



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

POLITICS

1. AZERI TERM SERVICEMAN YIELDS HIMSELF PRISONER TO KARABAKH SIDE [Azg, 05/11/09]

In the morning of May 10, at about 9:45, term serviceman of Azeri Armed Forces motor rifle brigade N 702, sergeant Anar Khanbab-oglu Hajiyev leaving his position voluntarily, crossed the south border of Karabakh-Azerbaijan troops contact-line and yielded himself prisoner to the Defence Army patrol.

According to the report of the NKR Defence Ministry Press Service, it was found out that the Azeri soldier took that step forcedly, as there are non-regulations interrelations at their military unit and cases of using violence by commanders to their subordinates often happen. Incident's details are being made clear.

2. EDWARD NALBANDIAN TO TAKE PART IN SESSION OF COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN MADRID [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/11/09]

RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian will visit Madrid on May 12-13 to take part in the 119th session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department.

3. ARFD PROMISES TO BUILD NEW UNDERGROUND ROUTES AND RPA AND BH TO REDUCE NUMBER OF MICROBUSES [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/11/09]

"Today Yerevan's irregular daily life causes discontent among city's residents. Public transport's non-regulated operation, accumulation of cars and passengers, lack of parking lots cause serious problems," Yerevan as a Convenient City department of Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) preelection program mentioned. RPA taking part in Yerevan Council of Elders elections records that pedestrian's free movement is endangered. To make Yerevan resident's life more convenient the party plans to expand country's bus and trolleybus parks, to improve and furnish public transport stops, to place stop signs, to gradually reduce microbuses' number, as well as to build new modern underground and land car parking lots.

ARFD's preelection program also offers innovations on Yerevan transport. In particular, in order to rehabilitate transport system's financial system, to reduce passenger flows and to reduce fares it is envisaged to work out and to put into operation various tariff plans, discount systems, transport operation corporative packages, to introduce "metro, bus and trolleybus" common payment system. Besides, in case of being elected ARFD promises to build new underground routes in the South-Western district, Davitashen, Achapniak, near Zoological Park and in the future also at Zvartnots international airport.

Bargavach Hayastan party's preelection program like the program of RPA envisages to increase the number of big-capacity buses and parallel to it to reduce the number of microbuses. BH also attaches importance to construction of tunnels and non-street pedestrian crossings.

4. CONSTRUCTION OF RING-SHAPED ROAD AROUND YEREVAN ENVISAGED BY BARGAVACH HAYASTAN PARTY'S PREELECTION PROGRAM [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/11/09]

"We should put an end to low-taste changes and unauthorized development distorting Yerevan's architectural face and look of Yerevan's residential, cultural, educational and public buildings built by Tamanian spirit," the Urban Development department of the Bargavach Hayastan (Prosperous Armenia) party's preelection program mentioned. BH considers that Yerevan authorities to be formed as a result of Yerevan Council of Elders elections should spare no efforts in the issue of implementing any project only in correspondence with Yerevan Chief Plan.

BH promises in the near future to implement construction and reconstruction of residential houses for residents deprived of houses due to pulling down accident-prone houses of 4th degree, as well as to carry out reinforcement of accident-prone tenement houses of 3rd degree. Besides, the party envisages to build a modern ring-shaped road around Yerevan for cars running from country's north to south and especially lorries to pass round Yerevan.



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5. SPOKESMAN FOR THE ARMENIAN FM SAYS THAT "ISSUE OF LEAVING TERRITORIES HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED DURING PRAGUE MEETING OF ARMENIAN AND AZERBAIJANI PRESIDENTS" [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

Spokesman for the Armenian Foreign Ministry Tigran Balayan, commenting on the statement that during the meeting in Prague Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents discussed the issue on withdrawing the troops of the NKR Defense Army from the controlled territories, stated that "the issue of leaving the territories has not been discussed during the Prague meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents. The discussions mainly passed over the status of Nagorno Karabakh which is natural as it is the central issue of the conflict regulation."

6. BRYZA REJECTS STATEMENTS ASCRIBED TO HIM ABOUT RETURNING KARABAKH AND ITS NEARBY TERRITORIES TO AZERBAIJAN [Azg, 05/12/09]

US Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group Matthew Bryza rejected in the phone conversation with Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan the statements ascribed to him by the Russian "Echo of Moscow" radio station.

The Russian mass media, citing Matthew Bryza, reported that the latter said that Nagorno Karabakh and its nearby territories will be step by step given to Azerbaijan. The daily says that in a conversation with the Armenian foreign minister Bryza said that he did not make such a statement.

7. NA SPEAKER RECEIVES MEMBERS OF GROUP OF DELEGATES OF IRAN-ARMENIAN RELATIONSHIP OF IRANIAN MEJLIS [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

The NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received today the chairperson of group of delegates of Iran-Armenia relationship of Iranian Mejlis (parliament) Arslan Fatkhipuri and members of the group.

Public relations department of the Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that at the beginning of the conversation Mr. Fatkhpur conveyed Iranian counterpart Mr. Larijani's warm greetings to the NA Speaker and on behalf of him reconfirmed the invitation to H. Abrahamyan to visit Iran. H. Abrahamyan expressed his gratitude over the invitation after which the sides referred to the details of the visit.

During the meeting, H. Abrahamyan stressed the importance of the role of Armenian and Iranian parliaments in development of bilateral relations. On the mutual agreement the sides have discussed the possible steps to be undertaken by the legislative bodies towards enhancement of the cooperation. In this context the interlocutors referred to the cooperation projects existing in trade-economic, transport, communication as well as in a number of other spheres.

They have also referred to the regional and international security issues.

The Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghaian also took part in the meeting.

8. AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "REASSESSMENT OF THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS: REGIONAL CONFLICTS, STABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION" TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

An international conference on "Reassessment of the security environment in the South Caucasus; regional conflicts, stability and transformation" will be held May 14-15 in Yerevan.

It has been organized by the Armenian Ministry of Defense Institute of National Strategic Researches and Center of Defense and International Security Researches of Lyons Jan Moulin University (France).

