



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY RESULTS, CURRENT VICE-MAYOR, NON-PARTISAN KAREN GRIGORIAN WINS ETCHMIADZIN MAYOR'S ELECTIONS [Aravot, 10/20/08]

On October 19, local self-government elections were held in 247 communities of the Armavir, Lori, Tavush regions instead of 249 ones. As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, the Spokesperson of the Central Electoral Commission, the scheduled elections of head of the Hushakert rural community, Armavir region and council of elders of the same community, as well as of council of elders of the rural community of Likashin failed due to the lack of candidates. New elections will be fixed in these two communities.

Only the current Mayor of the town of Etchmiadzin, Armavir region, did not run for reelection in community head elections of the three regions' 11 town communities. According to the preliminary results of Etchmiadzin Mayor's elections, current Vice-Mayor, non-partisan, 29-year-old Karen Grigorian (General Manvel Grigorian's son) has received maximum votes. 12 208 voters voted for him. The other two candidates have received the following votes: RPA member, former NA deputy Hakob Hakobian 6 994, non-partisan Artak Poghosian 169 votes. 20 527 out of 40 010 voters of the town took part in the elections.

2. ARMENIA'S POSITION IN NAGORNO KARABAKH ISSUE IS: MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN UNREASONABLE CONFRONTATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

Artur Baghdasarian, the Secretary of the RA National Security Council, affirmed that the Armenian-Russian relations are at the highest level. Answering journalists' questions, A. Baghdasarian as evidence of his statement mentioned the coming official visit to Armenia of RF President Dmitry Medvedev scheduled for October 20-21, over 170 interstate and intergovernmental agreements signed between the two countries. According to him, more than 1000 Russian enterprises function in Armenia, more than 70 Russian regions and autonomous republics cooperate with RA.

Commenting upon "the three main subjects speculated in Armenia's political sphere," A. Baghdasarian, in particular, said that Armenian-Russian strategic cooperation is at the highest level: within the framework of CSTO, Armenia has a military-political alliance with country-members of the organization implementing military-political programs.

Second, in the Nagorno Karabakh issue, according to A. Baghdasarian, Armenia's position is exact: "mutually acceptable mutual understanding is much more important than unreasonable confrontation," and President Sargsyan and the Armenian authorities have no aim to make any concession in the Nagorno Karabakh issue.

Third, Armenia, according to A. Baghdasarian, efficiently works with European structures and has a consistent course of deepening cooperation with European structures, according to him, its evidence is also the creation of the interdepartmental commission by the instruction of the RA President.

And as for the home political situation in Armenia, A. Baghdasarian considers it stable and normal.

3. TWO CANDIDATES RUN FOR MAYOR'S ELECTIONS IN APARAN AND TALIN AND ONE IN ASHTARAK TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

On October 26, local self-government elections are scheduled in the communities of the Aragatsotn region, including community head elections in the towns of Ashtarak, Aparan, and Talin.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, the Spokesperson of the RA Central Electoral Commission, two out of three non-partisan candidates registered for Ashtarak Mayor's elections, Ashot Azizian and Grigor Baloyan, have withdrawn their candidatures in the established term. So, the only candidate for Mayor's elections is current Mayor Gagik Tamazian.

ANM member Alexan Avetisian has withdrawn his candidature for Aparan Mayor's elections. Current Mayor, RPA member Gor Abrahamian and non-partisan Razmik Petrosian run for the elections.



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Two out of four candidates for Talin Mayor's elections, non-partisans Armen Sargsian and Edward Grigorian, have withdrawn their candidatures. Current Mayor, non-partisan Mnatsakan Mnatsakanian and RPA member Gurgen Grigorian continue the election campaign.

4. ACCORDING TO KIRO MANOYAN, IT IS NO NEWS THAT ARF AND SERZH SARGSYAN HAVE SOME CONTRADICTIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

"The ARF is against returning the liberated territories to Azerbaijan," the head of the ARF Dashnaksutyun's Hay Dat (Armenian Cause) and Political Affairs Office Kiro Manoyan stated at the October 20 press conference. In his words, the only way of solving the Karabakh problem is that Azerbaijan should reconcile itself to the reality of losing Artsakh for ever. "Over 70 years, Azerbaijan enjoyed Karabakh - thanks to the USSR. After the collapse of the USSR, it naturally lost Artsakh and should accept this fact," K. Manoyan said.

According to him, it is no news that the ARF has some contradictions with the president Serzh Sargsyan regarding the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, in particular, the return of the territories. In response to the question about the ARF's attitude to the statement that S. Sargsyan made at one time, saying that Agdam is not an Armenian land, K. Manoyan noted that during a talk with ARF members, S. Sargsyan denied making such an expression.

When answering the question about why the ARF is kept in the coalition while it has differences with both the partner parties and the president over the issues of Armenian-Turkish relations and the Karabakh conflict's settlement, K. Manoyan said: "The opportunity to convince our partners and influence them keeps us in the coalition". He added that when the ARF no longer has an influence on the other forces making up the authorities, it will leave the coalition.

5. COMMUNITY HEAD ELECTIONS SCHEDULED IN 5 TOWNS OF GEGHARKUNIK REGION ON OCTOBER 26 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

Local self-government elections are scheduled in the communities of the Gegharkunik region on October 26, including community head elections in the towns of Gavar, Sevan, Martuni, Chambarak, and Vardenis.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, the Spokesperson of the RA Central Electoral Commission, the only candidate registered for Gavar Mayor's elections is current Mayor, member of the United Labor Party Gurgen Martirosian.

Current Sevan Mayor, RPA member Gevorg Malkhasian and non-partisan Hrachik Karapetian continue the election campaign for Sevan Mayor's elections. Candidate for Mayor's post, non-partisan Vardges Kocharian withdrew his candidature in the established term.

Three out of four registered candidates for Mayor's elections of Martuni continue the election campaign. They are: RPA members, current Mayor Bagrat Haroutiunian, Rashid Hakobian, and non-partisan Garik Hakobian. Orinats Yerkir (Country of Law) party member Kamo Gasparian has withdrawn his candidature.

Current Chambarak Mayor, non-partisan Yurik Avalian and RPA member Rita Hovhannisian out of three candidates for Mayor's elections in Chambarak continue the election campaign. RPA member Kochar Kocharian has withdrawn his candidature.

