADORIAL NOMINEE FOR TURKEY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON ARMENIAN GENOCIDE DURING THE HEARINGS OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

Ending denial through affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, ending the blockade are key issues to be addressed during the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing of Ambassadorial Nominee for Turkey, James F. Jeffrey, for September 24, 2008.

"We are hopeful the nomination hearing is not a question and answer session, which in the past has resulted in equivocating on the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide," said Armenian Assembly of America's Executive Director Bryan Ardouny, adding, "This represents a critical opportunity for the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey to go further than Ambassador Yovanovitch and this time to squarely affirm the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide is a historical fact and Mr. Jeffrey would be well served to follow in the tradition of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau."

## 34. BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF ARMENIA TAKE PART IN ALL-ARMENIAN GAMES IN IRAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

Men's and women's basketball club teams of Armenia took part in the All-Armenian Games held in Iran.

According to the Basketball Federation of Armenia, 6 women's teams, including the club team of Armenia, competed during the Games. The rivals of Armenia' team were "Tabriz", "Ararat", "Ararat-2", "Artsakh" and "Nairi" teams. Armenia's team defeated its rivals and reached the final where it lost to "Ararat" (Tehran).

14 teams competed in the men's games. During the first matches, Armenia's team competed successfully but in the final it was defeated by Ararat (92-99). The team of Armenia was mainly composed of basketball players of "Polytechnic" club.



## ARTS

### 35. IGOR BUTMAN'S JAZZ QUARTET TO PERFORM IN YEREVAN ON OCCASION OF 70th ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN JAZZ [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

A concert of jazz quartet of one of the famous performers of Russian jazz, saxophone player Igor Butman will take place on September 26 at Aram Khachatrian concert hall, within the framework of jubilee concerts dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Armenian jazz.

Pianist Levon Malkhasian, the Chairman of jubilee steering committee of Armenian Jazz 70, said at the September 22 press conference that Yerevan tour of the Russian jazz quartet will be carried out with the assistance of the VTB-Armenia bank. According to Levon Malkhasian, a traditional jam session will take place after the Yerevan concert and Igor Butman will also hold master class for young people and students at Komitas State Conservatory. Igor Butman's quartet is one of the best jazz bands in Russia, it has performed on tours in European countries, in the United States, in Israel, in Turkey, and in other countries.

Chairman of steering committee Levon Malkhasian said that a surprise and exclusive concert meetings with stars of American jazz await Armenian jazz-lovers in October and November: a concert of one of the famous figures of American jazz, Al Jazero will take place on October 21 in Yerevan, and George Benson will arrive with a concert program in Armenia in late November. L. Malkhasian also said that Al Di Meola's tour is expected in the same month, but the exact date is not known yet. Speaking about the jubilee events of Armenian Jazz 70, Levon Malkhasian said that the queen of Armenian jazz, Tatevik Hovhannisian will again perform in Yerevan on September 29. Besides Aram Khachatrian concert hall, the singer will also perform at the Chamber Music House and at jazz clubs. Besides, visits of other jazz bands to Armenia are also expected.

Levon Malkhasian also said that a book on Armenian jazz will be published and a documentary on Armenian jazz will be shot by the end of the year. And as a result of the competition held within the framework of the jazz festival two young pianists will leave for the United States to study at Berkley Academy.

Speaking about jazz trends, the pianist said that ethnic jazz trend is widely spread all over the world today. Levon Malkhasian gave assurance that it is not compulsory at all "that duduk or kamancha perform next to saxophone or piano for it to be considered Armenian jazz." According to him, even without presentation of instruments, purely by performer's inner feelings and rhythms one can feel and see ethnic jazz.

### 36. ANNUAL RECITATION FESTIVAL DEDICATED TO 100-TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM SAROYAN ANNOUNCED IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

An annual recitation festival dedicated to the 100-th anniversary of the American-Armenian writer William Saroyan is announced in Armenia.

The public relations department of the Armenian Education and Science Ministry told Armenpress that the festival will be held in two stages - regional and republican.

