



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 15, 2009

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### POLITICS

#### 1. ACCORDING TO SUREN ZOLIAN, MATTHEW BRYZA CARRIES OUT INFORMATION DIVERSION [NOYAN TAPAN, 05//13/09]

According to political scientist Suren Zolian, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs' statements have become alarming for the Armenian side lately. As the political scientist emphasized at the May 13 discussion, it is especially alarming that superpowers are inclined to protect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and they also see Karabakh as part of the latter. Besides, according to S. Zolian, comparison of principles of territorial integrity and nations' self-determination, for which the Minsk Group strives, means autonomy. "I heard Co-chair Matthew Bryza's words that Azerbaijan's President made progress in the negotiations promising autonomy to Karabakh," S. Zolian said. He reminded that former President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev had also given promises on autonomy, and it is not evidence of progress in Azeri side's position at all.

S. Zolian touched upon M. Bryza's statement voiced in his interview to the Ekho Moskvi radio that the liberated territories should be returned to Azerbaijan stage-by-stage. The speaker said that with such statements the American Co-chair oversteps the limit of functions reserved for him by carrying out information diversion.

Management expert Haroutiun Mesropian participating in the discussion gave assurance that M. Bryza did not just make a mistake, but permitted provocative information leakage to see the reaction of the sides. Besides, according to H. Mesropian, M. Bryza said that the Nagorno Karabakh problem is not connected with Armenian-Turkish relations, but in the final result they have an impact on each other. According to expert's observation, that statement means that the preconditions put forward by Turkey have not been liquidated, but have received more delicate formulations.

#### 2. ALVARD PETROSIAN: WHEN I LOOKED AT YEREVAN ROOFS FROM MONUMENT HILL I FELT SICK [NOYAN TAPAN, 05//13/09]

The ownership right of residents evicted from realization zones houses will be restored if the Armenian National Congress (ANC) wins Yerevan Council of Elders elections of May 31. ANC representative, Chairwoman of the Social-Democrat Hnchakian Party Lyudmila Sargsian said at the May 13 dispute. She said that radical opposition's preelection program consists of two parts, political and dedicated to Yerevan's problems. Reforms aimed at protection of Yerevan residents' rights, collapse of the "robber corruption pyramid," restoration of the constitutional order in the country are proposed in the political part. According to L. Sargsian, Yerevan Tamarian center has been distorted today, even buildings' roofs have been developed and turned into profitable entities, parks and green zones have been destroyed.

The other dispute participant, NA ARFD faction member Alvard Petrosian opposed to L. Sargsian saying that her generation did not admire Tamarian Yerevan at all. "When I looked at Yerevan roofs from Monument hill I felt sick. The center was filled with scorpions, it was very difficult to live," the deputy said. Meanwhile A. Petrosian said that people loved even such Yerevan, as there was a spirit there. A. Petrosian also advised her opponent not to name "robber chiefs" the authorities, as it is not a right opposition position.

#### 3. IN CASE OF ASSUMING YEREVAN GOVERNMENT RPA AND OYP ENVISAGE TO IMPROVE CONDITION OF MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05//13/09]

"Yerevan has always been known with its unique color. A good mood, spirit of refined cultural events prevailed in Yerevan," the preelection program of RPA running for Yerevan Council of Elders elections mentioned. Saying that it is time to restore the Yerevan of old and kind traditions, RPA promises to assist preservation and restoration of cultural values, to improve the conditions of museums, libraries, sports schools within community's jurisdiction, as well as to organize national, state, and town festivities.

Orinats Yerkir (Country of Law) party's preelection program's Culture department mentioned that we should assist preservation of Yerevan's historic-cultural heritage, contribute to harmonious development of modern, popular, and applied arts. In case of assuming Yerevan's government OYP is



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going to encourage authors of significant cultural works, to expand Yerevan's participation in regional and international cultural programs, as well as to repair and furnish museums, libraries, schools within Yerevan's jurisdiction, to raise their employees' salaries.

#### 4. ANC ENVISAGES TO CREATE "SOCIAL HOTELS" AND ARFD NIGHT CARE CENTERS FOR HOMELESS IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05//13/09]

"Yerevan's socio-economic development should be based on a system of scientifically grounded programs having prospects, medium-term, annual and target programs," the preelection program of the Bargavach Hayastan (Prosperous Armenia) party running for Yerevan Council of Elders elections mentioned. BH considers that programs of Yerevan's socio-economic development should be regulations documents compulsory for implementation. Procedures of programs' elaboration, discussion, endorsement, and implementation should be stipulated by RA laws On Local Self-Government in the City of Yerevan and On Territorial Government to be adopted in the future.

Armenian National Congress (ANC) preelection program's Social Sphere department mentioned that a social housing fund will be established for vulnerable families and orphanages' adult wards. ANC plans to establish special institutions for people needing long care and "social hotels" for homeless people.

Orinats Yerkir (Country of Law) party preelection program's Social Sphere part mentioned: "We should work out and carry out new social strategy and policy, which will essentially improve the condition of socially vulnerable strata and groups."

ARFD program's respective department's provisions envisage use of efficient mechanisms of social housing fund distribution, provision of gratuitous apartments to young families and families having many children. Besides, ARFD plans to establish night care centers for homeless people.

