



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### POLITICS

#### 1. 483 EMPLOYEES OF "BJNI" PLANT SAY THEY BECAME VICTIMS OF "POLITICAL REVENGE" [Haykakan Zhamanak, 10/29/08]

The employees of "Bjni" mineral waters plant have sent a letter to the RA president, the prime minister, the chairman of the State Revenue Committee, the RA ombudsman and the embassies in Armenia. In their letter, they invite attention to the situation around the company and anticipate protection, Radio Liberty reported.

"It is no secret that "Bjni" plant has become a victim of political revenge, and even the most naive person can say that no demands, especially in the form of fines and penalties, can be made to a company for mineral water flowing into a river. Is it correct to affect the fates of 483 families by one blow? Is it correct to destroy "Bjni" and "Noy" goods whose recognition we won by the sweat of our brow?" is said in the letter written on behalf of 483 employees of the company.

According to the letter-writers, the compulsory execution service is trying to spread rumors that "we stopped the work, whereas it stopped as a result of their actions". The employees of "Bjni" ask "to display a political will and not to allow the destruction of "Bjni" plant, but to render justice on this case". Checks have been conducted at "Bjni" plant owned by Sil Concern since November 2007. On October 10, 2008, the Administrative Court made a decision to confiscate over 4 billion drams from "Bjni" Mineral Waters Plant CJSC, while on October 23 employees of the RA justice ministry's service on compulsory execution of court acts seized property of "Bjni" plant.

The representatives of Sil Concern claim that there is "special" attention to the organizations owned by the Sukiasian family and organizations cooperating with them. According to them, the illegal checks began after September 21, 2007 when the Sukiasian brothers announced their support for the former president Levon Ter-Petrosian.

#### 2. REVOTING OF COMMUNITY HEAD ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN SISIAN AND 4 RURAL COMMUNITIES ON NOVEMBER 2 [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/29/08]

Under the October 27 judgement of the RA Administrative Court, the October 12 Mayor's elections in Sisian and as a result of the elections district electoral commission's decision N 37 on election of Bargavach Hayastan (Prosperous Armenia) party member Aghasi Hakobjanian were invalidated. The second candidate receiving maximum votes in Sisian Mayor's elections, ARFD member Tigran Poghosian had applied to the court with such a demand.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by Tatev Ohanian, the Spokesperson of the RA Central Electoral Commission, revoting with the same staff of candidates will be held on November 2, current Mayor, non-partisan Lavrent Sargsian, Bargavach Hayastan party member Aghasi Hakobjanian, ARFD member Tigran Poghosian, RPA member Samvel Tangian, non-partisan Razmik Danielian, Orinats Yerkir (Country of Law) party member Vazgen Babayan.

On November 2, revoting of community head elections will be also held in the rural communities of Mrgavan (Ararat region), Tegh, Khoznavar, Antarashat (Syunik region), where the October 12 elections of community head were invalidated by the decisions of the respective district electoral commissions.

#### 3. RAPA CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS THAT FOREIGN FORCES CARRY ON PRO-AZERI POLICY [Azg, 10/29/08]

Representatives of OSCE Minsk Group mediator countries carry on policy of unfair solution to the Nagorno Karabakh problem openly pursuing a goal to make the settlement serve their own interests. Haroutiun Arakelian, the Chairman of the Ramkavar-Azatakan Party of Armenia (RAPA) stated at the October 28 press conference.

According to him, striking the pose of a judge to the fate of the Armenian people by foreign departments responsible persons of both the U.S. and European countries has become a tradition. "The latters shamelessly state that a solution to the Nagorno Karabakh problem has no borders with the international right of self-determination of Kosovo, Abkhazia, and Ossetia," H. Arakelian stated adding that Russia, the United States, and Europe show dual approaches in their foreign policy.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

"The countries representing OSCE Minsk Group have launched a race to please Azerbaijan," RAPA Chairman said. According to him, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, that country's Ministers of Transport, Foreign Affairs, and Defence, Representative of NATO Secretary General Robert Simmons, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried visiting Armenia lately acted by the same scenario.

In H. Arakelian's opinion, taking into consideration the formed situation, Armenia should stop its participation in the Nagorno Karabakh settlement negotiations process carried out by OSCE Minsk Group. According to him, the Armenian government should officially apply to Hague International Court against the government of Azerbaijan with the accusation of carrying out ethnic cleansings, slaughters, robbery and pillage towards Armenians in Baku, Sumgayit, Kirovabad, and in other populated areas in 1988-1994.

According to H. Arakelian, in the formed situation the Armenian side needs to gain time, and the judicial process will give us that possibility.

#### 4. "WE ARE THE NEXT," LEVON TER-PETROSIAN'S SUPPORTERS STATE [Aravot, 10/30/08]

A group of Levon Ter-Petrosian's supporters, on October 28, made a joint statement demanding bringing an accusation to them, as well, for actions ascribed to defendants on the March 1 case Myasnik Malkhasian, Sasun Mikayelian, Hakob Hakobian, Alexander Arzumanian, Shant Haroutiunian, Grigor Voskerchian, Suren Sirunian, Nikol Pashinian, Khachatur Sukiasian, Hamlet Hovhannisian, and Virab Manukian. The statement was signed by Gagik Jhangirian, Smbat Ayvazian, Christapor Elazian, Petros Makeyan, Vardan Malkhasian, Mkrtych Sapeyan, Zhora Sapeyan, Husik David Matevosian, Levon Zurabian, Ararat Zurabian, Arshak Banuchian, Karapet Rubinian, Suren Sureniants, and others.

It should be mentioned that according to the official report, the preliminary investigation of the above mentioned case "cleared up and motivated that after L. Ter-Petrosian's obvious defeat in the Republic of Armenia presidential elections held on February 19, 2008" the above mentioned persons "and others making sure that it is impossible to come to power by the procedure established by the RA Constitution, with a direct intention and purpose of seizing the state power in the Republic of Armenia, coming to an agreement, each one according to the role reserved for him, organized and immediately carried out deliberate actions aimed at overthrowing the RA constitutional order and seizing the state power by force through destabilizing the home political situation of the state and shattering the state system."

According to the statement authors, they are the "next," and all above mentioned actions were also equally done by them. And if law-enforcers revealed corpus delicti in the actions of the above mentioned 11 citizens, so they demand using the law equally.

#### 5. HOVIK ABRAHAMIAN READY TO ASSIST NA AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON EVENTS OCCURRED ON 1-2 MARCH [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

The goal of the October 29 meeting of RA NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian with the NA Ad-hoc Committee on the Events Occurred on 1-2 March 2008 was to be informed about the work done during the four months of committee's activity, obstacles, and possible assistance.

Committee Chairman, RPA faction Secretary Samvel Nikoyan informed the NA Speaker that all technical issues have been solved so far with the assistance of both former NA Speaker Tigran Torosian and current NA Speaker. However, he expressed discontent that the committee is mercilessly criticized from all sides."

