



## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### POLITICS

#### 1. HOVIK ABRAHAMIAN: CRIMES LIKE OCTOBER 27 HAVE NO LIMITATION PERIOD [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/08]

A commemoration ceremony of the victims of the terrorist act committed on October 27, 1999, Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian, NA Speaker Karen Demirchian, NA Vice-Speakers Yuri Bakhshian and Ruben Miroyan, deputies Henrik Abrahamian, Mikayel Kotanian, Armenak Armenakian, Minister of Operative Affairs Leonard Petrosian took place on October 27 in the RA National Assembly yard. The NA leadership, deputies, including Y. Bakhshian's widow, Anahit Bakhshian, the Chairwoman of Zharangutiun (Heritage) party Board, a member of party's parliamentary faction, as well as K. Demirchian's widow, Rita Demirchian and son, PPA Chairman Stepan Demirchian, the NA staff laid flowers to the memorial of the victims of the terrorist act.

NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian said in his speech that every year by paying the tribute of our respect to the memory of the cruel crime of 1999, "we once more say our resolute "No" to terrorism, intolerance, and hatred." "And though 9 years have passed from the October 27 crime, any of us during his whole life will bear this pain and suffering the whole our nation felt on this October day of 1999. Nine years later we again state that such crimes have no limitation period, and we should do our best to exclude recurrence of such crimes," the NA Speaker said. According to him, every time gathering near this memorial let us again certify that our strength is in our unity and together we will be able to build more honorable and well-off Armenia, which was also the dream of the victims."

#### 2. ACCORDING TO MARIE YOVANOVITCH, U.S. DOUBTS THE VIABILITY OF OSCE MINSK GROUP [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/08]

The "football" diplomacy initiated by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is the evidence of the fact that Armenia keeps to the positions of peace and cooperation in the South Caucasian region. Artur Baghdasarian, the Secretary of the RA National Security Council, stated at the October 27 international conference organized in Yerevan. According to him, the RA authorities consider that when looking for a solution to any issue they should take the way of a dialogue.

Marie Yovanovitch, the Ambassador of the U.S. to RA, in her turn, said that by Turkish President's visit to Yerevan on September 6 "indeed a brave, a very strong step" was taken. "It can be compared with the warming of American-Chinese relations in the 1970-s," the Ambassador added. According to M. Yovanovitch, it is obvious that there is also certain progress in the Nagorno Karabakh settlement, in particular, the sides speak about a concrete document. However, as she mentioned, the U.S. thinks "whether the OSCE Minsk Group remains viable, is it worthy continuing the negotiations by the very format."

According to the estimation of Peter Semneby, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, the South Caucasian region is of much importance for EU. Touching upon Armenian-Turkish relations, he said that the opening of the general border of Armenia and Turkey will have a positive significance for both countries. P. Semneby also stated that EU defends the activity of the Minsk Group and strives for persuading the conflict sides to come to an agreement.

#### 3. OCTOBER 27 WAS GREATEST DISGRACE OF AUTHORITIES OF THAT TIME, ARMENIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS STATES [Haykakan Zhamanak, 10/27/08]

On the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the terrorist act committed on October 27, 1999 at the RA National Assembly, the Central Office of the Armenian National Congress made a statement, which read:

"The Republic of Armenia National Assembly and Government were executed on October 27, 1999. National Assembly Speaker Karen Demirchian, Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian, deputies, government members were killed.

Five scoundrels raised their hand against the Armenian statehood, but it was the greatest disgrace and shame of the authorities of that time, in particular, of President Robert Kocharian and National Security head Serzh Sargsyan, after which, if both of them had minimum political and human



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dignity, both of them should have resigned. They not only did not do it, but in particular, R. Kocharian, with their further conduct deepened the doubt widely spread from the very first moment, the doubt of their complicity in that crime. After the very October 27 crime, in a few months coming out of the grave situation formed for them, this duet founded and led to perfection in the course of time the criminal system, which today continues destroying the Armenian state and its people.

October 27 will remain a stigma on the forehead of the Armenian statehood, with its destructive consequences will continue acting until the judicial farce done formerly is disclosed, until its organizers and other accomplices are revealed and punished."

#### 4. AMBASSADOR OF NIGERIA HANDS COPY OF HIS CREDENTIALS TO RA DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 10/27/08]

On October 27, RA Deputy Foreign Minister Gegham Gharibjanian received Mohammadu M. Abubakar Cika, the newly appointed Ambassador of Nigeria to Armenia (residence Tehran) on the occasion of the latter's handing him the copy of his credentials. G. Gharibjanian attached importance to the appointment of the Ambassador of Nigeria to Armenia as the first step in the issue of deepening the bilateral relations.

The interlocutors discussed possible directions of economic cooperation between Armenia and Nigeria. The Ambassador of Nigeria presented his country's economic potential and investment field mentioning that the fuel-energy sphere can be a sphere of economic partnership having prospects.

As Noyan Tapan was informed by the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, during the meeting the sides also touched upon issues of deepening partnership between the two countries in the international sphere, in particular, within the framework of UN.

#### 5. SERZH SARGSYAN: WE DO NOT DECLINE ANY ASSISTANCE IN ISSUE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH SETTLEMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/08]

"After a long passive period, now the process of Nagorno Karabakh settlement has entered an active stage," RA President Serzh Sargsyan said in his interview to the Public Television of Armenia. According to him, it is conditioned by at least two important circumstances, first, the presidential elections are over both in Armenia and in Azerbaijan and second, the well-known events in the region once more convinced everybody that there is no military way of problem settlement. The RA President considers that the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh problem is possible if Azerbaijan recognizes Nagorno Karabakh people's right of self-determination, if Nagorno Karabakh has a land border with the Republic of Armenia, and if the international organizations and the leading countries guarantee Nagorno Karabakh people's security.

The RA President emphasized that the Nagorno Karabakh settlement process proceeds within the framework of OSCE Minsk Group, on the basis of Madrid principles, Armenia has never applied to a country with the request to carry out a mediatory mission. "We have repeatedly said and now I reiterate that there are no other mediators, the only mediators are the Co-chairs of OSCE Minsk Group, and the confusion they try to create does not assist us in anything," the RA President said. RA President considers very natural RF President Dmitry Medvedev's invitation to organize a meeting of Presidents of Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan and his activity in this issue: Russia is one of the Co-chairs of OSCE Minsk Group.

In response to the question that Turkish President Abdullah Gul stated that the RA President was first the ask him to assist the process of Nagorno Karabakh settlement, the RA President said: "You must have noticed that I have no character to comment upon statements of other figures, especially as fragments cut off from the context are published in our press." According to the President, "the only mediators are the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs, and we do not decline any assistance. Yes, I am sure, Turkey can provide assistance to the process of Nagorno Karabakh settlement and I think it is providing assistance now: President Gul's visit to Yerevan, the continuation of Armenian-Turkish negotiations are a very good example to solve complicated problems, and I am sure that if Turkey opens the borders and establishes diplomatic relations with Armenia, it will be a great assistance to the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh problem," the RA President said.



## 6. PRIOR TO COMMITTING CRIME, NAIRI HUNANIAN WAS SUBJECTED TO NEURO-LINGUISTIC PROGRAMMING, POLITICAL TECHNOLOGIST NAREK MALIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/08]

The accusations, according to which the first Armenian president Levon Ter-Petrosian and his team allegedly influenced people's consciousness by means of neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) during rallies, are not true, political technologist Narek Malian said at the October 27 press conference. In his words, NLP and other psychological methods of this kind are used with respect to individuals and are not applicable at mass events.

To recap, psychologist Karine Nalchajian made the above mentioned accusations after the March 1 events. She had also been invited to the press conference but was not present because of being out of the city.

Speaking about the Oct. 27, 1999 assassination, N. Malian said: "In my opinion, Nairi Hunanian was subjected to NLP before breaking into the National Assembly. This technology makes it easier to persuade a person to kill those with whom he is not personally acquainted".

In the opinion of N. Malian, in Armenia all political figures, those representing both the authorities and opposition, have no ideological direction: they look for today's popular political current and enter it. Another peculiarity of Armenian political reality is that advertising posters and slogans of candidates running in various elections are like each other and the voter has difficulty remembering them.