In the regional state of the festival pupils of 9-11 grades guaranteed by the "Armenian Language and Literature" methodical units of schools will take part. The winners of the regional stage will take part in the republican stage of the festival.

The participants of the republican stage will present a piece from W. Saroyan's works within the limits of half page with their choice, as well as two poems by Armenian writers.

This stage will be conducted in two parts: the first part will be held in the Charents house-museum and the second in the Tzakhadzor's creative house of the Armenian Writers' Union.

Forty-six pupils from Armenian regions will participate in the first part of the republican stage of the festival, 18 of which will have an opportunity to fight for getting awards. Prizes for the first, second and third places as well as encouraging prizes are established.

The festival will be organized by the Armenian Education and Science Ministry in collaboration with the Armenian Writers' Union and leadership of Charents house-museum.

### 37. FIRST INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ILLUSTRATION AND IMAGES TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

The first international festival of Illustration and Images will be held in Yerevan's State Chamber Theatre on October 3-5. The festival is organized on the initiative of the Union of Illustration Development



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in Armenia under the sponsorship of the Armenian Culture Ministry and with the support of the Armenian Embassy in France. Angouleme's International Center of Illustration and Images also takes part in the organization of the festival.

An official from the Armenian Culture Ministry told Armenpress that famous French art critics and illustrators, including Charles Berberyan, laureate of the International Illustration Festival 2008 in Angouleme, France, are invited to take part in the festival.

During the event, apart from the exhibition of illustration works, the French specialists will conduct master classes, besides, discussions on spreading the genre of illustration in Armenia will be held having in prospect establishment of an illustration school in Armenia.

## 38. A WEEK OF BRAZILIAN CULTURE TO BE HELD IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

A week of Brazilian culture will be held in Armenia in November. The attaché of Brazilian consul on culture and trade affairs Marsio Lima told today journalists that a number of events are intended to be held within the frameworks of the program.

Particularly, one of the famous Brazilian music bands "Trio Imazhes" will give a concert, meetings will be held in Gyumri and Vanadzor. This year the 100th anniversary of famous Brazilian writer Mashado Deasis is marked in Brazil, and with that occasion one of his works has been translated into Russian and will be presented in Armenia as well.

Materials presenting the activity of Brazilian actors in the international arena will be presented. "During these days we will present Brazilian culture and wish that Armenian people get more closely acquainted with it," M. Lima said.

He also noted that courses of Portuguese are given in YSU and are going to be held in Yerevan State Linguistic University after V. Brusov.

"I hope these events will promote the deepening of relationship between the two countries and the cooperation will be on firm grounds," M. Lima added.

## RELIGION

## 39. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS RECEIVES CHAIRMAN OF GERMAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 09/24/08]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II received today in Saint Etchmiadzin the delegation headed by the chairman of the German Constitutional Court Hans-Yurgen Papieri accompanied by the chairman of the Armenian Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunian.

The press service of the Holy See told Armenpress that greeting the guests, the Catholicos referred to the friendly relations between Armenia and Germany and blessed the activity and mission of the two courts.

The chairman of the German Constitutional Court thanked the Catholicos for the warm reception and referred to the meetings he conducted during his visit to Armenia.

## SOCIAL

## 40. MATENADARAN TO HAVE NEW ANNEX, AREA OF SHOW-ROOMS TO INCREASE FOUR-FOLD, 10 MILLION DOLLARS BEING INVESTED [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on September 19 visited the construction site of the old building of the Ancient Manuscripts Institute - Matenadaran after Mesrop Mashtots.

A preliminary sum of 10 million dollars is being allocated by the Moscow Investment Construction Company headed by Sergei Hambartsumian for construction of an annex to occupy an area of 12,100 square meters. S. Hambartsumian stated that the idea of financing the construction of a new annex of the Matenadaran arose after Serzh Sargsyan's appeal to businessmen of the Diaspora. The design's architect is Arthur Meschian, while the idea of building an annex is not a new one: the first design was developed as long ago as 1987-1988 by Armpromproject Institute at A. Meschian's architectural studio.