All five registered candidates, RPA members, current Vardenis Mayor Vardan Barseghian, Vardan Yeranosian, Volodya Khloyan, National-Democratic Union member Gevorg Bokhian, and non-partisan Samvel Martirosian will run for the elections of Vardenis Mayor.

6. 3 CANDIDATES RUN FOR GYUMRI MAYOR'S ELECTIONS AND 4 FOUR ARTIK MAYOR'S ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

Local self-government elections are scheduled in the communities of Shirak region on October 26, including community head elections in the towns of Gyumri and Artik.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, the Spokesperson of the RA Central Electoral Commission, one of four candidates registered for Gyumri Mayor's elections, non-partisan Karapet Nersisian, has withdrawn his candidature in the established term. So, current Gyumri Mayor, RPA member Vardan Ghukasian, National Assembly independent deputy Martun Grigorian, and member of the National Self-Determination Union Daniel Darbinian are candidates for Gyumri Mayor's elections.



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The candidates for Artik Mayor's elections are current Mayor, non-partisan Hmayak Abrahamian, RPA member Khachatur Varagian, member of the National Self-Determination Union Annman Khachatrian, and ANM member Mkrtych Mkrtychian.

7. KIRO MANOYAN: IF AZERBAIJAN CONTINUES TO ACT FROM POSITIONS OF FORCE, ARMENIA WILL RECOGNIZE INDEPENDENCE OF NKR [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

There will be no considerable progress in negotiations on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict until the new U.S. president's assuming his post in January 2009, the Head of the ARF's Hay Dat (Armenian Cause) and Political Affairs Office Kiro Manoyan expressed an opinion at the October 20 press conference. "We must tell the international community that if Azerbaijan continues to act from the positions of force, Armenia will recognize the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic," he declared.

Responding to the question about why at the time the ARF did not support "Heritage" party's legislative initiative on recognizing the NKR's independence. K. Manoyan stated: "The recognition of Artsakh's independence should proceed from the process of negotiations rather than the interests of some political force or another."

Confirming that the ARF is discontented with Serzh Sargsyan's policy on the NKR problem, K. Manoyan pointed out that in 1998 they were much more displeased with the version that the first Armenian president Levon Ter-Petrosian had proposed regarding the solution of the Karabakh problem. According to ARF's representative, there was progress in negotiations only after the resignation of L. Ter-Petrosian. In the words of K. Manoyan, the major achievement of the Armenian side in 1998-2008 was that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs started excluding the possibility that Karabakh will again make part of Azerbaijan.

8. 5 OUT OF 6 CURRENT MAYORS TO RETAIN THEIR POSTS BY PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF OCTOBER 19 LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN LORI REGION [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

According to the preliminary results of the October 19 Mayor's elections of town of Vanadzor, Lori region, current Mayor, RPA member Samvel Darbinian has received maximum votes. 25 493 voters have voted for him. The other 5 candidates have received the following votes: RPA members Edward Khlgatian 8 402, Gagik Ghazarian 1 357, member of the Progressive United Communist Party of Armenia Senik Evinian 2 464, Zharangutiun (Heritage) party member Garnik Sahakian 3 411. 46 197 out of the general number of 94 102 voters of the town took part in voting. 2 035 ballot-papers were invalidated. The number of inaccuracies is 679.

According to the preliminary data of Mayor's elections of the town of Stepanavan, the same region, current Mayor, RPA member Sargis Gharakeshishian has received maximum votes. 5 156 voters have voted for him. The other candidates have received the following votes: non-partisans Seryozha Arakelian 2 513, Vachagan Baghdasarian 607 votes.

According to the preliminary data of elections of towns of Tashir and Tumanian, the only candidates, current Mayors, non-partisan Nshan Soghoyan and RPA member Levon Zavarian have been elected.

According to the preliminary results of elections of Akhtala Mayor, RPA member Haykaz Khachikian has received maximum votes defeating the current Mayor, RPA member Suren Tamazian. According to the preliminary data of elections of Shamlugh Mayor, current Mayor, RPA member Lendrush Bezhanian has received maximum votes defeating his only rival, ARFD member Samvel Shakhkian.

9. PARLIAMENT VOTES DOWN PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES OF "HERITAGE" FACTION IN AGENDA OF AUTUMN SESSION [Haykakan Zhamanak, 10/20/08]

A regular 4-day session of the National Assembly started on October 20. There are 42 issues and 7 international agreements on the agenda. 3 of the issues and 2 of the agreements had been discussed at the previous sittings and were only to be voted on. The NA approved the 2007 annual report on implementation of the 2006-2007 program of state property privatization, made in the first reading amendments and additions to the Law on the 2006-2007 Program of State Property Privatization, and passed a package of bills on general education.

The parliament voted down the issue of including 11 legislative initiatives of "Heritage" faction members in the agenda of the autumn session (the head NA committees had made negative conclusions



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on these initiatives). Among the initiatives was, in particular, the draft decision on recognizing as invalid the March 4 decision of the National Assembly concerning the petition for permission to involve 4 NA deputies - Hakob Hakobian, Myasnik Malkhasian, Sasun Mikaelian and Khachatur Sukiasian as accused persons in the March 1 criminal case and to use arrest as a precautionary measure with respect to them.

The discussion (in the second reading) of the package of bills on local government in Yerevan and territorial administration was again postponed for 30 days. To recap, by the constitutional amendments adopted on November 27, 2005, the parliament was to bring the current laws into line with the constitutional amendments within 2 years.

10. MEMBER OF "RPA" FACTION HAKOB HAKOBIAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES [Hayastani Hanrapetutiu, 10/20/08]

The RA National Assembly on October 20 elected the member of NA "Republican Party of Armenia" ("RPA") faction Hakob Hakobian as the chairman of the newly-created Standing Committee on Social Issues by a secret vote. According to the chairman of "RPA" faction, chairman of the NA Ad Hoc Counting Committee Samvel Nikoyan, 87 out of 131 NA deputies took part in the vote. 83 voted for the only candidate, 2 deputies voted against. 2 voting-papers were recognized as invalid.