## 7. ACCORDING TO PRIMARY RESULTS THE ACTING MAYORS RE-ELECTED IN THREE TOWNS OF ARAGATSOTN PROVINCE [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

October 26 was the day of elections of local self governmental bodies in Aragatsotn province. 89 from 114 communities elected a new head of community and new council of elders was formed in 92 communities.

Elections passed calmly and without incidents in both N14 and 15 Electoral constituencies of the province.

According to primary results, in 3 towns of the province the acting mayors won the elections. There was only one candidate in Ashtarak – non-party Gagik Tamazian. About 9,680 citizens took part in the elections 8,884 of which backed the acting mayor, other 525 voted against him.

There were two candidates in the town of Aparan – the acting mayor, member of Armenian Republican Party Gor Abrahamian and non-party Razmik Petrosian. According to primary results, 2,256 people voted for Gor Abrahamian and 1,225 – for Razmik Petrosian. Overall 3,620 people took part in the elections in Aparan.

Two candidates were registered in the town of Talin – the acting mayor, non-party Mnatsakan Mnatsakanian and member of Armenian Republican Party Gurchen Grigorian. Mnatsakan Mnatsakanian received the majority of votes. 1,842 people voted for him and 1,342 – for his rival.

In general, the elections passed quite actively. Head of N14 Electoral constituency Manafas Arakelian told Armenpress that there are nearly 67,542 voters in the constituency which includes 56 communities. 63% of them took part in the elections.

## 8. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN SOUTH CAUCASUS [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today EU special representative in the South Caucasus Peter Semneby.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the president said that Armenia seeks to become closer to Europe, highlights the expansion of relations with EU and on this way expects the support and assistance of the EU.

Peter Semneby noted that the coming visit of the Armenian president to Brussels will give an opportunity to assess the relations and register a common agenda of partnership.

Armenian president and ambassador Semneby spoke about regional developments, Karabakh conflict regulation issue, Armenian-Turkish relations.

Noting that Armenia is for peaceful regulation of the Karabakh conflict, based on Madrid principles, Serzh Sargsyan said that as a format of regulation of the conflict "the Armenian side recognizes OSCE Minsk Group, as mediators OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries."

Peter Semneby greeted Armenia's initiative and determination towards regulation of relations with Turkey and said that EU is ready to support in the process of regulation of relations between the two neighboring countries.



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EU representative also highly assessed the creation of fact find group connected with March 1-2 events in Yerevan.

## 9. WIDE RANGE OF ARMENIAN-BRITISH, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian kicked off his visit to the United Kingdom on October 27.

Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that during the meeting with the Foreign Secretary of Great Britain and State Cooperation Secretary David Miliband they discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues.

Armenian foreign minister said that Armenia greatly underscores the development of cooperation with Great Britain and expressed readiness of Armenia in doing it.

E. Nalbandian noted that Armenian-British dialogue and trade-economic relations have a serious potential for development and one of the important issues of cooperation between the two countries is the activation of Armenian-British relations.

E. Nalbandian and D. Miliband discussed also the issues on regulation of regional conflicts. In this pre-context Nalbandian presented Armenia's position in Karabakh conflict regulation issue and expressed hope that in case of displaying relevant political will it will be possible to reach regulation of the issue.

With the request of Miliband, Nalbandian presented the opportunities of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations, pointing out that the goal of the process started by Armenia is the complete regulation of relations between the two countries.

During the meeting with the British Minister on European Affairs Caroline Flint, the sides discussed Armenia-EU cooperation, and particularly the pace of implementation of EU's Neighborhood Policy's Action program, bilateral cooperation between Armenia and Great Britain within the framework of EU Neighborhood policy.

The two ministers also referred to the regional issues and prospects of regulation of regional conflicts.

On the same day Armenian foreign minister visited House of Lords where he met with the members of Armenian friendship group.

Nalbandian is also expected to deliver speech in Royal Institute of International Relations, give interview to "BBC" radio station, meet with the representatives of British Armenian community as well as with the special representative of the United Kingdom's government in South Caucasus Bryan Foll.

## 10. ARMENIAN FM DELIVERS SPEECH IN LONDON'S ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian visited October 27 London's International Relations Royal Institute where he delivered a speech on "Regional Security in the South Caucasus: Armenian Prospect". Political analysts, diplomats accredited in London, representatives of state establishments of Great Britain were present at the event. After the speech Edward Nalbandian answered to a number of questions connected with Armenia's foreign policy.

Armenia's Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that afterwards Armenian minister visited BBC radio station and gave interview to its four reporters.

Next meeting of Nalbandian was with the representatives of the British Armenian community. During the meeting Edward Nalbandian presented the main directions and priorities of Armenia's foreign policy, opportunities of regulation of Karabakh issue, steps carried out towards the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations.

Speaking about Homeland-Diaspora relations, minister Nalbandian said that Armenian authorities are aimed at bringing the level of cooperation with Diaspora on a new quality and the creation of Diaspora Ministry was aimed at it.

Edward Nalbandian also met with the special representative of United Kingdom's government in the South Caucasus Bryan Foll and discussed with him the steps undertaken for boosting bilateral relations, recent regional developments and prospects of regulation of conflicts.

Ending his London visit the minister arrived back today in Yerevan.



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## 11. ANNE DERSEY SAYS USA IS READY TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TOWARDS KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan Anne Dersey stated that USA is ready to support the efforts directed towards the regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

"We are ready to participate in Karabakh conflict regulation process and together with OSCE Minsk Group member-states continue searching for the ways of regulation of the conflict," she said today the reporters.

Dersey reminded that during the recent visit of the U.S. vice president Richard Cheney to Azerbaijan the latter stated about the serious necessity of quick regulation of the conflict.

"Just like the vice president said that the issue has become quite sharp and a serious necessity aroused for the regulation of the conflict," Dersey said.

## 12. TURKISH AMBASSADOR SAYS TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIAN, AZERBAIJANI AND TURKISH FMs TO RESTART SOON [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan Khulusi Kelej stated that trilateral negotiations between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey will restart in near future.

Kelej noted that the place and time of the conduction of the next trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries are being clarified through diplomatic sources.

According to him, Turkey is interested in stability and peace in the region as well as in cooperation with neighboring countries.

"Recently Turkey has become not permanent member of UN Security Council. In its new post Turkey will seek to exert all its efforts for the regulation of "frozen conflicts", including Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Turkey will continue its efforts in that direction," the ambassador added.

On its part, a source from the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry reported that trilateral meeting of the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Turkish foreign ministers may take place in Helsinki within the framework of the annual session of the OSCE ministers council scheduled for December 4-5 in the capital of Finland.

## 13. R. ZOHRABIAN: "ARMENIA WILL NEVER AGREE WITH THE LOSS OF NAGORNO KARABAKH INDEPENDENCE" [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

August events over South Ossetia destabilized the situation in the region which forced OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen to find ways of Karabakh conflict regulation more actively, deputy head of Armenian Republican Party Razmik Zohrabian said today at a press conference, noting that Armenia will never agree with loss of Nagorno Karabakh independence. He said that Armenian President Serzh Sargsian's words that regulation cannot be based on the account of independence and security of Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

According to him the co-chairmen try to find solutions that will satisfy all the sides, as real regulation can only be through mutual concessions. R. Zohrabian said that organization of trilateral meeting in Russia is agreed with other co-chairing countries.

The deputy head of Armenian Republican Party said only 3 million of 10 million Armenians who are spread worldwide, live in the native country, the other part is in different countries and cannot have an indirect impact on developments inside the country and on solution of most important issues of foreign policy.

This is the reason why the inner "movement" (as the opposition named itself) has western impact, as it is financed from abroad.

According to R. Zohrabian, it was the impact of pro-American way of thinking on inter-political processes, as the initiator of the "movement" Levon Ter-Petrosian though at first was notable with pro-Russian ideas, but then also pro-American direction mixed in his struggle.

## 14. BAKO SAHAKIAN: NKR'S ARMY CAN STOP ANY ENCROACHMENT THREATENING INDEPENDENCE OF COUNTRY [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan paid a working visit to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic on October 24-25. He took part in the ceremony of delivering for operation the new residential buildings for the personnel of the NKR Defence Army. Then the heads of Armenia and Artsakh were present at exercises of the NKR Defence Army.