#### 5. ARFD DEPUTY: FAIR ELECTIONS ARE NEEDED TO RESTORE DAMAGED SOCIAL SOLIDARITY IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05//13/09]

The holding of Yerevan Council of Elders elections is a good possibility for solving the problem of Armenian authorities' legitimacy. RA National Assembly ARFD faction member Lilit Galstian stated at the May 13 press conference. In her words, the social solidarity damaged after the last presidential elections need to be restored in Armenia.

According to L. Galstian, ARFD has always voiced importance of holding fair election. She considers that the May 31 Council of Elders elections are of exclusive political significance, as capital city's authorities are formed in the country. Summing up the ten days of the election campaign, L. Galstian said that this election is also being held with a signature peculiar to Armenia: voter buying, use of all possible resources, etc.

#### 6. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN CAUCASIAN REGION AND AROUND IT TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05//13/09]

An international conference Security and Cooperation in the Caucasian Region and Around It will be held between May 15 to 16 in Yerevan on the initiative of the RA National Security Council. Over 40 representatives from 25 countries, Russia, Italy, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Japan, India, Iran, Egypt, Sweden, Australia, Israel, Poland, China, Vietnam, Turkey, Germany, the U.S., Canada, the Ukraine, Estonia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Iraq, as well as international organizations from the European Union, OSCE, CSTO will take part in the conference. Armenia's high-ranking officials, ambassadors accredited in Armenia will also take part in it.

According to the Press Service of the National Security Council, the subjects of discussion at the conference will be South Caucasian security problems in the context of modern European security, issues of settlement of regional conflicts, energy and transport ways as a regional security and cooperation factor, fighting international terrorism, illegal sale of drugs and arms, development of regional cooperation in the issue of fighting trafficking, provision of information security in the region.



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## 7. ISSUES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ARMENIAN AND BRITISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCILS DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

Secretary of the Armenian National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan received today special representative of Great Britain to the South Caucasus Bryan Pole.

Press service of the council told Armenpress that during the meeting the interlocutors discussed issues on the program of 2009-2011 events ensuring the implementation of the "Armenia-EU Action Plan" program of the EU Neighborhood policy.

Arthur Baghdasaryan noted that reforms are intended in different spheres in Armenia and the support of the EU member countries is expected in the process.

With the request of the guest A. Baghdasaryan presented the structure and activity of the National Security Council. The sides also discussed the necessity of development of bilateral ties between Armenia and Great Britain.

The sides also referred to the Armenian-Turkish relations and Karabakh conflict regulation process.

## 8. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER SAYS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES A NEW INSTITUTE OF DISCOVERY OF INTERESTS IS BEING INPUTTED [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

At the beginning of today's session of Armenian government the Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan first congratulated the newly appointed Ministers of Agriculture, Labor and Social Affairs and Education and Science wishing them a fruitful activity.

"I'm sure that the warm working atmosphere which has been established in the government will give an opportunity to immediately be involved in the job", - the Armenian prime minister said.

The Government has today also approved the bills on making changes and amendments in the Armenian laws on "Public service", "Civil service", "Proclamation of estate and incomes of natural persons" as well as in the Armenian Criminal Code.

Referring to them T. Sargsyan noted that with it a new mechanism of discovery of interests is being inputted in the republic which in its turn creates new stimulus for officials – MPs and Ministers not to deal with business and gives an opportunity to the public to control this constitutional norm to be fully implemented in Armenia. The prime minister assessed these bills also to have an anti-corruption character.

"By adopting these bills we also realize our commitments to input them. It will be necessary in the future to organize public discussions round these laws so that the public is informed about the implemented mechanisms", - the prime minister noted, adding that these mechanisms must still be discussed in the National Assembly and with World Bank.

## 9. ARMENIAN FM AND OSCE MINSK GROUP FRENCH CO-CHAIR DISCUSS KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION ISSUE [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan received today OSCE Minsk group French co-chair Bernard Fassier. Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides referred to the issue of regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The interlocutors also exchanged thoughts over regional issues.

## 10. IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTION OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARMENIA AND INDONESIA AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE-ECONOMIC RELATIONS STRESSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan received today the newly appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Armenia Nining Suningsi Rokhadiati (residence in Kiev) on handing over the copies of her credentials.

Media relations department of Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that greeting the guest E. Nalbandyan expressed hope that the appointment of the Ambassador will give a new impetus to the development and enhancement of bilateral cooperation in different spheres.

During the meeting the sides stressed promotion of political dialogue between the two states, development of trade-economic relations and enhancement of cooperation in international organizations.



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The interlocutors also exchanged thoughts on the world financial-economic crisis and reduction of its impacts; they have also referred to a number of regional and international issues.

## 11. EDIK BARSEGHYAN APPOINTED FIRST DEPUTY EMERGENCY SITUATION MINISTER [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/14/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan appointed Edik Barseghyan, the director of the Armenian Rescue Service, first deputy emergency situations minister.

Governmental press service told Armenpress that Barseghyan will combine the two offices.

## 12. NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA TO ARMENIA HANDS CREDENTIALS TO THE ARMENIAN PRESIDENT [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

The newly appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Armenia Ms. Nining Suningsih Rokhadiat (residence in Kiev) handed today her credentials to the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that congratulating the newly appointed Ambassador the President expressed hope that she will bring her contribution to the development of bilateral cooperation in different spheres. President Sargsyan said that Armenia stresses the importance of enhancement of relations with the Southeast Asian states and Indonesia which has a great role in that region.