The construction began in 1988 but remained incomplete after the 1988 earthquake. In 2007 a new design statement was prepared which became the continuation of the previous design. By the design, the main building will continue to be the dominant one and the new annex will not be seen from Mashtots Avenue. In case of constructing a new annex, the total area of show-rooms will increase four-fold: the main building currently occupies 3,300 square meters. The design envisages allocating areas for



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a book depository, a manuscript house, an archive with its reading halls, another two reading halls, a virtual Matenadaran hall, a restoration and modelling unit, a room for researchers, a computer unit, a 240-seat multifunction auditorium, labs, an Armenology center, a publishing-house and a printing-house, as well as photographic labs.

According to the director of the Matenadaran Hrachia Tamrazian, the project is a big charitable program, which is the biggest scientific and cultural one in recent decades. He said that construction of the new building will allow to turn the Matenadaran into the largest center on Armenology and medieval studies of international importance, which will have modern equipment. "It also solves the problem of alternation of generations in science, which is the most urgent problem of Armenology," H. Tamrazian said, adding that the construction of the new annex will allow to create 150 jobs and double the scientific staff of the Matenadaran over a year. "Stormy are fruitful years are awaiting us," he noted.

In response to a reporter's question about whether the project is ambitious or necessary, Arthur Meschian replied: "Let's go to the book depository, the manuscript house and the restoration unit and see in what conditions the employees work, and this will be the answer to your question. Important work is being done... the number of those who prevent it is quite great and organized, while we need helpers and not impediments."

## 41. ABOUT 455 DIASPORA ARMENIANS ENTER ARMENIAN STATE UNIVERSITIES [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

About 455 Diaspora Armenians entered Armenian state universities in 2008. The majority of them preferred to enter the state pedagogical university after Kh. Abovian.

Amalia Kocharian, leading specialist of the Diaspora ties department of the Armenian Education and Science Ministry told Armenpress that Diaspora students applied for entering to almost all Armenian universities.

The entrance was based on knowledge assessment through written and oral exams. Those with good results have taken the first year and those with poor results were given an opportunity to attend preparation courses of the university. About 70 state-funded places were provided for Diaspora Armenian students who preferred to major in Armenian sciences, art and culture.

This year applicants from about 17 countries have applied for entering Armenian universities. The majority of Diaspora applicants are from Javakhq, Russia, Germany, France, Iraq, Iran, Greece, Mexico and Canada.

## 42. "ARMROBOTICS" ALL-ARMENIAN OPEN YOUTH COMPETITION KICKS OFF [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

The participant-teams of the "ArmRobotics" All-Armenian open youth competition have already started preparing robots. The competition is being held on the initiative of "Information Technology Enterprises Union".

Manager of the program Mariam Nahapetian told Armenpress that 14 teams are competing, each team includes four students. She said they have already been provided with necessary devices and means with which they must prepare initially projected robots. M. Nahapetian said that the participants will have to prepare the robots by late December when the final round of the competition will take place. Members of the competition's commission will periodically follow the pace of the work.

In the final round the team whose prepared robot will pass the planned way with minimum mistakes will be recognized the winner of the competition.

The winner of the first place will get 300,000 AMD, of the second 200,000 and of the third 100,000 drams. The five winner teams will leave for Artsakh to compete with local teams.

## 43. JUBILEE SITTING DEDICATED TO 85th BIRTHDAY OF ACADEMICIAN FADEI SARGSIAN HELD AT NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

A jubilee sitting dedicated to the 85th birthday of the prominent scientist, an expert in computer engineering and automated control system, academician Fadei Sargsian took place at the RA National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on September 22. As the President of the NAS Radik Martirosian stated, for over 50 years F. Sargsian has participated in the scientific, social and political life of Armenia, he was the president of the RA NAS for 13 years. Under his direction considerable work was done on organization of the scientific activities of the RA NAS and on preservation and development of Armenia's scientific



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potential. Thanks to his efforts, the Academy signed agreements on scientific cooperation with Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia and other countries.