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Following the exercises, the NKR president answered questions of reporters. NT was informed by the Central Information Department of the Office of the NKR President that in response to the question about whether, according to some recent rumors, the NKR's independence and territorial integrity within its current borders can be endangered, B. Sahakian replied that the state independence and security of the NKR are those exceptional values which are not subject to bargaining and speculation. He underlined that the Armenian people paid dearly for gaining the independence and freedom and today it has no right to endanger it. "The NKR is prepared to start negotiations with Azerbaijan without any preconditions and to discuss any issue related to settlement of the Karabakh-Azeri conflict, but not at the cost of our independence and security," he said.

In the words of B. Sahakian, the NKR Defence Army can stop any encroachment threatening the country's independence and security and move military operations to the depth of the territory of the adversary in case of Azerbaijan's aggression.

## 15. SERZH SARGSYAN: ARMENIA STRIVES TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH EUROPE [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

Armenia strives to establish closer relations with Europe, it attaches great importance to the expansion of its relations with Europe and expects the assistance and support of the EU on this path, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan stated during the October 27 meeting with the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby.

NT was informed by the RA president's press service that at the meeting S. Sargsyan and P. Semneby discussed the regional developments, the Karabakh problem settlement process, and Armenian-Turkish relations. Noting that Armenia is in favor of a peaceful solution of the Karabakh problem, S. Sargsyan said that the Armenian side recognizes the OSCE Minsk Group as a format, while the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group as mediators.

P. Semneby welcomed Armenia's initiative and resolution to regulate its relations with Turkey, saying that the EU will assist with the process of regulating the relations between the two neighboring countries. He expressed a high opinion about the creation of a fact-finding group on the March 1 events, as well as about the involvement of both the parliamentary and extraparliamentary opposition in the group's work.

## 16. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, GYUMRI MAYOR TO RETAIN HIS POST [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

According to the preliminary results of local self-government elections held on October 26 in the Shirak region, current Gyumri Mayor, RPA member Vardan Ghukasian won the elections of Gyumri Mayor. As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, the Spokesperson of the RA Central Electoral Commission, V. Ghukasian received 31 375 votes and his main rival, National Assembly independent deputy, non-partisan Martun Grigorian 19 905 votes. 769 voters voted for the third candidate, member of the National Self-Determination Union Daniel Darbinian. 54 107 out of 120 149 voters of the community or nearly 45% took part in the elections.

According to the preliminary results of Artik Mayor's elections, RPA member Khachatur Varagian received maximum votes. 4 516 voters voted for him and 3 739 voters for current Mayor, non-partisan Hmayak Abrahamian. The other 2 candidates, member of the National Self-Determination Union Annman Khachatryan and ANM member Mkrtych Mkrtychian received 396 and 263 votes, respectively. 9 166 out of 14 524 voters of the community took part in the elections.

Local self-government elections were held in 111 communities of the Shirak region instead of the planned 113 on October 26. The elections of council of elders members of Karmrakar rural community and community head and council of elders members elections of Salut did not take place due to the lack of candidates. For the same reason elections of council of elders members did not take place in 3 out of 111 communities, where only community head elections were held. New elections will be fixed in those communities.



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## 17. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN GEGHARKUNIK REGION, AT LEAST 3 OUT OF 5 CURRENT MAYORS TO RETAIN THEIR POSTS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

According to the preliminary results of the local self-government elections held on October 26 in the Gegharkunik region, current Mayors won the elections in 3 out of region's towns. At that, current Gavar Mayor, member of the United Labor Party Gurgen Martirosian was the only candidate for community head elections. 8 035 voters voted for and 73 against him.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, the Spokesperson of the RA Central Electoral Commission, current Sevan Mayor, RPA member Gevorg Malkhasian received 7 315 votes and his only rival, non-partisan Hrachik Karapetian 2 578 votes.

In the elections of community head of Martuni, current Mayor, RPA member Bagrat Haroutiunian received 3 222 votes and his rivals, RPA member Rashid Hakobian and non-partisan Garik Hakobian 1 251 and 1 514 votes, respectively.

1 793 voters voted for current Chambarak Mayor, non-partisan Yurik Avalian and 1 768 voters his rival, RPA member Rita Hovhannisian. It is noteworthy that the number of inaccuracies here is 142, which exceeds the difference of the votes received by the two candidates. Under such a correlation, the district electoral commission, according to the Electoral Code, will have to invalidate the elections, as it will be impossible to find out the elected candidate.

According to the preliminary results of Vardenis Mayor's elections, current Mayor, RPA member Vardan Barseghian received 2 325 votes, which is less by 478 votes than those received by RPA member Volodya Khloyan. RPA member Vardan Yeranosian received 408 votes, National Democratic Union member Gevorg Bokhian 111 votes, non-partisan Samvel Martirosian 58 votes.

## 18. ACCORDING TO RPA VICE-CHAIRMAN, MOVEMENT LED BY LEVON TER-PETROSIAN IS FINANCED FROM ABROAD [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/28/08]

"There is information that the movement led by Levon Ter-Petrosian is financed from abroad, in particular, by American forces," Razmik Zohrabian, the Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Armenia, stated at the October 28 press conference. According to him, that financing is done within the framework of the program on organization of a regular colored revolution in the region. Touching upon the assertion voiced by the first Armenian President at the October 17 rally that President Serzh Sargsyan is gradually turning to the West, R. Zohrabian said: "L. Ter-Petrosian himself had a Russian orientation formerly, then both Russian and Western, and now his orientation is a kind of a mishmash."

In response to the question of how he estimates opposition's decision to temporarily stop the rallies, R. Zohrabian said that he is glad that "his ears will rest" even if for some time. And in general, according to him, that decision can be dictated by opposition's foreign masters. "Yesterday I heard Levon Ter-Petrosian's statement that special rallies are not excluded in the coming months. It also depends on the orders of his masters," the RPA figure said.

## 19. THERE SHOULD BE COMPROMISES, BUT NOT AT EXPENSE OF KARABAKH INDEPENDENCE OR SECURITY, RPA VICE-CHAIRMAN STATES [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

There should be compromises in the process of Nagorno Karabakh settlement, but not at the expense of Karabakh independence or security. Razmik Zohrabian, the Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), expressed such an opinion at the October 28 press conference adding that Artsakh should have a land border with Armenia. He affirmed that both OSCE Minsk Group and Russia try to find ways of a peaceful solution to the conflict realizing that a war can break up at any moment if they leave the problem frozen.

According to R. Zohrabian, Russia has signed a Collective Security Treaty with Armenia, by which it assumed a commitment to help Armenia if a danger of war emerges. At the same time Russia has signed a Declaration on Not Using Force with Azerbaijan. "Now imagine Russia's condition in the context of Ilham Aliyev's bellicose statements," the RPA figure said. According to him, Russia will try to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict by all means.

According to R. Zohrabian, I. Aliyev's spirits rose after he received 88% votes, but he should not be filled with enthusiasm understanding that this index is not evidence of democracy at all.



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## 20. DEMOCRATIC REFORMS HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE IN ARMENIA, RA SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARY STATES [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

RA President Serzh Sargsyan's coming visit to Brussels will contribute to strengthening of contacts between the European Union and Armenia. Artur Baghdasarian, the Secretary of the RA Security Council, stated at the October 28 international conference under the title European Neighborhood Program is Two Years Old: Progress, Challenges, and Future.

According to him, cooperation with European structures is one of the most important directions of Armenia's foreign policy. He assured that democratic reforms have no alternative in Armenia. A. Baghdasarian said that Armenia will submit for EU's consideration a Program of Cooperation with EU for 2009-2010 within the framework of the New European Neighborhood Policy.

Ambassador Raul de Luzenberg, the head of the European Commission delegation, expressed satisfaction with the course of fulfillment of the EU-Armenia Actions Plan signed in November 2006. Meanwhile, according to him, there is still much to do. R. Luzenberg also touched upon the post-electoral situation in Armenia and characterized post-electoral processes as complicated. Ambassador Sergei Kapinos, the head of OSCE Yerevan Office, also expressed an analogous opinion. According to him, the complicated situation formed after the elections made both the Armenian authorities and international organizations fall to thinking. S. Kapinos assured that the international organizations are interested in democratic and stable Armenia, which will contribute to stability and security in the region.