S. Nikoyan said that the committee has separated study of the events of March 1 morning and those occurred near the Embassy of France. There are all proper documents on the morning events, and the committee is ready to present its conclusion. However, in connection with the creation of the fact-finding group and taking into consideration the fact that new circumstances can come up the committee preferred to refrain from presenting its conclusion for the present.

S. Nikoyan said that currently the main task of the committee is to study the death circumstances of the 10 victims. However, according to him, no complete information was given by law enforcement bodies in response to all their questions. Working groups have been created in the committee at present to study the circumstances of death of each victim, and the committee is also ready to listen to witnesses for that purpose.

It was also mentioned that though the committee is not empowered to invite former high-ranking officials, nevertheless it expects to receive explanations from the first and second RA Presidents, opposition leaders, high-ranking officials.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

H. Abrahamian assured that he is ready to assist the committee within his powers. He also said that he had talked to the Chief of the RA Police, and the latter expressed readiness to meet with the committee and to provide all materials interesting them.

## 6. HENCEFORTH ARMEN HAROUTIUNIAN TO TAKE PERSONAL ACTIVE PART IN WORK OF NA AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON EVENTS OCCURRED ON 1-2 MARCH [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

Henceforth RA Ombudsman Armen Haroutiunian to take a personal active part in the work of the NA Ad-hoc Committee on the Events Occurred on 1-2 March 2008. Saying this in his interview to journalists on October 29 at NA, A. Haroutiunian explained that the cooperation is already significant, as some members of the committee have adopted a more active position and raise issues they did not raise formerly, "proceeding from the political state of affairs."

The candidature of professor Vahe Stepanian, the head of RA Ombudsman's staff, a Doctor of Legal Sciences, the former RA Minister of Justice will be nominated by the RA Ombudsman in the fact-finding group created for the purpose of studying the March 1-2 events in Yerevan. A. Haroutiunian said that the choice of his representative in the fact-finding group was a serious issue, as the other sides will present their experts, and he was to present a person, who has authority in jurisprudence, has never been involved in political processes, as a person is acceptable for both the authorities and the opposition, and has certain resource of confidence.

## 7. USA GREETES MOSCOW'S INITIATIVE ON CONDUCTING TRILATERAL MEETING [Aravot, 10/30/08]

USA supports Moscow's initiative on conducting trilateral meeting of Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian presidents, press secretary of the U.S. State Department Sean McCormack stated on Wednesday.

Kremlin press service reported earlier that the meeting of the three presidents will take place November 2 in Moscow.

"We are working for quite long time for the regulation of the issue. OSCE Minsk Group is functioning for many years and we hope that this initiative will bring success. We are following it very attentively," McCormack stated.

## 8. FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AND RUSSIA TO DISCUSS WAYS OF KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION OCTOBER 31 [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia Edward Nalbandian, Elmar Mamedyarov and Sergey Lavrov will discuss ways of Karabakh conflict regulation October 31 in Moscow.

"On the next day, November 1, meeting is expected in Moscow with the participation of OSCE Minsk Group," Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mamedyarov told journalists on Wednesday.

He noted that the foreign ministers will report to their presidents on the results of the meeting, and the presidents, on their turn, will solve the issue of conducting trilateral meeting in the capital of Russia.

## 9. ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVES STABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

Armenian government approved today at its session the Stable Development Program which is a logical continuation of Poverty Reduction Strategy. It is a comprehensive and basic document which specifies the strategy of development of Armenia by 2021.

Minister of Finance Tigran Davtian said at a press conference followed after the session that the document registered clear goals which must be reached by 2021 and it includes not only events directed towards the decrease of the poverty level but also other spheres of economy.

According to Davtian, in the mentioned period it is necessary to bring the level of development of Armenia's economy to the level of Eastern and Central European countries. By 2017 development indexes Armenia must be equal with the level of EU member countries.

During the development of the program all the possible risks have been taken into consideration, and particularly the processes taking place in the world market. Davtian said that the world financial crisis will not have an essential impact on the works planned by the program for the coming years.

Specialists of the sphere, including specialists from World Bank and International Monetary Fund participated in the development of the document.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

## 10. FINANCING OF THE OMBUDSMAN'S STAFF SUGGESTED TO BE INCREASED [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

According to 2009 state budget draft 131,8 million drams is provided for financing of ombudsman's staff, which exceeds the 2008 indicator by 3,8%. The increase is conditioned by general enhancement of 2009 business trips.

During the ongoing budget discussions in parliamentary permanent commissions the issue of increase of salaries of officials of ombudsman's staff was raised both by MPs and Ombudsman Armen Harutyunian.

A. Harutyunian noted that the issue is not financial but it is connected with clarification of the status. Certain bonuses and even a reserve funds are intended for heads of Central Bank, Oversight Chamber and for heads of other institutions. The reserve fund of some bodies is larger than the whole salary fund of Ombudsman's office, and the salaries of these bodies exceed the salaries of Ombudsman's office for 2-3 times.

A. Harutyunian noted that there is a flow of personnel as a result of low salaries: 5 specialists have already left, 2 – are going to.

"Our responsibilities are enhanced and the resources are not enough," he said. It has been noted that 50-60 million drams will be needed yearly for the improvement of salary increase application.

According to the Ombudsman there is also the issue of maintenance of working experience of workers of Ombudsman's staff as they are not protected by the law and the experience is lost.

Armenian deputy Finance Minister Pavel Safarian suggested the MPs to formulate and present corresponding suggestions which will be discussed.

## 11. ARMENIA TO OPEN EMBASSIES IN JAPAN, FINLAND AND LITHUANIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/30/08]

In the coming year Armenia will have three new embassies abroad. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian noted at the budget discussions in the permanent commissions of the NA that embassies will be opened in Japan, Finland and Lithuania. The three embassies will only have five vacancies. E. Nalbandian expressed hope that in the budgets of the coming years the establishment of not only three but a number of embassies will be included. He also underscored the issue of diplomats in the embassies as "sometimes in our embassies in important capitals we have three diplomats and we must seriously think over the increase of the number of our diplomats at least in important capitals and centers."

Armenian deputy finance minister noted that by the 2009 budget draft 5 billion 142 million drams have been intended for embassies and representations.

## 12. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIAN AND BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTRIES [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

Consultations between Armenian and Bulgarian foreign ministries took place today in the Armenian Foreign Ministry. The delegation of the Armenian side was headed by Armenian deputy foreign minister Arman Kirakosian.

Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that greeting the guests Kirakosian highly assessed Armenian-Bulgarian friendly relations and underscored their further development and expansion. In this pre-context he pointed out the potential of the bilateral economic cooperation and the importance of its full usage.

During the meeting the sides also referred to a wide-range of issues on development of bilateral cooperation.

The two sides noted the existence of rich legal-agreement field between the two countries which the sides expressed readiness to expand.