H. Hakobian was born in the village of Tsovinar in Martuni region on January 26, 1958. In 1980 he graduated from Yerevan Polytechnic Institute, receiving a diploma of an engineer-economist. His career began at Arpa-Sevan construction organization in the 1980s. He served as the CEO, then as the chairman of that company in 1995-1999. He was a deputy of the RA National Assembly of 2nd convocation (1999-2003) and 3rd convocation (2003-2007). In 2007, he was elected a deputy of the NA of 4th convocation from electoral district No 24 (Gegharkunik marz). He is married and has 3 children.

11. ROBERT SIMMONS SAYS KARABAKH CONFLICT MUST BE REGULATED IN PEACEFUL WAY [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

Nagorno Karabakh conflict must be regulated in a peaceful way, special representative of NATO secretary general in South Caucasus and Central Asia Robert Simmons said today at the meeting with the students of the V. Brusov State Linguistic University. According to him, the regulation of the conflict is the issue of the two countries – Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Speaking about the cooperation of NATO with Armenia, he noted that it is very important taking into consideration the difficult situation in the region.

"It is necessary to put this cooperation on good basis and continue developing it," Simmons said. He considered the conducted military exercises with the participation of NATO servicemen as a real progress. According to him, the exercises will help to have more organized army, its effective functioning in different crises situations, will promote stability and peace in the region as well as will develop multinational cooperation. He pointed out the right planning of budget which must be transparent.

R. Simmons also underscored cooperation of NATO's and other countries of the region, pointing out that it does not mean that the latter must quit the relations with those organizations with which they cooperated. NATO is not going to send troops to the South Caucasus, it may only be in certain number and during military exercises. "NATO's main issue is to ensure stability and we are cooperating with different international establishments – EU, UN – in that direction," R. Simmons said.

In respect of maintaining stability, he underscored the regulation of relations between Armenia and Turkey.

12. SAMVEL DARBINIAN REELECTED MAYOR OF VANADZOR [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

Elections of local self governmental bodies took place October 19 in 98 communities of Lori province. Elections of head of community and council of elders have been held in 84 communities, elections of only heads of community – in 3 communities, and elections of only council of elders – in 11 communities.

Six candidates were nominated for the post of head of Vanadzor community: member of Armenian Republican Party, the acting mayor Samvel Darbinian, member of Armenian Republican Party, head of Vanadzor department of "Haypost" company Edward Khlghatian, non-party, head of "Gagik Ghazarian" sport club Gagik Ghazarian, non-party, head of "Daughter Alina" company Seyran Harutyunian, member of administration of "Heritage" party, head of "Szni" company Garnik Sahakian, member of Armenian United Communist Party, deputy head of "Debed" branch of Armenian Electric



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Network Senik Evinian. 58 candidates were nominated for 15 places in council of elders of Vanadzor community.

From 94,111 eligible voters 46,197 took part in the elections in Vanadzor which comprises 49,09 percent of the voters.

According to primary results, 25,493 people voted for Samvel Darbinian, 8,402 – for Edward Khlghatian, 3411 – for Garnik Sahakian, 2732 – for Seyran Harutyunian, 2464 – for Senik Evinian and 1357 – for Gagik Ghazarian. The number of inaccuracies was 679, 2,035 polling bulletins were recognized invalid and 43,859 – valid.

13. PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA ARRIVES IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

President of Russian Federation Dmitri Medvedev arrived today in Yerevan on an official visit at the invitation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

Armenian president, foreign minister, Armenian ambassador to Russia, Russian ambassador to Armenia and other officials welcomed the guests in the airport.

The delegation headed by the Russian president consists of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Transport Minister Igor Levitin, Energy Minister Sergey Shmadko, other officials and businessmen.

This is the first visit of Dmitri Medvedev to Armenia as president of Russia.

After the greeting ceremony the two presidents were driven to the residence of the President of Armenia, where on behalf of Armenian president, a dinner was given in the honor of Russian president.

Within the frameworks of the official visit the presidents will have a face-to-face meeting, followed by extended negotiations. After the end of the negotiations different documents on cooperation will be signed, then Serzh Sargsyan and Dmitri Medvedev will make statements summing up the result of negotiations.

The two presidents will be present at the opening ceremony of Russian square in Yerevan. Within the frameworks of the official visit Dmitri Medvedev will visit Tsitsernakaberd, where he will put a wreath on the memorial to the victims of Armenian Genocide, write down a note in the book of honorable guests and will plant a tree in the park of memory in Tsitsernakaberd.

On the eve of the arrival of the Russian president the 10th session of Armenian-Russian inter-governmental economic cooperation commission took place during which a number of issues on mutual interests were discussed.

14. TIME OF ACTIVITY OF PARLIAMENTARY AD HOC COMMISSION SUGGESTED TO BE PROLONGED FOR TWO MONTHS [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

The head of the parliamentary ad hoc commission set up for the inquiry into March 1-2 events in Yerevan Samvel Nikoyan and members of the commission presented October 20 to parliament a draft on making changes in the NA decision “on setting up an ad hoc commission” suggesting that the time of the activity of the commission be prolonged for two months.

Instead of October 25 the parliamentary ad hoc commission will now present the conclusion of its activity to the parliament by December 25.

S. Nikoyan noted that though the commission was working during the whole summer, it is not yet ready to present conclusion. “We have not finished the tasks forwarded to us by the parliament,” S. Nikoyan said. He also added that in case of setting up a fact finding group, the commission must wait for the results of their work, which can significantly help the commission to present a much more objective conclusion. He expressed hope that the fact finding group will soon be set up.

In response to the question of an MP representing “Heritage” party whether the new date is enough for finishing the works, S. Nikoyan said that if the MPs of the same “Heritage” party and other forces took part in the works of the ad hoc commission and presented their experts, the commission would have done more work.

Discussion of the issue will continue during today’s session.



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15. PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA VISITS MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MUSEUM-INSTITUTE [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

President of the Russian Federation Dmitri Medvedev visited today memorial to the victims of the Armenian genocide and put a wreath, paying tribute to the memory of the victims.

Afterwards the Russian president was in the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute the director of which Hayk Demoyan presented the history of the Armenian genocide, cultural and ethnic losses of the Armenian people. After traveling through the museum D. Medvedev put down his impressions in the book of memory.

"Armenian Genocide Museum and memorial are witnesses of terrible tragedy of the 20th century and at the same time is a reminder that life is the main value which must be preserved by civilized people," he wrote.

H. Demoyan handed to Medvedev the "Gold Medal" of the Genocide Museum-Institute.

President of Russia also planted a tree in the memory ally of Tsitsernakaberd.