It should be mentioned that the conference has been organized by the International Center for Human Development with the support of the British Development Department, OSCE, Council of Europe, Yerevan representation of the European Commission and Ebert Fund. The conference will continue on October 29.

## 21. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH HIS AZERBAIJANI COUNTERPART NOVEMBER 2 [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

According to the initially reached agreement Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan will meet November 2 with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev. President of Russian Federation will also be present at the meeting.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the presidents will discuss Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation issue.

## 22. MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AND RUSSIA TO TAKE PLACE NOVEMBER 2 IN MOSCOW [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

Trilateral meeting of presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia for discussion of Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation will take place November 2 in Moscow, press service of Kremlin reported.

"According to the reached agreement the meeting of presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia Ilham Aliyev and Serzh Sargsyan over the regulation of Karabakh conflict will take place November 2 in Moscow in which Russian President Dmitri Medvedev will also take part," Russian president's press service reported.

## 23. HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER NOMINATES CANDIDACY OF VAHE STEPANIAN FOR PARTICIPATING IN WORKS OF FACT FINDING GROUP [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

The Armenian human rights defender nominated the candidacy of the head of staff of the human rights defender Vahe Stepanian for participating in the works of the fact finding group, Armen Harutyunian, the human rights defender said today in the NA.

From 1990-1996 V. Stepanian was Armenian Justice Minister.

Besides the member nominated by the human rights defender, two of the members are being nominated by the ruling coalition, one by "Heritage" party and one by the political force headed by Levon Ter-Petrosian.

Currently the four members are not known yet. They must be nominated within ten days after the decree of the president which was signed October 24.



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## 24. ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF CONSULTANT OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER THE KARABAKH CONFLICT HAS "BEEN BROUGHT OUT OF THE FRIDGE" [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

Chief consultant of Turkish prime minister on the issues of foreign policy Ahmed Davudoglu stated that Karabakh conflict is no more a frozen conflict, it "has been brought out of the fridge".

According to Timeturk Turkish news agency, Davudoglu delivered speech in one of the conferences organized in the USA and said at the present round "courage and creative approach" is necessary for Karabakh conflict regulation.

According to him "Turkish, Armenian and Azerbaijani relations are mutually dependant and their collaborative development is possible".

## 25. ARMENIAN NA SPEAKER GETS ACQUAINTED WITH THE WORK OF THE PARIAMENTARY AD HOC COMMISSION [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

Armenian National Assembly speaker Hovik Abrahamian met today on his initiative with the members of the parliamentary ad hoc commission set up for the inquiry into March 1-2 events in Yerevan to get acquainted with the carried out work and issues the commission is facing.

The chairman of the commission Samvel Nikoyan noted that they have many expectations from the National Assembly, speaker and political forces. He noted that during these months each member of the commission felt on his/her skin the heavy burden and even that helpless situation in which they appeared from all the sides – blows from each side, criticism, negative attitude. He thanked his partners for "standing above everything".

Referring to the main activity of the commission, he informed that they have singled out the March 1 morning events and events which took place near the French embassy.

"We have all the necessary documents connected with March 1 morning events, we have information and the commission in that respect is ready to present its approaches but as far as a fact finding group is going to be created the commission found it purposeful to wait in any case as it is possible that as a result of the activity of the group a fact will be disclosed and a concern may raise that the commission omitted that fact on purpose," Nikoyan clarified.

According to him, there are enough facts connected with the events near the French embassy and at present one of the main issues of the commission is to study the circumstances of the death of ten people. S. Nikoyan said that even the investigative bodies do not have answers to many questions.

S. Nikoyan assured that the commission will continue acting publicly as "our word will be directed to our public and our goal is that our report be accepted by the majority of the people." He also informed that the commission created task groups which must study the circumstances of each case of death.

Members of the commission also expressed their viewpoints connected with the works.

Summing up the meeting, the NA speaker noted that March 1-2 events more negatively affected on the authorities. He underscored the disclosing of the truth. "Starting with the president, we all want to find out the truth and present it to the public," Hovik Abrahamian said adding that he is ready to support the commission within his possibilities.

## 26. THOMAS HAMMARBERG TO VISIT YEREVAN LATE NOVEMBER [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

EU Human Rights Commissioner will pay a visit to Yerevan in late October, aide to the commissioner Stepan Montenari told Armenpress.

He said Th. Hammarberg will study the situation in the country connected with the investigation of March 1-2 events in Yerevan. He will register the progress in independent and fair investigation of the events.

The monitoring commission of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly suggested Hammarberg paying another visit to Yerevan for studying his report made after the July 13-15 visit to Yerevan and present it to the commission at the gathering scheduled for December 17 in Paris.

On the basis of new report of Hammarberg the commission will decide what steps to suggest during the 2009 January plenary session of the Assembly.

With the suggestion of the human rights commissioner a fact finding mission of experts is in the process of creation for collecting facts connected with March 1 events.



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## BUSINESS

27. BY DATA OF ARMRUSGAZPROM, ABOUT 90% OF ARMENIAN SETTLEMENTS ALREADY PROVIDED WITH GAS SUPPLY NETWORK [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/08]

Since early 2008, ArmRusgazprom CJSC has implemented a program on repairs and re-laying of the old gas pipelines as well as on construction of new underground and surface gas pipelines. NT correspondent was informed by spokeswoman for ArmRusgazprom Shushan Sardarian that the purpose of the current repair and construction work is to improve the quality of gas supply. She said that about 90% of Armenian settlements have already been provided with a gas supply network now.

To recap, ArmRusgazprom CJSC has the monopoly right to supply and distribute Russian gas in Armenia. ArmRusgazprom's main shareholder is Gazprom with its stake of 82% of shares. Russian gas is supplied to Armenia through the territory of Georgia. Russia is the monopoly supplier of gas to Armenia. An average volume of 6.5 million cubic meters a day is supplied to Armenia at the price of 110 dollars for a thousand cubic meters. Starting from April 1, 2009, it is envisaged raising the tariffs of gas supplied to Armenia: the price for a thousand cubic meters will make 154 dollars instead of previous 110 dollars, while from April 1, 2010, the gas price will make 200 dollars for a thousand cubic meters.

28. BY 2009 DRAFT STATE BUDGET, RATIO OF STATE MACHINE MAINTENANCE COSTS TO GDP NOT TO CHANGE AS COMPARED WITH 2008 AND MAKE 5.5% [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/27/08]

According to the draft law on the 2009 state budget, it is envisaged allocating 52 bln 194.7 mln drams (about 1 bln 695 mln USD) for the maintenance of the state machine, which exceeds the 2008 index by 17.7% and the 2007 index by 22.1%. Although the indicated allocations will grow, the state machine maintenance costs/GDP ratio will not change, remaining at the level of 5.5%.

The RA deputy minister of finance Pavel Safarian said at the October 27 discussion of the 2009 draft state budget at the RA National Assembly that as a result of the changes in the structure of the government and departments in 2008, the number of the employees of the state machine will make 17,130 instead of 16,208 in 2008 due to the fact that this year the Social Security Fund with its 642 employees became a state government body, making part of the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Issues. The staff of the RA Control Chamber (set up in late 2007) was increased by 56, and the salaries of the 131 employees of the Control Chamber were not included in the 2008 budget: they were financed from the RA government's reserve fund. Besides, the RA National Security Council with its 93 employees and the RA Ministry of Diaspora with its 107 employees were created in 2008.

P. Safarian said that by the draft law, the salary calculation base will not change and make 40 thousand drams for civil servants, 55.5 thousand drams for tax and customs officials, and 42 thousand drams for employees of the compulsory execution service. The base salaries of high-ranking state officials will also remain at the same level.

It was explained that there will be a 6.2% growth of the average salary of civil servants in connection with an increase in additional payments conditioned by their promotion and increased length of service. In 2009, the expenditures on salaries will make up 33 bln 519 mln drams out of the total amount of expenditures on maintenance of the state government system.

