



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

AGBU NEWS

1. GYUMRI CHILDREN IN YEREVAN [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 11/18/08] By Karin Grikorian

Yerevan Puppet Theater hosted the exhibition of the works of the children of the Gyumri orphanage after Nansen on Sunday, November 16. Within the framework of the "Who else, if not me" program of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Young Professionals Yerevan group, 60 children of the orphanage had been in Yerevan some time ago visiting the National Gallery of Armenia, walking in the parks of Yerevan and watching an entertaining program in the circus. Going back to Gyumri the children had transferred their impressions to paintings. Obviously, the visit to Yerevan, especially the newly-opened "Lovers' Park" and the circus had impressed them much. But there were also things that they had found it hard to paint. Little Hagop Ghazarian noticed, for example, that houses in Yerevan are taller, there are more traffic jams, more monuments, higher prices, and less cultural sites in the capital.

The "Who else, if not me" program aimed at the educational-intellectual development of the children had envisaged also exhibition-sale of the paintings of the children, the profits of which will be directed toward the opening of a computer room and organizing English language and computer classes in the orphanage.

"Our group is composed of different specialists, who are eager to organize such courses. We want to help the orphanage not socially, but intellectually, so that the children find jobs more easily in the future and get easily integrated into the society", said Movses Ghazarian, member of the AGBU YP Yerevan.

The program will include other orphanages too. AGBU YP Yerevan, which was established in March 2007, and joined the worldwide YP network in North California, New York, Lebanon, Paris, Tehran, Detroit, Toronto, London, Austria, Washington, Sydney, etc., will work towards raising youth issues in the regions and offering solutions for them.

POLITICS

2. ROMANIA INTENDS TO DEEPEN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/17/08]

Receiving Foreign Minister of Romania Lazar Comanescu on November 15, RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian expressed satisfaction with the traditional friendship of the Armenian and Romanian peoples and dynamic development of Armenian-Romanian relations. Emphasizing the necessity to deepen the political dialogue, he expressed the hope that the European direction can become a new format of cooperation. E. Nalbandian attached a special importance to cooperation with Romania within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy Actions Plan. He emphasized the necessity to undertake concrete steps to further make active cooperation in various spheres.

L. Comanescu also highly evaluated the friendly relations of Armenia and Romania expressing his country's intention to further deepen them. He attached importance to the role of the Armenian community in the process of development of bilateral relations. In the context of regional cooperation the Foreign Minister of Romania attached importance to the EU Black Sea Confederation Program, as well as implementation of cooperation between the two countries in the period of Armenia's chairmanship in BSEC.

As Noyan Tapan was informed by the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, the Ministers touched upon the necessity to expand the bilateral economic cooperation attaching importance to the complete use of the Armenian-Romanian trade and economic potential.

3. SERZH SARGSYAN: SETTLEMENT OF KARABAKH CONFLICT STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO PASS [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/17/08]

The settlement of the Karabakh conflict still has a long way to pass, the Armenian president Serzh Sargsyan said during an interview with the Public Television Company of Armenia. "We must be able to reach such a decision through negotiations that will allow me to be at least convinced that this



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decision proceeds from the interests of our people, after which we should bring it up for national discussion. Then it will be necessary to sign a treaty, then an agreement, and so on," the president said, adding: "When I say that we will not delay the problem, it does not mean that the problem will be solved tomorrow, in a month, three or four months". In the opinion of S. Sargsyan, "we should not delay artificially the problem's solution but we should reach a decision, an agreement to be followed by a long process. This is not a problem to be solved by a person, two, three and even 1,300 people, this is one of the most vital problems of our people, and our people must say whether it agrees with the version that we will reach through negotiations," the Armenian president stated.

According to him, making daily inquiries about the details of the negotiations is the task of political figures, but the task of the negotiators is to be able to keep the society informed, in a general way, about the principles of the problem's solution but not to give the negotiations' details as negotiations are a complex and delicate process, during which one should be careful and purposeful. "Our political forces will necessarily participate in discussions, perhaps it is not the time to bring up the issue for discussion now, but in order to calm the storm in a teacup, I will probably invite the chairmen of the political parties and try to hear their questions and find out what they are concerned about," S. Sargsyan noted.

The president underlined that he is in favor of the NKR's and its president's being involved in the negotiation process. He said that perhaps "this is the most efficient way, and it will be so, there is no other direct road".

In connection with the Maindorf Declaration, which was signed by the presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia and has been criticized, S. Sargsyan said that in fact, it is the only document, in which Azerbaijan has accepted the political way of solving the Nagorno Karabakh problem. The Armenian president pointed out that the conflict's settlement must be implemented based on the fundamental international documents: "It is the Azerbaijanis who should speculate, why do you speculate about it? You should realize that it is not the problem of Serzh Sargsyan here but that of Karabakh," the president said. He denied that Armenia is making unilateral concessions. "I have always said and I repeat now that the Nagorno Karabakh problem can be solved if Azerbaijan accepts the possibility of exercising the Nagorno Karabakh people's right of self-determination, if Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia have a land border, and if the population of Nagorno Karabakh receives strong guarantees of security. It is a simple problem, and only a crazy person can find only concessions in these wordings. Over 17-18 years, when speaking about the Nagorno Karabakh problem, I have never used the phrase "unilateral concession" or the word "concession", maybe "compromise", but not "concession".

4. ARTSAKH HAS ITS VIEW OVER CONFLICT SETTLEMENT, NKR PRESIDENT SAYS [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 11/17/08]

On November 15, NKR President Bako Sahakian met with OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs Matthew Bryza (U.S.), Yuri Merzliakov (RF), Bernard Fassier (France), and persons accompanying them, with which he discussed a wide range of issues regarding the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. A special attention was paid to the Moscow declaration signed by the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia lately.

B. Sahakian emphasized that Artsakh appreciates any document that can have a positive impact on establishment of a civilized dialogue in the settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict. At the same time he said that the settlement process cannot be made all-embracing without NKR's full-value participation, especially in consideration of the fact that Artsakh has its own view over the conflict settlement.

The Co-chairs, in their turn, reaffirmed the fact that the conflict cannot be settled without Nagorno Karabakh's and its people's consent and participation.

According to the report of the General Information Department of NKR President's Staff, NKR Foreign Minister Georgy Petrosian and Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk were present at the meeting.