Since 2006 F. Sargsian has been an advisor to the Armenian prime minister. Academician Fadei Sargsian has been awarded a Lenin Order, an October Revolution Order, a Labor Red Flag Order and a Saint Mesrop Mashtots Order. He is a laureate of state orders of the USSR and Ukraine and a member of several local and foreign academies, as well as numerous international scientific and scientific-technical societies.

#### 44. "EREBUNI-YEREVAN" CELEBRATION TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN ON OCTOBER 10-11 [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

This year the planned events of the annual Erebuni-Yerevan celebration will be held on October 10-11. The deputy mayor of Yerevan Vano Vardanian said at the September 22 press conference that the opening ceremony of the festivities will take place at Alexander Spendiarian National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet on October 10.

Events dedicated to the 2790th anniversary of Yerevan's foundation will be held in 12 communities of the city, as well as its parks and Republic Square.

It was announced that delegations of more than 20 countries will come to Yerevan in order to participate in the festivities.

#### 45. 214 EXCELLENT STUDENTS OF ARMENIAN STATE UNIVERSITIES TO RECEIVE "FRIENDSHIP" NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

214 excellent students involved in master's and post-graduate programs of the Armenian state universities were awarded "Barekamutyun" ("Friendship") named scholarships of the charitable foundation "The Development of Science, Education and Healthcare in Armenia". The scholarship giving ceremony took place at Yerevan State University (YSU) on September 22.

The President of the RA National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Radik Martirosian stated that on the initiative of Russia-based benefactor Hrant Poghsian - the director general of Roskomnedvizhimost company, it is the fourth year that excellent students of universities have received scholarships: those in master's programs receive 100 dollars a month, while post-graduate students - 200 dollars.

In the words of R. Martirosian, under the agreement signed between YSU and the foundation, it is envisaged paying salaries of 500 dollars for a 3-year period to those post-graduate students who will engage in scientific activities at YSU and NAS. However, a point of the agreement stipulates that such post-graduate students must use their knowledge for our country's science and do scientific work only in Armenia. If this point is violated, the post-graduate student must refund the whole sum paid to him/her as scholarship.

H. Poghsian said that his purpose is to promote the development of education and science in Armenia. "We lack natural resources, but we are an intellectual nation and we must achieve the economic development of our country through our knowledge," he declared, adding that in particular, high-tech industry should be encouraged in Armenia by using the experience of a number of developed countries. During the event H. Poghsian was given a gold medal of Yerevan State Medical University after Mkhitar Heratsi.

#### 46. ACCORDING TO TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL WORLD ANTI-CORRUPTION COALITION 2008 INDEX OF CORRUPTION PERCEPTION, ARMENIA TAKES 109th PLACE AMONG 180 COUNTRIES [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/23/08]

According to the data of 2008 Index of Corruption Perception published by the Transparency International World Anti-corruption Coalition on September 23, Armenia takes the 109th place among 180 countries with the index of 2.9 (3.0 in 2007). According to Amalia Kostanian, the Chairwoman of the Transparency International - Armenia NGO, 2008 Index of Corruption Perception is a composite index based on various surveys conducted among businessmen and experts. According to her, it evaluates the countries by the scale from 0 to 10, where 0 shows the highest degree of corruption perception and 10 the lowest one. According to the 2008 Index of Corruption Perception, the most corrupted countries are Iraq, Myanmar, and Somali with the indices of 1.3, 1.3 and 1.0, respectively. Denmark, Sweden and New Zealand are absolutely "pure" countries in that respect with the indices of 9.3.

A. Kostanian also said that among Armenia's neighbor countries the situation is comparatively normal in Turkey and Georgia, which, according to the 2008 Index of Corruption Perception, take the 58th



and 67th places, respectively, with indices of 4.6 and 3.9. Azerbaijan takes the 158th place with the index of 1.9. Turkey, Croatia, and Georgia take the first three places, respectively, among 20 countries of South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

#### 47. DELEGATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. BRITISH INTELLECTUALS IS IN KARABAKH [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

Deputy foreign minister of Nagorno Karabakh Eduard Atanesyan received today the delegation of representatives of U.S. and British intellectuals headed by the vice speaker of the British parliament baroness Caroline Cox.