In the words of the deputy minister of finance, the ration of civil servants on a business trip in the territory of Armenia will increase from 720 to 2,000 drams, the payments for a night stay will make 5-15,000 drams (25,000 drams in Yerevan) instead of the current 5-10,000 drams due to the growth in prices of hotel services. In 2009, 1.35 million drams will be allocated for gasoline filling of office cars (with the daily norm of 10 liters a car) instead of 1.2 million drams in 2008. The heating expenses of the departments will change because starting from January 1, 2009, the price of one cubic meter of Russian gas imported into Armenia will make 84 drams instead of 59 drams in 2008.

29. IT IS PLANNED TO PASS FROM LINE ITEM STATE BUDGETING TO PROGRAM-BASED BUDGETING IN ARMENIA IN 2011 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

In 2008 the RA ministry of finance made an assessment of financial management of the state government system by 28 internationally accepted standards, the purpose of which is to prepare for a program-based budgeting in Armenia starting from 2011.

While presenting the expenditure items of the state government system's financing of the draft law on the 2009 state budget, the RA deputy minister of finance Pavel Safarian said at the National Assembly on October 27 that in case of program budgeting, more attention should be paid to achieving



program indices in the respective spheres as compared with the financing of state government institutions.

According to him, this week the RA ministry of finance will submit a program of reforms of the financial management system to the government. It is envisaged submitting the program to the National Assembly in 2009. In the words of P. Safarian, "a vital decision for the country should be made because it is envisaged passing from the line item principle of budgeting to the program budgeting, within the framework of which changes will be made in the RA laws on the budget and depositary systems and on audit".

It was stated that the 2009 budget is actually a program one by about 80%. The deputy minister said that the introduction of program budgeting "is proceeding quite smoothly in Armenia as no department has displayed intolerance during the reforms". P. Safarian noted that due to some objective circumstances, the RA ministry of defence, the police and the National Security Council either have not introduced program budgeting or have just started its introduction. He explained that there are problems (not only in Armenia) with assessment of these sectors with non-financial indices, which is related to the absence of theoretical bases for organizing the indicated processes.

### 30. 2009 DRAFT STATE BUDGET ENVISAGES GIVING SUBSIDIES OF 27.8 BILLION DRAMS TO COMMUNITIES [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

By the 2009 draft state budget, the total amount of financial equalization subsidies to communities, including the compensation sums to communities under the Law on Local Self-Government, will make 27.837 billion drams, which exceeds by 6.5 billion drams or 30.5% the approved index of the 2008 state budget. Subsidies of 27.508 bln drams will be provided to communities by the principle of financial equalization. The RA first deputy minister of finance Pavel Safarian said at a joint sitting of the RA National Assembly Standing Committees that the 2009 draft state budget envisages environmental subventions of 196 million drams, as well as subventions of 339 million drams for assisting with the implementation of various community programs.

He said that no increase of salaries of civil servants at regional administrations is planned in 2009. The average salary will grow by 6.5% depending on length of service. The reserve fund of regional administrations will be the same - 20 million drams. The expenditures on business trips will grow.

### 31. VIMPELCOM ACQUIRES 49.9% OF EUROSET'S SHARES [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

Vimpelcom OJSC has acquired 49.9% of the shares of Morefront Holdings Ltd. - the owner of 100% of Euroset group's shares - from Rambert Management Ltd, Noyan Tapan was informed by the PR Service of Vimplecom company.

The cost of the transaction made about 226 million dollars. As a minority shareholder, Vimplecom does not plan to consolidate Euroset's assets and guarantee its liabilities. Within the framework of the deal, Vimplecom has agreed on the purchase and sale option regarding another 25% of Morefront Holdings' shares in three years.

To recap, Vimplecom is the 100% shareholder of ArmenTel company's shares. Euroset is the biggest company conducting retail trade in the mobile phone market. It has a network of shops in Yerevan as well.

### 32. AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, TWENTY TWO BANKS AND 12 CREDIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDED 86,8 BILLION DRAMS' HYPOTHEC CREDIT IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

As of September 30, 22 banks and 12 credit organizations provided hypothec credit in Armenia.

Public relations service of Armenian Central Bank told Armenpress that on the whole 86,8 billion drams' of hypothec credit was provided. The time of their return is one of the longest and no worsening has been registered.

During the third half of 2008 the percent rate of loans provided by business banks fluctuated between 12-18 percents. Almost 45 percent of loans have been provided with more than 5 years' term.



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## 33. A. MINASIAN SAYS FOR CONFRONTATION OF WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS IT IS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP NEW STRATEGY [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

For confrontation of the world economic crisis a necessity has aroused to make clarifications in the economic policy, until the development of a new strategy, deputy chairman of the NA's financial-credit and budget affairs commission, member of ARF Artsvik Minasian said at a press conference.

According to the former head of the Central Bank Bagrat Asatrian, the impact of the world economic crisis on Armenia's economy is weak, but during the time it will be more notable. Among the impacts on Armenia's economy he singled out the Russian-Georgian war and inner-political situation in the country.

He said that the state budget must reflect the realities which exist in Armenia as well as must respond to the world economic crisis. According to him, the state must reduce the expenditures and form a profit budget.

A.Minasian believes that it is necessary to strengthen the income policy. The impact of the world economic crisis on Armenia's economy is agreed with the fact that the economy of our country is greatly tied with the world economy.

## DIASPORA

## 34. HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES THE NAMING OF THE "DERIAN ARMENOLOGICAL LIBRARY" [Azg, 10/25/08] By Mira Yardemian, Public Relations Director

On Friday, October 13, Haigazian University named its Armenian Library as the "Derian Armenological Library", in honor of Mrs. Anahis Derian and her late husband Henry, from Pasadena, California. They had donated \$500,000 to the University, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, back in the year 2005.

The ceremony, attended by prominent Armenian officials, intellectuals, editors, publishers, and friends of the library, opened with the unveiling of the Henry & Anahis Derian memorial plaque by the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, the Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian, University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, and University Librarian Ms. Sonia Sislian. Sislian welcomed the audience and gave a brief overview of the Derian Armenological Library.

"Founded in 1955 by the special efforts of Rev. Dikran Kherlopian, the Derian Library holds one of the richest collections in the Armenian Diaspora, including a number of rare books, and a selection of the 18th and 19th century publications", Sislian said.

She added that the Derian Library constitutes an Armenian research center, which serves not only students, but many scholars, editors, and researchers from around the world. "The library also includes the private collections of prominent Armenian intellectuals, like Siran Seza, Kersam Aharonian, Dr. Antranig Manougian, and Krikor Bogharian", Sislian concluded.

Bibliographer, scholar, and school principal, Mr. Jirair Tanielian shared with the audience his experience of more than 20 years as the librarian of the Armenian Library. "Many important delegations, historians, and prominent Armenian figures passed from here, especially after the University decided to render the Library public", Tanielian noted. "At a time of severe political divisions, the Armenian Library witnessed the regroupment of Armenians of different political parties and ideologies, something that was impossible to find elsewhere", Tanielian explained.

In his closing word, President Haidostian expressed his special gratitude to Mrs. Derian, and noted that while Henry Derian had passed away a year ago, Mrs. Anahis Derian had sent a kind message apologizing for not being able to attend the event and that she was in prayer for the Haigazian University community. Haidostian stated that the ceremony is the celebration of three inspiring realities:

The Derians' generosity and benevolence that arises out of a deep Christian spirit;

The Derians' meaningful input to the vibrant Lebanese community; and,

The Derians' choice of associating their name with what is Armenian, in this case, the Armenological Library.

Afterwards, the audience enjoyed a tour in the "Derian Armenological Library", and had a look at its latest acquisitions from Turkey and Armenia.

The ceremony concluded with cutting a celebratory cake on this special occasion.



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## 35. MANY RUSSIAN ARMENIANS SEEK RA CITIZENSHIP [Azg, 10/28/08]

Several dozens of Armenians living in the south of Russia have already taken the opportunity to acquire Armenian citizenship as a second citizenship, Yerkramas, the newspaper of Armenians of Russia, quoted Armenia's Consul General in the RF Federal Okrug Ararat Gomtsyan as saying, according to PanArmenain.net. "There are many Armenians in Russia wishing to be granted Armenian citizenship. It's gratifying that Armenia demonstrated political will by introducing changes in its Constitution for its compatriots living abroad," he said.