5. ACCORDING TO OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS, CONFLICT CANNOT BE SETTLED WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF KARABAKH SIDE [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/17/08]

There cannot be an agreement on settlement of the Karabakh conflict without the consent of the Karabakh people, Matthew Bryza, the U.S. Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, told the correspondent of Armenia's Public Television Company in Stepanakert. The Russian Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Yuri Merzlyakov in his turn added that "moreover, there cannot be an agreement without its preparation with the participation of Nagorno Karabakh's representative". According to the French Co-Chair Bernard



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Fassier, they pay regular visits to Karabakh and it bears evidence of the fact that the Karabakh side participates in negotiations.

6. IT WILL TAKE MUCH TIME FOR ARMENIA TO RESTORE REAL PICTURE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH PROBLEM, ALEXANDER MANASIAN CONSIDERS [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/17/08]

The bilateral negotiations over the Nagorno Karabakh conflict rather remind of discussions or consultations, and the real negotiations will proceed when a representative of Karabakh also takes part in them. Political scientist Alexander Manasian, the Chairman of the Academy of Political Studies NGO, stated at the November 17 press conference. In his words, several years ago OSCE had established that the third side, Karabakh, should also take part in the negotiations process, but some time later, under the pressure by the Azeri side, Minsk Group Co-chairs started to organize bilateral meetings between Armenia and Azerbaijan at the level of the Presidents or Foreign Ministers. In any case, according to A. Manasian, it is reassuring that Minsk Group French Co-chair Bernard Fassier said lately that every time he and his colleagues visit Karabakh not only to drink mulberry vodka, but also to inform NKR representatives of the negotiations process.

According to the political scientist, the Moscow declaration would not be signed but for the latest developments over South Ossetia, in particular, the Russian-Georgian armed conflict. "All tripartite documents have been signed on Russia's initiative so far. It means that this country has an exact role in the Caucasus," A. Manasian said. And the positive peculiarity of the proper Declaration, according to him, is that according to the Declaration, the conflict settlement should be done on the basis of documents adopted in the sphere of the international law so far.

As A. Manasian classed it, today the essence of the Nagorno Karabakh problem is misrepresented, and the international community has no idea about its real content. Under the conditions Azerbaijan wants to take advantage and to achieve a quick settlement, but Armenia should exert efforts in the direction of restoring problem's real picture, which will require much time.

7. MATTHEW BRYZA REFUTES INFORMATION ABOUT PREPARATION OF A "SECRET PROTOCOL" [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/17/08]

OSCE Minsk Group U.S. Co-chair, Ambassador Matthew Bryza considers the current visit of OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs to the region constructive and successful. He stated this at the November 17 press conference.

Matthew Bryza refuted information about preparation of a "secret protocol binding the Armenian side" spread by some sources. In his words, such rumors do not correspond to reality.

He specially mentioned that the mood of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan has considerably changed for the better after the November 2 meeting in Moscow. "Mutual respect by both Presidents constantly grows. In order to outline the further settlement ways they start looking at the process with each other's eyes," the American Co-chair stated.

Matthew Bryza assured that the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs have much work to do. In particular, the work with the Presidents and Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan will be continued. "We are content with the fact that both Presidents instructed their Foreign Ministers to start working in the spirit of pragmatism," Matthew Bryza stated.

In his words, the most important is that none of the sides undertake measures that can endanger the settlement process. The American diplomat expressed deep concern with the information about the military incident not far from Fizuli, about which he learnt the day before. That incident once more shows the necessity to deepen the confidence measures, as it is confidence that should help to prevent such incidents. A. Bryza reminded that according to one of the points of the Declaration signed in Moscow, the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict should be peaceful and political.

As regards the statements he made in Baku about the necessity to withdraw the Armenian armed formations from the territories adjoining Nagorno Karabakh, the American diplomat mentioned that there is a tendency in Baku to cover any issue one-sidedly, be it the Nagorno Karabakh problem, agricultural or some other issues. "I said in my interview to Azeri journalists that a balanced solution is needed, but the journalists wanted to provide information in favor of them," M. Bryza stated.



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8. AZERBAIJANI SUB-UNITS ATTACK KARABAKH POSITIONS EARLY IN MORNING OF NOVEMBER 16 [Aravot, 11/17/08]

At about 4 am on November 16, the special purpose detachment of the Azerbaijani army crossed the south-eastern section of the conflict zone and made an attempt to penetrate into the rear of the Karabakh positions in the direction of the Ashaga Seid Ahmedlu settlement. This was the first serious border incident since the diversionary operation at the village of Leonarkh in Martakert region of the NKR.

The Armenian soldiers on duty noticed on time the actions of the Azerbaijani detachment and, not being taken unawares, passed to the offensive. After a 30-minute intensive fight, the adversary retreated, leaving behind one person killed on the battlefield, the Public Television Company of Armenia reported, citing the NKR defence ministry. According to the same source, the Karabakh side suffered no losses. "Haylur" program also showed the body of the Azerbaijani soldier killed in the Karabakh position. The report underlined the fact that the attack of the Azerbaijani detachment took place at the time when the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs were in Stepanakert.

9. YURI MERZLIAKOV: CO-CHAIRS STRIVE FOR NAGORNO KARABAKH CONFLICT'S BEING PERFECT IN LEGAL ASPECT [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/17/08]

"We all strive for even if one conflict's being completely perfect in the legal aspect, it is our goal," Ambassador Yuri Merzliakov, the OSCE Minsk Group Russian Co-chair, stated at the November 17 press conference commenting upon the Declaration on Nagorno Karabakh settlement signed on November 2 in Moscow. He reminded that the Declaration stipulates that the negotiations will be continued on the basis of the principles of international law. The Russian diplomat also reminded that the Moscow declaration says nothing about a concrete solution, but only emphasizes that the solution should be political, which is already very important.

As to different commentaries upon the Declaration, Y. Merzliakov said that the Co-chairs proceed from what they heard from I. Aliyev three days ago. In particular, according to him, President I. Aliyev stated that the signing of the declaration is evidence that each side sees its positive in that document. "It is difficult to expect Azerbaijan's interpretation completely coinciding with the vision of it in Armenia and Karabakh. It is difficult to suppose that there will be unanimity in the two countries and in Karabakh. And perhaps it is good, as how do you imagine signing of the first joint document after 1994, when the ceasefire document was signed."

10. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES DELEGATION FROM FRENCH VANDEA PROVINCE [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today the delegation headed by the president of the General Assembly of the French province of Vandea Phillip de Villien. The delegation consists of French members of parliament, deputy heads of Vandea province's General Assembly.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that expressing gratitude to the members of parliament for supporting Armenia, deepening Armenian-French friendship, efforts directed towards international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian genocide, the president of Armenia said that friendship between Armenia and France, mutual warmth of the two peoples comes deep from centuries.

"Armenian people accept France as very close, friendly country which deeply views Armenia's issues and provides practical support for their solution," Serzh Sargsyan pointed out.

Phillip de Villien said that Vandea is a number one province of France, where the most of the enterprises and main labor force is centralized and in that respect their experience may be useful for Armenia.

Noting that 120 enterprises with French capital are functioning in Armenia, the president expressed hope that Vandea's enterprises will also enter our country.

The president of the country also said he is pleased with cooperation in teachers' training sphere, especially taking into consideration that Armenia has recently become an associative member of Francophone International Organization.

The president of the General Assembly of the French province of Vandea said that as a result of discussions in Yerevan general directions of cooperation have been outlined and quite ambitious programs are expected to be carried out.



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11. SEYRAN OHANIAN RECEIVES MATTHEW BRYZA [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian received today US Assistant State Secretary, OSCE Minsk Group co-chairman Matthew Bryza and the delegation headed by him, which consisted of US ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch and US military attaché and others.

Spokesman for the Armenian Defense Ministry told Armenpress that at the beginning of the meeting the minister expressed gratitude to Bryza for his and the efforts of Russian and French co-chairs directed towards finding mutually acceptable way of Karabakh conflict regulation.

Afterwards, S. Ohanian informed about the reforms in the Armenian Armed Forces, the priorities of which are the maintenance of military abilities and their modernization, review of defense strategy, military education, etc.

12. NEWLY APPOINTED AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HANDS OVER HER CREDENTIALS [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

The newly appointed Ambassador of Australia to Armenia, Mrs. Margaret Tumi (seat in Moscow) presented her credentials to the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the president congratulated the diplomat on assuming office and expressed hope that new steps will be taken with her immediate participation to make the bilateral ties more practical.

During the meeting the sides discussed the perspectives of Armenian-Australian cooperation, prioritized the familiarization with each other's capabilities, reciprocal contacts and exchange of information, which will allow shaping the attractive spheres of cooperation. They attached importance to the formation of a contractual-legal field.

Serzh Sargsyan said the Australian Armenian community is a strong link between the two countries. According to the ambassador, having preserved their national identity, they carry the rich cultural and historical legacy of the Armenian people, simultaneously being fully involved in the life of the country and bringing their contribution to the development of the society.

The parties dwelt on the cooperation in a multilateral format and appreciated the effective cooperation between the two countries within international structures. The president highly assessed Australia's balanced approaches on regional issues.

13. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERIOUSLY ASSIGNS LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES TO FIND AND PUNISH THE GUILTY OF THE ATTACK AGAINST JOURNALIST E. BAGHDASARIAN [Hayastani Hanrapetutium, 11/18/08]

Each use of force against a journalist is inadmissible and condemnable, press secretary of Armenian president Samvel Farmanian told Armenpress, referring to the November 17 attack against the head of "Investigating Journalists" NGO, journalist Edik Baghdasarian.

A criminal case has been opened and the Armenian president gave a strict assignment to the law enforcement bodies – to find all the guilty as soon as possible and punish them.

14. RA PRESIDENT RECEIVES HUNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WHO ARRIVES IN ARMENIA FOR OFFICIAL VISIT [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

During the November 17 meeting of the Hungarian Foreign Minister Ms. Kinga Goncez who arrived in Armenia for an official visit and the delegation headed by her, the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan attached importance to the expansion of bilateral relations with Hungary as well as cooperation with it in international organizations. Noting that the political dialog between two countries is becoming more active, he stated that at least three major circumstances exist for moving forward more rapidly: mutual respect, the Armenian Hungarian community, and Armenia's determination to establish closer relations with Europe.

Ms. Kinga Goncez expressed confidence that the agreement signed with her Armenian counterpart on the same day will form a good basis for an exchange of experience between the two countries. Considering Armenia's economic growth as impressive, she underlined the importance of promoting the bilateral cooperation in the spheres of economy and education and implementing programs on exchange of students.

In the words of S. Sargsyan, the creation of the necessary legal and contractual field and the exchange of more information about each other's opportunities are important preconditions for efficient



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cooperation. He also considered it useful to encourage the cooperation of the chambers of commerce and industry of Armenia and Hungary.

According to the RA presidential press service, during the meeting the sides also spoke about the opportunities of cooperation within the framework of the EU's "Eastern Partnership". K. Goncz said that the European Union is becoming more and more aware of the increasing role of this region in Europe's energy and economic security and stability.

S. Sargsyan expressed a high opinion about the Hungarian side's balanced attitude to the solution of the Karabakh problem in international organizations, as well as to the Hungarian judicial system's position of principle with respect to the Azerbaijani serviceman who killed an Armenian officer cruelly in Budapest.

15. NKR AUTHORITIES SEND NOTE TO OSCE CHAIRMAN-IN-OFFICE [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The NKR Foreign Ministry on November 17 issued a statement, the full text of which is presented below.

"Early in the morning of November 16, the special purpose detachment of the Azerbaijani armed forces made an attempt to penetrate into the rear of the NKR defence army in the south-eastern direction of the NKR armed forces, thus violating the requirements of the ceasefire regime. As a result of the measures taken by the NKR defence army's servicemen on duty, the group was thrown back to its previous positions, suffering losses (the body of a killed person was left behind near the front position of the NKR defence army).

On the morning of November 16, the NKR Foreign Ministry immediately informed the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office about this incident, at the same time proposing to conduct an immediate crisis-monitoring in the given section of the contact line of the armed forces of the NKR and Azerbaijan.

The Foreign Ministry underlines the fact that the Azerbaijani side made this attempt of penetration during a visit of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Personal Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office to the NKR, and immediately after the Moscow Declaration signed recently by the presidents of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which in particular states that the sides are ready to contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere of stability and security in the region - through settlement of the Karabakh conflict in a political way.

Noting that this is not the first attack made this year by subversive groups of Azerbaijani armed forces on the front positions of the NKR armed forces, the Foreign Ministry reminds that the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has repeatedly called the attention of mediators to the necessity of urgent measures that the international community should take for establishing a ceasefire regime in the Karabakh conflict zone and ensuring the irreversibility of peace.