Spokesman to the Armenian Defense Minister, Colonel Seyran Shahsuvarian told Armenpress that during the conference issues connected with security in South Caucasus will be discussed. Nearly 20 authoritative experts and scientists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Turkey, Iran, France, United Kingdom, Norway and USA will take part in the event.

9. MARIE YOVANOVITCH REJECTS INFORMATION ON DECREASE OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE USA FOR ARMENIA [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/12/09]

US Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch responded today to news reports carried recently by several media outlets regarding assistance from the United States for Armenia. The ambassador particularly said that the Obama Administration's request for Armenia for FY 2010 (\$30 million) is 25 percent above the last Bush Administration budget request (\$24 million was requested for FY 2009;



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Congress doubled this request to \$48 million). The actual level of assistance for Armenia for FY 2010 has not yet been determined by the U.S. Congress.

“With respect to funding for Nagorno-Karabakh, there has never been a budget request sent to Congress because there is no mechanism for doing so in the budget process. Rather, the humanitarian assistance provided to Nagorno-Karabakh is worked out afterwards, during the budget negotiation between Congress and the Administration,” the ambassador explained.

Regarding military assistance, the Administration’s FMF request for Armenia in FY 2010 is the same level as Armenia received in FY 2009. There has been no decrease. The specific increase for Azerbaijan is linked to U.S. priorities in peacekeeping and maritime security, particularly regarding proliferation and drug trafficking on the Caspian Sea.

“The respective levels requested for Armenia and Azerbaijan are carefully considered and calibrated to ensure that they do not adversely affect the military balance in the region or undermine efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; they do, however, provide appropriate assistance to each country that will enhance their interoperability and military professionalism. The United States remains committed to its longstanding partnership with Armenia and the Armenian people. Helping the people of Armenia has been, and continues to be, a high priority,” Marie Yovanovitch said.

10. ARMENIAN PM EXPRESSES SATISFACTION OVER COOPERATION OF ARMENIA AND IMF [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today International Monetary Fund Deputy Director Ratna Sahay, Mark Lewis, IMF Mission Chief for Armenia and IMF Armenian Representative Ninke Omes.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that expressing satisfaction over the level of cooperation between Armenia and IMF, Tigran Sargsyan gave a short outline of the pace of development of Armenia’s economy, current situation and steps directed towards overcoming the consequences of the crisis, pointing out that the main goal of the government is the implementation of the steps directed towards promotion of the economic growth.

Ms. Ratna Sahay said that IMF highlights cooperation with Armenia and is ready to support the country in the solution of issues.

11. D. HARUTYUNIAN SAYS THE ARF REPRESENTATIVE MUST PRESERVE HIS POST IN THE ARMENIAN DELEGATION TO PACE [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

The delegation of the Armenian Parliament to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe represents the proportion of the political powers existing in the Parliament. The delegation must preserve this proportion. The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) has enough places in the NA and the representative of this political power must preserve his place in the staff of the delegation, stated the head of NA permanent commission on state-legal affairs, head of the Armenian delegation to the PACE Davit Harutyunian during today’s press conference in response to the question of possible changes of the staff of the delegation as a result of the ARF decision on coming out of the coalition.

Referring to the statements of some political figures on replacement of PACE monitoring commission co-reporters for Armenia George Colombie and John Prescott D. Harutyunian noted that the reporters on Armenia are smart and dignified political figures and have a great experience in policy. G. Colombie long deals with policy making and the best mark for J. Prescott is that he is a person who occupied the office of UK vice prime minister most of all.

The monitoring commission has for a long time referred to the issue of establishment of a rotation principle in the office of co-reporters conducting monitoring. It is not connected with Armenia, the monitoring commission will itself decide whether to apply such a principle or not.

According to D. Harutyunian, the key mission of the Assembly and the monitoring commission is through working with authorities of the state and opposing and majority sectors do utmost to make the country develop in a right way and conduct steps towards democracy.

“This is a very active process: a step is made, assessed – encouraged or criticized, the second one is indicated which will be conducted by you. This is a natural monitoring procedure. In all the states under monitoring it is implemented the same way”, - he noted. In this round we must speak not about the changes in positions but about the conducted works.

In Armenia uninterrupted steps are conducted. In respect of amendments in the legislation the state has conducted its commitments but the character of the judicial process may have an impact on the country’s mark.



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During PACE June session the discussion of implementation of resolutions on Armenia is intended.

12. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT APPOINTS NEW MINISTERS [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/12/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan signed today decrees dismissing Aramays Grigoryan from the office of the Armenian Agriculture Minister, Spartak Seyranyan from the office of Education and Science Minister and Arsen Hambardzumyan from the office of Labor and Social Affairs Minister.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that on the same day the president signed decrees on appointing Gevorg Petrosyan (Prosperous Armenia Party) Labor and Social Affairs Minister, Armen Ashotyan (Armenian Republican Party) Education and Science Minister and Gerasim Alaverdyan (Orinats Yerkir Party) Agriculture Minister.

13. AMRAHI PETROSIAN APPOINTED JUDGE OF RA APPEAL CIVIL COURT [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

By RA President Serzh Sargsyan's decree Amrahi Petrosian was appointed judge of RA Appeal Civil Court. According to the RA President's Press Office, his powers of judge of Erebuni and Nubarashen communities' general jurisdiction court were stopped by the same decree.

14. DAVID HAROUTIUNIAN: NEW LAW ON YEREVAN CREATES NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR PARTIES [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

Any election of authorities is political in its nature, and Yerevan Council of Elders elections are not an exception from that point of view. David Haroutiunian, the Chairman of the RA National Assembly Standing Committee on State and Legal Issues, stated at the May 12 press conference. In his words, the new law On Yerevan is built on a new conception and makes part of political reforms to be carried out in the country. As D. Haroutiunian explained it, the goal of that law is to create a new competition field and new possibilities for political parties, as under the old law the only plane of their struggle was parliamentary elections. He added that Yerevan Council of Elders' powers have been expanded by the new law, by which Yerevan Council of Elders will essentially differ from other communities' local self-government bodies.

Responding to journalists' observation that a one-pole power system will be established in the country in case the Republican Party wins Council of Elders elections, D. Haroutiunian said that "politics cannot be always one-pole: a moment comes when current poles begin to change."