During the consultations the participants discussed opportunities of Armenian-Bulgarian cooperation in international organizations.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

## 13. EDWARD NALBANDIAN SAYS ARMENIA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS CONTINUATIVE NATURE [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

Armenia's foreign policy has continuative nature. Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said today at a press conference referring to some speculations as if Armenia has changed the direction of its foreign policy and attitude in relations with Russia, adding that strategic relations with Russia have once again been confirmed during the visit of Russian President Dmitri Medvedev to Armenia.

"If someone notes about any change in relations with Russia, I can assure that this change may only consolidate, expand and deep our strategic and allied relations," E. Nalbandian pointed out.

Referring to his recent visits and meetings, E. Nalbandian noted that in Tirana, assuming the chairmanship of Black Sea Economic Cooperation organization for six months, Armenia will give a special importance to the promotion of economic cooperation in the region.

The minister said that Armenia is planning during that period work actively conducting more than 60 events the majority of which in Armenia and the others in other member countries of BSEC.

E. Nalbandian noted that he had conducted effective and high level meeting in Great Britain and Albania. "We are planning to develop bilateral relations with Albania, until now we do not have any signed cooperation agreement," he said, adding that he invited Albanian foreign minister to visit Armenia in February. This visit will take place after the visit of Albanian Foreign Ministry's task group during which certain bilateral agreements will be prepared.

Referring to his London visit the foreign minister said that the one-day short visit was full and passed in an effective and warm atmosphere.

The minister also informed that Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan is leaving for Moscow on November 2, after which will leave for France where he will meet with the President of France Nicolas Sarkozy and other high-ranked officials, afterwards he will visit Brussels where meetings on European format and with Belgian side are expected to take place.

On his part E. Nalbandian will be in the capital of Sweden Stockholm, after that visit the Armenian foreign minister will be in Romania and Hungary where he will meet with his compatriots. Afterwards the foreign minister will leave for Baltic countries – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

## 14. E. NALBANDIAN DENIES TALKS THAT ARMENIAN, TURKISH AND AZERBAIJANI FOREIGN MINISTERS MET IN NEW YORK TO TALK ABOUT KARABAKH CONFLICT [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian did not receive invitation of meeting with Turkish and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers at the beginning of December in Helsinki.

Today E. Nalbandian told journalists that if he gets the suggestion of trilateral meeting within the frameworks of the annual session of the council of OSCE Foreign Ministers, he will study it.

He clarified that the conversations, that Armenian, Turkish and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers met to talk over Karabakh conflict, do not correspond to reality.

"The New York meeting lasted for only 15 minutes and during it the idea of Caucasian platform suggested by Turkey was discussed," he pointed out.

According to Armenian foreign minister, the Armenian side does not reject any meeting, dialogue and negotiation on any theme, especially when it concerns the issue of stability, security and cooperation in the region. Armenia greeted the idea of platform though there are numerous questions connected with it in respect of format and mechanisms of its activity.

"For making any security system functioning the relations of sides involved in it is important. There are a number of issues after the solution of which it will be possible to talk about it more actually and seriously," the minister noted.

As to the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations, E. Nalbandian noted that it is also very important in respect of international relations. Establishment of diplomatic relations and the opening of borders without preconditions are necessary.

"Result, not the process is important for us. If the initiated process gives result it will stem from the interests of Armenia, Turkey and the region. It will be meaningless to continue the process which has no results," E. Nalbandian noted.

Armenian Foreign Minister also underscored that Turkish mediation in Karabakh conflict regulation is surely out of discussion.

Turkey can support the process by regulating relations with Armenia and opening the Armenian-Turkish border. He also expressed viewpoint that the Turkish side can have a certain impact on Azerbaijan so that the country's position becomes more constructive.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

## 15. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ARMENIA AND SERBIA DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

Issues related to development of bilateral cooperation, and the opportunities of cooperation in international organizations were discussed at the October 29 meeting of the Armenian deputy foreign minister Arman Kirakosian and the Serbian deputy foreign minister Zoran Vujic.

Z. Vujic spoke about the main directions of Serbia's foreign policy and its opinions of the situation on the Balkan Peninsula.

At the request of the guest Arman Kirakosian presented the priorities of Armenia's foreign policy and the experience of cooperation with Euro-Atlantic structures.

According to a press release of the RA MFA Press and Information Department, the interlocutors also discussed some problems of conflict resolution.

## 16. LEVON TER-PETROSIAN NEVER TAKES ADVANCE TO FULFIL POLITICAL GOALS, ARAM MANUKIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

"The people who know well first RA President Levon Ter-Petrosian know that he never takes advance from anyone to fulfil political goals." Aram Manukian, a member of the Armenian National Movement (ANM) party Board, stated at the October 29 press conference touching upon the assertion of Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) Razmik Zohrabian made the day before, according to which the movement led by Levon Ter-Petrosian is financed from foreign forces. According to A. Manukian, the first President does not wish to become dependent on anyone, and even if the West or any other force offers L. Ter-Petrosian money, he will refuse.

According to A. Manukian, RPA and ARFD making part of the ruling coalition have absolutely nothing to say to society today and besides, they do not take adequate steps in connection with the events happening in the country. According to him, RPA should have rebelled after the latest scandalous murders. "Do you remember RPA singing several months ago that an irreconcilable struggle should be carried out against crime, that criminals should not be unpunished?" A. Manukian said.

As he stated, today there is absolutely no plurality in RPA: everybody speaks for Serzh Sargsyan's proposals. "No one risks to come up against Serzh Sargsyan. No one has courage, either, to confess what operation was carried out in the morning of March 1, at what hour it started," the opposition figure stated. He added that no coalition member renders it more clear whether in the morning of March 1, before beginning the Police operation, Police indeed warned the participants of the sit-down strike as high-ranking policemen assure.

Commenting upon the activity and position of the other two parties making part of the coalition, A. Manukian said that the Bargavach Hayastan (Prosperous Armenia) party is merely a political project and the Orinats Yerkir (Country of Law) party is a "covered card," and it is no use speaking about them.

## 17. ARREST TERM OF MYASNIK MALKHASIAN AND HAKOB HAKOBIAN PROLONGED BY ANOTHER TWO MONTHS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

Under the decision of the general jurisdiction court of Yerevan's Kentron and Nork-Marash communities, the reserve of RA National Assembly deputies Myasnik Malkhasian and Hakob Hakobian arrested on the March 1 case has been prolonged by two months. According to Radio Liberty, the preliminary investigation on the part of the other five defendants is over, and the defence party is getting acquainted with the materials of the criminal case.

According to Hovik Arsenian, the defender of interests of Alexander Arzumanyan, Sasun Mikayelian, and Myasnik Malkhasian, the Special Investigation Service informed the defence party that the period of getting acquainted with the materials of the case is limited to October 31. However, that time is not enough to completely getting familiarized with the materials of the case.

According to Melania Arustamian, the defender of interests of National Assembly deputy Hakob Hakobian, though the end of the preliminary investigation has been announced on September 4, the materials of the criminal case were provided to the defence party from September 11 and, moreover, not at once.

