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which is taught as a third foreign language and from February 2009 it will fill the row of second foreign languages.

According to ambassador Lee Kyu Hyon, such a number of Armenian students studying Korean lets seriously think about economic and other cooperation between the two countries.

In 2008 YSLU rector Suren Zolyan was in Korea at the invitation of the Korean side and signed a cooperation agreement with four leading universities of this country.

At present two YSLU students pass master's courses in Korea. Negotiations are held to involve new students in short-term or long-term courses in Korean universities.

During the meeting the ambassador was awarded with YSLU medal.

Kyu Hyon handed a certificate of 100,000 dollars of grant support to the university which was provided through "Korean Foundation" organization.

4. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER TASKS THE MINISTRIES TO PROVIDE A PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF 2009 BUDGET EXPENDITURES [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

During today's session of Armenian government Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian tasked the ministries to undertake corresponding steps to provide a proportional distribution of 2009 state budget expenditures.

"Unfortunately the experience shows that we are having economizing of expenditures at the beginning of the year and overloading – at the end of the year. It is also conditioned by the fact that the ministries are not ready to ensure the proportion at the beginning of the year", - the prime minister noted.

The ministers have been tasked to work actively in December, conduct extended expenditures from January, 2009 so that the implementation of the budget not be incomplete.

5. ARMENIAN AND BULGARIAN PRESIDENTS UNDERSCORE NECESSITY OF PROMOTING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

Within the framework of the official visit to Bulgaria President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan and his Bulgarian counterpart Georgi Purvanov participated December 10 in a concert of Bulgarian and Armenian distinguished art figures in Sofia's "Bulgaria" concert hall.

Late in the evening in the residence of President of Bulgaria an official dinner was served in the honor of the first official visit of Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that today in the morning the two presidents participated in the opening of Armenian-Bulgarian business forum where they expressed satisfaction over the high level of political dialogue between the two states, once again stressed the necessity of promoting business partnership and expressed readiness to support all the initiatives. Within the frameworks of Armenian-Bulgarian business forum a number of bilateral documents have been signed.

The presidents of the two countries also participated in the exhibition of collages of Sergey Parajanov which kicked off in Bulgaria's Foreign Art National Gallery.

President Serzh Sargsyan wrapped up his official visit to Bulgaria with the visit to the Armenian embassy in Sofia and meeting with the diplomatic staff after which he arrived back in Yerevan.

6. ISSUES ON EXPANSION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ARMENIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AND KARABAKH'S SUPREME COURT DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 12/12/08]

On 9 December NKR President Bako Sahakyan received head of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia Gagik Harutyunyan.

Central Information Department of the office of Karabakh President told Armenpress that during the meeting the discussed issues on enlarging cooperation between the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia and the Supreme Court of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, increasing effectiveness of the work of judicial bodies as well as the reforms carried out in the system.

Head of the Office of the NKR President, secretary of the Security Council Marat Mousayelyan and chairman of the NKR Supreme Court Ararat Danielyan were also present at the meeting.



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7. THE ISSUE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION ON KARABAKH CONFLICT CAUSES DISPUTES BETWEEN AZERBAIJANI AUTHORITIES AND OPPOSITION [ARMENPRESS, 12/12/08]

The issue of establishment of a commission on Karabakh conflict in Azerbaijani parliament (Mili Mejlis) caused disputes between Azerbaijani authorities and the opposition.

“From the point of view of legislation it is necessary to set up a parliamentary commission for Karabakh conflict regulation to keep the issue under the permanent limelight”, member of “Musavat” party Panah Husein told Trend News on Thursday.

He noted that “the Karabakh conflict is Azerbaijan’s chief issue, and started from 1995 MPs representing the authorities as well as the opposition are making suggestions for setting up a parliamentary commission which will deal with the issue. But the suggestions were not adopted for different reasons”.

First vice speaker of Azerbaijani Mili Mejlis, head of the parliamentary permanent commission on security and defense issues Ziafet Askerov said that there is no need of establishing such a commission, “as the whole nation deals with the Karabakh conflict”.

“The issue cannot be the problem of a commission, it is the problem of the whole nation. Therefore I’m against the dualism in this issue. President Ilham Aliyev is conducting successful negotiations and when there is a concrete result he will express his attitude on this issue and the people will know about it”, Askerov said.

The first vice speaker said that the negotiations are being held between Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents and foreign ministers and he considers that “discussions may be started in the parliament if there are changes or concrete results in Karabakh conflict regulation process”.