Touching upon activity of PACE Co-rapporteurs on Armenia John Prescott and George Colombier, D. Haroutiunian said that their task is to contribute to country's progress by cooperating with the authorities and opposition. "J. Prescott and G. Colombier are respectable figures, have much experience. J. Prescott is the Vice-Prime Minister being on his post longer than other Vice-Prime Ministers in United Kingdom's history," D. Haroutiunian said. He said that observers from the Council of Europe will also observe the Council of Elders elections.

15. VARDAN OSKANIAN: WE ARE ON SOME WRONG WAY, WE MUST TURN BACK THE WHEEL BY TAKING PROPER STEPS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

By making public the Armenian-Turkish negotiations Armenia has lost control and leverages on the process, and this cause anxiety, said Vardan Oskanian, Armenia's former foreign minister, President of the Board of the Civilitas Foundation in an interview with AR, an Armenian private TV company.

Moreover, by publicizing the Armenian-Turkish process and signing the Moscow declaration, Armenia has appeared in a diplomatically unfavorable conditions in respect to Armenian-Turkish relations and the Nagorno Karabakh issue, he said. Making the process public is a policy of Turkey, stressed Oskanian, saying that "we contributed to that process".

Oskanian expressed confidence that Turkey, getting today the accord of the Armenian side, realizes well that it cannot open the border, since the Azerbaijani side will be strongly hurt. According to the former foreign minister, having a bilateral agreement with Armenia, Turkey today holds negotiations with the U.S., Russia, Europe, to make them work with the Armenian side on the Karabakh issue, in order reach some concessions which would enable Turkey to open the border.



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According to Mr. Oskanian's estimations, this link is very apparent. This is seen from statements made by Turkey's president Gul and prime minister Erdogan, like this: "Azerbaijani are our brothers, we will never betray them".

Erdogan was much more concise, saying that the boarder will be opened only when Armenians return Azerbaijani territories. Azerbaijani factor simply prevails, otherwise the Armenian-Turkish border should have be open already.

"The border may be opened in a day or two, in a month or two, before the visit of our president to Istanbul, but a question will arise, at what cost did Turkey open the border?"

In Vardan Oskanian's opinion, Turkey has two options. Either it has to wait for concessions from the Armenian side in the Nagorno Karabakh process in the form of a return of territories or something else that will please the Azerbaijani side, and then open the border; or, Turkey will open the border only when it receives promises from the main players, such as U.S., Russia and Europe.

"The process has become very complex and the source of these complications is in the fact that we made public the process, which had been started long ago since January -February of 2007. The very Swiss was mediating, but we did not allow publicizing the process and we didn't allow Turks to exploit it. In the conditions of a public process Turks can call on the world not to interfere and not to pass Genocide formulas in order not to harm a possible resolution that will eventually lead to establishment of diplomatic relations, the former minister said. Mr. Oskanian expressed confidence, that the U.S. president Barack Obama had to use the "Genocide" legal term, since he promised to do this.

In Mr. Oskanian's opinion, some things are understandable to Diaspora, and some things are not. "We have seen the results of this situation, when Dashnaksutyun stopped its membership in the coalition since it has been bended before the Diasporan population, among other reasons."

As Mr. Oskanian determined, Diaspora, particularly Armenians living in western countries, are "an open organism" and they like transparency, consequently Armenian authorities should involve Diaspora, should work with them, and explain what is done when the problem relates to the issue of the Genocide, Armenia-Turkey relations, as well as the region.

As Mr. Oskanian mentioned, that involvement doesn't need to be public, and can be behind the curtain. "I am sure some things are done, but yet, what has been done is not enough. I think, it is necessary to keep Diaspora informed," he said.

However, according to Vartan Oskanian, "these all are not irreversible processes in diplomacy, first we should acknowledge that we are on some wrong way due to our own missteps, and by taking proper steps, we must turn back the wheel," he concluded.

16. ANC STATEMENT: SMALL AND MEDIUM HOOLIGANS REMAIN REGIME'S ONLY SUPPORT IN SOCIETY [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

"The robber regime considers the country and Yerevan as feudal estates already divided among them and treats its residents as serfs. It is a humiliating attitude to Armenia's citizen, Yerevan resident," the Armenian National Congress May 12 statement read. In the statement the bloc running for Yerevan Council of Elders elections condemned the violence used to its activists in Yerevan's Avan community.

ANC supporter women were attacked on May 10 near the very Avan prefecture and in two other crowded places when the latters were spreading information and preelection promotion materials on a regular rally to be held on May 13 in the Avan community. The attack was accompanied by bad language and physical violence. The group of attacking men demanded giving them the materials being spread and not appearing in the Avan community stating that "Avan's master is Taron" (late Prime Minister Andranik Margarian' son, currently Avan prefect Taron Margarian: NT). According to ANC, the head of RPA Avan territorial structure's youth wing and NA deputy Vazgen Karakhanian's son headed the group.

On May 11 also, when Congress members and supporters were giving out the same leaflets several dozens of "bandits" came out of the RPA Avan headquarters and attacked those giving out leaflets. And the Police reached the scene of action 35 minutes after being notified, only after Congress representatives managed to put to flight those attacking, who took refuge at the RPA preelection headquarters. However, before that they inflicted grave bodily injuries to three women, who were hospitalized.

ANC applied to the RA Prosecutor General's Office on the fact of the May 10 incident for filing a criminal case on the signs of Articles 149, 258, and 217, RA Criminal Code. The RA Ombudsman was also informed about it. Prosecutor General's Office employees arrived at the scene of action after the May 11 incident and filed a criminal case.

The quick response group of RA Ombudsman Armen Haroutiunian's staff visited Surb Grigor Lusavorich Medical Center in the evening the same day. It was found out during the visit that Astghik



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Aghegian, Amalia Poghosian, and Ofelia Margarian were taken there by an ambulance car. Medical center's senior reanimator S. Karapetian said that the medical personnel provided first medical aid, internal organs sonography and X-ray examination was done, those suffered were suggested staying at hospital for a day, but the latter refused and left the hospital.

During the visit of Ombudsman's representatives, head of RA Police Yerevan department Avan station A. Israyelian and investigator of RA Police Yerevan department Nork-Marash station A. Hartenian were at Surb Grigor Lusavorich medical center. A. Israyelian told Ombudsman's representatives that information that the Police responded to the call late does not correspond to reality, as a report on the incident was received at 18:55, after which policemen immediately visited the scene of action.