If the lawyers' objections and mediations to prolong the term are not met, they will introduce a complaint against the decision made by the preliminary investigation body to the Prosecutor General, as the right of the defence party is violated. First of all the lawyers will introduce a mediation to stop the criminal prosecution, to quash the examination asserting that the proves involved in the case are forged.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

According to them, there will be also other mediations, and to motivate them and to introduce facts requires rather hard work, which will take at least a month.

## **BUSINESS**

### 18. FAMILY OF KHACHATUR SUKIASIAN STOPS OPERATION OF "BJNI" MINERAL WATERS PLANT AND INTENDS TO STRUGGLE AGAINST DECISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COURT [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

The management of "Bjni" mineral waters plant owned by the family of Khachatur Sukiasian, a National Assembly deputy who is wanted by police in connection with the March 1 events in Yerevan, made a decision to "stop the production due to the impossibility of further activity".

According to information of the RA Justice Ministry's Service on Compulsory Execution of Court Acts, on October 17 the service received an act of execution from the RA State Revenue Committee with the demand to confiscate, under a decision of the RA Administrative Court, 4 billion 67 million 201 thousand 600 drams (over 13 million dollars) from "Bjni" Mineral Waters Plant CJSC and transfer this sum to the state budget. On October 21 employees of the service went to "Bjni" plant, made an inventory and seized the real estate. According to the same source, this action "proceeded from the law and aimed to prevent the possible alienation of the property".

NT was informed by Anna Mkrtchian, spokeswoman for SIL Concern owned by the Sukiasians, that they will "use all legal means to struggle against the decision and process".

To recap, on October 21, 2007, NA deputy Khachatur Sukiasian announced his support for the first Armenian president Levon Ter-Petrosian. A month later the State Tax Service started checks at "Bjni" plant, as a result a report was drawn up, according to which the water meter for measuring the volumes of mineral water used by the plant for its production had not been properly installed. According to press reports, the water meter was sealed by an inspector of the RA Ministry of Nature Protection, and no violations with respect to the water meter were revealed during the checks in 2005-2006. However, after this year's check, a report on violations has been drawn up.

### 19. 326 ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION BY TAXI RECEIVE LICENCES IN NINE MONTHS OF 2008 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

In the first nine months of 2008, the Transport Inspection of the RA Ministry of Transport and Communication drew up 751 reports about administrative violations, with 8 million 577 thousand drams being transferred to the RA state budget.

Thanks to control of the calculation and settlement of payments for advertisements near state motorways, the amount of advertisement-related payments to the RA state budget considerably increased. 35 mln 38.6 thousand drams was transferred to the state budget in 2007, while the same index made 53 mln 23.56 thousand drams in the first nine months of 2008.

149,330 vehicles underwent compulsory technical examination at 31 checkup stations in Armenia, as a result of which 373 mln 325 thousand drams was transferred to the state budget. Environmental protection payments made 447 mln 990 thousand drams.

326 organizations engaged in passenger transportation by taxi and 35 organizations engaged in regular passenger transportation received licenses in the first nine months of 2008.

### 20. IT IS ENVISAGED PASSING ARMCARSTATION CJSC FOR CONCESSION MANAGEMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

It is envisaged passing Armcarstation CJSC, which includes all the car stations, car parks and route regulation points in Armenia, to a company with an international experience for concession management. NT correspondent was informed by the director of Armcarstation Armen Harutyunian that prior to that, they intend to carry out some work at 31 car parks in order to make the system more attractive to investors. For this reason structural changes are underway at the company. Some improvement will also be made soon at the expense of the company.

As for the car station system, A. Harutyunian described its state as quite poor: in some cities, car parks do not function. There are no conditions for normal provision of services to drivers and passengers. In particular, satisfactory hygiene and sanitary conditions are absent, the fire prevention norms are violated. Public catering facilities do not operate, and before departure, cars do not undergo a checkup.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

There are 17 route regulation points in Armenia, mainly in the capital city. A. Harutyunian said that the problem here is that most of them are located in areas not permitted by the government. Besides, according to some checks, vehicles are sent by their routes without being registered at the respective route regulation service. The ticket sale order is violated, and preliminary sales of tickets are not organized. Measures are being taken to legalize the operation of route regulation points: they are being moved either to the areas of car stations or to sites permitted by the government.

It was mentioned that in the past month Armcarstation paid off its debt of 29 million drams.

## 21. 2009 DRAFT STATE BUDGET ENVISAGES 22% INCREASE OF ALLOCATIONS TO HEALTH SECTOR [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

The amount of state budgetary allocations for the health sector in 2009 will grow by 22% as compared with 2008 and make 66 bln drams against 54.5 bln drams this year. The RA minister of health Harutyun Kushkian told reporters on October 29 that this growth will allow to increase provision of free medical services to the vulnerable groups of the population and to implement more social programs.

75% of budgetary allocations for health or 49.1 bln drams will be spent on financing about 40 health care programs implemented in hospitals or polyclinics. 56% of the growth of allocations or 6.5 bln drams will be used for financing the polyclinics, while 36% or 4.2 bln drams for financing the medical services in hospitals. In 2009, per capita allocations will make 20,500 drams.

Primary medical aid will remain the priority in the health sector, with a high growth rate of financing - about 35%. It is envisaged increasing salaries of this link's medical personnel by about 20%, which makes an additional sum of 2.4 bln drams. Salaries of district doctors will increase from 77 thousand drams to 92 thousand drams, those of highly specialized doctors - from 66 thousand to 73 thousand drams. The salaries of doctors in charge of pre-natal care of pregnant women will double and make 132 thousand drams.

Allocations to the emergency service will grow by nearly 1 bln drams, which will allow to increase more than twofold the salaries of medical personnel - to 92 thousand drams (about 300 dollars).

Allocations of 23.3 bln drams to the hospital link will enable to increase the number of serviced cases by 7,800 cases as compared with 2008, as well as the daily cost of treatment of a patient by 15% to 13 thousand drams. The salaries of hospital personnel will grow by 30% and make 66 thousand drams for doctors and 52 thousand drams for nurses. 64% of the growth of allocations to hospital medical services or 2.7 bln drams will be spent on financing the mother and child health care programs.

## 22. BUSINESS DELEGATION OF SAINT PETERSBURG PAYS VISIT TO ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

An agreement on cooperation was signed on October 29 between the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA) and the Information and Business Center of Saint Petersburg that has operated in Yerevan for two years. The UMBA chairman Arsen Ghazarian and the center head Hamlet Minasian signed the document.

The signing of the agreement took place within the framework of a three-day visit of a delegation of Saint Petersburg's businessmen and administrative workers of the economic sector. The delegation arrived in Armenia on October 28. It is led by the head of Saint Petersburg's Vasilevskioistrovski district Alexander Isayev and composed of businessmen engaged in such sectors as tourism, mechanical engineering, and mining industry.