The diplomat with gratification noted that the commodity circulation between the two states increases year by year. The sides considered the exchange of information and active relations primary for promotion of business relations.

The interlocutors also referred to a number of regional issues, stressed the importance cooperation within the frameworks of international organizations as well as exchanged thoughts on the global financial-economic crisis and its consequences.

## 13. LEVON TER-PETROSIAN: I AM ASHAMED FOR ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/14/09]

The May 13 meeting of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) representatives with Yerevan's Avan community's voters turned into a rally and finished with a march. Addressing to rally participants, ANC central office representative David Shahnazarian stated that the rally's being crowded proved their being "Avan's master." "You are this district's master and not a group of dregs," he said hinting at the people attacking women giving out leaflets on May 11 in Avan.

First RA President Levon Ter-Petrosian in his speech said that on the one hand, he is glad to see people's enthusiasm, on the other hand, feels a pain that the people constantly repeats the slogan "struggle, struggle till the end." "I would like us to live freely and calmly today, when 20 years have passed since our getting free. However, today our country is occupied by the authorities," he said. Touching upon the May 11 incident, he stated that an attempt to destroy the opposition is being made today, but let them know that there is no dictatorship that does not collapse. L. Ter-Petrosian added that he is ashamed for Armenia: "Armenian people's national honor is defied, and the country has become a football ball, and everybody who likes strikes it."

A march by Avan streets took place after the rally, which proceeded without incidents. A slight incident was only recorded when policemen tried to push L. Ter-Petrosian for him and other leaders to move from street's busy part to the pavement. First President's bodyguards pushed back the policemen, and march participants made a noise. As a result the march continued by street's busy part.

## 14. CRIMINAL CASE OF SHANT HAROUTIUNIAN QUASHED [Haykakan Zhamanak, 05/14/09]

Yerevan Kentron and Nork-Marash communities' first instance court presided over by judge Edik Avetisian, on May 13, quashed Shant Haroutiunian's criminal case with the charge of organizing mass disorders on March 1-2, 2008. Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed about it by RA Cassation Court Spokesperson Alina Yengoyan. The decision was made on the basis of forensic expertise that recorded S. Haroutiunian's being irresponsible at the moment of doing the act he is charged with. The experts also considered that S. Haroutiunian does not need a forced treatment, and he was set free the same day.



## 15. ACCORDING TO SOCIOMETER'S DATA, RPA'S RATING AMONG VOTERS GROWS AND ANC'S FALLS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/14/09]

According to the data publicized by Sociometer sociological center's head Aharon Adibekian on May 14, in Yerevan Council of Elders elections the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) will receive 55% votes, the Bargavach Hayastan (Prosperous Armenia) party 21%, the Armenian National Congress bloc 14%, and the rest parties taken together over 10% votes. As A. Adibekian reported at the May 14 press conference, these are the results of the surveys conducted on May 8-9. The sociologist reminded that the previous surveys were conducted on April 25.

According to A. Adibekian, comparison of current and previous indices shows the following: BH's rating has grown by 2%, RPA's rating by 0.8%, and ANC's rating has fallen by 5.5%. According to him, the fall of ANC's rating is conditioned by the circumstance that this political force considered the May 31 elections purely political, but fails to keep that thought bright in public consciousness.

Mentioning that ARFD's rating is rather low, A. Adibekian made it clear saying that ARFD coming out of the ruling coalition lost pro-governmental citizens' votes and has not managed to gain opposition's confidence yet.

## 16. ZHIRAYR SEFILIAN: WHEN STEPANAKERT COUNTERVAILS YEREVAN, POWER SHIFT BECOMES INEVITABLE IN ARMENIA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/14/09]

Currently the Armenian authorities are weaker than during the 2008 presidential elections campaign. Zhirayr Sefilian, the Coordinator of the Consolidation of Armenian Volunteers initiative, the Commander of Shoushi special battalion, expressed such an opinion at the May 14 press conference. In his words, worsening of the socio-economic situation in the country could not but weaken authorities' positions. "If people's social condition continues worsening and Yerevan Council of Elders elections are rigged, a social explosion will become inevitable," Z. Sefilian predicted.

"Opposition's current tactics is better than in 2008. To my happiness, in this election the opposition will take an unyielding, resolute position," Z. Sefilian said. He reported that by Armenian National Congress' decision, on the election day, May 31, 100-150 people will gather near each polling station after they are closed and will control policemen and will not permit rigging election results with their silent consent.

Touching upon the subject of Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Z. Sefilian classed as "adequate" the proposal voiced at the NKR parliament, according to which, a law prohibiting Armenia to sign a document on behalf on NKR need to be adopted. According to Z. Sefilian, Artsakh is convinced that RA President Serzh Sargsyan is "in a traitorous process." "And when Stepanakert countervails Yerevan, a power shift becomes inevitable in Armenia," he said.