D. Medvedev was accompanied by the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, first Yerevan deputy mayor Kamo Areyan, Russian ambassador to Armenia Nikolay Pavlov, Armenian ambassador to Russia Armen Smbatian and members of his delegation.

16. ARMENIAN-UKRAINIAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

NA speaker Hovik Abrahamian received today Ukrainian ambassador to Armenia Alexander Bozhko.

NA public relations official told Armenpress that during the meeting the ambassador conveyed to the speaker the greetings and congratulations of the chairman of the Ukrainian Rada.

Referring to inter-parliamentary ties the ambassador reminded that many points of the cooperation agreement are still waiting to be carried out. In this respect AI. Bozhko underscored the necessity of mutual visits, and with the request of Hovik Abrahamian presented the inner-political situation in Ukraine.

Armenian NA speaker underscored the inter-parliamentary cooperation and said that the mutual visits are good opportunities for exchange of experience.

During the meeting the sides also discussed other issues of mutual interests.

17. ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN OPENING OF RUSSIAN SQUARE IN YEREVAN [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/21/08]

Ceremony of the opening of the Russian square in Yerevan, in the territory of Grigor Lusavorich and Argishti streets took place today with the participation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev who opened the memorial stone of the square.

The Russian president greeted the present and noted that he is glad to be in Armenia and is glad for the opening of the square. "This event not only brings joy to us but it is really very notable as it confirms the frankness of our true brotherly feelings towards each other. We are in the square which has been named in the honor of our country. We accept it with gratitude as a sign of respect towards Russia and Armenian people," Medvedev said. He pointed out that everything will be done for the consolidation of bilateral strategic development.

According to the president of Russia, the further consolidation of relations between the two countries is promoted by multilateral cooperation. "I am sure that the coordination of our approaches in the international sphere is a serious security factor, consolidation of positions both in the Caucasian region and in the world," he said.

The president pointed out that good neighbors are always happy with each other's success. "We see how the achievements of Armenia are increasing in front of our eyes. During the recent years it has become particularly obvious and I will frankly say that we would like to see Armenian people living in prospering, economically strong and stable country.

We are sure that Armenia also wants to see Russia in peace and welfare. Our success is necessary condition for our partnership and for the sake of the people. The most important thing is that we have political will and strive, interest in developing joint humanitarian programs. There is just a need to contact, like between peoples close with each other and eager to help," Medvedev said.

"Today is a notable and symbolizing day, in the heart of Yerevan, with the participation of President of Russia, Russian Square is being opened which unites our nations," President of Armenia



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Serzh Sargsyan said. He noted that Russia's society had its great contribution to the development of world civilization.

The Armenian president stated that flags of the two countries hanging by each other not only symbolize cooperation between the two countries but also consolidation of their historic-cultural ties.

Russian square with its architectural solutions joins Yerevan municipality and Moscow House. "It is symbolizing that near this place stood Yerevan castle the history of which reflects Armenian-Russian relations in all their variety," Serzh Sargsyan said.

According to him, the square becomes another symbol which embodies the brotherhood of two countries and spiritual friendship of the two peoples.

"It is so as during the whole history of our relations, in spite of all the difficulties and troubles the friendship between Russian and Armenian peoples has not shaken. Moreover, it has been consolidated and filled with new sense. This square will not only become the beloved place for walking for Yerevan residents it will symbolize our friendly devotion," Serzh Sargsyan concluded.

18. ARTHUR BAGHDASARIAN AND ROBERT SIMMONS DISCUSS ARMENIA-NATO COOPERATION ISSUES [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

Secretary General of the Armenian National Security Council Arthur Baghdasarian received today special representative of the NATO Secretary General in the South Caucasus and Central Asia Robert Simmons.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed issues on Armenia-NATO cooperation.

With the request of the guest Arthur Baghdasarian presented the main directions of activity of the inter-ministerial commission coordinating the cooperation with European and Euro Atlantic establishments.

During the meeting the sides also discussed pace of NATO's Individual Partnership Action Plan program.

19. ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENTS DISCUSS WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES ON BILATERAL RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

President of the Russian Federation Dmitri Medvedev, who is in Armenia on an official visit, visited today in the morning memorial to the victims of the Armenian genocide, put a wreath on the memorial, traveled through the genocide museum and planted a tree in the memory ally.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that afterwards the two presidents participated in the opening of the Russian square and delivered speeches.

From the square the two presidents were driven to the residence of the President of Armenia where the face-to-face conversation of the two presidents took place.

During the meeting they discussed the whole complex of Armenian-Russian relations, referred to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation issue, recent developments in the region. They also referred to the urgent international issues.

The face-to-face meeting of the presidents was followed by the extended negotiations the core of which was Armenian-Russian economic cooperation which is consistently developing.

Co-chairmen of the Armenian-Russian inter-governmental economic commission Tigran Sargsyan and Igor Levitin presented the results and issues discussed during the 10th session of the commission.

The negotiations were followed by the document signing ceremonies. Afterwards the awarding ceremony of social-political figure of Armenian decent, scientist Arthur Chilingarov and co-chairman of the Armenian-Russian inter-governmental economic commission Igor Levitin took place.

With the September 17 decree of the Armenian President Arthur Chilingarov was awarded Mesrop Mashtots medal and by the October 17 decree Igor Levitin was awarded with Medal of Honor for his contribution to the development of economic ties between the two states.

The presidents of the two countries also gave a joint press conference.



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20. ACTIVATION EXPECTED IN THE KARABAKH CONFLICT NEGOTIATION PROCESS [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

Activation is expected in the Karabakh conflict negotiation process. OSCE Minsk group co-chairmen are planning to visit the conflict region next week.

"It will be the first visit of co-chairmen after presidential elections in Azerbaijan and now the co-chairmen intend to start their work more actively," OSCE Minsk group French co-chairman Bernard Fassier told "Trend" news agency.

"We intend to meet the conflicting sides next week and continue our work," Fassier said.

21. RUSSIAN PRESIDENT WRAPS UP HIS VISIT [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

President of Russian Federation Dmitri Medvedev left today for Russia after two day official visit in Armenia at the invitation of the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

The delegation of the president consisted of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Transport Minister Igor Levitin, Energy Minister Sergey Shmadko, other officials and businessmen. They were seen off by President of Armenia, Foreign Minister, Russian ambassador to Armenia and other officials.