According to the report of the RA Ombudsman's Staff Information and Public relations Department, A. Haroutiunian considers very alarming permanent acts of violence to people notifying about a rally and the fact that the people committing them have not been disclosed so far, especially under the circumstance that according to the statement of citizens who suffered from violence they presented to the Police the photos of those people and the data of their cars' registration numbers.

The RA Ombudsman records that such acts of violence are committed to opposition representatives and condemning them he once again calls the Police for undertaking all necessary measures for disclosing the people committing acts of violence as quickly as possible and calling them for account in the order established by the law, otherwise the negligence of the Police can be considered as encouragement of such actions.

And the Armenian National Congress assures Yerevan and Armenia's population that with such a criminal conduct the regime shows its political weakness, as well as the fact that small and medium hooligans have remained its only support in society."

17. 15 YEARS PASS SINCE ANNOUNCING TRUCE IN KARABAKH WAR [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

The Women for Peace NGO has announced May 12 Peace Day on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of announcing truce in Karabakh war. According to NGO Chairwoman Gayane Martirosian, the organization applied to the RA National Assembly the day before for the latter to accept this proposal.

In her words, today it should have been a holiday in the country, while few remember of announcing truce. "In 1994 when the truce was concluded, the people was peaceful and now it is not." According to her, in spite of Maindorf Declaration the two peoples are under the threat of war up to the present. She considered dangerous that "neither Karabakh nor in particular Armenia are involved in the game, yet superpowers, France, Turkey play." "The weakness of the authorities is the cause of the formed situation, though, I think they do not want it to be bad," G. Martirosian noted.

18. ZHARANGUTIUN BOARD CHAIRWOMAN: IMPUNITY OVERSTEPS LIMITS IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

The Zharangutiun (Heritage) party condemns the violence to Armenian National Congress activists committed on May 11 in Yerevan's Avan community. Saying this at the May 12 press conference, Zharangutiun Board Chairwoman Anahit Bakhshian reminded that Zharangutiun representatives were beaten in the Avan community during the election campaign of the 2007 parliamentary elections. "Today we once again record that impunity oversteps the limits in the country," A. Bakhshian said.

David Haroutiunian, the Chairman of the NA Standing Committee on State and Legal Issues, also touched upon the act of violence at the May 12 press conference. He said that he condemns any violence and stated that the attack on oppositionists will not remain unpunished: a criminal case has been already filed on the fact.

19. HOVIK ABRAHAMIAN RECEIVES MEMBERS OF IRI MAJLIS IRAN-ARMENIA DEPUTY FRIENDSHIP GROUP [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

RA National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamian on May 12 received members of the IRI Majlis Iran-Armenia deputy friendship group led by Arslan Fathipur. H. Abrahamian attached importance to the role of Armenia's and Iran's parliaments in the issue of development of bilateral relations.

According to the report of the RA NA Public Relations Department, with a bilateral consent the sides discussed possible steps to be undertaken by the legislators in order to strengthen the cooperation. In that context the interlocutors touched upon current cooperation programs in the sphere of trade and



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economy, transport, communication, as well as in a number of other spheres. They also touched upon regional and international security issues.

IRI Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to RA Seid Ali Saghalian took part in the meeting.

20. STEPAN SAFARIAN: FULFILLMENT OF MADRID PRINCIPLES WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF KARABAKH [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

In the opinion of Stepan Safarian, the Secretary of the Zharangutiun (Heritage) party parliamentary faction, the fulfillment of the "notorious" Madrid principles will result in loss of Karabakh. As he stated at the May 12 press conference, both the Armenian-Turkish relations and the Nagorno Karabakh problem today fit within the superpowers' interests and have minimum relations with Armenian people's strivings. Predicting that much pressures will be exerted on the Armenian side at the July meeting of RA and Azeri Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev, S. Safarian said: "It is a pity that the issue of recognition of Nagorno Karabakh Republic is not on the RA NA agenda so far. It could have changed the situation in favor of us."

Zharangutiun Board Chairwoman Anahit Bakhshian, in her turn, touched upon the issue of resettling the liberated territories mentioning that if Artsakh leaders, Arkady Ghukasian, Samvel Babayan, Robert Kocharian left Artsakh and came to Armenia, an ordinary citizen will not wish to live in Artsakh, either.

21. TIGRAN SARGSYAN RECEIVES OUTGOING BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today outgoing Brazilian ambassador to Armenia Renate Stille who has ended her mission in Armenia.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the prime minister thanked the ambassador for her activity during the diplomatic mission, for the efforts exerted towards consolidation of Armenian-Brazilian ties and expressed hope that Renate Stille will continue her mission directed towards development relations between the two countries.

22. AZERBAIJANI PROPAGANDA MACHINE TRYING TO MAKE USE OF ANY TRAGEDY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORKS OF ANTI-ARMENIAN HYSTERIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

Certain Azerbaijani agencies spread news that allegedly there is an Armenian trace in the terrorist attacks in Baku oil academy.

Commenting on this statement head of the Press center of Armenian National Security Service Artsvin Baghramian told Armenpress that the Azerbaijani propaganda machine tries to make use of any tragedy within the frameworks of anti-Armenian hysteria.

"This time too, in spite of giving a legal, social-psychological assessment to the massacres in the Baku oil academy, discovering the bases of this terrorist attack and preventing them in the future, Azerbaijani authorities found the easiest way to cover their disability and impotency and to leave the blame on the Armenian side", - he noted.

A. Baghramian said that these statements are so absurd and funny, and their working style – so predictable and primitive that it is not excluded that the Azerbaijani side in the nearest future will announce that the "Armenian trace" has also been discovered in the murder of Kennedy.

23. NO VIOLATION OF CEASE-FIRE REGIME REGISTERED DURING MONITORING OF KARABAKH AND AZERBAIJANI CONTACT LINE [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

On May 13, in accordance with the earlier achieved agreement with the NKR authorities the OSCE mission conducted a regular monitoring of the line of contact of Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijani Armed Forces in the northern direction from Talish settlement of Martakert region, NKR.