## 36. RA MINISTER OF DIASPORA TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCES FOR MASS MEDIA OF ARMENIA AND DIASPORA ON OCTOBER 29 AND 31 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

The RA Minister of Diaspora Ms Hranush Hakobian will give her first press conference for representatives of Armenia's mass media at the RA Ministry of Diaspora at 11 am of October 29.

A press conference of the minister for the mass media of the Diaspora is scheduled for October 31. It will be held in Yerevan from 9 to 10 am local time. You can follow the press conference by visiting the websites of ConnectTocommunications company ([www.connectto.com](http://www.connectto.com)) and Noyan Tapan news agency ([www.nt.am](http://www.nt.am)). Journalists may send their questions to the minister in advance to [press@armeniadiaspora.am](mailto:press@armeniadiaspora.am) or call during the press conference by hot-line phones: (+37410) 58.56.01; (+37410) 58 56 02; (+37410) 58 56 03.

## 37. ARS READY TO ENLARGE ITS ACTIVITY IN ARTSAKH [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

On October 27, President of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic Bako Sahakian met with a delegation of the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) at the head of the organization's Chairwoman Vicky Marshlian.

Issues related to course and prospects of projects carried out in Artsakh were discussed during the meeting. The guests assured the Head of the State about their readiness to enlarge the scope of their activities in Artsakh.

The President welcomed the readiness of the ARS representatives underlining that for proper and effective organization of activities it is necessary elaborate projects jointly and establish permanent and stable connections between the organization and corresponding structures of the NKR government.

According to the Central Information Department of the Office of the NKR President, representative of the Dashnaktsutiun's Artsakh Central Committee David Ishkhanian took part in the meeting.

## 38. TURKEY SHOULD RECOGNIZE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF FRANCE STATES [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

Europe needs Turkey and former Soviet countries, especially in energy issues. Former Prime Minister of France Michel Rocard said to the Canal+ TV company. According to him, however, Turkey should first settle the problem of Cyprus and recognize the Armenian Genocide. The former Prime Minister added that Turkey realizes that.

## 39. ARMENIAN AND TURKISH FILM DIRECTORS TO MAKE JOINT FILM ABOUT ARAX RIVER [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

Armenian and Turkish film directors and script writers are going to make a joint documentary about the Arax River, the Turkish press reported.

A group of Armenian and Turkish directors and script writers met in Ankara on October 9-10 in order to discuss the details of the preparatory work. The president of Armenian Marketing Association NGO Aram Navasardian, film director Gevorg Nazarian and cameraman Vardan Baghdasarian took part in the meeting on behalf of the Armenian side.

According to reports, the Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council and Armenian Marketing Association NGO are the project's authors.

During a talk with NT, the NGO president Aram Navasardian said that the documentary will be dedicated to the ecological problems of the Arax River. The Armenian-Turkish relations and the issue of peoples' friendship will also be touched upon.



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The Turkish press called the project "Arax diplomacy", noting that it is the first step within the framework of the agreement on "cooperation first of all in the sphere of culture" which was reached by the Foreign Ministers of two countries, Ali Babacan and Edward Nalbandian, during the visit of Turkish President Abdullah Gul to Yerevan on September 6.

## ARTS

### 40. 13 LOCAL AND 9 FOREIGN THEATRICAL GROUPS TAKE PART IN THE "A PIECE OF POMEGRANATE" CHILDREN'S EIGHTH THEATRICAL FESTIVAL [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

"A Piece of Pomegranate" children's theatrical eighth festival opened October 26 in the seminary after A. Shirakatsi with the participation of 13 theatrical groups from Armenia and Artsakh and 9 groups from abroad.

The festival opened with the play "Crime and Punishment" staged by pupils of dramatic studio of A. Shirakatsi seminary. Only during the first day of festival 11 groups played.

Children's festival will last until November 1, during which master classes are also planned. Separate days will be dedicated to famous Armenian writers Hovhannes Tumanian and William Saroyan.

The festival aims to consolidate the cooperation between different children's theatrical groups functioning in Armenia as well as promote cultural life in provinces, discover talented children and establish relations with similar foreign theatrical groups.

The festival is being held by "Pre stage" cultural-educational association with the support of Armenian Culture Ministry.

### 41. RETURN FESTIVAL TO BE CONCLUDED WITH CONCERT DEDICATED TO HAYASTAN ALL-ARMENIAN FUND'S ANNUAL MARATHON [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

The final concert of the Return (Veradardz) Second Festival of Classic Music will take place on October 28 at Aram Khachatrian concert hall. The concert will be dedicated to the annual marathon of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. The State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, as well as world-famous musicians Steven Prutman and Suren Bagratuni will take part in the concert.

As S. Bagratuni said at the October 27 press conference, though festival's main goal is to invite to Armenia musicians creating in different countries of the world, nevertheless the foreign musicians who even if once have had concerts in Armenia also take part in the festival. "This festival brings closer different people and cultures," he said.

According to S. Prutman, he admires Armenia and its Chamber Orchestra. "I feel wonderful here. It is a very warm country. And as to the Armenian orchestra, I must say that I have worked with many professional orchestras, but I am impressed and admire the Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. It is not inferior to many world-famous orchestras," S. Prutman emphasized.

It should be mentioned that in total 9 concerts took place within the framework of the festival launched on October 15, 7 of them were held in Yerevan, 1 in Gyumri, and 1 in Vanadzor.

### 42. ARTICLES ON TIGRAN KHZMALIAN'S FILM "ARMIN WEGNER: THE GENOCIDE PHOTOGRAPHER" INCLUDED IN BOOK PUBLISHED IN ITALY [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

The book "Identita e disgregazione" ("Identity and Destruction: Modern Cinema Pictures") recently published in Italy contains two articles on the film "Armin Wegner: The Genocide Photographer" of Armenian film director Tigran Khzmalian. Alessio Scarlato's article "Photo against the Genocide" analyses the idea of T. Khzmalian's film about the 1915-1920 Armenian Genocide as an onset of the destruction which was not so much national as global. The author underlines the viewpoint of the film director about the responsibility of an individual and the role of intellectuals in history.

The second article contains an interview of T. Khzmalian with the Italian cinematologist Silvio Grasselli. It presents the story of the film's creation and the impact of the genocide on the Armenian national mentality.

The other articles of the book are dedicated to films of Alexander Sakurov, Richard Stern and Anna Sandberg. The book was released by Tertio Millennio Foundation and presented during the Venice Film Festival.



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## 43. ARMENIAN CULTURAL DAYS TO KICK OFF IN KOLN [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

Days of Armenian Culture will kick off in the German town of Koln on the initiative of the German Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Armenian community of Koln with the support of the Catholic educational center. Guests from Armenia, Germany, Turkey, people interested in Armenian culture will be present at the events.

Primate of the German Diocese of the Armenian Church Garegin Pekjian told Armenpress that according to the official information the Armenian cultural days in Koln, where about 3,000 Armenians live, will be held every year. The goal is to introduce to the wider public Armenian culture. In parallel with it many other events, meetings are conducted, different holidays are being marked.

The opening of the cultural days will take place in the hall of events of well-known Koln temple with the opening speech of Archbishop Garegin Pekjian.

Within the framework of the cultural days events dedicated to the Armenian writer William Saroyan will take place.

## RELIGION

## 44. ST. ANNA CHURCH IN THE CENTER OF YEREVAN [Hayots Ashkhar, 10/28/08]

Very soon the construction of St. Anna Church will start in the center of Yerevan. The area on the crossroads of Sayat Nova and Abovian Streets is given to the church. The building of the Institute of Literature of the RA National Academy of Sciences has been fully destroyed and now the 12<sup>th</sup>-century St. Katoghike Church is seen even to the bypassers. The new church will be built behind the old one and will be named St. Anna. There also will be built a residence for the Catholicos next to the churches. The author of the project is architect Hrachya Poghossian.

## SOCIAL

## 45. CRIMINAL ARMENIA [Haykakan Zhamanak, 10/28/08]

The criminal life of Armenia is getting more and more active. Five criminal cases took place in Armenia within the past three days. As a result five people have been killed and six people received different bodily injuries.