Taking into account official Baku's deconstructive steps which, unfortunately, did not receive a proper political assessment of international mediators, the Ministry puts all responsibility for the possible increase of the tension at the contact line on the leadership of Azerbaijan.

A note expressing the official view of the NKR authorities on this issue has been sent to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office".

16. NKR PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR U.S. [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakian on November 17 left for the U.S. for a working visit in order to take part in the organization work of an annual television marathon of "Hayasatan" All-Armenian Fund, Noyan Tapan was informed by the Central Information Department of the Office of the NKR President.

17. MEMORANDUM SIGNED ON COOPERATION OF FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF ARMENIA AND HUNGARY IN EUROINTEGRATION SPHERE [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

During the November 17 meeting with the Hungarian Foreign Minister Ms. Kinga Goncz who arrived in Yerevan for an official visit, the Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian stated that the Armenian-Hungarian relations have always been noted for their friendly nature, and their development in recent years has created new prerequisites for deepening the cooperation in a number of spheres.

In the words of Kinga Goncz, the people of Hungary has always felt special sympathy for Armenia and the Armenians, and the Hungarian authorities are set to establish closer relations with Armenia in the bilateral and multilateral formats.



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Both sides indicated that there is serious potential for developing the trade and economic links, and an agreement has been reached to take effective steps in this direction. The foreign ministers pointed out the significance of expanding the legal and contractual field and promoting cooperation in culture. They also addressed the opportunities of encouraging cooperation of Armenia and Hungary in international organizations. The sides exchanged ideas about the negotiation process on peaceful settlement of the Artsakh problem, as well as about the recent developments in the region.

E. Nalbandian pointed out the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy, later - also "The Eastern Partnership" as important directions of cooperation between the two countries.

According to a press release of the RA MFA Press and Information Department, following the meeting, the foreign ministers of Armenia and Hungary signed the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Sphere of Eurointegration between the Foreign Ministry of Armenia and the Foreign Ministry of Hungary.

Then the two foreign ministers gave a joint press conference.

18. ACCORDING TO MATTHEW BRYZA, RESOLUTION OF KARABAKH CONFLICT SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BOTH PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THAT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF NATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

A wide range of issues related to Armenian-U.S. economic cooperation, joint efforts to deal with the current financial and economic challenges, the necessity of ensuring continuity of the work done in Armenia under the Millennium Challenge Program and with this aim the further cooperation with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, as well as the latest developments in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation process were discussed at the November 17 meeting of the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan and the U.S. Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Matthew Bryza.

The prime minister presented the reforms in tax and customs sectors, spoke about the Millennium Challenge Corporation's concerns regarding some indices, and about the Armenian government's program of anticrisis measures on reducing the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on Armenia.

M. Bryza underlined that the implementation of the Millennium Challenge Program in Armenia is not only a serious and positive signal by the U.S. about the friendship and partnership of the two countries but also shows that the country is proceeding along the correct path. According to him, the American side is interested in continuing the program, but one should not forget that ensuring the appropriate indices forms the basis of that decision.

As regards the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, M. Bryza pointed out that any resolution of the conflict should take into account both the principle of territorial integrity and the principle of self-determination of nations. In his words, the latest regional developments proved once again the inadmissibility of using force.

According to the press service of the RA government, at the end of the meeting both sides underlined the importance of expanding and constantly developing Armenian-U.S. cooperation and partnership in various spheres.

19. SERZH SARGSYAN: FRIENDSHIP OF ARMENIA AND FRANCE COMES FROM ANCIENT TIMES [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan on November 17 received the delegation headed by the President of the General Council of the French department of Vendee, Member of the European Parliament Philippe de Villiers. The delegation is composed of deputies of the National Assembly of France and the deputy presidents of the General Council of Vendee, NT was informed by the RA presidential press service.

Expressing his gratitude to the deputies for supporting Armenia, deepening the Armenian-French friendship, making efforts for the international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, Serzh Sargsyan said that the friendship of Armenia and France and the mutual cordiality of two peoples come from ancient times.

Philippe de Villiers stated that they are sincere friends of Armenia. According to him, Vendee is number one department of France where the greatest number of enterprises and the major labor force are concentrated, and in this sense their experience may be useful for Armenia.

Noting that 120 enterprises with French capital operate in Armenia, S. Sargsyan expressed a hope that Vendee enterprises will also enter our country. He pointed out with satisfaction cooperation in training of teachers, especially taking into account the fact that Armenia has recently become a member of La Francophonie international organization.



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According to Philippe de Villiers, as a result of discussions held in Yerevan, the general directions of cooperation have already been outlined, and they intend to implement quite ambitious programs.

20. KARABAKH PEOPLE SHOULD FEEL SAFE, OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS CONSIDER [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs consider ensuring Nagorno Karabakh people's security one of the most important issues in the process of settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. As French Co-chair, Ambassador Bernard Fassier stated at the November 17 press conference, the necessity of creating conditions for secure life of Nagorno Karabakh people is taken into consideration without fail in the process of peaceful settlement. At the moment the problem of Nagorno Karabakh security only depends on Nagorno Karabakh itself and on Armenia. Nagorno Karabakh population's security should be ensured by carrying out many-sided measures supported by international guarantees. Azerbaijan's consent need to be received to realize these measures," the French diplomat stated.

His Russian and American colleagues, Ambassadors Yuri Merzliakov and Matthew Bryza, expressed an analogous point of view. According to Bryza, the people of Karabakh should feel safe of physical attacks and economic pressure.

In response to the question that return of territories adjoining Nagorno Karabakh controlled by Armenian armed formations is impossible without Nagorno Karabakh people's consent, Yuri Merzliakov said: "No one asked Nagorno Karabakh people about its opinion of these lands. I cannot agree that 100 percent Nagorno Karabakh residents are against returning the territories with keeping the security conditions."

According to him, the Co-chairs strive for finding a solution convenient to all conflict sides. As to recognition of Nagorno Karabakh independence, the Russian diplomat noted that it should be rendered more clear what frameworks exactly are spoken about. "Karabakh's independence within the framework of Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region of Azeri SSR, independence within the borders of 1991, or the current situation with the territories bordering upon Nagorno Karabakh are meant. I consider that we should proceed from real things and be realists," Ambassador Merzliakov said.