During a meeting with UMBA representatives held before the signing ceremony, A. Isayev said that the international financial crisis has not left a negative impact on the development of Saint Petersburg's economy, which is evident from the fact that the tax revenues have not declined as compared with last year. According to him, there was no decline in the number of tourists to Saint Petersburg either.

The RA deputy minister of economy Vahe Danielian spoke about Armenia's economic development, saying that the country is proceeding along the path of developing a knowledge-based and innovation economy.

The CEO of UMBA Gagik Makarian said that business links between Armenia and the second largest city of Russia are almost absent, and the sides have the problem of getting information about each other's opportunities.

An Armenia - Saint Petersburg business forum will be held on October 30, during which face-to-face talks will also be organized with Armenian businessmen. The Russian businessmen plan to visit some Armenian enterprises.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

## 23. 2009 DRAFT STATE BUDGET ENVISAGES ALLOCATIONS OF 18.5 BILLION DRAMS TO SPHERE OF RECREATION, CULTURE AND RELIGION, WITHOUT EXPENDITURES ON CENTRAL STAFF OF STATE GOVERNMENT BODIES [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

By the 2009 draft state budget, allocations to the sphere of recreation, culture and religion (without the central staff of state government bodies) will make 18.5 bln drams against 15.4 bln drams in 2008 (20.7% growth). The first deputy minister of finance Pavel Safarian said at the October 28 joint sitting of the National Assembly standing committees that the expenditures on maintenance of the central staff of the sector of culture were programmed by the same principles as in all the other state departments. The absolute growth of programs' financing made 2.2 bln drams as compared with 2008.

According to the RA minister of culture Hasmik Poghosian, it is envisaged allocating 9.35 bln drams to the sector of culture, which exceeds the 2008 index by 31.8%. The allocations will be mostly spent on preservation of national heritage, including major repairs and re-equipment of 13 museums, increasing the accessibility of library services, and implementation of family library programs. Allocations for libraries will amount to 1.9 bln drams against 1.5 bln drams in 2008, for museums - 1.9 bln drams against 1.4 bln drams in 2008, and allocations for cultural houses, clubs and centers will make about 1.06 bln drams against 964 mln drams in 2008.

Expenditures on sports and recreation are envisaged to make 1.6 bln drams against 1.1 bln drams in 2008. P. Safarian said that these allocations will be mainly used for prizes to winners of republican and international competitions, as well as the implementation of new programs and the organization of the 2009 Pan-Armenian Games.

## 24. 291 MILLION DRAMS TO BE ALLOCATED TO RA MINISTRY OF DIASPORA BY 2009 DRAFT STATE BUDGET [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

The 2009 draft state budget envisages about 291 mln drams for the maintenance of the newly-created Ministry of the Diaspora, and about 100 million drams for the implementation of programs. 51.5 mln drams out of the sum envisaged for programs will be used to implement measures on Armenia-Diaspora cooperation and to assist with educational, cultural and youth programs and the activities of Diasporan educational and cultural institutions, as well as to raise the quality of education.

The RA first deputy minister of finance Pavel Safarian stated at the October 28 joint sitting of the National Assembly standing committees that the ministry was formed on October 1, 2009 when the draft budget had already been submitted to the parliament so it is necessary to discuss jointly the problems of financing the ministry's programs.

In the words of the minister of the Diaspora Hranush Hakobian, the major mission of the ministry is coordinate the activities of the executive power bodies in the field of Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, so the sums envisaged by the state budget for this purpose are actually small. At the same time she announced that an agreement was reached with the president and the prime minister of Armenia to finance a number of programs from certain foundations - in addition to using state budgetary allocations. Out of the projects to be carried out soon, the minister pointed out "Ari Tun" project, under which it is envisaged bringing boys and girls aged 15-25 to Armenia.

Only civil servants may work in the system so steps are being taken to involve Diasporan Armenians in the work of the ministry on a contractual basis. H. Hakobian said that an agreement has already been signed with the UN and a contest has been announced for involvement of Diasporan Armenians in the ministry's activity. She informed those present that a conference will be held in December in order to analyse the lessons of the 1946-1948 repatriation and develop a repatriation program in the near future.

## 25. STAFF OF RA MFA REDUCED BY 35 EMPLOYEES, FINANCING INCREASED BY 12.5% [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

By the 2009 draft state budget, the financing of expenditures of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs will grow by 858 mln drams or 12.5% to 7.726 bln drams, the deputy minister of finance Pavel Safarian announced at the October 30 joint sitting of the National Assembly standing committees.

According to him, the programmed expenditures on the MFA managerial staff will make 6.418 bln drams in 2009, growing by 11% or 630 mln drams on 2008.

Expenditures on the MFA staff maintenance are envisaged to make 913.3 mln drams, which exceeds the 2008 index by 20.1%. In planning the expenditures, it was taken into account that the ministry's staff was reduced by 35 employees as a result of structural changes in connection with a



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

change in the status of the MFA Agency of Relations with the Diaspora and the MFA Department for Implementation of Regional Programs. According to the deputy minister, the growth of expenditures is conditioned by an increase of salaries. In particular, it is envisaged increasing additional payments for diplomatic ranks 5.5fold in 2009. An additional payment was established for diplomats with knowledge of a third foreign language for the first time.

Expenditures on maintenance of embassies and representative offices are envisaged to make 5 bln 142 mln drams in 2009, which exceeds by 475 mln drams the 2008 index.

## 26. ARMENIA TO PAY 1.4 BILLION DRAMS FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN 2009 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

The 2009 draft state budget of the RA envisages payments of 1.4 billion drams for Armenia's membership of international organizations. For this purpose 891 mln drams will be allocated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 80.5 mln drams to the RA National Assembly, 20.6 mln drams - the Council of the Public TV Company, and 18.5 mln drams - to the State Social Security Service of the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues. Besides, an additional amount of 413 mln drams is envisaged for fulfilment of the obligations to international financial organizations.

Out of the sum allocated to the MFA, 675 mln drams will be spent on payment of the country's current liabilities, and 215 mln drams - on payment of the debts accumulated in the previous years. The deputy minister of finance Pavel Safarian said that this amount is sufficient to pay off the debts to international organizations according to the schedule.

## 27. "ARMPRODEXPO-2008" EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 10/31/08]

The eighth international tasting-exhibition of agro-re-cultivation and agricultural products "Armprodexpo-2008" will be held November 11-14 in Yerevan.

Executive director of "Center of Development of Agro Business" company Armen Davtian told Armenpress that representatives of enterprises from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus will be present at the exhibition. Sorts of wine, vodka, dairy, candy and other agricultural products manufactured in these countries as well as samples of products of re-cultivating enterprises will be presented.

German "Kronen" company which is widely recognized for production of juice and condensed food as well as English "Glass World Company" which produces glass bottles and modern devices will also take part in the event.

According to A. Davtian, Armenian businessmen, manufacturers, 65-70 organizations dealing with wholesale trade will occupy the majority of pavilions, whose chief aim is to establish mutual ties with foreign businessmen and manufacturers (from the point of view of export promotion).