NKR MFA Press-Service told Armenpress that from the positions of the NKR Defense Army the monitoring was conducted by Field Assistants of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Peter Kee (Great Britain), Irzhi Aberle (Czech Republic) and Zhaslan Nurtazin (Kazakhstan).

The monitoring group from the Azerbaijani side was headed by Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-office Andrzej Kasprzyk.



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The monitoring passed in accordance with the planned schedule. No violation of cease-fire regime was registered.

The monitoring mission from the Karabakh side was accompanied by representatives of the NKR Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs.

24. H. ABRAHAMYAN SAYS THE EU "EASTERN PARTNERSHIP" INITIATIVE OPENS NEW HORIZONS FOR COOPERATION WITH EU [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

The NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received Secretary General of European International Movement Henrik Kronen.

Public relations department of the Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that on the guest's request during the conversation the NA Speaker presented the activity of Armenian legislative body towards the integration into the European family. He stressed that the lately kicked off EU "Eastern Partnership" initiative opens new horizons for the cooperation with the EU and that Armenia will by all means make use of all the opportunities.

In his turn Secretary General H. Kronen presented to H. Abrahamyan the history of European International Movement, its issues and objectives, after which the interlocutors referred to the activity of the Movement in Armenia.

Chairman of the Armenian Council of the European Movement Viktor Yengibarian also took part in the meeting.

BUSINESS

25. "BRIDGE ARTSAKH" ECONOMIC CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

"Bridge Artsakh" economic conference will be held June 19-21 in Nagorno Karabakh Republic organized by the Union of Armenian Manufacturers and Businessmen and "Master" center of support to the international integration.

An official from the public relations department of the "Master" center told Armenpress that "State and the Business: from dialogue to cooperation" will be the main theme of the conference. Representatives of official institutions of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh as well as businessmen from different branches of the economy will take part in it.

The conference will give an opportunity to discuss the existing issues of the economic sphere, indicate ways of further development, exchange thoughts, get acquainted with the prospects of development and opportunities of investment policy as well as to establish new business links.

Within the frameworks of the conference special section and plenary sessions will be held on "Modern business – Issues and Prospects", "Investment Attraction of Artsakh", "Financial Tools in Favor of the Businessmen", "Development of the transportation system as a prerequisite for efficient business", "Opportunities of the construction sphere in the conditions of world financial crisis", "Information business environment – structure and technologies", "Business education in modern economic conditions" and "Prospects of Artsakh ingoing tourism" themes.

26. "DIGITEC BUSINESS CONFERENCE" TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

The "DigiTec business conference" will be held June 19-20 in Yerevan, organized by the Union of IT enterprises and the Armenian office of "Microsoft" company.

The public relations responsible of the Union of IT enterprises Mane Manasian told Armenpress that the conference objectives are to support the inputting of information and telecommunication technologies (ITT) in the other spheres of the economy, to present ITT products and services as well as solutions of issues of business management.

A number of events are intended within the frameworks of the conference, the "DigiTec Business" exhibition will be held the participating ITT companies of which will present the technological solutions proposed by them for the entrepreneurship.

A "Day of Microsoft Innovations" is also intended to be organized during which the companies of IT sphere will present software solutions worked out by them and functioning in business sphere, discussions will be held round them.



Within the frameworks of the conference an “E-Fin” conference will for the first time be held which aims at presenting the issues of implementation of information and telecommunication technologies by financial-banking and credit organizations at a time.

Seminars will be organized during which technological solutions intended for different types of business will be presented – small and medium-sized entrepreneurship, tourism, trade, construction, transport and cargo transportation, pharmaceuticals.

Representatives of 25 ITT companies and state and international organizations as well as nearly 1500 businessmen interested in the implementation of technological solutions in business will take part in the conference.

The “DigiTec business conference” is held under the high patronage of Armenian prime minister.

27. “LITOKOL-AM” ARMENIAN-ITALIAN JOINT VENTURE OF PRODUCTION OF CONSTRUCTION GLUES OPENS IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

“Litokol-AM” Armenian-Italian venture of production of construction glues for ceramic tiles officially opened today in Armenia with the participation of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan. The venture has been established jointly with the “Imex Group” company. In the newly opened factory which is a branch of world famous “Litokol” company production of putty is also intended in the nearest future.

The symbolic red ribbon of the opening of the factory was cut by the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan who stressed the importance of realization of such a project. Congratulating on the occasion of opening of the factory T. Sargsyan expressed wish that such initiatives carry a continuative character. According to him, the opening of the factory proves that it is possible to develop the business and make investments even in the conditions of the crisis. T. Sargsyan said that this is also a result of Armenian-Italian nearly 10 years’ of cooperation “which testifies that it is possible to make investments in Armenia and have a profitable business”.

Head of the Armenian Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen Arsen Ghazarian said that he was glad that in the conditions when in the whole world numerous enterprises are liquidated and closed and job places are reduced, a new factory is opened in Armenia which at present has 35 workers and intends to significantly increase the number in the nearest future. He assessed it as a brave step conducted from trade towards the industry.

Financial head of “Litokol” Fabio Placci told journalists that the overall productive capacity of this factory constructed within the frameworks of 10 million USD of investment reaches 30 000 tons but at the initial round the annual production of glue volumes will reach 12-15 000 tons.

The whole productive capacities will be implemented in case the putty production is launched. F. Placci said that assessing the existing demand in the Armenian market the whole size of glue produced at the initial round – 15 000 tons are intended to be consumed here.

“I suppose we will be able to satisfy half of the need for the product existing in this market”, - he said. According to F. Placci, the glues and other materials necessary for construction produced by “Litokol” are for already several years imported in Armenia and widely consumed. Now a transit is being made from import to production.

F. Placci expressed confidence that the materials of Armenian production will not concede the Italian ones in respect of quality but the prices will remain the same. “We plan to be in the Armenian market for along time”, - he said and also informed that “Litokol” also conducts production in Russia and Ukraine.

During the production local raw materials will be used; at the beginning 50-60 000 tons of sand, 30-40 000 tons of cement will be used, nearly 355 000 kilowatts/h electricity and 456 000 cubic meters of gas will be consumed.