8. BAKO SAHAKYAN SAYS ADOPTION OF NKR CONSTITUTION CONFIRMED AGAIN WILL OF PEOPLE TO REALIZE RIGHT TO LIVE IN FREE AND JUST SOCIETY [ARMENPRESS, 12/12/08]

On 9 December NKR President Bako Sahakyan delivered a welcoming address to participants of the “Human Rights Protection in the Practice of Constitutional Justice” conference, which is held at the sitting hall of the NKR National Assembly. Central Information Department of Nagorno Karabakh President Office told Armenpress that in his speech the President said the following:

“Dear participants of the conference,

I welcome holding in Stepanakert the authoritative conference in connection with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Day of the NKR Constitution. It is very important that the event is organized on a very high representative level and is academic in its nature.

The people of Nagorno Karabakh have been always dedicated to the principles of liberty and democracy as well as to creating such a jural state where the dignity and freedom of the human being and the citizen are of utmost value. The adoption of the NKR Constitution has confirmed once again the irreversibility of this process, the will and aspirations of our people to realize the right to live in free and just society that secures equal development opportunities for everybody.

This conference is a good pretext to value the achievements of the NKR in protecting human and citizen rights and freedoms as well as in forming democratic and civil society. The state as the most important guarantor of human and citizen rights protection will keep being consistent and will further activate its efforts in this sphere.

I wish success and effective work to the participants of the conference.”

BUSINESS

9. WORKS CARRIED OUT TOWARDS EXPANSION OF ARMENIAN-SYRIAN TRADE AND BUSINESS TIES [ARMENPRESS, 12/12/08]

Armenian Trade-Industrial Chamber is carrying out events for the expansion and consolidation of trade and business ties with Syria.

The chairman of the Armenian Trade-Industrial Chamber Martin Sargsyan said today at a press conference presenting the results of December 2-9 Armenian-Syrian business exhibition and business forum that currently the annual trade turnover between the two countries is around 3 million USD of which 2 million 250,000 is import.

He assessed the volume of export as unsatisfactory, noting that it is necessary to activate the representation of Armenian products in Syrian market which is quite important for Armenia.



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He said it suggests quite favorable conditions for Armenian businessmen and the Armenian product is well accepted there.

The products of 35 Armenian companies presented at the exhibition were almost immediately bought, a number of arrangements have been reached and business ties have been established.

M. Sargsyan said that an agreement has been reached with Aleppo Trade-Industrial Chamber to organize exhibition of Syrian products in Armenia in June 2009. It is also expected to open a hall of exhibition-sale of Armenian-Syrian products.

On March 8 of the coming year meetings of the business women of the two countries is expected to take place.

DIASPORA

10. FOR THE HONEST ATTITUDE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE [Azg, 12/11/08]

Without the kind and honest attitude of the Arab people, who openly received and sheltered the Armenian migrants spread all over the Syrian deserts, the number of the Armenian Genocide victims in the beginning of the century would have surely been much more than 1,5 million.

Many Armenians living and creating in different countries of the world reached their current positions mostly thanks to the Arab people.

Acknowledging this fact a group of Armenians (Vasken Yacoubian and others) have initiated the erection of a "Monument of Gratitude" in the capital Yerevan.

After several years of discussion currently this project is finally in the phase of becoming a reality. Corresponding committees have been founded in the Middle East (Damascus, Aleppo, Beirut, Dubai), which are organizing fundraisings for the realization of this project. As we've been informed half of the necessary amount (385,000 USD) has already been raised.

The project has been kindly approved by the government of the Republic of Armenia, which allocated a piece of land on the Isakov Avenue (next to the Yerevan Lake, on the way to Zvartnots airport). The Yerevan Municipality confirmed this allocation and the construction started last July. The construction of the 11 meters high monument on the 400 sq. m. of land will be finished on January 31, 2009.

With the agreement of the All-Armenian Catholicos Karekin II the piece land has been registered on the Holy See of St. Etchmiadzin.

"There are many monuments immortalizing different heroisms that had taken place in Armenia. This one is a unique monument of gratitude towards the Arab people", said Vehapar.

"The monument of gratitude that will be erected in Yerevan is the dream of many Diasporan Armenians. It will symbolize the gratitude of the Armenian people towards the Arab people for their humane and honest standing and care that they disposed during the 1915 genocide, without which the Armenian people could not have survived. We welcome this initiative and offer our full support to this belated but very important project", said professor Vahagn Tatrian.

Vasken Yacoubian's memorandum, which calls on Armenian benefactors of the world to participate in the fundraising, also informs us that many high-ranking officials from the Arab world will be invited to the opening ceremony of the monument.