Within the frameworks of the exhibition tasting of alcohol and non-alcohol drinks as well as canned products will be organized. Armenian ecologically clean canned products, juice, jam, tomato pastes, dried fruit and berry which are of great demand in foreign markets will also be presented.

Armenian Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, Yerevan municipality, Trade-Industrial Chamber, "Center of Development of Agro-Business" company supported the organization of the exhibition.

## 28. TIGRAN SARGSYAN SAYS ARMENIA IS A PLACE WHERE INVESTMENTS MAY BE BRAVELY MADE [ARMENPRESS, 10/31/08]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today representatives of one of the biggest banks of Russia "Gasprombank" headed by the executive deputy head Alexander Kaznacheev and leadership of the full member of "Gasprombank" group and 100% daughter bank "Areximbank" on behalf of the chairman of the council of the bank Karen Karapetian and general director Armen Khandkarian.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that the prime minister congratulated "Areximbank" on its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, wishing success and implementation of programs.

Tigran Sargsyan suggested that in the programs special attention be paid to financing of small and medium-sized enterprises, considering that market perspective. According to the head of the government, if "Gasprombank" seeks to take leading position in Armenia's banking field it must operate quickly and effectively, using its potential, taking into consideration the circumstance that as compared with Russia Armenia's financial sector is small but it is very strong and stable.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

Speaking about the tendencies in the world that everyone is concerned of making investments in more stable places, the prime minister pointed out that Armenia is a place where investments may be bravely made.

## 29. ARMEN MOVSISIAN SAYS NO GROUNDS TO SAY THAT ELECTRICITY SALE AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY MAY BE ANNULLED [ARMENPRESS, 10/31/08]

The agreement with Turkey on sale-purchasing of electricity exists and it supposes 4-5 month time for restoring the sub-station in Turkey and restoring 3-4 km of demounted wire. After the implementation of this work the supply of electricity will start, Armenian Energy and Natural Resources Minister Armen Movsisian stated today during the budget discussions in the NA.

The minister noted that the reached agreements are being implemented by the two sides "and today I do not have any grounds to say that the agreement may be annulled". He also said that the achieved arrangements are being carried out according to the schedule.

## 30. WORLD BANK APPROVES THE ADDITIONAL 20 MILLION DOLLARS' FINANCING OF ARMENIAN COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AND REMOVAL PROGRAM [ARMENPRESS, 10/31/08]

Board of Directors of the World Bank approved yesterday the additional 20 million dollars' financing of water supply and water removal program in Armenian communities.

An official from World Bank's Yerevan office told Armenpress that the additional financing will support the efforts of Armenian government directed towards the enhancement of the current program of restoration and improvement of water supply system as well as extension of "Agreement of Management" signed between the responsible of the program "Armenian Water-Sewage" company and the international operator of water supply system.

The Bank's additional financing was expected yet during the assessment of the program, the "Agreement of Management" was prepared based on six-year program. Therefore, the additional financing will be used for supporting the extension of "Agreement of Management" and the additional investments previously singled out. It will help in satisfying the huge investment needs of Armenian water supply sector.

"Armenian citizens waited for improvements in the sphere of water supply for a long time. As a result of "Armenian Water-Sewage" company's program of renovation and restoration of water supply system, the quality of water has risen and clean and secure water supply has increased in the territories which are involved in the program. But there is still a need of significant investments in the sphere. For this reason the World Bank will continue to support the Armenian government in the improvement of services of water supply and water removal," program projector, head of World Bank's team Jonathan Kamkvalala said.

The time of credit return is 20 years including the privileged 10 years.

## DIASPORA

## 31. PROMOTING REPATRIATION IS ONE OF MOST IMPORTANT TASKS OF RA MINISTRY OF DIASPORA [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 10/30/08]

One of the most important tasks of the newly created RA Ministry of Diaspora is to promote repatriation. As Minister Hranush Hakobian said at the October 29 press conference, the issue of restoring the Armenian identity should be also included in repatriation, as "there are people, who have moved away from their identity, roots, and history." A scientific conference dedicated to repatriation of 1946-1948 is envisaged to be held in December to work out a program aimed at repatriation. The Minister expects all mistakes and omissions of that repatriation to be revealed with the help of philosophers, psychologists, historians, and sociologists, and it will enable to work out a program that will become a motive for repatriation.

According to H. Hakobian, they need to have information about each Armenian community. According to Minister's information, nearly 70-80% Armenian communities in 120 countries are considered national minorities, it is very important whether international conventions on national minorities are ratified in the given country, which are mainly aimed at protecting cultural, educational rights of a person, and in that case give a juridical basis for solving Armenian communities' problems abroad.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

The next problem regards bilateral relations. "Henceforth we should be very attentive so that all agreements, treaties, memoranda signed by country's leadership will contain mentioning of the Armenian community if it exists in the given country," H. Hakobian said. Besides, according to her, the legislation on the Diaspora need to be amended. "Everything possible should be done for Diasporan Armenians not to feel alien in Armenia. They should not be considered as foreigners," H. Hakobian said adding that in that respect, the RA Minister of Health has already prepared an order, according to which Diasporan Armenian students are to pay for medical aid and service as much as students of Armenia.

## 32. TURKISH PRESIDENT AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF ZHAMANAK DAILY DISCUSS ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Zhamanak daily, Turkish President Abdullah Gul received the daily's editor-in-chief Ara Kochunyan in Istanbul. Another three prominent figures of the Armenian community of Istanbul: the chairman of the guardianship of Surb Prkich National Hospital, the chairman of the guardianship of the Karagyozyan orphanage, and the national benefactor Avet Yerkanian also took part in the meeting. Abdullah Gul congratulated them on the 100th jubilee of the daily and wished success in its further activities. During a talk with Noyan Tapan, the editor-in-chief of Istanbul-based Zhamanak Ara Kochunyan told the details of the meeting. In his words, the meeting lasted for about 45 minutes in quite a warm atmosphere. Two high-ranking Turkish officials, the chief advisor to the Turkish president on foreign policy and the head of the presidential staff, were also present at the meeting, during which two issues - Armenian-Turkish relations and problems of Turkey's Armenian community were mainly discussed.

Speaking about his visit to Armenia, the Turkish president pointed out that it made quite a good impression on him. According to A. Gul, some problems exist between Armenia and Turkey, due to which the relations between the two countries are not at the desirable level. He said that he had left for Armenia not with the aim of putting forward some issues but in order to create such a climate that would allow to overcome the existing problems, including those between the sides and the regional ones.

A. Gul noted that by his observations, the Armenian leadership is concerned about the same problems that worry them, which is conditioned by the situation in the region.

The Turkish president underlined the necessity of displaying a political will in order to smooth the path for solving these problems. He said that the first step has already been taken in this direction: the respective commissions have been given to the foreign ministers. A. Gul added that it is necessary to take constructive approaches in order to encourage the sides to proceed along this path.