## 17. POLITICAL SCIENTIST VAHAN DILANIAN: NO PROGRESS WAS RECORDED AT PRAGUE MEETING [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/14/09]

RA and Azeri Presidents' meeting held lately in Prague recorded no progress in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement. Vahan Dilanian, the Chairman of the Research Center for Political Developments, expressed such an opinion at the May 14 press conference. Touching upon the optimistic statements of OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs made after Prague meeting, the political scientist said that they are far from reality. As to American Co-chair Matthew Bryza's statements, according to V. Dilanian, they are completely invented. And Bryza's statement on returning territories caused such discontent in Armenia as Turkish Sabah newspaper's publication on the road-map.

While, in V. Dilanian's conviction, no issue of territories was discussed at the last meeting of RA and Azeri Presidents. He also considers unrealistic M. Bryza's statement that the two Presidents' meeting planned in Saint Petersburg can bring a breakthrough.

In V. Dilanian's opinion, a hardening of Armenia's positions was recorded at the last Armenian-Azeri meeting. Foreign Minister of France Bernard Kouchner also mentioned it. According to the latter, Armenia's conduct was too destructive. Besides, the fact that the Armenian-Azeri relations are not connected with normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations was reaffirmed.

According to V. Dilanian, normalization of relations with Turkey will have rather an economic significance. In particular, restoration of Gyumri-Kars railway, according to him, is a regional project, in which Azerbaijan can also participate in the future.



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## 18. RA NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SECRETARY RECEIVES SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF UK FOR SOUTH CAUCASUS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/14/09]

On May 14, RA National Security Council Secretary Artur Baghdasarian and Special Representative of the United Kingdom for the South Caucasus Brian Fall discussed issues regarding the 2009-2011 Actions Plan ensuring implementation of the Armenia-European Union Actions Plan of the European Neighborhood Policy. A. Baghdasarian mentioned that reforms are planned in various spheres in Armenia, and EU member countries' assistance to this process is expected.

The sides discussed the necessity of development of bilateral contacts of Armenia and Great Britain, possibilities of creation and development of contacts between the RA National Security Council and Great Britain's corresponding structure.

According to the RA National Security Council Press Office, issues related to Armenian-Turkish relations and Nagorno Karabakh settlement were spoken about at the meeting.

## 19. EDWARD NALBANDIAN: TURKEY'S ATTEMPTS TO INTERVENE INTO NAGORNO KARABAKH SETTLEMENT PROCESS CAN DAMAGE THAT PROCESS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/14/09]

On May 14, RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian received OSCE Minsk Group French Co-chair Bernard Fassier. They touched upon issues regarding Nagorno Karabakh settlement process at the meeting. The interlocutors also exchanged thoughts over regional issues.

According to the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, the same day E. Nalbandian received Special Representative of the United Kingdom for the South Caucasus Brian Fall. Ways of expanding cooperation between Armenia and Great Britain, possibilities of activation of partnership between the two countries' foreign political departments were discussed at the meeting. At British side's suggestion they came to an agreement to hold periodical consultations between Armenia's and United Kingdom's Foreign Ministries.

The interlocutors also touched upon the process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations. In that context B. Fall welcomed the progress recorded in that direction lately.

Speaking about Turkish Prime Minister's statements made the day before in Baku, E. Nalbandian said that Turkey's attempts to intervene into the Nagorno Karabakh settlement process can damage that process. He added that if Turkey wishes to assist problem's peaceful settlement, its most correct way will be not to intervene into that process at all.

## 20. US SECRETARY OF STATE SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton sent a letter to the President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan. Presidential press service told Armenpress that in the letter H. Clinton reconfirmed the readiness of USA to continuatively support in the full normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, as well as to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk group in the peaceful regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

US Secretary of State also referred to the Armenian-US bilateral relations and programs carried out in Armenia by the financing of the "Millennium Challenge" Corporation. Hilary Clinton pointed out that the free and fair elections of the City Council will give an opportunity to newly display the commitment to the democratic principles.

## 21. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT RECEIVES IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan received today Iranian ambassador to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghayan.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides discussed a wide-range of issues on the Armenian-Iranian cooperation. They particularly referred to the pace of implementation of arrangements reached during the Armenian president's official visit to Iran in April.

## 22. G. LENNMARKER SAYS THERE IS NO NECESSITY TO CHANGE THE OSCE MINSK GROUP FORMAT [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

"Karabakh conflict negotiations take place within the frameworks of OSCE Minsk Group, this is the place and I think it is important. I don't think there is any necessity to change this format but in any



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case there is a necessity to support the process if it concerns to an external – any third power”, - honorary President of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, rapporteur for Nagorno Karabakh in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Goran Lennmarker told today journalists. The top-official takes part in the “Security and Cooperation in Caucasus and Round it” international conference which kicked off today in Yerevan.

Referring to the Karabakh conflict negotiation process he noted that he has a quite optimistic assessment: “Three years ago I said that this is really a golden opportunity and I cannot say how long the opportunity will exist, but at this moment it is probably the best opportunity to find the solution. A quite well environment of negotiations has been established, I also mean the negotiations between Armenia and Turkey, an opportunity has been established for regulation of rather long-lasting and complicated issues and I’m sure this will also contribute to the successful implementation of Minsk Group activities. Of course the sides must try to refer each other more positively, may be not competitive, but more coordinated and people in all the states understand that the peaceful regulation of the issue is the mutual compromise”, - he noted.