French Co-chair Fassier said that at present the process is at the preliminary stage of formation of an agreement on peace. "We would like an agreement on the basic issues to be reached, but unfortunately, it is not so. All these details will be discussed one day, but we have not reached it yet."

21. IT IS STILL EARLY TO RESUME OPPOSITION RALLIES, LEVON ZURABIAN SAYS [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The atmosphere formed in the country in consequence of the March 1 events is a serious obstacle for settling the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in favor of Armenia. Levon Zurabian, the Coordinator of the Armenian National Congress (ANC), stated at the November 18 press conference mentioning that "the forces seizing the power" do nothing to remove the barrier separating them from society. Therefore, as he emphasized, ANC demands that the authorities immediately acquit and release the 75 political prisoners, stop economic and administrative persecutions towards opposition supporters, undertake steps to keep the Armenian people away from the consequences of the world economic crisis.

L. Zurabian said that the decision to stop the rallies for two months not to hinder the authorities has justified itself. According to him, the Nagorno Karabakh settlement negotiations process has indeed entered an active stage and the problem is likely to be solved in December. According to L. Zurabian, in that context it is still early to make a decision on resuming the rallies: they should wait for the further development of the events.

22. RPA IS GREATEST APOLOGIST OF SOLVING NAGORNO KARABAKH PROBLEM IN FAVOR OF ARMENIA, PARTY'S SPOKESPERSON STATES [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The Armenian authorities will never make one-sided concessions in the Nagorno Karabakh issue. RA NA deputy Eduard Sharmazanov, the Spokesperson of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), stated at the November 18 press conference. In his words, RPA is the political force, which is most of all interested in the solution to the Nagorno Karabakh problem in favor of Armenia.

Attaching importance to the Maiendorf Declaration signed by the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia lately, E. Sharmazanov mentioned the three principles to be laid in the basis of the Nagorno Karabakh settlement, which were included in the declaration and about which the RA President has spoken for many times. They are problem's peaceful, political settlement, existence of a



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land border between Armenia and NKR, security guarantees of the Nagorno Karabakh population. E. Sharmazanov named the stipulation of the above mentioned principles by the declaration the most important achievement of the Armenian authorities. In response to the question of why the issue of Nagorno Karabakh status is not mentioned in the document, the deputy said that the Armenian side considers inadmissible the possibility of NKR's making part of Azerbaijan. According to him, the Armenian side considers primary the issue of Nagorno Karabakh independence, and the concession expected from Azerbaijan should be the very recognition of that independence.

According to E. Sharmazanov, the Madrid principles cannot be publicized until the negotiations process finishes. As to Karabakh side's participation in the negotiations, according to him, the circumstance that the Minsk Group Co-chairs visiting the region also visit NKR is the evidence of Karabakh's indirect participation in the negotiations. E. Sharmazanov gave assurance that no document on settlement can be signed without the Karabakh side and assured that the positions of NKR and RA authorities in that issue mainly coincide.

23. COUNCIL OF EUROPE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER TO VISIT ARMENIA NOVEMBER 20 [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg, will pay a visit to Armenia from 20 to 22 November.

Council of Europe Yerevan office told Armenpress that during the visit the Commissioner will meet with the President of the Republic, Serge Sargsyan, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Head of the National Police and the Prosecutor General. He will also hold meetings with the Chairman of the ad hoc inquiry committee of the National Assembly and the members of the newly-established fact-finding group tasked with the inquiry into the March events, the Human Rights Defender, as well as representatives of international organizations and civil society. Commissioner Hammarberg will also visit places of deprivation of liberty.

"I intend to assess the situation of persons deprived of their liberty and the progress made in discovering the responsibilities of the March events" he said. "It is essential that a true and factual description of what actually happened is established. If this can be done it will also benefit future work to protect human rights in Armenia," he said.

BUSINESS

24. ISSUES ON OVERCOMING FINANCIAL CRISES AND INVOLVING MEANS FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian received today the representatives of World Bank Yerevan office headed by the head of the office Aristomene Varudakis.

Public relations department of Armenian government told Armenpress that the Armenian prime minister noted that the Armenian 2009 budget draft has already been published, the program of events of Armenian government for confronting the world financial crises has also been presented to the Armenian parliament, where the necessity of conduction of quick and combined actions is stressed.

The prime minister assured that the specialists of the World Bank also stressed the importance of this approach in Washington.

According to Tigran Sargsian, Armenia could confront the first wave of the world crises, but now the countries of the world are concerned with the second wave of the economic crises and Armenia must also prepare steps to smoothen its effect.

Tigran Sargsian offered the representatives of the World Bank to discuss the implementation of the agreement reached during his visit to Washington as soon as possible, which was connected with providing an additional 250 million drams of credit to the sphere of small and medium-sized business in Armenia.

The suggestion has been made taking into consideration the fact that according to the World Bank procedures, the provision will finish only in spring, 2009.

The prime minister pointed out that the Armenian program of crediting of small and medium-sized business was considered the best in the world by German KFW bank, and now there is an intention to implement the succeeded experience by sharply increasing the sizes of crediting, also taking into account the quite big demand.

Tigran Sargsian assured that the Armenian banks can and are ready to distribute sums of great sizes. The Armenian prime minister informed that based on Washington agreements he sent today a



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letter to the vice director and the regional director of the World Bank looking forward to the crediting of small and medium-sized business as soon as possible.

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian noted that negotiations are held with other financial institutions as well to involve the necessary financial means.

25. J. PENNINGTON: "THE USA IS INTERESTED IN ARMENIAN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND GROWTH" [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

The USA is interested in Armenia's economic opportunities and growth.

During today's press conference on "Franchising in Armenia" the deputy US ambassador Josef Pennington noted that Armenian economic success brings to economic growth. This is the sphere where the greater part of American assistance is directed.

According to him, the spread of franchising can become one of the important constituents of the development of Armenian private sector. As the sphere of franchising is not developed in the republic, the American business has limited presence here.

J. Pennington said the franchising justified itself in the regional countries: it will show the same result in Armenia.

Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsian said that the conduction of licensed sell will contribute to the creation of new job places.

The franchising, which is a way of launching a business, will expand the opportunities of involvement of small-sized business in the economy. It is one of the best ways of dialogue between different states, which supports the development of the business. And the state, according to him, is the best partner for launching the franchising in Armenia.

According to the representative "Ameria" company Gagik Sahakian, franchising is a business relation within the frameworks of which the franchise provider – the owner of the business which ensures goods or service, gives right to people who are not connected with him, to realize his product in the market as well as to use his business-trade brand for a certain established period of time (5-20 years) with an opportunity to suspend earlier.