In case of passing to the whole productive capacity an export to Iran, Georgia and Turkey is also intended.

Executive director of “Litokol-AM” Hamazasp Mkrtychyan stressed that all the security norms are ensured in the factory. It is filled up with qualified equipments of Italian and German production. The production contains no air pollution threats. There will be no exhausts because the factory is armed with a modern dust grasping system.

The factory also has a laboratory saturated with modern equipments where continuative quality checking of the raw material and the ready-made product are conducted.



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28. ARMENIAN ECONOMY MINISTER SAYS THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION DEVELOPS YEAR BY YEAR ENTERING INTO A NEW ROUND OF DEVELOPMENT [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

The Armenian-American cooperation develops year by year entering into a new round of development, during the briefing with journalists before today's session of the working group of Armenian-American inter-governmental commission stated the Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan who is the Armenian co-chairperson of the commission. Coordinator of the USA Support to the European and Eurasian States of the American State Secretariat Daniel Rosenblum is the American co-chairman of the commission.

According to N. Yeritsyan, during today's session issues connected with the overcoming of the world financial crisis and fortification of the financial sector will be discussed. The agenda includes all the up to date issues on the Armenian-American cooperation.

"We give a great significance to the development of cooperation with the American side taking into consideration the permanent support provided by the USA government", - N. Yeritsyan said.

Issues connected with the regional integration in energy, transport, nature protection and telecommunication spheres and process of implementation of the "Millennium Challenges" project are also involved in the session agenda.

The possible USA support to the establishment of National center of innovation and entrepreneurship, establishment of Armenian representation of IT enterprises in the Silicon Valley as well as implementation of the project of creation of "Candle" accelerator of third generation are among the themes to be discussed with the American partners.

"I'm sure that the discussion of issues involved in today's agenda will put our cooperation on a new level", - the minister said.

Session of the working group of Armenian-American inter-governmental commission is held once in a year. The previous session took place half year ago after which already certain progress has been registered in the implementation of a number of joint projects particularly in tax and customs spheres. The minister also stressed the importance of ensuring the continuativeness of "Millennium Challenges" project. The session was held behind the closed doors.

Armenian and USA ministers and other top-officials are in the staff of Armenian-American inter-governmental commission. Representatives of Armenian state bodies, USA embassy to Armenia as well as international organizations including the USA Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch take part in the session.

The agreement on "Mutual encouragement of investment" between Armenian and USA governments was signed in 1992, ratified in 1995 and came into force in 1996.

During 1991-2008 an investment of overall 299 million 669.7 000 USD has been made in Armenia from USA from which the direct investments reached 198 million 619.8 000 USD.

DIASPORA

29. ORHAN PAMUK VISITED THE FAMILY OF HRANT DINK [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

Orhan Pamuk, Nobel Prize winner, Turkish dissident writer visited recently the family of Hrant Dink on May 7.

As Hurriet reported, answering the questions of journalists, Pamuk said that he cannot find words to express his condolences. "In a sense, we are all responsible for his death," the dissident writer said. "However, at the very forefront of this responsibility are those who still defend article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code. Those who campaigned against him, those who portrayed this sibling of ours as an enemy of Turkey, those who painted him as a target, they are the most responsible for this. And then, in the end, we are all responsible," said Orhan Pamuk.

30. REMARKS AT HOUSE OF COMMONS, DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR ARMENIANS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09] By Harut Sassounian, Publisher, The California Courier

At the invitation of the British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Group (BAAPPG), I spoke on May 7 at a special conference on the Armenian Genocide held at the House of Commons, Committee Room 3, the British Parliament, London.

Dr. Israel Charny, Director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, was also invited to speak at this conference. Regrettably, due to a last minute illness, Dr. Charny could not attend.



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His prepared remarks titled, "Denial of Genocide is not only a political tactic, it is an attack on decent people's minds and emotions," was read by Peter Barker, a former broadcaster of BBC Radio.

The conference was chaired by House of Lords member Baroness Cox, Chairman of BAAPPG. In attendance were: Members of the House of Lords, the Armenian Desk officer of the Foreign Office, representatives from the Embassies of Greece, Kuwait, Serbia, Slovenia, and Syria, non-governmental organizations, scholars, journalists, and other distinguished guests.

In my remarks titled, "Armenian Genocide and Quest for Justice," I cited the acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide by the United Nations, European Parliament, legislatures of more than 20 countries, U.S. House of Representatives, Pres. Reagan, 42 out of 50 U.S. States, and the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

I concluded that "after so many acknowledgments, the Armenian Genocide has become a universally recognized historical fact."

I expressed regret that the United Kingdom remained one of the rare major countries that has yet to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. I pointed out that "Britain's siding with a denialist state is not so much due to lack of evidence or conviction, but, sadly, because of sheer political expediency, with the intent of appeasing Turkey." I urged British officials to heed the cautionary words of Prime Minister Winston Churchill who said: "An appeaser is someone who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last."

I suggested that Armenians no longer needed to convince the world that what took place during the years 1915-23 was "a genocide."

Here are excerpts from my May 7 speech:

"A simple acknowledgment of and a mere apology, however, would not heal the wounds and undo the consequences of the Genocide. Armenians are still waiting for justice to be meted out, restoring their historic rights and returning their confiscated lands and properties.

"In recent years, Armenian-American lawyers have successfully filed lawsuits in U.S. federal courts, securing millions of dollars from New York Life and French AXA insurance companies for unpaid claims to policy-holders who perished in the Genocide. Several more lawsuits are pending against other insurance companies and German banks to recover funds belonging to victims of the Armenian Genocide.

"In 1915, a centrally planned and executed attempt was made to uproot from its ancestral homeland and decimate an entire nation, depriving the survivors of their cultural heritage as well as their homes, lands, houses of worship, and personal properties.

"A gross injustice was perpetrated against the Armenian people, which entitles them, as in the case of the Jewish Holocaust, to just compensation for their enormous losses.

"Restitution can take many forms. As an initial step, the Republic of Turkey could place under the jurisdiction of the Istanbul-based Armenian Patriarchate all of the Armenian churches and religious monuments which were expropriated and converted to mosques and warehouses or outright destroyed.