G. Lennmarker did not wish to comment on yesterday’s statements of Azerbaijani President, he only added that the fact that meetings are taking place on levels of ministers and presidents already inspires optimism: “I must note that if we want to see a prosperous and developing region in the future, we must reach it only through cooperation with all the states of the region”.

He also thinks that the both processes – Karabakh conflict regulation and Armenian-Turkish relations, support each other.

“In September I took part in the Football match, I think the meeting was a very good occasion, but the opportunity once more proves that there will be such occasions when this long-lasting issue will be regulated”, - G. Lennmarker noted.

## 23. V. KAZIMIROV SAYS THERE IS NO NECESSITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PREPARATION OF A “ROAD MAP” IN KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

There is no necessity and opportunity of preparation of a “Road map” in Karabakh conflict regulation, OSCE Minsk Group former co-chairperson, Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov said today at a press conference.

“The “Road map” sets chronological steps but at present when 3-4 principles are not agreed we must not speak about such steps”, - V. Kazimirov said supposing that the non-agreed issues may refer to the Nagorno Karabakh status referendum and Lachin and Karvachar issues.

According to him, in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation the role of Russia will be active. Intending the regulation of this issue without Russia would be very naïve. V. Kazimirov said that the latest years showed that conduction of mutually agreed steps is preferable in the regulation of this issue.

“At present there is an opportunity to establish mutual understanding between Russia, USA and France”, - he noted.

The former co-chairperson is sure that restarting of military actions of Nagorno Karabakh conflict must not be allowed. All the necessary political and diplomatic means should be undertaken for enforcement of peace. It will prevent the restarting of military actions, and the peace is necessary for the negotiating sides so that the agreeing of basic principles of conflict regulation is more efficient.

V. Kazimirov said that he has doubts whether the conflicting sides will agree to the Turkish mediation in the conflict regulation.

“From the moment of establishment of the Minsk Group Turkey was involved in it and from the very beginning its biased approach was obvious”, - he noted, reminding that Turkey refused to take part in the first meeting of neutral states in Nagorno Karabakh issue and there were cases when Turkish and Azerbaijani delegates demonstratively left the session hall from a meeting.

The former co-chairperson wished to stress that he speaks not about present Turkey but that of 90s. Considering the changes in this state obvious he again expressed doubt that all the Nagorno Karabakh conflict sides will agree to Turkey’s mediation.

## 24. NKR PRESIDENT CONDUCTS WORKING CONSULTATION [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

NKR President Bako Sahakyan convoked today a working consultation.

Central Information Department of the office of the NKR President told Armenpress that among the issues on the agenda was road traffic in Stepanakert. President gave instructions to the heads of



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corresponding structures to tighten requirements for drivers violating rules and activate public awareness activities.

Issues related to preparation and holding of a number of cultural and sports events to take place on May 16-18 in Stepanakert were discussed during the consultation.

NKR NS chairman Ashot Ghoulyan, premier Ara Haroutyunyan and other officials took part in the consultation.

## **BUSINESS**

25. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF ARMENIA TO SUPPORT THE ARMENIAN BUSINESSMEN TO OVERCOME THE WORLD FINANCIAL-ECONOMIC CRISIS [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

Armenian Chamber of Commerce of Industry will organize a number of conferences and exhibitions this year with an aim to support the Armenian businessmen in the conditions of world financial-economic crisis.

Head of the Chamber, a member of parliament Martin Sargsyan told Armenpress that the visit of authorities of Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and businessmen to Armenia is expected in September within the frameworks of which a business forum and exhibition of products will be organized. According to the preliminary agreement in autumn an exhibition of Syrian products will be organized in Armenia in collaboration with the Syrian Chamber.

An exhibition of Indian goods is also intended. M. Sargsyan informed that already corresponding works are conducted to organize the permanent exhibition-sale of Armenian products in Aleppo. In the nearest future the Armenian side will leave for Aleppo to select the pavilion area.

According to M. Sargsyan in this way the Chamber tries to support the Armenian businessmen creating opportunities to boost cooperation and assisting in finding new markets. He said that the Armenian businessmen have an issue of product export especially in the conditions of financial-economic crisis.

26. ARMENIA'S FIRST PARTNER IN EXPORT IS GERMANY, IN IMPORT – RUSSIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

Germany is the first partner of Armenia in the external trade, then come Russia, USA, Netherlands.

An official from the government-affiliated State Revenue Committee told Armenpress that during the first quarter of this year products of 25 million 799 000 USD have been exported from Armenia to Germany. In 2008 the sum reached 42 million 369 000.

Product of 21 million 842 000 USD have been exported to Russia against 44 million 103 000 of the same period last year. The export to the USA reached 12 million 781 000 USD instead of 7 million 187 000 USD of the first quarter of 2008. During the same period product of 11 million 815 000 USD has been exported to the Netherlands instead of 34 million 745 000 of the same period last year.

Canada, Georgia, Belgium are also considered big trade partners of Armenia in respect of export. This year comparatively few products have been exported to Japan – 217 000 USD, Turkey – 100 000 USD, Romania – 62 000 USD. During the mentioned period no exports have been made from Armenia to Brazil.

During the first quarter of this year Armenia's first import partner is Russia from where products of 181 million 769 000 USD have been imported instead of 208 million 323 000 USD of the same period last year.