The economic growth of Armenia is more than 10% during the last six years. The deputy American ambassador expressed hope that such an indicator will be registered this year and together with the growth the consuming society will become lively, the general incomes will increase and opportunities will be created for new business.

According to him, the initiatives of Armenian businessmen are very important, which will give an opportunity to the American businessmen to get acquainted with opportunities existing in Armenia.

26. ARMENIAN ATOMIC POWER STATION JOINS THE NETWORK OF ARMENIAN ENERGY PRODUCTION RESTARTING THE PRODUCTION OF ENERGY [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

At 20:15 o'clock November 17 the Armenian Atomic Power Station joined the energy production network of the republic and restarted the production of energy.

The works of Armenian Atomic Power Station were stopped September 5 for planned renovation, recharging and for the implementation of security events.

An official from Armenian Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources told Armenpress that the works were planned to be finished in 85 days but were finished 11 days earlier.

27. HEAD OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PRAISES THE PRESENT CONDITION OF ARMENIAN ECONOMY [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian received today the delegation headed by the head of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Haruhiko Kuroda.

The head of ADB noted that this is his first visit to Armenia which has two main aims – to discuss the directions of further cooperation and to take part in the official opening ceremony of the Yerevan office of the Bank.

The public relations department of Armenian government told Armenpress that Haruhiko Kuroda praised the present condition of Armenian economy taking into consideration the high economic growth, limited increase of prices and the carried out smart macro-economic policy.

According to the head of ADB, today quality infrastructures are necessary for Armenian economy and the ADB and Armenian government already cooperate in this direction.



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In connection with this Armenian prime minister Tigran Sargsian thanked for the Bank's support in the reconstruction of rural roads, the programs of water supply and sewage and in working out of strategy of development of transportation sphere and considered the above mentioned programs extremely important from the viewpoint of proportionate development of Armenian territories which is considered a priority for the Armenian government.

Tigran Sargsian presented to the guest the possible directions of further cooperation and the existing potential. He particularly underscored the importance of technical and financial support to the pension reforms, support directed to the smoothening of the results of global financial crises especially for the development of infrastructures as well as the support to the implementation of electronic management with the usage of rich experience of ADB and the crediting of small and medium-sized enterprises through providing loan recourses to Armenian banks.

The prime minister also expected the participation of ADB in the works of establishment of techno parks and free economic zones and development of transit transportation infrastructures.

The Armenian prime minister also asked Haruhiko Kuroda to support the representation of our country in the ADB council for presenting Armenian interests in the council.

The head of ADB considered all the suggestions of Armenian prime minister important and noted that the bank has a great experience in a number of spheres and is ready to support Armenia. To all the spheres mentioned by Tigran Sargsian Haruhiko Kuroda also added the information technology sphere where, according to him, Armenia has a serious potential.

The head of the Bank promised to discuss the presented suggestions circumstantially and to respond to them.

28. IMF EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVES \$13.6 MILLION POVERTY REDUCTION AND GROWTH FACILITY ARRANGEMENT FOR ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a three year, 13.6 million USD arrangement under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) for the Republic of Armenia to support the government's economic program through 2011. The decision will enable the Republic of Armenia to draw an amount equivalent to \$1.9 million from the IMF immediately.

Following the Executive Board's discussion, Mr. Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, stated that after the successful conclusion of its third PRGF-supported program in May 2008, Armenia's economic performance has remained very strong. High growth has been maintained and has contributed significantly to the marked reduction in poverty. Inflation has increased in the wake of rising international food and fuel prices and growing domestic demand pressures, although it remains lower than in other CIS countries.

"The worsened global macroeconomic outlook has increased uncertainty, but Armenia is in a strong position to withstand the impact of the global economic downturn. A gradual deceleration of growth in Armenia may help dampen inflationary pressures. It may also contribute to reducing the external current account deficit, which has increased on the back of rising imports and sluggish exports, despite strong remittance inflows. Medium-term prospects, although highly uncertain, remain benign in view of favorable investment opportunities," he said.

According to him, the floating exchange rate regime continues to be the best option for Armenia, and the authorities are encouraged to complete the transition to full-fledged inflation targeting. At the same time, building capacity for fiscal policy analysis will help strengthen the budgetary process and enhance fiscal policy credibility, increasing its effectiveness as a demand management tool. In addition, the authorities must be prepared to adjust swiftly to a rapidly changing economic environment. A weakening external environment might also increase Armenia's financing needs and possibly call for an early review of the situation.

"Improving external competitiveness requires a renewed push for structural reforms. Focus should be on enhancing productivity, improving the business environment, and boosting domestic competition. In this regard, the completion of the unfinished tax policy and administration reform agenda is particularly important. These reforms would significantly reduce the cost of doing business, particularly in the export sector, and contribute to leveling the playing field, ultimately promoting private sector development," Mr. Portugal said.



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29. FINAL LICENSE PROVIDED TO “FRANCE TELECOM ARMENIA” COMPANY [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

During today’s session of the Armenian Public Services Regulatory Commission a decision has been made to provide license to “France Telecom Armenia” company for providing mobile communication service and usage of radio frequencies.

According to the rules of tender announced for the third mobile communication operator the commission provided initial license to the company October 17 of this year.

According to the order of the tender of the third operator, other applicants were given an opportunity to present complaints within four-week period. No complain has been registered during the mentioned period and the commission is liable to provide a final license of activity and relevant permissions to the company.

Head of the commission Robert Nazarian noted that the company will have all the necessary tools for starting its activity in Armenia.

“We are all glad because with the entrance of the third mobile operator the competition in the sphere will be stronger and only the subscriber will benefit getting more qualitative service with available, low prices”, R. Nazarian said.

The license of public electronic communication network as well as the 55 and 95 regional codes of public mobile communication is provided to the company for 15 years.

According to the chief director of “France Telecom Armenia” company Kristian Buano notable work has already been carried out connected with technical part.

He said the world crises did not have an impact on the activity of the company conditioned by the circumstance that people continue using phone and internet communication.

DIASPORA

30. ARA VARDANIAN TO LEAVE FOR LA TO PARTICIPATE IN “TELETHON 2008” [Azg, 11/19/08]

Executive director of “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund Ara Vardanian will leave for Los Angeles November 20 to participate in annual money-gathering telethon scheduled for November 27.