"In the absence of any voluntary restitution by the Republic of Turkey, Armenians could resort to litigation, seeking 'restorative justice.'"

"In considering legal recourse, one should be mindful of the fact that the Armenian Genocide did neither start nor end in 1915.

"Large-scale genocidal acts were committed starting with Sultan Abdul Hamid's massacre of 300,000 Armenians from 1894 to 1896; the subsequent killings of 30,000 Armenians in Adana by the Young Turk regime in 1909; culminating in the Genocide of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 to 1923; and followed by forced Turkification and deportation of tens of thousands of Armenians by the Republic of Turkey.

"Most of the early leaders of the Turkish Republic were high-ranking Ottoman officials who had participated in perpetrating the Armenian Genocide. This unbroken succession in leadership assured the continuity of the Ottomans' anti-Armenian policies. The Republic of Turkey, as the continuation of the Ottoman Empire, could therefore be held responsible for the Genocide.

"An important document, recently discovered in the U.S. archives, provides irrefutable evidence that the Republic of Turkey continued to uproot and exile the remnants of Armenians well into the 1930's motivated by purely racist reasons. The document in question is a "Strictly Confidential" cable, dated March 2nd, 1934, and sent by U.S. Ambassador Robert P. Skinner from Ankara to the U.S. Secretary of State, reporting the deportation of Armenians.

"In the 1920's and 30's, thousands of Armenian survivors of the Genocide, were forced out of their homes in Cilicia and Western Armenia to locations elsewhere in Turkey or neighboring countries. In the 1940's, these racist policies were followed by the Varlik Vergisi, the imposition of an exorbitant wealth tax on Armenians, Greeks and Jews. And, during the 1955 Istanbul pogroms, many Greeks as well as Armenians and Jews were killed and their properties destroyed.



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"This continuum of massacres, genocide and deportations highlights the existence of a long-term strategy implemented by successive Turkish regimes from the 1890's to more recent times, in order to solve the Armenian Question with finality.

"Consequently, the Republic of Turkey is legally liable for its own crimes against Armenians, as well as those committed by its Ottoman predecessors. "Turkey inherited the assets of the Ottoman Empire; And, therefore, it must have also inherited its liabilities.

"Finally, since Armenians often refer to their three sequential demands from Turkey: "Recognition" of the Genocide; "Reparations" for their losses; and the "Return" of their lands, Turks have come to believe that once the Genocide is recognized, Armenians will then pursue their next two demands.

"This is the main reason why Turks adamantly refuse to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. They fear that acceptance of the Genocide would lead to other demands for restitution. They believe that by denying the first demand, they would be blocking the ones that are sure to follow.

"The fact is that, commemorative resolutions adopted by legislative bodies of various countries and statements made on the Armenian Genocide by world leaders have no force of law, and therefore, no legal consequence.

"Armenians, Turks and others involved in this historical, and yet contemporary issue, must realize that recognition of the Armenian Genocide or the lack thereof, will neither enable nor deter its consideration by international legal institutions.

"Once Turkish officials realize that recognition by itself cannot and would not lead to other demands, they may no longer persist in their obsessive denial of these tragic events.

"Without waiting for any further recognition, Armenians can pursue their historic rights through proper legal channels, such as the International Court of Justice (where only states have such jurisdiction), the European Court of Human Rights and U.S. Federal Courts.

"Justice, based on international law, must take its course."

Following an extensive question and answer period, Armenia's Ambassador to Great Britain, Vahe Gabrieliyan, delivered the closing remarks. Based on the speeches of the two speakers, the BAAPPG issued a statement calling on the British Government to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

ARTS

31. "MY HOME ARMENIA" EXHIBITION-SALE TO BE HELD IN THE YEREVAN "LOVERS' PARK" [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

On the initiative and support of "Hayastan" all-Armenian fund "My home Armenia" fund-raising exhibition-sale will be held May 15 in the Yerevan Lovers' park.

Yerevan children's house after Mari Ismirlian, Gyumri "Mother Armenia Poghosian Educational Complex", "Jan and Albert Poghosians" art school, "Bee" children's center and Parakar art school will present the works of their children.

Head of the public relations department of the "Hayastan" all-Armenian fund Hasmik Grigorian told Armenpress that the exhibition is an opportunity to present the good and beauty which is created by the children and on their imagination. The exhibition participant organizations will themselves manage the got revenues.

"Our participation and support will assist these educational establishments to overcome their everyday though small difficulties", - H. Grigorian said.

During the event the chorus of Musical Pedagogical College after Arno Babajanian and the musical groups of Parakar art school will perform songs.

The exhibition participant educational establishments have on different times been sponsored by "Armenia" all-Armenian fund.

32. 437 PERMANENT EXHIBITS OF DILIJAN BRANCH OF YEREVAN MUSEUM OF PEOPLE'S ART RESTORED [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

437 permanent exhibits of the Dilijan branch of Yerevan museum of people's art have been restored, cleaned with special protecting materials and are ready for the exhibition.

Scientific worker of the museum Anahit Karapetian told Armenpress that the works lasted for nearly 20 days during which no exhibit has been damaged. Such restoration works are conducted in spring and autumn each year.



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The museum has been established by the honorable artist Hovhannes Sharambeyan in 1979. There are unique works here, including Garnik Alikhanian's wooden carpets one collected from 40 000, the other from 25 000 small wooden pieces, Eduard Ghazarian's curving done on a half rice, the enormous jar discovered in the Sevan and famous social figure Serine Davtian's needle works and other interesting exhibits.

33. FIRST TEN PARTICIPANTS OF THE "EUROVISION-2009" TO BE DECIDED TODAY IN MOSCOW [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

The first semi-final of "Eurovision-2009" will take place today in Moscow "Olympic" sport complex. 18 states take part in it among which best 10 participants of the final will be elected by the audience via SMS messages and phone voting.

Representatives of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden, Israel, Belgium, Andorra, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Iceland, Bulgaria, Portugal, Switzerland, Macedonia, Finland, Belarus, Turkey, Romaine and Malta will take part in the first semi-final. Each of them prepared its unforgettable show.

Presenters of the first and second semi-finals will be Andrey Malakhov and model Natalia Vodyanova.