Reminding about the visit to Baku, which he paid after visiting Yerevan, Abdullah Gul said that both he and Azeri President Ilham Aliyev have a positive opinion about Serzh Sargsyan. He expressed confidence that the Armenian president is of the same opinion about them.

Speaking about Turkey's becoming a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, A. Gul stated that this fact makes Turkey more responsible for peace in the world, especially under conditions of the current problems in the Caucasus. As regards the proposal to create a Caucasian security and cooperation platform, the Turkish president stressed that the Armenian authorities are also in favor of this idea.

Ara Kochunyan reported that the second part of their talk with Gul concerned the problems of the Armenian community in Turkey. Ara Kochunyan raised the problems of community structures, including schools. The Turkish president assured them that solutions had been given, to some extent, to the indicated problems, while some problems will be discussed and dealt with. A. Gul pointed out that for Turkey, all its compatriots and citizens are equal.

When concluding his speech, Abdullah Gul expressed a high opinion about the activities of the Armenian community establishments.

At the end of the meeting, the Armenian delegation presented the Turkish president with souvenirs on the occasion of the daily's jubilee.

## 33. NEW YORK ARMENIAN CENTER HELDS MONTHLY FAMILY NIGHT [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

Since July 2008 the New York Armenian Center Social Committee has brought together representatives of the Armenian community for a monthly Family Night under the theme "One Nation, One Family."

During the event held in October the attendees enjoyed home cooked food prepared and donated by the community volunteers. Armenian folk and traditional music was played in the dance floor.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

## 34. RA MINISTER OF DIASPORA TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCES FOR MASS MEDIA OF DIASPORA ON OCTOBER 31 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/30/08]

The RA Minister of Diaspora Ms Hranush Hakobian's first press conference for the mass media of Diaspora is envisaged on 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.

## 35. CREATION OF RA MINISTRY OF DIASPORA IS OF MUCH NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, HRANUSH HAKOBIAN SAYS [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 10/29/08]

The creation of the RA Ministry of Diaspora is of much political, moral, psychological, national importance, the basis of which should be all-Armenian way of thinking. Minister Hranush Hakobian stated at the October 29 press conference. According to her, this Ministry as if embraces the main idea of Armenian people's unity, which was created for the sake of prosperity of RA, NKR, and all Armenians spread all over the world.

H. Hakobian said that RA President Serzh Sargsyan envisaged very important problems connected with the Diaspora in his preelection program, and the Ministry was created to fulfill them. According to her, working out and carrying on state policy of development of Diaspora-homeland partnership and coordination of activity of executive power bodies under the general leadership of the RA President are among the main missions of the Ministry.

The Minister said that Ministry's Regulations, structure have been already established, a serious working group has been created, and the Conception of Diaspora-Armenia Cooperation is ready by 80%. H. Hakobian also said that preservation of the Armenian nation is one of the main tasks of the Ministry. "The Diaspora has a first and foremost task from the very first day of its existence, to struggle for remaining Armenian," she said adding that the Ministry considers problems of Armenians and preservation of the Armenian nation in the context of four goals, knowledge of the mother tongue, Armenian family, Armenian culture, and belief.

In H. Hakobian's opinion, the Diaspora, especially the traditional one, is well-organized, has hundreds of structures, organizations. However, according to her, their professional potential need to be revealed, for instance, the Union of Armenian Doctors, which today functions in more than 30 countries. "To create a professional network and to try to move all international tendencies and processes to the homeland and to contribute to Armenia's development and strengthening," H. Hakobian said.

## ARTS

## 36. 500th ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN BOOK-PRINTING TO BE SOLEMNLY MARKED IN ARMENIA IN 2012 [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

The 500th anniversary of Armenian book-printing will be solemnly marked in 2012 in Armenia. RA President Serzh Sargsyan will head the jubilee governmental commission on organizing the festive events. As Levon Ananian, the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia, reported at the October 28 press conference, within four years they have a possibility to prepare well and to implement all programs that need to be worked out. At the same time he said that he is going to submit his proposals at the jubilee commission's second sitting to be held in January 2009.

In particular, the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia proposes working out a national reading program, which, according to L. Ananian, will be an important step to overcome the reading crisis. It is also planned to submit for discussion the bill On Book-Publishing Sphere being in the RA National Assembly for several years. Besides, L. Ananian proposes creating a University of Translators in Armenia, which will enable to present works of Armenian classics, modern Armenian writers in different languages of the world, as well as to translate works of old classics and modern world writers into Armenian.

As the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia evaluated it, first of all bookstores need to be opened in all regions of the country for book-publishing to develop. According to L. Ananian, much attention should be also paid to libraries. "Every published book should be given to libraries. However, it is impossible to give a book published in 400-500 copies to several hundred libraries functioning in the



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

country. These are important problems that need to be given a solution on the threshold of the 500th anniversary of Armenian book-printing," L. Ananian emphasized.

## 37. LEVON ANANIAN IS NOT GOING TO RESTORE ABGAR APINIAN IN UNION OF WRITERS OF ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

According to Levon Ananian, the current Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia, former Union Chairman Abgar Apinian for years running carried out a "destructive activity" against him and the Grakan Tert. Stating this at the October 28 press conference, L. Ananian also added that the Nor Dar magazine founded by A. Apinian was only published to discredit him. Besides, under different names A. Apinian wrote articles in press against him. "He failed to adapt himself to the fact that I was elected Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia and he never missed a chance to spread aspersions," the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Armenia mentioned.

According to him, after leaving the Union A. Apinian rang him up and proposed concluding a "truce." Another writer rang up L. Ananian and said that if A. Apinian is left in the Union, the latter will confess whose order he had been carrying out in the past years. "A. Apinian only discredited me in those years, and I am not going to return him. After all, it was found out that this racket was also artificial," L. Ananian said.

## 38. REPUBLICAN CONTEST OF CHAMBER ENSEMBLES AFTER KAREN KOSTANIAN BEING HELD IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 10/29/08]

First Republican Contest of Chamber Ensembles after founder of chamber ensembles performing art of Yerevan State Conservatory (1961), professor, memorable Karen Kostanian started on October 28 at Aram Khachatrian House-Museum.

Armenian musician-performers aged between 16 to 35 will present pieces by Armenian, classic, and modern composers during two contest stages: only Armenian and classic pieces will be performed during the first stage, and romantic and modern pieces during the second one. 11 duets, 4 trios, 1 quartet and 2 quintets take part in the contest.

As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by professor Alla Berberian, the Head of the Chamber Ensembles Performing Art Chair of Yerevan State Conservatory, which is the contest's organizer, various contests and festivals of pianists, violinists, cellists have been organized and held in Armenia so far, but we have never had a contest of chamber ensembles. According to her, composer Tigran Mansurian made an attempt to organize a similar contest in 1990, but his attempt failed.