An official from the Fund told Armenpress that in LA Ara Vardanian will meet with the local body of the Fund, representatives of Armenian community, will discuss a wide-range of issues on activating the activity directed towards the coming programs of the Fund.

31. ARMENIAN-ARGENTINEAN JOINT STAMPS PUT INTO CIRCULATION IN BUENOS AYRES [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

On November 17 two jointly issued post stamps by Argentinean National Post and “Haypost” have been put into circulation in Buenos Ayres November 17.

Armenian Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that the official ceremony was organized by the Argentinean National Post and Armenian embassy.

High-ranked officials, Argentinean diplomats, foreign ambassadors accredited in Buenos Ayres, journalists and many Argentinean Armenians were present at the event.

President of Argentinean National Post Eduardo Di Kola and Armenian ambassador to Argentine Vladimir Karmirshalian delivered congratulatory speeches.

ARTS

32. NIGHTINGALE OF ARMENIA FIRST REPUBLICAN CONTEST OF VOCALISTS TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The first Republican Contest of Vocalists under the title Nightingale of Armenia named after famous opera singer Gohar Gasparian will be held between November 17 to December 14 in Armenia. As Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed by RA Ministry of Culture, students of musical colleges, students and post-graduate students of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, as well as 18-32-year-old professional performers will take part in the contest.

Contest’s compulsory program includes arias from pieces by composers of the 17-18th centuries, pieces by Komitas, Armenian composers’ opera arias and romances. Contest’s gala concert and winners’ awarding ceremony will take place on December 14, on singer’s birthday, at A. Spendiarian National



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Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet. Contest's steering committee has set monetary prizes for winners, 300 thousand drams for the first place, 250 thousand for the second place, 200 thousand drams for the third place. Besides, comforting prizes are also intended for the youngest participant, for the best performance of Gasparian's repertoire, as well as for the best concert master.

Great opera singer Gohar Gasparian died in 2007 May, at the age of 83. From 1949 she sang the chief arias of 23 operas. Nearly 500 works by Russian, German, French, and Italian composers were in the singer's repertoire.

33. PARTICIPANTS OF "CHILDREN'S EUROVISION 2008" GET READY FOR THE CONCERT [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

The participants of "Children's Eurovision 2008" sixth international song contest started the preparation works for the concert on November 18. The contest will take place in the town of Lemesos, Cyprus, on November 22.

Leading specialist of foreign relations of Public TV Narek Adonts told Armenpress that Monika Manucharova, who represents Armenia, and the task group work in a very tough schedule.

Besides the repetitions the representatives of Armenia take part in numerous interviews. Yesterday the task group met with the representatives of Armenian community in Cyprus.

"Monika is in a good mood and we look forward to the contest day", N. Adonts said.

The repetitions will continue by November 22. M. Manucharian will sing under the second number with "The sound of my song" song.

Representatives of 15 countries of the world – Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Macedonia, Georgia, Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine take part in the "Children's Eurovision 2008" international song contest.

The "Children's Eurovision" contest for the first time took place in Copenhagen in 2003.

34. PHOTO EXHIBITION ON "PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN" OPENS IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

Photo exhibition on "Prevention of Violence against Children" opened today in Yerevan Tumanyan Str. 28 and will last for 10 days.

The exhibition is organized on the occasion of International Day on Prevention of Violence against Children on the initiative of "World Vision" international charity organization and "Children of Armenia Fund".

Around 60 works are displayed at the exhibition the authors of which are pupils of schools of 4 Armenian provinces and photo-clubs. The photos show images of usage of force against children.

Executive director of Children of Armenia Fund Ani Alexanian said that the goal of the exhibition is to draw the attention of relevant Armenian bodies and public to the issues of children subjected to force and vulnerable children.

Head of the police department dealing with the issues of teenagers Nelly Durian said that only during the past year 110 cases of violence against children were registered and this number has not changed.

N. Durian assured that the police are undertaking operative measures to prevent violence against children in Armenia.

SOCIAL

35. INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST ATTACKED IN YEREVAN [Azg, 11/19/08]

A prominent Armenian investigative journalist known for his stories exposing government corruption became the target of a violent attack, which he believes is connected with his reporting, "Azatutyun" reported.

Edik Baghdasarian, who heads the Armenian Association of Investigative Journalists and runs a Yerevan-based online magazine, Hetq, left his office in downtown Yerevan at about 8 p.m. Monday and shortly was ambushed and beaten by three unknown assailants as he was going to get into his car parked in the street, according to his own account.

An ambulance service then administered first aid to Baghdasarian on the spot and the journalist was hospitalized with a head injury. Doctors later said the injuries were not life threatening.



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Baghdasarian also says he lost a computer disc with several investigative stories that he planned for publication online. The journalist says he saw the face of at least one assailant and could recognize that person if he saw him again.

A criminal case has been initiated in connection with the incident under article 113 of the Criminal Code (inflicting bodily harm of medium gravity by a group of persons). An inquiry was ongoing, police officials said.

36. YEREVAN SCHOOLS BEING HEATED FROM TODAY [Aravot, 11/18/08]

Heads of 202 schools and crafts colleges functioning under the subordination of Yerevan municipality have been tasked to heat their educational establishments started from today.

Assistant to the head of the education department of the municipality Armine Vardanian told Armenpress that only 46 of the mentioned institutions do not have local boiling houses. With the task of the mayor of Yerevan electrical heaters were provided to these schools and additional financing for making the cable net more powerful.

"As the climate conditions are favorable, the schools will be ensured with weak heating yet", A. Vardanian said.

About 71 new boiling houses have been built in Yerevan schools this year.

From 202 educational establishments functioning under the subordination of Yerevan municipality, 156 are now ensured with local heating systems. In the others such work will be conducted during the upcoming two years.

With the assignment of the mayor of Yerevan a "hot line" 51-42-47 has been opened from the last week to prevent cases of illegal money gathering. A. Vardanian assured that no urgent calls on money gathering have been received through the "hot line" during the last days.

The parents were interested in school heating and other issues and received relevant answers.

"All types of money gathering are forbidden in schools", assistant to the head of education department reminded.

"All the directors of schools have gathered signatures from form-masters that they are informed that money gathering is forbidden in schools. Besides informative pages of this content are hanging in all the schools", A. Vardanian said.

37. ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION TO BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ARMENIAN GEGHARKUNIK AND KARABAKH'S MARTUNI REGION [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

An economic and cultural cooperation will be established between Armenian province of Gegharkunik and Nagorno Karabakh's Martuni region.