From China products of 58 million 543 000 USD have been imported instead of 59 million 289 000 of the same period in 2008. During January-March products of 34 million 813 000 USD have been imported from Germany instead of 56 million 489 000 USD of the same period last year, from Ukraine – 41 million 359 000 USD instead of 66 million 620 000 of the same period last year, from USA – 31 million 259 000 USD instead of 34 million 131 000 of the same period in 2008, from Turkey – 28 million 830 000 USD instead of 35 million 661 000 USD of the first quarter last year.



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## 27. INTERNATIONAL NINTH TOURISM EXHIBITION "COUNTRY OF TALKING STONES: CTS-2009" TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

International ninth tourism exhibition "Country of Talking Stones: CTS-2009" will be held November 6-7 in Yerevan. It is organized by the "Armenian Union of Tour Operators".

Exhibition coordinator Lusine Stepanian told Armenpress that there will be participants from Armenia as well as from different states of the world. The provinces of the republic and Nagorno Karabakh will be presented in separate pavilions. Tourism agencies, airlines, tour operators, hotel complexes, resort houses, leading brandy producers, etc will take part in the exhibition.

Tour operators, journalists, and tourism agents will represent different countries of the world. According to L. Stepanian, the exhibition will give an opportunity to get useful information and exchange experience, establish business relations as well as present products and services connected with the tourism to the public.

Organization of the "Country of Talking Stones: CTS-2009" is supported by the Armenian Economy Ministry and the Armenian office of "ASTA" international organization.

## ARTS

## 28. DILIJAN ART SCHOOL TO TAKE PART IN THE "TYANTSZIN-2009" INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PAINTING CONTEST [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

The Dilijan art school after Hovhannes Sharambeyan will take part in the "Tyantszin-2009" fifth international children's painting contest which will take place July 25-31 in Chinese Tyantszin town. The school has already presented 40 works of its children.

Children by 18 years old have a right to take part in the Tyantszin annual contest-festival. Peace, relationship, traditions, love are the themes of the contest. The best works, besides being awarded, will be involved in the "Tyantszin-2009" festival album the copies of which will be sent the UN, Governors of China and all the Embassies.

Head of the art school Hreghen Gasparian told Armenpress that the educational establishment which was a painting studio since 1946 and obtained a status of a school in 1970 has a great experience in participation in different authoritative contest-festivals and this time too there are great expectations.

In this province school which has a hundred attendees painting, graphics, compositions, curving, artistic decoration of wood, needlework and practical art subjects are taught.

## 29. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN LAYING FOUNDATION OF NEW BUILDING OF MATENADARAN [Azg, 05/14/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II participated today in the ceremony of laying foundation of the new building of Matenadaran – Institute of Ancient Manuscripts after Mesrop Mashtots.

"The new building will be ensured with all the modern conditions. It will give a good opportunity for preservation and studying of ancient manuscripts. With its value and importance Matenadaran became one of the symbols of Armenia," Catholicos of All Armenians said.

The director of Matenadaran Hrachya Tamrazyan said that after the construction of the main building in 1959 a scientific-research center of Matenadaran has been established and now, after 50 years, a new building is being built which with its inner territory will four times exceed the main one.

## 30. WINNERS OF THE SECOND SEMI-FINAL OF "EUROVISION-2009" DECIDED [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

Winners of the second semi-final of "Eurovision-2009" international song contest are decided. Representatives of Croatia, Norway, Denmark, Azerbaijan, Greece, Lithuania, Moldova, Albania, Ukraine and Estonia through SMS voting and phone calls got an opportunity to continue the fight in the final round of the contest which will take place May 16 in the Moscow "Olympic" sport complex.

Winners of the first semi-final of "Eurovision-2009" were Armenia, Turkey, Sweden, Israel, Portugal, Malta, Finland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romaine and Iceland. In the final round Russia, as the winner "Eurovision-2008", France, Germany, Spain and Great Britain as founders of the contest will join the winners of semi-finals.

Representatives of Armenia – Inga and Anush Arshakians will perform under number 9.



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## RELIGION

### 31. CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS RECEIVES THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ARMENIA-IRAN PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/14/09]

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II received today the representatives of Armenia-Iran parliamentary friendship group in the Mother See Holy Echmiadzin.

Press service of the Mother See told Armenpress that during the meeting the sides referred to the details of the visit of the members of the group, discussions and registered results. The launched cooperation has been stressed as important the kind fruits of which will serve to the more welfare and progressive life of the two nations.

Karekin II expressed his gratitude to the Iranian authorities for the solicitous attitude towards the Armenians living in Iran and for the care towards the Armenian spiritual, national culture and its preservation.

His Holiness also with gratification spoke about the warm relations established between the Mother See and the Iranian Embassy to Armenia.

## SOCIAL

### 32. RESULTS OF "BEST SCIENTIFIC WORK" REPUBLICAN CONTEST SUMMED UP [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

Results of "Best scientific work" republican contest have been summed up. Names of the winners will be announced on May 25 during the awarding ceremony.

Head of the Foundation of development of science of Armenian National Academy of Science Hrant Matevosian told Armenpress that 30 quite serious works have been presented in 5 nominations and there was a strong competition. Each of the winners will get an award of 1.5 million drams. H. Matevosian expressed hope that the contest becomes traditional as the expectations have fully been justified.