### KILLINGS IN SPITAK

On October 24, at 20:50, shootings were heard in the central station of the city of Spitak, Lori region. An unknown person in a mask killed Styopa Dilbaryan, 63-year-old resident of Spitak and Karapet Miskaryan, 45-year-old resident of Vanadzor. The other two people, Varujan Martirosian and Nshan Danielian, who were also in that same house at that time, died on their way to hospital. They were also residents of Spitak. The fifth person in the house, Garush Marutian, was taken to hospital. According to certain sources Varujan Martirosian was a famous criminal authority in Spitak. The same sources claim that the group was waiting for certain people to solve financial issues, but instead they were visited by the killer.

### HEROISM OF THE STEPANAVAN MAYOR

The second incident took place again on October 24, this time at around 22:00, near the "Drakht" ("Heaven") restaurant of Stepanavan. According to official report, Artsrun Hagopian, Artur Aghajanian and Armen Grikorian, residents of Stepanavan, came to that restaurant and started a quarrel with Sarkis Gharakeshishian, Mayor of Stepanavan. The sources reported that Armen Grikorian stabbed the Mayor with a sharp instrument twice after which Gharakeshishian opened fire with his gun and wounded all three. Days before this incident, Gharakeshishian fired Armen Grikorian's sister from her position in the municipality. But the reason is a little bit different. The Mayor did fire Grikorian's sister, but besides that Grikorian and his friends also started supporting Gharakeshishian's rival during the election. After that, when the three friends went to the "Drakht" restaurant, which belongs to Gharakeshishian, the latter ordered the waiters not to wait on them.

### SHOOTINGS IN "TSGHOTNER"

On October 25, at 02 o'clock, a young man came to "Tsghotner" motel-restaurant near the "Tashir" mall in the center of Yerevan. He got drunk and started beating his girlfriend. The security came to rescue the girl and started a fight with that boy, who called his father for help. The father, Valery P., born 1955, came to the restaurant and without hesitation started shooting around. The security opened fire too and wounded Valery P. The person that shot him was also wounded but he ran away.



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## MURDER IN KOMITAS

On October 26, an unknown person opened fire from a machine-gun at VAZ-2121 car standing in front of the 48/A house on Komitas Avenue. Hrachya Matevossian, born 1965, died immediately in the car. Harutyun B., born 1976, was taken to hospital with injuries. The murders were in a Nissan Tiida car. According to reliable sources this incident has a direct connection with another murder that took place on November 8, 2007, near the Komitas food market. Then Sayad Davtian, Chairman of the Hunters' Union of Armenia, and a member of "Bargavach Hayastan" party, was killed. Hrachya Matevossian, who was killed two days ago, was the man who had killed Davtian a year ago. This information was confirmed by RA Prosecutor General Aghvan Hovsepian.

## ASSAULT ON AVETISSIAN'S HOUSE

On October 26, at 00:30, five people, four masked and one unmasked, entered the house of Armen Avetissian, former head of the RA Customs Service on Isahakian Street. They tied Armen Avetissian, his wife, son and daughter and started cruelly beating Avetissian and his security guard. They also took all the jewelry and money and ran away. However, this does not look like a simple robbery. This looks more like revenge or an order, carried out by police or secret service. Otherwise, why should they do humiliating things to Avetissian in front of his children. Hopefully, new details of these cases will come up soon.

## 46. 13 MILLION FROM "BJNI" [Haykakan Zhamanak, 10/28/08]

Famous "Bjni" mineral water factory stopped its activities yesterday. The doors of the factory were sealed by the police. This is the result of the court decision according to which "Bjni" had to pay 13 million USD. Today, "Bjni" no longer gives any product. 500 employees of the factory are jobless.

Everything started a year ago, when Khachatur Sukiassian announced his support to first RA President Levon Ter-Petrossian during the presidential campaign. A month after Sukiassian's statement, the RA State tax service started checkings in "Bjni", which is owned by the Sukiassian family.

## 47. 87 NEW CASES OF HIV REGISTERED IN ARMENIA DURING THE EIGHT MONTH OF THIS YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

87 new cases of HIV infection have been registered in the republic during the eight months of this year.

An official from the republican center of AIDS prevention told Armenpress that from 1988 up to September 1 this year 625 cases of HIV infections were registered among Armenian citizens, 109 of which – last year.

The majority of the HIV infected are men – 466 (74.6%). About 159 (25.4%) cases of infection have been registered among women and 13 (2.1%) cases – among children.

Majority of HIV infected (70.4%) are 20-39 years old. According to the studies, the main ways of transition of HIV/AIDS is the heterosexual way (49.3%) and inter-vein drug usage (44.2%).

Besides, cases of transition of the infection from mother to child as well through blood and homosexual way have also been registered in Armenia.

From 1988, 264 HIV infected including 51 women and 6 children were diagnosed with AIDS. This year 54 people were diagnosed with AIDS. 146 cases of death caused by HIV/AIDS were registered including 22 women and 3 children.

Most cases of HIV infection have been registered in Yerevan – 290, which is 46.4% of all cases. Then comes Shirak province – 10.1%.

Assessment of HIV/AIDS condition testifies that nearly 2,800 HIV infected exist in the republic according to calculation results.

## 48. CONSULTATION ON "POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT" CONDUCTED IN ISTANBUL [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

Global consultation of religious organizations on the theme "Population and Development" took place one of these days in Istanbul.

Press service of the Mother See told Armenpress that head of the "Armenian Roundtable" fund, which functions in Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Karen Nazarian was among the participants representing Eastern Europe and reported on the theme "Youth and Regional Peace".

Participants of the consultation expressed their determination to consolidate the links between religious organizations and UN "Population Fund" which initiated the meeting. Reports on "HIV/AIDS and



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Maternity”, “Youth and Migration”, “Violence against Women”, “Emergency Situations and Humanitarian Aid”, etc were presented.

During the consultation a decision has been made to establish global network of religious organizations and to continue the cooperation with the “Population Fund” and other institutions of UN.

#### 49. AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ARMENIA AND AMERICAN BUSINESS FORUM IN TURKEY BELIEVE THAT INITIATIVE ON REGULATING ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS TO HAVE TREMENDOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT ON THE REGION [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

The American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia, an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, and the American Business Forum in Turkey, an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, strongly support the unprecedented efforts recently undertaken by President Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia and President Abdullah Gul of Turkey to normalize relations between Armenia and Turkey.

In a joint statement the Chairman of the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce in Armenia, an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, Davit Atanessian and the Chairman of the Board of the American Business Forum in Turkey, an affiliate of the US Chamber of Commerce, Galip Sukaya considered that the recent developments initiated by the leaders of Armenia and Turkey in the spirit of fostering regional peace, security and stability have already manifested a historic shift in relations between the two countries.

According to the statement, undoubtedly this will have a tremendous economic and political impact on the region. These developments encourage increased economic cooperation while fostering greater regional security and engagement among business, political, economic, cultural, and social spheres.

“It is our belief that improving relations between Armenia and Turkey will foster free trade, regional cooperation, business development, economic growth and improved living conditions for those in both countries. We applaud the historic efforts of the Presidents of Armenia and Turkey to address these sensitive issues which have divided our nations for too long, and reach a long-lasting peace and stability in the region. We call upon our members in Armenia and Turkey and the entire international business community in both countries to join us in advocating for resolving issues speedily and normalizing diplomatic relations between Armenia and Turkey, clearing the way for regional peace and security, and ultimately, economic development of the entire region,” says the statement provided to Armenpress.

#### 50. “HAYASTAN” ALL-ARMENIAN FUND’S ANNUAL TELE-MARATHON TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 27 [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

“Hayastan” All-Armenian fund’s annual tele-marathon will be held on November 27 this year.

Executive director of the fund Ara Vardanian told Armenpress that the TV marathon will be held in Los Angeles, USA and will kick off at 20:00 o’clock Yerevan time and will finish at 08:00 o’clock in the morning. The TV marathon will be live broadcasted by Armenian Public TV as well as in all the US states.

A. Vardanian expressed hope that the sum of donations made during the TV marathon this year will exceed last year’s indicator. During the last 5 years the number of participants in the TV marathon increased for about 15% each year.

The sum of the gathered money also increased each year. Number of ordinary citizens among those who make donations is more than those of philanthropists. The fund also has a big family of philanthropists, which includes nearly 30 people.

According to A. Vardanian, it is easier to conduct informative works on TV marathon and on the activity of “Hayastan” All-Armenian fund in Armenia than abroad. In this issue newly established Diaspora Ministry will support the fund.