An official from Karabakh Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that the delegation arrived in Stepanakert to participate in the events dedicated to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of creation of the rehabilitation center in the capital of Nagorno Karabakh on the initiative of the baroness.

The participants of the meeting discussed a wide-range of issues on the post-war recovery of Nagorno Karabakh, the latest events in the South Caucasus, as well as referred to the process of the Karabakh conflict regulation.

The deputy foreign minister answered the questions of the guests.

#### 48. "YOUTH SPECIALITY ORIENTATION CENTER" TO CONDUCT FAMILIARIZING CLASSES IN SCHOOLS [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's "Youth Speciality Orientation Center" is planning to conduct classes in ten Yerevan schools to introduce to the pupils the demands of the labor market, get them acquainted with the issues.

Director of the center Haykuhi Gevorgian told Armenpress that the hours of the classes must be initially agreed with the Armenian Education and Science Ministry. They will be conducted in different directions; besides introducing to the demands of the labor market an attempt will be made to increase the level of awareness of the pupils.

"A great work is expected to be done, first we must help the pupils to differentiate the specialization from occupation or to know what their selected profession presents from itself," H. Gevorgian said.

The center has conducted such works from the beginning of the year. During the meetings it was found out that pupils studying in graduation classes are going to private lessons for entering higher educational establishments without choosing their speciality.

During the classes the students will get acquainted with the system of specialized education. The director of the center said that today very often such speciality is being chosen that after graduating the university it is difficult to find job.

"In case of acquiring such specializations which have demand it is easy to find job and develop skills," H. Gevorgian said.

The center is planning in future to work towards developing "Speciality Orientation Concept".

#### 49. 5,787 PLACE PROVIDED FOR STUDYING BY CORRESPONDENCE IN STATE UNIVERSITIES [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

Armenian Education and Science Ministry has provided this year 5,787 places for studying by correspondence in state higher educational establishments.

The head of the higher education policy development and organization department of the ministry Mher Melik-Bakhshian told Armenpress that the entrance in 2008-2009 academic year will be organized in mathematics and mechanics, informatics and applied mathematics, history, geography, journalism and other faculties.

Citizens with higher, secondary, average secondary and specialized technical education without age limitations may enter state higher educational establishments for studying by correspondence.

The tuition fee is established by the university according to the fee established for the chosen profession.

M. Melik-Bakhshian said that according to initial information, the number of students applied to state higher educational establishments for studying by correspondence is 6,500. The entrance exams will take place from September 25 to October 25.



50. 2D REPUBLICAN CONTEST OF HAND WORKS OF HANDICAPPED CREATORS AND 4TH REPUBLICAN BEAUTY PHOTO CONTEST OF HANDICAPPED WOMEN TO BE HELD [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

Within the frameworks of events dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Spitak earthquake, “Unison” non-governmental organization will conduct the second republican contest of hand works of handicapped creators and the fourth republican beauty photo contest of handicapped women.

Three nominations are established in the second republican contest of hand works – gobelin and embroidery, fine art and engraving, and ceramics.

Besides the main and encouraging prizes a special prize is established for “The Earthquake with my Eyes” theme.

The award giving ceremony will take place October 10 in Yerevan Komitas Chamber Music House.

The head of the public relations department of “Unison” NGO Mariana Chalikian told Armenpress that the goal of such events is to create favorable conditions for the development of the potential of the handicapped people, to involve them in the society and to introduce the issues of the handicapped people to the society. M. Chalikian pointed out that this year the contest is being held with the support of the state.

As part of the events exhibitions are also being organized: in Spitak and Gyumri the exhibitions opened in August, and in Vanadzor will open October 3.

The first republican contest of the hand works of the handicapped people was held in 2005, and the republican beauty photo contest of the handicapped women is being held every year.