"Spectators will see an interesting program. For the first time we had some difficulties in organization issues. However I hope that all that will be solved in the future, and the contest will develop and will be enlarged," Alla Berberian emphasized. In her words, they did not select ensembles applying for participation in the contest, and all applicants take part in the contest, however, when it is enlarged, a selection will be also done.

A. Berberian also said that the succession of participants' performances will be decided by drawing of lots. Contest's jury is headed by professor Igor Yavrian, the Dean of the Piano Department of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory.

## 39. ARMENIAN BOOK TO BE PRESENTED IN INTERNATIONAL BOOK EXHIBITION IN ISTANBUL [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

Armenian books will be presented at the "Cultural Neighborhood" international book exhibition which will take place in Istanbul November 1-9. Armenian delegation will present 150 books and albums in its pavilion.

The head of the Association of Armenian Printers Vahan Khachatrian said yesterday that a separate part will be dedicated to the works of William Saroyan. It is also expected to take books about Armenian Genocide, though the organizers of the exhibition stated that they will not take responsibility in case of possible aggression of Turkish nationalists.

V. Khachatrian also said that at the international book exhibition-fair in Frankfurt held October 15-19 the Turkish side expressed interest towards Armenian book. As a result, an agreement has been reached with the Turkish "Pen-Club" publishing house to print the anthology of works of contemporary Armenian poets in Turkish. The translation will be made not from Armenian into Turkish but from English into Turkish.

The anthology will present works of 20 contemporary Armenian poets.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

## 40. FIRST FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER MUSIC OF YOUNG COMPOSERS TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 10/31/08]

The Union of Armenian Composers and Music Critics will conduct November 2-9 in Yerevan the first festival of chamber music of young composers with the support of the Armenian Culture Ministry. The festival includes one work of 28 author-composers aged till 35.

The chairman of the union, composer Robert Amirkhian said that the union has organized such festivals many times but this time in collaboration with the ministry are trying to give a greater voicing to the initiative. The goal is to promote the development of chamber music in Armenia and make the works of young composers known.

The ceremony of awarding of prizes and diplomas will take place on November 9 in Komitas chamber music house.

## 41. RUSSIA TO OPEN CULTURAL CENTERS IN AZERBAIJAN, ARMENIA AND MOLDOVA [ARMENPRESS, 10/31/08]

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that Russia plans to open cultural centers by the end of the year in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova.

"This year we are planning to open new centers in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova," Lavrov said today in Moscow at the World Conference of Compatriots.

## SOCIAL

## 42. BRANCH OF "HRANT DINK" INTERNATIONAL FUND TO OPEN IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

After the murder of chief editor of Istanbul "Agos" newspaper Hrant Dink on the initiative of his family international fund "Hrant Dink" has been established.

H. Dink's brother Yervand Dink told Armenpress that works are carried out for opening a branch of the fund in Armenia in the nearest future. Branches of the fund will also open in Los Angeles and Sidney. Only organizations will make donations to the fund.

The fund already has first donations. The gathered sum will be spent only for charity reasons and "works on establishing mutual understanding and peace between nations".

Rachel, Zabel, Haykanush, Khosrov, Yervand, Arat and Delal Dinks are in the leadership of the fund. The headquarter of the fund is located in Istanbul.

H. Dink was murdered January 19, 2007 by a Turkish criminal near the editing house of "Agos" newspaper. About 19 suspects are included in the case.

## 43. VISIT OF PARENTS OF RUSSIAN SOLDIERS SERVING IN ARMENIA TO BE ORGANIZED [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

"All Armenian Youth International Movement" NGO will carry out a number of programs in the nearest future.

Leader of the organization Andranik Nikoghosian told Armenpress that a visit to Moscow is planned November 14 to meet with the local "Young Guardian" youth organization. During the meeting "Russian soldier in Armenia" program will be discussed within the frameworks of which visit of parents of Russian soldiers serving in Armenia is planned to be organized. Nearly 00 of parents will be in Armenia for a week, see their sons and visit regiments.

Within the frameworks of pre-holiday events the NGO intends to organize visits to homeland for those Armenian young people based in Russia who have never been to Armenia. They will have an opportunity to take part in different cultural events here and be on Armenian borders on familiarizing purpose.

According to A. Nikoghosian agreement has already been reached with Armenian Defense Ministry. "This is also an opportunity for establishing new relations and cooperation of Armenian and Russian youth," A. Nikoghosian said.

The movement also plans to carry out sport events.



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, October 31, 2008

---

## 44. HALF YEAR EXAMINATIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM TEN-GRADE PUPILS OF SENIOR SCHOOLS [ARMENPRESS, 10/30/08]

The Center of Assessment and Testing will for the first time take half year examinations from subjects of "Armenian language", "Mathematics" and "History of Armenia" from 10 grade pupils of 10 high schools of the republic.

Such examinations will also be organized at the end of the year. Today head of the Center of assessment and testing Manuk Mkrtchian told journalists that the conduction of current examinations aims at finding out the quality of education in schools as well as preparing the pupils for next year's final and joint examinations.

"The Center of assessment and testing functions not for the organization of final and joint examinations but aims to support the increase of quality of knowledge, define and oversee the quality during the consolidation of public education system," he said.

Current examinations will also be organized for eight-grade pupils of secondary schools to get ready for final examinations of the ninth grade. They will be held through test system.

Last year the nine-grade pupils took their final exam in "Mathematics" with tests formed by the Center of assessment and testing.

According to M. Mkrtchian, the current examinations can be considered an "external" examination of assessment of the level in schools, as the pupils are not only assessed by pedagogues but also by corresponding educational establishment.

The Center of assessment and testing finds it purposeful to enhance the number of schools implementing the system of current examinations to 100 units in the future, and during the next years such examinations will be held in the whole republic.

## 45. ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AMOUNTING 10,1 BILLION DRAMS CARRIED OUT IN 9 MONTHS OF 2009 WITH THE FUNDS OF THE STATE BUDGET [ARMENPRESS, 10/31/08]

State importance road reconstruction works amounting to 10,1 billion drams have been carried out in Armenia in 9 months of 2009 with the funds of the state budget.

Press secretary of the Armenian Transport and Communication Ministry Susanna Tonoyan told Armenpress that this year by the means of state budget it is expected to carry out reconstruction works of state importance roads amounting to 11.4 billion AMD. Particularly the sum will be directed towards the reconstruction of 164.8 km total length road sectors and placing 24 km of metal road fences.

With the means of the state budget 18 bridges have been reconstructed, works of exploitation and preservation of roads of inter-state and republic importance amounting to 4 billion 425,8 million drams and for preservation of tunnels and bridges works amounting to 204,2 million drams have been conducted.

By the "Millennium Challenges" program in the coming one month the 24.5 km sector of Armavir-Gyumri-Isahakian road will be put into functioning. For the implementation of this work 1.5 billion drams were spent.

---

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

*Please be advised that the [AGBU Armenia News Bulletin](#) is for general reference only and should not be reprinted in any form without the explicit written permission of AGBU. All rights reserved.*

*Established in 1906, AGBU ([www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org)) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.*