An official from Gegharkunik governor's office told Armenpress that on November 14-15 Gegharkunik governor Nver Poghosian was in Artsakh on an official visit where he met with authorities of Martuni region and discussed the cooperation issues and the works which will be done. N. Poghosian also visited one of the regiments in Martuni region and met with soldiers.

For the preparation of Gegharkunik-Martuni cooperation agreement the visit of delegation from Gegharkunik to Martuni is planned for late November. The delegation will include the assistant of the governor, heads of agriculture, education and health departments of the governor's office.

38. FOUR STATE HOUSE-HOSTELS GOT LICENSES BY NOW [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

Works of licensing of house-hostels for the old people continue in the republic.

Head of the department of issues of handicapped and old people of Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry Jemma Baghdasarian told Armenpress that already four state house-hostels got license.

The specialists of the Ministry regularly visit all the non-state house-hostels and provide relevant information on the process of licensing. They visited the Vanadzor house-hostel one of these days, got acquainted with the social condition of the residents, the process of their medical service and management of their personal cases, also necessary methodological support has been provided.

The specialists also visited the "Mission Armenia" charity NGO in Gegharkunik province to study the correspondence of minimal standards of care and service of the old and handicapped people, and to provide a methodological support.

J. Baghdasarian noted that there is no a definite deadline for finishing of the license process, but the Ministry does everything to finish it as soon as possible.



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39. "ZVARTNOTS" AIRPORT IMPLEMENTS 7,270 FLIGHTS-LANDINGS DURING THE 10 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

"Zvartnots" airport implemented 7,270 flights-landings during the ten months of this year. Around 584,619 people arrived in the republic through the airport against 551,813 of the same period in 2007. Other 657,026 passengers left the republic against 602,494 in 2007.

Press service of the chief department of civil aviation affiliated to the Armenian government told Armenpress that during the same period 3,593 tons of burden have been transported through the airport and 5,412 tons – imported.

During the ten months of this year "Shirak" airport served 134 flights-landings instead of 136 of the same period in 2007. 8,501 people arrived in Armenia through the airport and 12,240 passengers left.

40. "WINDOWS VISTA" OPERATIONAL SYSTEM TO BE APPLIED IN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

The national center of educational technologies (NCET) announced tender for applying "Windows Vista" operational system in the Armenian educational establishments.

Head of the center Areg Grigorian told Armenpress that 8,000 licensed copies of the operational system will be imported to Armenia by January 30.

The educational establishments which will correspond to the established demands and the presented application will have the lowest price offer will be able to take part in the tender.

The distribution of the system in all the schools of the republic and educational establishments functioning under the subordination of the ministry is planned to be carried out during 2009. The mechanisms of distribution are not yet clarified, but, according to A. Grigorian, all the possible means will be coordinated to finish the works on time.

The results of the tender of implementation of the operational system in legal way will be summed up in December, 2008.

The center has also announced a tender for internet service in Armenian schools from January 1, 2009 up to December 30. At present the network involves nearly 330 schools in Yerevan and provinces.

41. SYUNIK PROVINCIAL LIBRARY GETS 300 PIECES OF BOOKS THIS YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

With the 350,000 drams provided by Armenian Culture Ministry the Syunik provincial library acquired 300 pieces of books.

An additional 50 pieces of books will be acquired by the end of the year.

Head of the provincial library Susanna Minasian told Armenpress that during the purchasing of the books the demand of the reader is taken into account.

The book fund of Syunik provincial library has also been enriched thanks to donations. Armenian national library presented 120 pieces of books. Different NGOs and individuals have also made donations.

According to the head of the library, adult readers are mainly interested with daily newspapers.

The library has subscribed for nine newspapers of the country, and additional 5 newspapers are received as a donation.

42. FIVE ARMENIAN CITIZENS INJURED IN THE BUS ACCIDENT IN TURKEY [ARMENPRESS, 11/19/08]

Five citizens of Armenia were injured as a result of the bus accident in Turkey which took lives of four people, press service of the Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress, adding that there are no citizens of Armenia among the dead.

Earlier Georgian mass media and spokesman for the Georgian Foreign Minister reported that two citizens of Armenia and two citizens of Georgia are among the dead.

The bus from Trabzon to Georgia crashed yesterday in the morning into poles. As a result, four passengers died, 25 received injuries of different degrees. The bus belonged to Turkish "Madmudtour" company.



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SPORTS

43. FOUR ARMENIAN YOUNG JUDOISTS TO TAKE PART IN THE WORLD CUP [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

Four Armenian judoists – Anush Hakobian 52 kg, Gor Mkrtchian 55 kg, Robert Vardanian 68 kg and Arthur Srapian 81 kg will take part November 1-4 in the World Judo Youth Cup, which will take place in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, Armenian Judo Federation told Armenpress.

44. ARMENIAN MEN'S CHESS TEAM – IN THE SECOND PLACE OF THE 38th WORLD OLYMPIAD [ARMENPRESS, 11/18/08]

Armenian men's chess team won 2.5:1.5 the Holland team in the fifth round of the 38th World Olympiad which takes place in the town of Dresden, Germany.

After the fifth round Russian, Armenian, German, Azerbaijani, Ukrainian and English teams gained 9 points. With additional standards Russian team is in the first place, Armenian team – in the second, German first team – in the third place, Azerbaijan's team – in the fourth, Ukrainian – in the fifth and English team is in the sixth place.

Armenian women's chess team won 2.5:1.5 the French team in the fifth round.

After the fifth round the Armenian chess players gained 8 points and with additional standards occupy the seventh place. The leader of women's tournament is the Hungarian team with 9 points.

45. ARMENIAN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAMS WIN 5th TOUR OF WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD [NOYAN TAPAN, 11/18/08]

The 5th tour's games took place on November 17 in the World Chess Olympiad being held in Dresden. The Armenian men's national team beat the national team of Holland with the score of 2.5 to 1.5 and the women's national team the team of France with the same score. The men's national team has gained 9 points and shares the 1-6th places and the women's team 8 points and shares the 2-13th places. The team of China is the leader of women's tournament with 10 points.

November 18 is announced a rest day in the Olympiad. On November 19 the men chess players of Armenia will compete with the delegates of Azerbaijan and the women chess players will the delegates of the Ukraine.

Produced by AGBU Armenian Representation

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