A. Vardanian has already personally met with Minister Hranush Hakobian and discussed a number of issues. In the nearest future H. Hakobian will visit a number of countries where during the meetings with Armenian communities she will also speak about TV and phone marathons held by the fund.

From next year works will be conducted so that other nations also support the activity of the fund.

Fund organizes the annual TV marathon since 1996. More than 50 million families have the opportunity to follow the broadcasting of the marathon all over the world from which 40 million – in the USA.

Chief sponsor of “TV marathon 2008” is “Viva Cell-MTS”, sponsors are “Ardshinvestbank” company, “Haypost” company, “ACBA-CREDIT AGRICOL BANK”.

Information sponsor is Armenian Public TV.



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## 51. WATER ECONOMY STATE COMMITTEE UNDERTAKES A NUMBER OF STEPS IN VANADZOR [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

The Water Economy State Committee of the Armenian Territorial Governance Ministry is carrying out a number of events in Vanadzor.

The deputy head of the committee Gagik Khachatryan said that by now no examination showed that the source of infection is water. Yesterday the head of the committee Andranik Andreasian got acquainted with the situation on place and though nothing has been found as connected with water in any case necessary events are being conducted.

## 52. RECONSTRUCTED "EMPLOYMENT REGIONAL CENTER" OPENS IN GAVAR [ARMENPRESS, 10/28/08]

"Employment Regional Center" of Gavar town reconstructed with the funds of USAID re-opened today.

Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Minister Arsen Hambartsumian, U.S. ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch, accompanied by Gegharkunik Governor Nver Poghosian, representatives of USAID and Gegharkunik governor's office participated in the opening of the center.

The U.S. ambassador who visited Gegharkunik province for the first time said that U.S. government will hence also exert its efforts towards the decrease of unemployment rate in Armenia and loosening of social tension.

Minister Arsen Hambartsumian, underscoring the creation of model center of employment in Gavar, said that with this the problems do not end but need more developed and flexible approaches, so that the unemployment in Gegharkunik be reduced and a stable system accommodated to demands of labor market be established.

Governor of Gegharkunik Nver Poghosian highly underscored the initiative of the U.S. government, noting that it would have been good if the opening of the center be followed with the works directed towards creation of jobs.

## 53. 864 BUILDINGS RECEIVE STATE REGISTRATION IN YEREVAN THIS YEAR [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

Yerevan mayor's office is continuing the legalization of buildings in two ways: paid and free. The chief advisor to Yerevan mayor Hrachia Muradian said at the October 27 press conference that by a government decision, paid legalization applies to production, social and residential buildings which were constructed before 2006.

According to him, 864 buildings received state registration this year, including 797 ones free of charge. 160 decisions were made to legalize unauthorized buildings on private land plots.

It was announced that 3 billion 773 million drams (about 12.3 million USD) was transferred to the state budget as a result of the legalization of buildings.

## 54. NEW REVEALED ORIGINAL PHOTO OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

Recently, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute's efforts towards collection of new data on the Armenian genocide have experienced great success with the enrichment of AGMI's collection of documentary photographs. The most recent discovery is a photo testifying of the Armenian Genocide and in particular the massacres of the Armenian population in the region of Mush.

The photograph has been acquired by the AGMI and was captured by Russian soldiers on the Caucasus front in 1915. It portrays the remains of the Armenian villagers who were burnt alive during the massacres of Mush.

This photograph is one of a kind. It is one of the well preserved photos discovered in an album called, "Album of refugees" published in Tiflis (1917). The album is consisted from 62 unique photos that demonstrate the events of the Armenian Genocide. However, only a few of the original 62 have survived and most of them are in dire conditions.

Nonetheless, the authenticity of the "Album of refugees" is demonstrated through the validity and great condition of this unique photo. On the back of this picture is a quote in Russian stating; "Armenians burnt alive in Sheykhalan by Turkish soldiers". Furthermore, the photo is marked with the number 74, which indicates the existence of a larger collection of photographs captured by Russian soldiers during WWI.



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Hence, the AGMI is adamant in locating the remaining photos of this collection which will sturdily assist the Institute's efforts to demonstrate the complete picture of the first genocide of the 20th century.

## 55. PRESIDENT OF NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC BAKO SAHAKIAN DISCUSSES PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED IN ARTSAKH BY FUND FOR ARMENIAN RELIEF [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

On October 23 President of Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) Bako Sahakian signed a decree on results of discussions of amnesty applications.

Press service of the President's staff told Armenpress that according to President's decree 22 people were amnestied, 6 convicts were partially amnestied, 58 people were refused to be given amnesty taking into consideration the essence of the committed crime and the degree of its public danger.

On October 27 president of NKR signed a decree on suspending the authorities of a member of NKR Central Electoral Committee Seyran Hayrapetian, according to the latter's application. By the President's decree member of NKR Central Electoral Committee was appointed the representative of NKR president Yeghishe Arzumanyan.

On the same day Bako Sahakian met with the members of Fund for Armenian Relief headed by member of the Union's central department Viki Marshalian.

During the meeting process and perspectives of programs implemented in Artsakh by the organization were discussed. The guests assured the head of the country that they are ready to expand their activity in Artsakh.

The president greeted the willingness of representatives of the organization and stated that it is necessary to work out the implemented programs collaboratively and establish stable and permanent relations between the organization and relevant structures of NKR government to organize the works right and effectively.

On October 27 Bako Sahakian also received the personal representative of the OSCE chairman in office Andrzej Kasprzyk. During the meeting issues on the situation of NKR-Azerbaijan border have been discussed.

## 56. HEALTH MINISTER SAYS THE LABORATORY ANALYSIS CONFIRM THE HYPOTHESIS THAT INFECTION IN LORI PROVINCE SPREAD THROUGH WATER [ARMENPRESS, 10/29/08]

Armenian Health Minister Harutyun Kushkian told today journalists that according to today's information reduction of the number of patients has been registred in Lori, the source of the infection is discovered and liquidated and the process of infection has stopped.

According to the minister, the laboratory analysis confirm the hypothesis of transition of the infection through water. Besides that, the character of the disease testifies that it aroused from mixture of pure and sewage waters which probably took place during an accident.

As connected with the hypothesis that the infection can spread through Chinese milk powder, where the quantity of melamine overwhelmed, the minister noted that from clinic viewpoint there is no similarity in spread of the infection through that way.

The minister assured that all the necessary measures have been effectively carried out and it brought to the reduction of number of infected.

## **SPORTS**

### 57. YEREVAN PYUNIK AT TOP OF STAR ARMENIAN FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT TABLE [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

The 24th round's matches of the Star Armenian Football National Championship took place on October 25-26. The following results were recorded: Mika - Gandzasar 1 to 1, Kilikia - Ulis 1 to 1, Shirak - Pyunik 1 to 2, Banants - Ararat 2 to 2.

Pyunik is at the top of the tournament table with 53 points, it is followed by Ararat with 50, Gandzasar, Mika 42, Banants 34, Ulis 21, Shirak 15, Kilikia 10 points.

The 25th round's matches are scheduled for October 30.



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## 58. KAREN AYLAZIAN AND TIGRAN ARMENAKIAN CONTINUE COMPETITION IN BOXING WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

World Boxing Youth Championship started on October 23 in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico. Armenia was represented by seven sportsmen. Karen Aylazian (51 kg, Yerevan) had two successful fights and passed to the quarter final. Tigran Armenakian (75 kg, Ararat) gained a victory and also continues the competition. It should be mentioned that Karen Aylazian and Tigran Armenakian are bronze medal-winners of European Youth Championship.

Artashes Karapetian (81 kg, Ararat) failed at the initial stage and did not qualify.

## 59. 2 OUT OF 7 PARTICIPANTS OF ARMENIA CONTINUE COMPETITION IN WORLD BOXING YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/28/08]

World Boxing Youth Championship continues in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico. On October 2, representatives of Armenia Aram Avagian (54 kg), Vladimir Margarian (60 kg), Aram Martirosian (64 kg), and superheavyweight Hovhannes Ohanian failed and did not qualify. It should be mentioned that Artashes Karapetian also failed the day before.

Thus, Karen Aylazian (51 kg) and Tigran Armenakian among seven participants of Armenia will continue performing in the championship.

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