For more detailed information please visit www.themonument.org, or write to info@themonument.org or fax number +963-11-5421577. Donations can be made to Haynerartbank's (presently AmeriaBank) account #1570001075483101.

ARTS

11. "EXPO BEAUTY-2008" INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIZED FIFTH EXHIBITION OPENS IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

"Expo Beauty- 2008" international specialized fifth exhibition opened in Yerevan organized by "LOGOS EXPO center" company. During the three-day exhibition contests of theatrical exhibition of colored compositions, photo sessions, various designing of pavilions and fashion exhibitions will be held.

According to chief director of "LOGOS EXPO center" Suren Nazinian the exhibition is dedicated to women and is traditionally held on the New Year's eve. The aim of the exhibition is that during three days each woman visitor not only has an opportunity to get acquainted with beauty accessories offered by respectable and qualitative companies but also to choose souvenirs, jewelry, cloths and other goods to their taste.



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The main thematic departments are the medical and decorative cosmetics, products of hair and body care, hygienic accessories, jewelry, wedding cloths, cloths, shoes, children's care accessories, fur and leather goods, thematic journals, etc.

The number of participating companies increases each year: nearly 40 companies are represented, there were cosmetic companies also from Russia and Belarus.

The exhibition will last until December 12.

12. WILLIAM SAROYAN'S STATUE TO OPEN IN YEREVAN [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 12/12/08]

William Saroyan's statue will open in Mashtots av.-Moskopian cross-road December 13.

Head of the public relations department of Armenian Culture Ministry Gayane Durgarian told Armenpress that the donation for the statue was made by All Armenian Geographic Association; author and the sculptor of the statue is Davit Yerevantsi.

With the mediation of Armenian Culture Ministry the place for the statue was provided by Yerevan municipality.

The initiative is carried out within the frameworks of the events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of W. Saroyan's.

SOCIAL

13. MOBILE INTERNET CENTER OPENS IN NATIONAL CENTER OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

Newly created mobile internet center opened today in the National Center of Educational Technology. Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Education and Science Minister Spartak Seyranian, head of the World Bank "Education Quality and Relevance Program" Juan Manuel Moreno were present at the event.

The mobile center has a classroom with computers connected to Internet. It is intended for 6 pupils and one teacher.

Director of National Center of Educational Technology Areg Grigorian said that the mobile center will give an opportunity to organize classes on "Informatics" in Armenia's remote areas which do not have enough computers and are not connected to Internet. Training classes for teachers on computer skills, Internet and electronic post are also expected to be carried out.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan congratulated on the establishment of the center and expressed hope that it will serve for its purpose and pupils and teachers in provinces will get necessary knowledge.

Education and Science Minister S. Seyranian noted that the mobile center will serve to its purpose but the wish is that the day comes when Internet and computer be available in the most remote villages.

The experimental operation of the center will kick off in two days in Anipemza village of Shirak province. Next year the center is expected to visit schools of remote areas.

14. 3012 CHILDREN BORN IN ARARAT PROVINCE DURING THE 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

3012 children were been born in Ararat during 11 months of this year. Governor of Ararat province Vardges Hovakimyan told today journalists that 55 health care institutions function in the province including 4 medical centers, 1 maternity hospital and health center and 49 health ambulatories.

On the credit program of the World Bank 44 of the medical ambulatories have been reconstructed and furnished with relevant devices. The reconstruction of the Ararat medical center is planned for the next year. Within the frameworks of 630 million drams released from the state budget the renovation works of "Ararat Medical Center" company continue.

According to the governor, nearly the 70% of Ararat schools need to be renovated. From 112 functioning schools only 19 are reconstructed and in 14 schools the works will finish in 2009.

V. Hovakimyan assured that the local self governance in Ararat is conducted on a high level, due to which as of December 1 the realization of the community budgets reached 91.6%.



15. NEW BILL "ON HEALTH" DIRECTED TOWARDS REGULATION OF ISSUES OF THE SYSTEM [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

The new bill "On Health" is being discussed in the Armenian Health Ministry, after which it will be sent to other ministries for suggestions and finally – to the Armenian government.

Deputy Armenian Health Minister Tatoul Hakobian told Armenpress that the bill will regulate all the issues existing in the system. At present the sphere is regulated by the law "On Medical Support and Service".

According to T. Hakobian, the bill clearly registers the goals of the sphere's policy, its principles and the human values which are more acceptable and applicable for Armenia.