Within the frameworks of the visit the face-to-face meeting of the two presidents took place, followed by extended negotiations, cooperation documents have been signed.

The presidents of the two countries also were present at the opening of the Russian square in Yerevan. Dmitri Medvedev also visited Tsitsernakaberd and put a wreath on the memorial to the victims of the Armenian genocide.

22. EDUARD SHARMAZANOV SAYS POSITION OF AUTHORITIES IN KARABAKH ISSUE IS CLEAR [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

"The position of the Armenian authorities in the Nagorno Karabakh issue is clear: we continue staying devoted to such solution of the issue which is approved by or people. The Armenian Republican party finds that Nagorno Karabakh cannot be part of Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia must have common border and the security of Karabakh must be ensured. In this conflict the status of Nagorno Karabakh is the prior issue and it must be regulated taking into consideration the right to self-determination of the people," member of the Republican party Eduard Sharmazanov said today, considering the statements of certain political forces and their concerns over the "concessions" in Karabakh issue ungrounded.

According to him, some speak of one-sided concessions, understanding very well that any conflict is being solved through mutual concessions.

23. NA AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON EVENTS OCCURRED ON 1-2 MARCH PROPOSES PROLONGING ITS ACTIVITY PERIOD BY 4 MONTHS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/21/08]

The RA National Assembly on October 21 finished the discussion of the draft decision On Making an Amendment to the Decision On Creation of a NA Ad-hoc Committee on the Events Occurred on 1-2 March 2008 in Yerevan and Their Reasons.

Samvel Nikoyan, draft's co-author, the Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee, the Secretary of the RPA faction, proposed prolonging the activity period of the Committee for 4 months, up to February 25, 2009. He said that if the Committee fulfills earlier the tasks set before it, it will present its conclusion to NA before the proposed period.

The factions of 4 parties making part of the political coalition spoke for the proposed amendment. The only opposition faction, Zharangutiun (Heritage), spoke against the prolongation of the period. According to faction Secretary Styopa Safarian, within the framework of the limited powers set by the NA decision the Committee will not be able to achieve any result even in case of prolonging its activity period. It was mentioned that the Committee will not be able to disclose the real picture until the RA former and current Presidents give evidence in the Committee as characters.

In this connection S. Nikoyan stated that it seems to former and current high-ranking officials in Armenia that they are "gods" and may not answer the questions addressed to them. It, in particular, regards the first RA President, as the questions addressed to him by the Committee have received no answer. According to S. Nikoyan, it would be also interesting to listen to the second RA President who declared that from behind the cars participants of the action of protest fired at servicemen of internal



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troops, while it is obvious that there are no persons receiving fire-arms injuries among servicemen of internal troops: their injuries are only splinter.

24. E. NALBANDIAN TO TAKE PART IN THE 19th SESSION OF COUNCIL OF BSEC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN TIRANA [ARMENPRESS, 10/22/08]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian is leaving today for Tirana, where he will take part in the 19th session of the council of Foreign Ministers of Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization member countries scheduled for October 23.

Press service of Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that Minister E. Nalbandian will deliver a speech at the session. Armenia will assume the chairmanship of the organization during the session of council of BSEC Foreign Ministers.-0-/39/

25. HERITAGE PARTY SUGGESTS ORGANIZATION OF OPEN DISCUSSIONS CONNECTED WITH KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION [ARMENPRESS, 10/22/08]

"Heritage" party has not yet received an official proposal to participate in the works of the fact finding commission which is going to be set up in connection with the March 1-2 developments in Yerevan. Head of the party's faction Armen Martirosian said today at a press conference that the format of the participation of the party in the works of the group depends on several circumstances and particularly with the authorities provided to the group.

"If the group will be given the authorities like the parliamentary ad hoc commission has, a difficult discussion will take place. If it has real opportunities and the circles of the issues will be clear in that case the "Heritage" will participate in it," he said.

"The Heritage has always positively assessed the work of the commission, our criticism does not refer to persons but the given authorities," A. Martirosian said.

Referring to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation process the member of parliament suggested that open discussions be held in Armenia as a result of which both the opposition and authorities will try to find ways out with less losses as possible.

26. GERMANY HOPES KARABAKH CONFLICT TO BE SOLVED SOON [ARMENPRESS, 10/22/08]

Germany hopes that peaceful negotiations between Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents will continue and the issue will be solved in near future.

"The August events showed that no conflict, including the South Caucasian ones may be solved in military way and by usage of force," head of the Germany-South Caucasus inter-parliamentary cooperation task group Steffen Reihen said today in Baku.

On October 22 delegation of the social-democratic party's parliamentary faction visited Azerbaijan aiming to conduct negotiations over the expansion of inter-parliamentary ties between Azerbaijan and Germany.

S. Reihen said that the visit is implemented with the assignment of the German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier.

"The minister tasked us to find out the situation in Azerbaijan after presidential elections and how the elected president is going to continue peaceful process over Karabakh conflict regulation."

BUSINESS

27. HOUSING PROBLEMS OF 6,985 FAMILIES TO BE SOLVED BY 2013 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

Holiday of City was celebrated in Gyumri, the second largest city of Armenia, on October 18. The implementation of an urban development project was launched on the same day, thanks to which 2,300-3,000 apartments as well as service facilities will be built in Gyumri's Ani and Mush districts. The program's executives presented the project, which will be implemented by Glendale Hills company - the winner of a tender, to Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan who visited Gyumri.

The RA minister of urban development Vardan Vardanian said that as a result of the project, the "disaster zone" will be transformed into a zone of "development and proper life". According to him, since Armenia's independence, the housing conditions of more than 60 thousand homeless families have been improved with state budgetary resources, funds of the Lincy Foundation, "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund and other foundations, but the problem has not been solved completely. The minister noted that the



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problem was one of the key issues included in the pre-election program of Serzh Sargsyan and one of the first tasks of S. Sargsyan as the newly-elected president. Based on it, the Armenian government developed and approved the concept of solving the housing problems of the families left homeless by the earthquake. Under the concept, it is envisaged solving housing problems of 6,985 families by 2013, including 4,420 families in Shirak marz, 2,403 in Lori marz, 149 in Aragatsotn marz, 13 families in Tavush marz, with the total dwelling space of 600 thousand square meters to be constructed.