51. “TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS” CLASS KICKS OFF IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

A two-day class on “Trafficking in Human Beings” with the participation of judges and prosecutors kicked off today in Yerevan conducted by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The chief technical consultant of ILO Jolt Dudash said that the class will promote more deep understanding of the judges and prosecutors of the issue and will help the judicial bodies to strengthen their skills for fighting effectively against trafficking. Trafficking is a crime of international nature and the international experience and cooperation with the relevant establishments of other countries is important for fighting against it.

“Effective prosecution of the violators of law is an important preventive factor and promotes the prevention of trafficking and forced labor,” he said. Relevant work must be carried out in that direction in Armenia and, according to J. Dudash, it is necessary to improve the current legislation of the country. He also underscored the steps directed towards the support of the victims of trafficking.

During the two-day class the participants will discuss trafficking in human beings, methodology of investigation, improvement of the defense of witnesses of trafficking. Reports will be presented on international mechanisms of fighting against trafficking in human beings and forced labor.

The class is being held within the frameworks of “Comprehensive Program on Fighting Against Trafficking in Armenia” financed by EU.

52. ROAD CONSTRUCTION BEGINS IN GEGHARKUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

Within the frameworks of “Millennium Challenges” program road construction works have started in the Armenian province of Gegharkunik.

The head of the road construction and transport department of Gegharkunik’s governor’s office Gevorg Khachatryan told Armenpress that in the first round of the “Millennium Challenges” it is planned to reconstruct 62.2 km road the investment price of which is 4.6 billion AMD.

The road construction works have already kicked off on Dprabak-Chambarak-Aghberk highway of republican importance – 33.5 km, Hrazdan border-Zovaber – 5.5 km, highway- Madina – 10.1 km, Karmirgyugh-Artsvakar-Noratus – 9.2 km and Noratus-Gavar – 2.1 km.

In all the mentioned directions ground works are being conducted and soon asphaltization works will be launched.

The first round of the program is planned to be finished in 2010.



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## 53. ROAD BUILDING IN SHIRAK [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

Reconstruction works of Mantash-Arevshat-Spandarian – 4960 meters and Getap-Anushavan-Artik – 4180 meters are being carried out in the Armenian province of Shirak with the funds released from the state budget.

The head of the communication, transport and road construction department of Shirak Governor's office Marzpetuni Margarian told Armenpress that with that purpose correspondingly 185 and 164 million AMD has been provided.

The asphaltization works are being carried out by "Transmoscow" and "Akhuryanchanshin" companies. These inter-community roads have not been repaired since the earthquake.

Besides the works carried out by the funds of the state budget, road construction works are being implemented in the province by the program of "Lincy" Foundation – particularly the reconstruction of the 16 km 220 m. sector of Armavir-Isahakian-Gyumri road.

## 54. EVENTS DEDICATED TO THE DAY OF ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE HELD IN LONDON [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

On the occasion of 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armenia's independence a reception was organized by the Armenian embassy in Great Britain in London's "The Cavalry and Guards" club.

Armenian Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that at the event present were ambassadors accredited in London, diplomats, representatives from British Foreign Ministry, international organizations, British parliament and many others.

On September 20 in London's St. Yeghishe Armenian church an event was organized dedicated to the Day of Armenia's Independence. Armenian ambassador Vahe Gabriyelian delivered a speech during the event, in which he referred to the success of Armenia during the recent years, the issues the country is facing and reforms carried out by the Armenian authorities.

## 55. PUBLIC CHAMBER AFFILIATED TO THE ARMENIAN POLICE TO BE CREATED [ARMENPRESS, 09/24/08]

With the decision of the Armenian government a public chamber affiliated to the Armenian police will be created, chief of the police Alik Sargsyan said today at a press conference. The chamber will be formed in the coming days and will include intellectuals – writers, musicians, scientists, representatives of non-governmental organizations.

Alik Sargsyan said that by the creation of the council it will be possible to make the work of the system more transparent for the public. The members of the council will not only participate in the works but will also have oversight function.