Spheres involved in the "Best scientific work" republican contest are Armenology, social, exact, technical and natural sciences and informatics. It has been organized by the Armenian National Academy of Science, World Armenian Congress and the Union of Armenians of Russia.

### 33. DURING FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR 1,190 PEOPLE GET DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

During the four months of this year 67 people have refused from the citizenship of their country and adopted Armenian citizenship, 1,190 people have adopted dual citizenship and 7 applications have been rejected. Head of the passport and visa department of the Armenian Police, lieutenant colonel Norayr Muradkhanian told Armenpress that last year there were 158 people who refused from the citizenship of their state and adopted Armenian citizenship and those who got dual citizenship – 1,396, 10 people have been rejected.

According to N. Muradkhanian, a great number of Diaspora Armenians from Lebanon, Canada and USA apply for getting a dual citizenship. He considered the constitutional establishment of the aspect of dual citizenship and providing it by law efficient noting that if from 1997-2007 1,735 people acquired Armenian citizenship, in 2008 1554 people got Armenian citizenship in virtue of the aspect of dual citizenship. From 2007 by now on the Armenian president's decree 2,741 people got Armenian citizenship, and applications of 17 people on getting Armenian citizenship have been rejected.

During 2007 223 people refused from their citizenship and adopted Armenian citizenship.

People living in Armenia who wish to get Armenian citizenship may apply to the Department of passports and visas of Armenian police and in foreign states – to Armenian Embassies or Consulates.

The applications of Armenian citizens can be rejected if a person with his activity endangers the state and social security, social order, public health and order, rights and freedom of other people, their honor and good fame. Rejection of the application for applying Armenian citizenship may not be grounded.



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## 34. BOOSTING OF ARMENIAN-BRAZILIAN TRADE-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SPORT AND YOUTH RELATIONS DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

The NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received today the Ambassador of Brazil to Armenia Renate Stille on the occasion of ending her mission in Armenia.

Public relations department of Armenian parliament told Armenpress that during the intercourse the NA Speaker expressed gratitude to R. Stille for the close cooperation during the passed years. H. Abrahamyan highly assessed the activity of first Brazilian ambassador to Armenia and stressed that with her unique style R. Stille has put the necessary cornerstone for the enhancement of bilateral cooperation.

The NA Speaker informed the Ambassador about the group of Armenian-Brazilian relationship established by the Armenian parliamentarians and expressed hope that another such group will also be established by the Brazilian MPs. Afterwards the interlocutors have referred to the issues which will boost the Armenian-Brazilian trade-economic, cultural, sport and youth relations.

Summarizing the conversation H. Abrahamyan wished success to Ambassador R. Stille in her undertakings and expressed hope that she will continue her relative relations with our country even after finishing the diplomatic mission in Yerevan.

## 35. NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED WITH THE "WORLEY PARSONS" INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM WHICH IS THE FINAL WINNER OF THE TENDER OF CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW NUCLEAR UNIT IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/14/09]

As a result of the tender announced by the Armenian State Procurement Agency on "Management services on the implementation of the project of construction of a new nuclear unit in Armenia" the "Worley Parsons" international consortium which corresponded to all the tender requirements, has been recognized the winner.

Press secretary of the Agency Vasak Tarposhian told Armenpress that now negotiations are held with the winner consortium on signing of the corresponding agreement. The negotiations are intended to be wrapped up within 15 days and the works will kick off after the agreement is signed.

V. Tarposhian informed that more than a dozen of organizations expressed interest towards the terms of the tender which got packages of the terms. After the terms were studied 2 consortiums presented applications of participation in the tender – "Worley Parsons" and "Scientech". The application of "Scientech" was rejected because of absence of necessary guarantees and not offering of a corresponding price package.

The new nuclear unit in Armenia is intended to be constructed by 2016. Before that the present functioning atomic station will gradually be withdrawn from exploitation.

## 36. BIG FIRE BREAKS OUT IN "NAIRIT" FACTORY [Azg, 05/14/09]

A big fire broke out today at about 16-17 pm in "Nairit" factory. Specialists of the Emergency Situations Ministry are working on the scene now.

Head of the public relations and media department of the rescue service of the Ministry Nikolay Grigoryan said that currently 12 fire engines are working on the place. The causes of fire are being clarified. Additional forces have been called for extinguishing the fire.

## 37. "STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE" AGENCY CONDUCTS SURVEYS IN THE LABOR MARKET OF THE COUNTRY [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

"State Employment Service" agency of the Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry conducts surveys in the labor market of the republic.

Head of the labor consultation and information department of the Agency Tsoghik Bezhanian told Armenpress that initially big, small and medium-sized enterprises, different companies, individual entrepreneurs have been selected who are provided a worked out questionnaires on the economy, possible impact of the crisis on their business, volumes of production, vacancies and on requirements from the employers.

The employers are selected from all the branches of economy.

"Such polls are conducted twice in a year, but in the conditions of world financial crisis it is more important. The survey will give an opportunity to gather information on the changes taking place in the economy and labor market", - Ts. Bezhanian said.