According to the minister, construction work to be done in Mush and Ani districts will finish in 2010. Tenders were also announced for apartment construction in rural communities of Lori and Shirak marzes, and construction work will start in these communities by mid November. About 40 billion drams will be allocated from the state budget for construction work in Gyumri, and a total of 80-82 billion drams will be spent on restoration of the earthquake zone.

The RA deputy minister of urban development, Chief Architect of Armenia Narek Sargsian said that the project's implementation will allow to develop the center of Gyumri as a tourist zone, also developing the traditional handicrafts such as blacksmith's work, carpentry, carpet making and others, and finally to achieve those features and colors that existed in Gyumri before the earthquake.

The mayor of Gyumri Vardan Ghukasian informed reporters that the city has a population of 200 thousand, whereas before the earthquake its population made 350 thousand. In his words, the budget of Yerevan makes 125 billion drams, that of Gyumri amounts to 3 billion 200 million drams. According to him, among the city's problems are asphalt laying, construction of cultural facilities, job creation, small and medium business development, planting of greenery, and street lighting installation.

28. iCON COMMUNICATIONS PLANS TO COVER ARMENIA WITH ITS WIMAX NETWORK IN 2010 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/21/08]

iCon Communications company, which was registered in Armenia in late 2007, plans to start operating in January 2009 and provide Internet services by WiMAX technology in Yerevan starting from April of the same year and throughout Armenia starting from 2010. Through its network, the company will offer broadband wireless Internet services, Internet phone connection services, as well as services on construction and operation of separate corporate virtual networks. Aram Kablanian - the CEO of the company, the founder of Virage Logic company (U.S), which has an Armenian subsidiary - stated this at the October 20 press conference.

He said that 4 million dollars has already been invested for the construction of a wireless network in Yerevan with equipment of Alcatel-Lucent and Siemens, which will also be used for ensuring a connection with a speed of up to 20 megabits/sec between the network and ultimate users. The total amount of investments for the network's installation will make about 10 million dollars.

In response to questions of NT correspondent, A. Kablanian said iCON Communications will use international channels of ArmenTel and Fibernet as an international access communication line.

According to him, the prices of iCON Communications' services will be announced after some additional studies necessary for the determination of the speed of services to be included in various packages. The company envisages having 10 thousand users at the end of the first year after starting the provision of Internet access services. It intends to operate for all groups of users, also rendering Internet access services by a prepayment/limitless use scheme and for resale.

Studies conducted by iCON Communications show that although the number of Internet users in Armenia grew in 2007 by 909% as compared with 2003 and made 172.8 thousand users, the index of users per capita makes 5.8%, whereas the same index makes 9.8% in Azerbaijan, 7.8% in Georgia and 21.9% worldwide.

According to the studies, 80% of about 700 private users surveyed use a dial-up connection when receiving Internet services. 50% of them use the Internet every day, 60% - at home, 16% - at work, another 16% - at Internet clubs. They would like the speed of Internet access services to increase, while connection interruptions and prices to decline. 24% of about 200 corporate users of the Internet said that the availability of a second (independent) Internet connection line is preferable for their organization, while 46% considered it necessary. The share of organizations having a reserve connection line does not exceed 30%. Corporate users expect positive changes related to Internet speed, interruptions of the connection, and prices. In the opinion of 41% of corporate users, today the prices are not in line with the quality of services provided.



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29. ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN BITUMEN PLANT TO BE FOUNDED IN ARMENIA IN 2009, "MARS" PLANT TO BE PASSED TO RUSSIAN COMPANY SITRONIX FOR MANAGEMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/21/08]

It is envisaged to pass Mars plant, which has been transferred as property to Russia, to Sitronix company (Russia) for management. Announcing this at a press conference in Yerevan, Russian Minister of Transport Igor Levitin said that according to experts, it is not economically profitable to build an oil refinery with a capacity of over 5 million tons in Armenia, but the issue will be discussed again after solving the export problem. It was mentioned that an Armenian-Russian joint venture - a bitumen producing plant will be built in Armenia in 2009 under a 20 million dollar investment project. The plant will produce 45-50 thousand tons of bitumen a year, with two thirds of its production to be sold in Armenia. Making a speech at the opening ceremony of the 10th jubilee sitting of the Armenian-Russian intergovernmental commission in Yerevan, I. Levitin underlined that economic cooperation of the two countries is continuing to develop. He did not rule out that the bilateral commodity turnover may reach 1 billion dollars this year. In his words, "solutions have been found to the controversial problems which caused heated debates a few years ago: the use of the facilities owned by Russia, as well as transport, technological, energy and other problems. Good perspectives have been worked out regarding the development of relations between the central banks of our countries".

Following the commission's sitting, a joint press conference was held, during which Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian said that the peculiarity of the sitting was that the solutions to all the problems in the energy sector were stipulated, and cooperation in the telecommunication sector will expand.

30. MASS PRODUCTION OF 9 MKM THIN FOIL LAUNCHED AT ARMENAL [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/21/08]

Mass production of 9 mkm thin foil has been launched at Armenal foil rolling plant. The share of thin foil in Armenal's total production will make up over 70% after its equipment operates at full capacity. The production is envisaged for customers from the U.S, Europe and the Middle East. According to a press release of Rusal company, investments for Armenal's production development amounted to about 6 million dollars in 2007-2008 and were mainly aimed at developing the production of thin foil which is in great demand in international market. Production of 9 mkm thin foil is currently being developed at the enterprise.

Reference: Armenal was created on the basis of Yerevan's Kanaker aluminium plant in May 2000. It is one of the biggest industrial enterprises in Armenia and the only producer of aluminium foil in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The enterprise made part of Rusal, the world leader in aluminium production, in 2000 and comprises together with Sayan Foil, Sayanal and Ural Foil enterprises the Packaging Division of the company. The enterprise employes more than 700 people.

DIASPORA

31. 10th ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA TO BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

A special celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Armenian Women's Association of Canada will be held on October 26. The event which will take place in St-Laurent Entertainment Center, in Montreal, will be conducted by Khatchatur Pilikian, specially invited from London. Guest of honour is Mrs. Arpine Baghdjian.