## SPORTS

### 56. GAMES OF 20th TOUR OF STAR ARMENIAN FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HELD [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

The games of the 20th tour of Star Armenian Football National Championship took place on September 21. The following results were recorded: Gandzasar- Ararat 0 to 0, Mika - Ulis 0 to 0, Shirak - Banants 1 to 1, Kilikia - Pyunik 0 to 1.

Currently the tournament table is the following: Pyunik 43, Ararat 43, Mika 35, Gandzasar 34, Banants 29, Ulis 19, Shirak 12, Kilikia 9 points.

### 57. YOUNG ARMENIAN WEIGHTLIFTERS GAIN 3 GOLD, 9 SILVER, AND 6 BRONZE MEDALS IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 09/22/08]

European Weightlifting Youth Championship finished on September 20 in the city of Durres, Albania. Among representatives of Armenia Sevak Sahakian (105 kg, Kasakh) took the second place with 327 kg result in biathlon and received a silver prize. He recorded 171 kg result in snatch and 201 kg in clean and jerk. Superheavyweight Ruben Alexanian also received a silver prize (Ararat, 187 kg + 225 kg = 412 kg).



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Aghvan Melikian (Gyumri, 153 kg - 192 kg = 345 kg) received bronze medal in the competition of 85 kg weight category sportsmen. Aram Andrikan (Sevan) was the 3rd in the same weight category, in clean and jerk, 191 kg.

Armenian David Bekjanian in the Russian national team received gold medal in 105 kg weight category.

Thus, Armenia's weightlifting youth national team received 18 medals in European Championship (3 gold, 9 silver, and 6 bronze). In the competition of 197 participants of 32 countries the Armenian team took the second honorary place with 550 points. National teams of Russia (604 points) and Albania (485 points) took the first and third prize places.

Kosovo was elected the 49th member-country at the conference of European Weightlifting Federation held in days of the championship.

## 58. THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF 10-18 YEAR OLD CHESS PLAYERS CONTINUES [ARMENPRESS, 09/23/08]

Armenian chess player Samvel Ter-Sahakian is on the second place after the 7<sup>th</sup> round of 10-18 year old chess players' European championship in the category of 16 years old having 5.5 points. The tournament is being held in Herzeg Novi town of Montenegro. In this age group Hayk Vardanian occupies the 20<sup>th</sup> place with 4.5 points, Hayk Minasian and Hayk Tamazian –the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> places respectively with 3.5 points.

In the 14 year-old group Karen Grigorian shares the 1-2 places with 6 points, Khachatur Yeranian – the 7<sup>th</sup> place with 5 points and Hovhannes Gabuzian is in the 32<sup>nd</sup> place with 4 points.

In the 18 year-old group Vardan Khojayan is in the 19<sup>th</sup> place with 4.5 points and Hovik Hayrapetian – in the 35<sup>th</sup> place with 3.5 points.

In the 12 year-old group Vladimir Kanjarian, Norayr Torosian and David Avetisian occupy correspondingly the 35, 46 and 48<sup>th</sup> places with 4 points.

In the 10 year-old category Manuel Petrosian occupies the 24<sup>th</sup> place with 4.5 points, Arman Petrosian – 62<sup>nd</sup> place with 3.5 points, Georgi Shahnazarian and Arman Harutunian – correspondingly the 103 and 110<sup>th</sup> places with 2 points.

In the 18 year-old girls' tournament Varduhi Kalashian is in the 15<sup>th</sup> place with 4 points.

In the 16 year-old category Zara Tunian and Liana Avoyan occupy correspondingly 22 and 32<sup>nd</sup> places with 4 points.

In the 14 year-old group Svetlana Mirzabekian is in the 61<sup>st</sup> place with 3 points. In the 12 year-old group Arpi Azizbekian is in the 36<sup>th</sup> place with 3.5 points. In the 10 year old group Siranush Ghukasian and Hasmik Shahbazian occupy correspondingly the 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> places with 4.5 points.

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