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The research will contribute to expansion of the circle of information on the staff of labor force, its structure, movement, lack and intended demand as well as on the peculiarities of employment. Ts. Bezhanian said that the results will give an opportunity to assess the short-term tendencies of the economy and labor market and based on it frame a right policy.

As soon as the results of surveys are ready they will be presented to the public. Another such poll is intended to be conducted during the second half of the year.

**38. AS OF TODAY AFTERNOON THE SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY OF “NAIRIT” FACTORY IS CONTROLLED AND THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENTS ARE BEING STUDIED [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]**

As of today afternoon the situation in the territory of “Nairit” factory is controlled and the causes of the accident are being studied. Big fire which broke out as a result of the May 14 explosion in the factory which deals with production of rubber was possible to put off at about 22:35 yesterday. Though the situation is controlled an emergency situation is still announced in the factory.

Public relations department of the Armenian Emergency Situations Ministry told Armenpress that today at 07:15 o'clock early in the morning body of the fourth victim of the accident has been found brought out at 08:40 o'clock.

Information on other victims does not correspond to reality. As a result of the accident 6 employees of the factory and 17 workers of the fire service have suffered. Their injuries are not heavy and after getting a corresponding medical support in the “Erebuni” medical center all of them have been signed out. At present there is no one who suffered from the fire in the medical center.

At present three fire brigades carry out duty in the “Nairit” territory.

Specialists of the Emergency Situations Ministry assessed the accident as having no nature protection threat for the environment, there are no dangerous exhausts, and there is no threat for the population. In case of such threats the residents will be warned and corresponding steps will be undertaken. Still there is no information how much the air was polluted as a result of the fire.

Press secretary of “Nairit” Anush Harutyunian told Armenpress that a professional commission has been established to find out causes, results as well as the sum of damage caused by the explosion and the big fire which broke out as a result of it.

At present the technological lines in the factory are working and the production processes continue. Cleaning and restoration works are conducted in the fire area.

A. Harutyunian informed that at present the authorities of “Nairit” factory organize possible aid and support to the families of the victims.

As a result of the accident head of the day's shift of the division of chloroprene production, born in 1959 Levon Levonian, Hovhannes Hovhannissian born in 1958, Vahan Grigoryan born in 1959 and Arthur Karapetian born in 1970 died.

On May 14 at about 18:40 o'clock an accident took place in the chloroprene division of the “Nairit” factory as a result of which an absorption tower broke out. The whole garrison of Yerevan fire-service was involved in extinguishing the fire.

A criminal case has been evoked on the accident; an extended investigatory group is working in which different specialists are involved who at present deal with the discovery of causes of the accident.

After the 4.5 months' of pause “Nairit” had again restarted its works in April. All the workers of the factory – more than a thousand people returned to their works after the stoppage.

The factory was planning to start working in its whole capacity already from May 5-10. Here the average monthly volume of rubber production reaches 700-750 tons, and in separate months the amount even reaches 900 tons. Steps are undertaken in the direction of modernization of “Nairit”.

**39. A CRIMINAL CASE OPENED ON THE EXPLOSION IN “NAIRIT” FACTORY [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]**

At 18:40 o'clock, May 14 a message was got in the Shengavit division of Armenian Police according to which the residents of Peaceful Don 35 house heard two explosions in the “Nairit” factory and saw black smoke rising from there.

Public relations department of the Police told Armenpress that it has been found out that as a result of violation of the security rules of dealing with chemical substances in #1-12 workshop an explosion took place and fire broke out in “Nairit” factory as a result of which with injuries and burns of different degree Karen Ghevondian, Hrayr Vardanian have been taken to “Erebuni” medical center and Sargis Avakian – to “Armenia” medical center where he got medical support and went home.



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From the place of the accident 3 unknown bodies with burns have been replaced to the morgue. A criminal case has been opened according to second point of 231 article and second point of 285 article of the Armenian Criminal Code. A preliminary investigation is being held.

#### 40. 771,353 ARMENIAN CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT TO TAKE PART IN THE ELECTIONS OF YEREVAN COUNCIL OF ELDERS [ARMENPRESS, 05/15/09]

13 electoral constituencies and 439 polling stations have been established in Yerevan for conduction of May 31 elections of Yerevan Council of Elders. Names and surnames of people who have a right to vote have already been set up in the polling stations.

During today's press conference head of the passport and visa department of Armenian Police, Lieutenant-Colonel of Police Norayr Muradkhanian informed that the lists of voters have last basically been rectified on April 20 and provided to the Central Electoral Commission also being placed in the CEC website.

According to it at present 771,353 Armenian citizens registered in Yerevan have a right to take part in the elections of council of elders.

"Daily works are conducted to correct the lists finally. According to the law, people who have no registration do not have right to take part in the Yerevan elections like during presidential and parliamentary elections", - N. Muradkhanian said.

According to him, twice in a year the Police give the lists of people who have a right to vote to the Central Electoral Commission. Thus as of July 1, 2008, 753 000 citizens had a right to vote in Yerevan, on 1 January 2009 the number reached 763 000, and as of April 20 – 771, 353.

During the first four months of 2009, for 2700 citizens less has been registered in Yerevan than during the same period in 2008.

"That's to say rumors according to which great number of people from Armenian other provinces are registered in Yerevan are groundless", - the head of the passport and visa department of Armenian Police noted.

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