32. SIRVARD KARAMANUK PASSED AWAY [Azg, 10/20/08]

On October 20 Constantinople-based world-famous composer and benefactor Sirvard Karamanuk passed away. As Noyan Tapan was informed by Ara Kochunian, editor of Istanbul's Zhamanak (Time) newspaper, the 96-year-old artist passed away in national St. Saviour Hospital, where she spent her last days for treatment purposes.



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33. AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA CRITICIZES U.S. "NEW STAND" ON NAGORNO KARABAKH SETTLEMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/20/08]

Bush Administration officials continued to press forward their new, more aggressive position against freedom for Nagorno Karabagh, citing, as recently as today in Yerevan, that a resolution of this longstanding conflict must proceed from the principle of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, while remaining conspicuously silent on the core American value of self-determination. This statement was issued by the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) on October 17.

The statement says that over the past several weeks, since the time of Vice President Dick Cheney's early September visit to Azerbaijan, the Administration has rolled back any mention of self-determination, eliminating any reference to this core international legal and democratic principle from its diplomatic vocabulary. Speaking in Baku, the Vice President, echoing Azerbaijan's negotiating stand, said that a Nagorno Karabagh settlement "must proceed" from the principle of territorial integrity and only "take into account other principles." "As recently as earlier today, in Armenia, Assistant Secretary of State Dan Fried repeated the newly formulated U.S. stand that a Nagorno Karabagh settlement must start from the principle of "territorial integrity," although he did concede that there were "other established norms," an apparent reference to democracy and self-determination, which he carefully avoided naming," says the ANCA statement.

34. ARMENIAN-AMERICANS AND GREEK-AMERICANS TO HOST JOINT FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT OBAMA [Azg, 10/20/08]

Armenian-Americans and Greek-Americans in Manhattan will show their support of Presidential hopeful Democate Senator Barak Obama by hosting a fundraiser.

The event, which will take place on October 28 at Lafayette Bar and Grill in downtown Manhattan, will feature community leaders from the Armenian and Greek communities, as well as actor Tate Donovan, an Obama supporter and friend of Peter Balakian.

"This is a great opportunity for Armenians and Greeks to come together and rally for the Obama-Biden ticket," commented Nicole Vartanian, Armenians for Obama New York activist, and added, "Both Senators have proven to have solid support on Armenian and Greek American issues, and come November 4th, it will be a true victory for all Americans when Obama wins the Presidency."

35. JOE BIDEN ANNOUNCES THAT SINCERE APPROACH ON RECOGNITION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE WILL PREVAIL IN THEIR GOVERNMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/21/08]

Armenians for Obama Chairman Areen Ibranossian has met with the U.S. Vice-President candidate Democrat Senator Joe Biden.

As Public Relations Department of ARF Western America's Central Committee reports, during the meeting, a number of Armenian-American core issues, as well as the activities being undertaken by Armenians for Obama to provide the votes of Armenian-Americans for presidential hopeful Barack Obama were discussed.

Areen Ibranossian thanked the Senator for his permanent support to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, as well as for the steps the Senator has undertaken so that military aid is equally allocated to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Joe Biden, expressing his thanks to Armenians for Obama for the work carried out, announced that in case of being elected, publicity and sincere approach in Obama and Biden's administration will play a dominating role in recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

SOCIAL

36. STATUE OF SAYAT- NOVA PLACED IN VANADZOR [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

Basalt statue of Sayat-Nova opened in the square of Vanadzor Sayat-Nova park (in the former place of Kirov statue). According to the head of department of education and culture of Vanadzor municipality Gagik Aghababian the statue was waiting for being placed for more than 30 years.

Sculptor Aghasi Hovhannisian who lives abroad, worked on this statue for long years. On behalf of municipality and council of elders of the community A. Hovhannisian was awarded with a certificate and a medal.



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37. NEW KINDER GARDEN IN MARGAHOVIT [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

Construction of the kinder garden in village Margahovit of the Armenian province of Lori has kicked off.

Yet in 2005, on the initiative of the head of the village Seyran Ananian, "Save the Children" organization repaired the first floor of the administrative building of the village municipality and provided it to the kinder garden.

But having a new building for kinder garden remained a primary issue for Margahovit, for the construction of which 46,5 million drams have been released from the community budget this summer.

The construction is being implemented by "Mar and Gar" company. Head of the construction organization Garnik Margarian told Armenpress that the building will occupy an area of 400 sq. meters, will be ensured with all the conveniences. It is intended for 50 children, will have a play room, kitchen, two bedrooms, balcony. The construction will be finished by the end of the year.

38. SEMINAR DEDICATED TO ARMENIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN GLENDALE CIVIL LIBRARY [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

"United Armenian Youth" organization conducted a seminar on October 19 in the Glendale civil library on "International Relations and Balance of Forces in Caucasus: Foreign Policy of Armenia".

Press service of Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that the chief speaker was the Armenian consul general in Los Angeles Armen Liloyan, who made an extended speech on Armenia's foreign policy. The speech was followed by exchange of ideas with the participation of Armenian young people from community and independent institutions.

Armenian-Turkish relations, results of latest events over South Ossetia, USA-Iran relations have been discussed.

In this context they have also referred to different aspects of Armenia's foreign policy.

39. AS OF TODAY 46 AUDITORS HAVE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

As a result of qualification examination which took place October 16 in the Armenian Finance Ministry none of the seven participants were awarded qualification certificates.

Press service of Armenian Finance Ministry told Armenpress that four applicants did not come to the exam.

Overall 10 exams of qualification of auditors have been held in 2008, as a result of which from 132 applicants 104 took part in the exam, from which 27 have been awarded certificates of qualified auditors.

As of today, 46 auditors have qualification certificate in Armenia.

40. ASIAN BANK TO PROVIDE 1.5 MILLION FOR DEVELOPING PROJECTS OF CONSTRUCTION OF ARMENIA-IRAN RAILWAY [ARMENPRESS, 10/21/08]

The Armenian side has reached agreement with the Asian bank for the development of relevant projects of construction of Armenia-Iran railway. According to the reached agreement, the bank will provide 1.5 million USD.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said today at briefing that in the midst of the coming year there will be an opportunity to establish business-projects and make estimations in respect of economic efficiency.

"We can present the documents presented by the Asian bank to the private sector which may also participate in the project. We also suggest our strategic partners to participate in the projects and already next year there will serious progress in this direction".

41. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOTS BEING CONSTRUCTED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN CENTER OF YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/21/08]

Despite the fact that new transport nodes have been built in central parts of Yerevan in recent years, the streets are still full of traffic. The Head of the Construction and Improvement Department of Yerevan Mayor's Office Frunz Basentsian said at the October 20 press conference that the underground



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parking lots being constructed in downtown Yerevan will enable to deal with the problem of traffic congestion.

The construction of underground parking lots in Liberty Square has already begun with funds of Renco organization (Italy). According to F. Basentsian, the 3-story parking facility is envisaged for 500 cars and will be operated by means of modern automated systems. Electronic panes will be installed at 4 crossroads in Mashtots, Sayat Nova, Terian and Tumanian Streets, which will allow drivers to look for places to park their cars. The construction work will be completed in 18 months. F. Basentsian said that after the end of the construction, the parking facility will become the property of the mayor's office.

With the aim of easing traffic congestion in central streets of the city, it is also envisaged building underground parking lots in Shahumian, Sakharov, Aznavour, and French Squares and near the Erebuni Hotel and the Republican Stadium.

The department head announced that all the stones of the pedestals of dismantled Monuments to Hovhannes Tumanian and Alexander Spendiarian (both monuments were set up in Liberty Square in 1957) have been numbered and transported to the production basis of Yercitylight company under the jurisdiction of Yerevan mayor's office.

42. YEREVAN MAYOR'S OFFICE FULLY IMPLEMENTS PROGRAMS ENVISAGED FOR 2008 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/21/08]

All the programs, which were envisaged by Yerevan mayor's office for this year, have been fully implemented in January-September. The Head of the Construction and Improvement Department of the Mayor's Office Frunz Basentsian said at the October 20 press conference that such activities as asphalt laying and crack filling in several streets, construction of irrigation networks, and reinforcement of ten 3rd degree accident prone buildings have been completed.

In his words, in addition to this work, under extra programs of the mayor's office it is envisaged completing the reinforcement of two bridges on Yerevan-Sevan highway, as well as repairing Riga Street which links one wing of newly-built Saralanj highway with Kochar Street by late November. The construction of a section of Isakov Avenue will finish, and a new crossing in Heratsi Street will be built.

43. ARMENIAN EDUCATION AND SCIENCE MINISTRY TO FINISH WORKING OUT EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR 27 PROFESSIONS [ARMENPRESS, 10/22/08]

Armenian Education and Science Ministry continues reforms in the preliminary and secondary professional educational systems. Working out of educational standards for 27 professions of secondary specialized education will be finished by the end of the year.

Head of preliminary and secondary specialized education department of the ministry Artak Aghbalian told Armenpress that the task group which will deal with the creation of these standards is in the formation round. In a few days Armenian education and science minister will approve the membership and the task group will start working.

Best specialists from different institutes have been invited. The works are implemented with the support of EU. There exist educational standards for 24 professions of secondary specialized education in the republic and nearly 100 standards are planned to be created in 2009-2010.

According to A. Aghbalian, the process of training of specialists of secondary specialized education establishments continues. Already 700 specialists have been trained in "Professional Pedagogy".

Armenian Education and Science Ministry has reached an agreement with Danish government for the implementation of works in the preliminary and secondary specialized education systems.

A memorandum of mutual understanding will be signed and the works will kick off by the end of the year. The direction of cooperation has already been clarified. Educational standards will be created and training courses will be carried out for specialists of colleges.

44. CONCERT TO TAKE PLACE IN STEPANAKERT IN SUPPORT TO "MARATHON 2008" OF "HAYASTAN" ALL ARMENIAN FUND [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/22/08]

A concert will be organized in Stepanakert stadium dedicated to the annual money gathering-marathon of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund.

An official from the fund told Armenpress that another concert directed towards support to the money gathering-marathon is expected to be organized in Yerevan.



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As a result of the "Marathon 2008", it is expected to built and reconstruct roads, schools, hospitals, gas pipe lines and water pipe lines.

45. EXPERIENCE OF ARMENIAN PROVINCIAL YOUTH CENTERS TO BE APPLIED IN ARTSAKH [ARMENPRESS, 10/22/08]

Armenian delegation headed by deputy sport and youth affairs minister Arthur Poghosian took part in the pan-Artsakh third youth conference October 17-18 in Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

An official from the center of organization of youth events of Armenian Sport and Youth Affairs Ministry told Armenpress that representatives of Armenian and Karabakh official bodies, NGOs and students were invited to the conference.

During the event the participants discussed Karabakh's youth issues, youth aspects of Armenia-Karabakh contacts and directions of youth state policy of Artsakh and Armenia.

Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs of Nagorno Karabakh Lernik Hakobian, head of parliamentary permanent commission of social issues Arpat Avanesian, Armenian deputy sport and youth affairs' minister Arthur Poghosian delivered speeches during the event.

Head of the department of youth issues of Karabakh Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs Tigran Atanesian presented the youth sphere of Karabakh. In his speech head of the Youth Policy department of Armenian Sport and Youth Ministry Arsen Soghomonian referred to primary strategic issues of the Youth sphere and grants provided by Armenian Sport and Youth Ministry.

Representatives of public establishments also delivered speeches.

Different task groups have been set up during the seminar. Preconditions and prospects of creation of national council of Artsakh youth as well as the experience of centers of organization of youth events functioning in Armenian provinces have been discussed.

Heads of Artsakh official bodies noted that the experience of Armenian provincial youth centers is worth studying and the model will also be applied in Karabakh.

46. SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF ARAGATSOTN PROVINCE TO BE NEWLY FURNISHED [ARMENPRESS, 10/22/08]

Secondary schools of Aragatsotn province will be newly furnished. The author of the initiative is the government of the republic which provided 69 million 200,000 drams with that aim.

The governor's office made the order and the organization which won the tender has already finished the works of preparation of the necessary furniture.

Head of the financial and social-economic department of the governor's office A. Avetisian told Armenpress that schools will receive the furniture in 1-2 days. Overall 3,550 pieces will be received including pupils and teachers' desks, chairs, blackboards, book stores, wardrobes.

With this undertaking the problem of new furniture will be solved in the majority of schools of the province.

With another initiative of the Armenian government the issue of free transportation of pupils and teachers has been solved in the province. The issue appeared after secondary and senior schools were separated as a result of which the pupils and pedagogues had to walk a long distance, even from one community to another community. With this aim the province was provided 4,5 million drams.

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