The authorities of the Armenian government, Health Ministry, local self governmental and territorial governance bodies are also clarified. With the new law the issues of medical education, financing and licensing will be raised on another level.

The deputy minister informed that the new strategy of "Health care of children and teenagers" with which the issues of their health care during the next years will be regulated, is already presented to the approval of Armenian government.

The strategy intends working out of programs and conduction of concrete actions.

16. YSU AND LODZI UNIVERSITY TO COOPERATE [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

Polish ambassador to Armenia Tomacz Knothe, professor of Lodzi University Andrzej Lazari and diplomat Marian Staniczewski met today with the students of the International Relations Department of Yerevan State University. The guests first of all presented current Armenian-Polish relations and then referred to the conflicts in the South Caucasus.

The Polish ambassador noted that the relations between the two countries are on an excellent level and develop more which is mainly promoted by the Armenian community in Poland.

"There is a quite large Armenian community in our country which is in very good relations with the Polish society. The Armenian community plays an essential role in the life of Poland," T. Knothe said.

Diplomat M. Stanishevski said that all the conflicts in the South Caucasus aroused from 1920 when the Soviet Union was created. "During that time the USSR leaders started distribution of territories according to their interests, making Nagorno Karabakh part of Soviet Azerbaijan," the Polish diplomat said. According to him, recent August events showed that this region is of big interest for Europe, Russia and USA. "Each of them and particularly USA and Russia want to increase their role in the region as much as possible which caused Georgian-Ossetian and consequently Georgian-Russian conflicts. Stemming from that recent event the restart of the Karabakh war must not be allowed. I am aware of the negotiations currently taking place between Armenia and Azerbaijan which inspires hope of quick regulation of the conflict," the diplomat said.

A. Lazari said that like between Armenia and Poland, good relations have also been established between YSU and Lodzi University which means that the two universities will have a good cooperation like exchange of students.

17. JANUARY 5 TO BE A NON-WORKING DAY [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

During today's session of the Armenian government the Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian suggested that a decision be made according to which January 5 (Monday) will be considered a non-working day, instead January 10 will be a working day. T. Sargsian noted that it will give our citizens an opportunity to organize their New Year's rest purposeful.

18. 14 PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR IN VANADZOR WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF "PUBLIC WORK FOR PAYMENT" PROGRAM [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

14 programs have been implemented this year in Aragatsotn province within the frameworks of "Public Work for Payment" program.

Twelve communities from all the regions of the province have been involved in the program. The Aragats region was the most extended one where overall 13,98 million drams of investment has been done. Here 7 programs have been implemented simultaneously – in Avshar, Jamshlu, Sipan, Berkarat, Tsakhkavit and Geghadzor.



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Four programs have been implemented in Aparan, 2 – in Talin, 1 – in Ashtarak. The works were mainly directed towards the solution of inter-community issues: the inter-village roads, water and irrigation systems have been renovated.

An official from Health and social security department of the governor's office told Armenpress that no matter how great the importance of the conducted works will be, nevertheless the moral side of the program is primary: it gave, though temporary, an opportunity to employ a part of the local residents.

Overall 266 job seekers which were registered in the unemployment center, took part in the works. Such programs will be continuative.

The unemployment rate was only 1.65% during the nine months of this year.

2442 job seekers are registered in the unemployment center, 1341 of which are unemployed, 291 – allowance needy.

19. COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ARMENIA'S SYUNIK AND BELARUS' MINSK PROVINCES SIGNED [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

The delegation headed by the governor of the Armenian province of Syunik Suren Khachatryan consisting of mayors of Kapan, Goris, Sisian, Meghri, Agarak, Kajaran and other officials of the province paid December 8 a response visit to Minsk province, Belarus.

Armenian Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that on the same day Armenian delegation accompanied with the officials of Minsk provincial center and Armenian embassy in Belarus visit the town of Zhodino of the Minsk province, conducted meetings with the mayor and other officials during which issues on the implementation of agreement signed in October 2006 between Zhodino town of Minsk province and Kajaran, Syunik province, were discussed. Meetings of the delegation in the town's industrial enterprises also took place.

On the next day the mayors included in the delegation visited a number of regions of Minsk province and as a result of meetings with local leadership signed a number of agreements on cooperation between a number of towns of the two provinces.

The visit of the delegation of Syunik governor will end December 11.

20. "INFORMATION WARS" INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF "ARMENPRESS" NEWS AGENCY TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

International Conference "Information Wars" dedicated to the 90th anniversary of "Armenpress" news agency will be conducted in Yerevan December 18-19 organized by the state commission of 90th anniversary of "Armenpress", YSU Department of Journalism and "Armenpress" news agency.