Organizers of the first semi-final of the contest promised to make it an incredible one. The show is built up on the Russian people's stories and will be opened by the tale-story about the Fiery Bird.

34. FOR THE FIRST TIME ARMENIAN FILMS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE FILM MARKET OF CANNES FILM FESTIVAL [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/12/09]

Armenia for the first time will officially participate in the Film Market to be held between May 13 and 22 at the Cannes 62nd International Film Festival. The National Cinema Center, a legal successor of "Hay Film" will represent Armenia.

As Gevorg Gevorgyan, director of the Cinema Center told a press conference on May 8, with support of Armenia's ministry of culture, the Center will present in a separate pavilion of Cannes Film market two dozens of Armenian films, including live-action, full-length and short films, animation, documentaries. Particularly, "Priestess" by Vigen Chaldranyan, "Border" by Harutyun Khachatryan, "Tangled parallels" by Hovhannes Galstyan, "Sunrise of a mourn street" by Albert Mkrtychyan will be demonstrated at the most cinematically sophisticated public.

"Refuge" of Martun Harutyunyan will also be screened during the festival. According to Gevorgyan, the year of 2009 has been favorable for the Armenian cinema, as during this year Armenian films are also to be screened in a number of international festivals as well. As administration of the "Golden Apricot" film festival told a Noyan Tapan reporter, Armenian films will possibly be demonstrated during a documentary film festival in Turkey this November and at the International Istanbul festival next April.

35. "WORLD OF CHILDHOOD EXPO 2009" THIRD INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN THE MOSCOW HOUSE [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

On the occasion of the international day of protection of children the "World of Childhood EXPO 2009" third international exhibition will be held May 29-June 1 in the Moscow House of Yerevan.

Children's clothes, shoes, toys, bicycles, hygiene accessories, furniture and food will be presented. The local manufacturers and the international companies will also present accessories which develop the abilities of the children, plays, books, video materials, etc.

Exhibition coordinator Adelina Kocharian told Armenpress that compared with the last year this year the number of companies which produce different types of goods for children has increased, but the number of food producers, who do not take part in the exhibition because of the economic crisis have notably decreased.

"We will do our best so that within four days the children celebrate a holiday, numerous contests will be organized, presents and song performances are also intended. The exhibition is also a good opportunity to present the local production and to invite the attention of the international organizations on the Armenian market", - A. Kocharian said.

A photo contest under the "Smile" slogan, as well as "Small painter", "I built a world" best picture contests will also be held: the children will take part in it with "Lego" toys.

Children of "Castanet" "Small residents of Yerevan" dance studios and dance groups of Sofi Devoian's dance and soul theatre will perform dances for the exhibition visitors.



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A. Kocharian noted that the children from Gyumri, Gavar and Yerevan “Zatik” children’s houses will also take part in the exhibition who will present their handworks – paintings, compositions of flowers, needlework, etc.

The “World of Childhood EXPO 2009” has been organized by “LOGOS EXPO” center.

36. EXHIBITION-CONTEST OF CHILDREN’S PAINTINGS ON ASTROLOGICAL THEMES TO BE HELD IN BYURAKAN OBSERVATORY [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

Within the frameworks of the international astrology year an exhibition-contest of children’s paintings on astrological themes will be held June 19 in the Byurakan observatory.

Co-chairman of the Armenian Astrological Union, Armenian coordinator of the international astrological year Areg Mikaelian told Armenpress that 50 young artists will take part in the exhibition presenting their works dedicated to the space. Professional artists will also be present in the exhibition.

UNESCO has announced the 2009 an International astrology year dedicated to the 400th anniversary of implementation of the first telescopes in 1609 by Galileo Galilee. In connection to this a number of events are being held in 136 states including Armenia.

The exhibition-contest of children’s paintings on astrology themes is conducted with the support of Armenian Culture Ministry.

37. ARMENIA IN THE FINAL OF “EUROVISION 2009” SONG CONTEST [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

Winners of the first semi-final of “Eurovision 2009” song contest are known.

Via SMS voting and phone calls participants representing Armenia, Turkey, Sweden, Israel, Portugal, Malta, Finland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania and Iceland got an opportunity to take part in the final round. It will take place May 16 in the Moscow “Olympic” sport complex, but before that on May 14 the second semi-final will take place in which 19 states - Croatia, Ireland, Latvia, Serbia, Poland, Norway, Cyprus, Slovakia, Denmark, Slovenia, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Greece, Lithuania, Moldova, Albania, Ukraine, Estonia and Netherlands will take part.

During the second semi-final again through the SMS voting and phone calls the audience will elect representatives of 10 states. In the final round Russia as a winner of “Eurovision 2008” and France, Germany, Spain and Great Britain as founders of the contest will join the winners of semi-finals.

SOCIAL

38. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT APPOINTS A. PETROSIAN JUDGE OF ARMENIAN CIVIL COURT OF APPEAL [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan signed a decree appointing Amrahi Petrosian a judge of Armenian Civil Court of Appeal suspending his authorities of the Judge of Court of First Instance of Erebuni and Nubarashen communities of town of Yerevan, Presidential Press Office reported.

39. KAPAN “ORHUS” CENTER IMPLEMENTS TOWN CLEANING AND RENOVATION PROGRAMS [ARMENPRESS, 05/12/09]

The Kapan “Orhus” nature protection informative center started its town cleaning and renovation project. The first event within its frameworks was the collaborative tree planting with the Kapan school children in the neighborhood of Baghaburj memorial complex of perished freedom fighters.

Memorial complexes to the Great Genocide and World War II are also located here. Center coordinator Ashot Avagyan told Armenpress that the territory is in the landslide threat zone and with the recommendation of specialists the ash-tree, the roots of which fortify the soil, has been selected for planting.

The trees have been provided by authorities of “Shikahogh” state reserve.

Projects of Kapan “Orhus” center also involve works of renovation of streets of the town and cleaning of yards.



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40. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT ATTENDS THE FAREWELL CEREMONY TO ARMENIAN HONORARY ART FIGURE, WELL KNOWN ARTS MAN H. IGITIAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/13/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan was today present at the farewell ceremony to the Honorary art figure, well known arts man Henrik Igitian in Yerevan House of Chamber Music, the Presidential Press office reported.

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