Heads of leading foreign news agencies as well as heads of Armenian mass media will participate and deliver speeches at the conference. Particularly heads of Russian ITAR-TASS, Georgian HGN, Belarus' BELTA, Ukrainian Ukrinform, Moldavian MOLDPRES, Bulgaria's BTA news agencies will refer in their speeches to the contemporary methods of information wars, their peculiarities, goals and their impact on public opinion.

Chairman of the Armenian National Assembly's Science, Education, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs permanent commission Armen Ashotian, deputy foreign minister of Armenia Arman Kirakosian, general director of "Armrusgasard" Karen Karapetian, chairman of the Armenian Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen Arsen Ghazarian, director of "Noravank" scientific-educational foundation Gagik Harutyunian, director of Microsoft RA Grigor Barseghian, head of public relations service of "ArmenTel" company Anush Beghloyan, head of the IREX-Armenian Mass Media Support Program Robert Evans, YSU professors, experts will deliver speeches at the event.

Within the frameworks of the conference "90 Years with Armenia" photo exhibition will kick off.

The foreign participants will have meetings with heads of a number of ministries and business institutions.

As part of celebrations dedicated to the 90th anniversary of "Armenpress" a number of other events are also expected to be held.

21. FROM JANUARY 1, 2009 EACH CHECK OF CASH REGISTERS TO BE EQUAL TO ONE LOTTERY TICKET [ARMENPRESS, 12/11/08]

From January 1, 2009 each check of cash registers will be equal to a lottery ticket in Armenia.

Assistant to the head of the Armenian State Income Committee Armen Alaverdian told Armenpress that the check of each of the trade centers where the cash registers are installed will contain



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an eight-digit figure. During the first week of each month a lottery will be held on the Public TV, during which in case of correspondence of 4 and more digit the owner of the ticket will win from 5000-5 million drams. During each drawing nearly 10,000 people will have an opportunity to win.

Checks which testify of high price shopping or deals will be able to take part in bonus drawing.

A. Alaverdian stated that the order of the drawing and the obligatory conditions for the film of the cash registers have been approved by the Armenian government. The prizes can be got from the financial department of Armenian Finance Ministry presenting the copy of the passport and the original check.

Money which will not be won during a drawing will be transferred to the next drawing. There will be exceptionally money prizes. All the checks independent of the deal and sum of the shopping will take part in the drawing. Results of the drawing will the next day be also presented through some media.

According to A. Alaverdian, thus the citizen will be more interested in demanding the check. As a result, both the installation of the cash registers will win and the tax incomes will increase 4 times.

In response to the question whether the releasing of means for the drawing from the state budget is justified, A. Alaverdian said that according to primary calculations if the citizens demand for more checks, additional 5 billion drams of tax incomes will be got instead of 1.4 billion drams of prize fund of the drawing. According to the assistant to the head of the State Income Committee the experience has been implemented in different countries and justified all the expectations.

There are nearly 45,000 functioning cash registers in the republic, 7200 of which are in the fairs.

A. Alaverdian noted that the process of installation of cash registers is on the whole regulated but yet there are steps to be conducted.

The conduction of a daily oversight of the process of giving cash register checks is very difficult, and by the implementation of such an event the citizens personally will be involved in the process.

22. 250 FAMILY DOCTORS AND 270 NURSES TRAINED THIS YEAR IN THE REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 12/12/08]

Nearly 250 family doctors and 270 nurses have been trained this year in the republic. The training courses have been conducted in the National Health Institute and Yerevan state basic medical college.

Head of the Family medicine chair of the National Health Institute Samvel Hovhannissian told Armenpress that the courses of the two groups intended for this year have already been finished.

During this year 1-3 week courses have also been conducted with participation of large number of specialists.

During the visits to Shirak, Tavush, Syunik, Gegharkunik and Lori provinces themes on prevention of diseases, healthy lifestyle have been presented.

There are already 1250 family doctors with diploma in the republic, but not all of them are prescribed. S. Hovhannissian noted that the issues because of which not all the diploma family doctors are prescribed, are being studied. The program of training of family doctors will continue also in 2009, and will kick off in January.

S. Hovhannissian informed that the family doctors are also involved in the program of fighting against smoking: they conduct explanatory works among the patients and raise the level of their awareness.

Courses about the harmful effect of cigarette on the health are also conducted in a number of schools of Armenian provinces.

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