



# AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Monday, May 18, 2009

## TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

### POLITICS

#### 1. RA PRESIDENT RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF IRAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/15/09]

On March 15, RA President Serzh Sargsyan received Ambassador of IRI to Armenia Seid Ali Saghalian. According to the RA President's Press Office, a wide range of issues regarding Armenian-Iranian cooperation in various spheres was discussed at the meeting. In particular, the process of fulfillment of the agreements reached during S. Sargsyan's official visit to Iran in April was touched upon.

#### 2. GALUST GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION DONATES USD 50 000 TO ARFD ARCHIVES [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/15/09]

Galust Gulbekian foundation will donate USD 50 000 to ARFD Archives organization. Thanks to that donation ARFD Archives will be completed with new equipment and increase efficiency of their work, said the director of ARFD Archives Vache Brutian.

#### 3. GORAN LENNMARKER: THERE IS A NEED TO ASSIST NAGORNO KARABAKH PROCESS BY FOREIGN, SOME THIRD FORCE [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 05/15/09]

There is no need to change the Nagorno Karabakh negotiations process format, but there is a need to assist the process by a foreign, some third fore. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Honorary President Goran Lennmarker said in his May 15 interview to journalists. In response to the question of whether Turkey's speaking the language of preconditions does not hinder the Nagorno Karabakh settlement, G. Lennmarker said that the two processes of Armenian-Turkish relations and Nagorno Karabakh settlement are processes assisting each other.

According to G. Lennmarker, rather a good situation, atmosphere has been formed in the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement, a possibility to solve the problems unsolved for a long time has been also created for Armenia and Turkey. "People in all countries should understand that problem's peaceful settlement is the compromise, and all regional countries should build their relations on the basis of cooperation," he said.

#### 4. SERZH SARGSYAN: WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT DEEPENING OF INTOLERANCE WITH JOINT FORCES [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/15/09]

Today the South Caucasian region is considered important as a plane of democratic development, international security and cooperation, as well as an important way of export and transition of energy supplies, which under current circumstances has a military-political and economic significance. RA President Serzh Sargsyan said in his address to the participants of the two-day international conference Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus and Around It being held on May 15-16 in Yerevan. "This is a look from outside, for us, the Caucasus is the geographic environment where we live, where in spite of current contradictions and variety of opinions the regional states face the common dictate of building more peaceful and secure region," the address read. According to S. Sargsyan, the South Caucasus has problems seeming insuperable, fragile stability, and reestablishment of peace and security requires joint work.

"We are convinced that the future way of the Caucasus and neighbor states is combination of current military-political, economic, and cultural interests, cooperation of the East and the West, the North and the South, which will make our region a zone of peace and cooperation. For the Republic of Armenia, democracy, peace, regional security and cooperation are not purely slogans, they are the values our statehood is based on, our citizens' vision of living in a peaceful and secure world, our country's foreign policy," the RA President said in his speech. In his words, the way of conflict and intolerance will not lead to anything and are fraught with new dangers and undesirable losses. S. Sargsyan considers that we should be able together, with joint forces to prevent deepening of intolerance, exert maximum efforts in the direction of peaceful settlement of conflicts and ensure an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation.



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S. Sargsyan considered symbolic and praiseworthy that 50 delegates from more than 30 countries take part in the conference, which is evidence that many countries are interested in providing security and stability in the region. He expressed confidence that the international conference Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus and Around It will become a plane of free, fearless and new viewpoints and analyses related to regional security and cooperation.

## 5. SERZH SARGSYAN: MUCH TO BE DONE FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND CONDEMNATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE [Azg, 05/15/09]

Much to be done for the international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, the Genocide is crime against humanity, and these efforts will never lose their public and international significance. This was stated by the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan during the 2008 President's award-giving ceremony on May 15. He particularly mentioned activities of Vahagn Tatrian and Wolfgang Gust, who were awarded prizes for their significant contribution towards international recognition and condemnation the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Sargsyan expressed gratitude to the Poghosyans family foundation (France), whose efforts and resources enabled to bring to life President's awards. Benefactor Albert Poghosyan was present at the award-giving ceremony.

## 6. DISASTER AT NAIRIT MUST BE ALARM FOR OWNERS OF OTHER ENTERPRISES, SAYS SERZH SARGSYAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/15/09]

"The disaster at the Nairit chemical plant must be another alarm for the heads and owners of Armenia's other enterprises," the president of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan said during his visit to Nairit on May 15.

The president walked about the site of disaster which occurred on May 14, when absorption tower burned down due to breakage at chloroprene section. 4 people died and 8 injured in the accident. The president got acquainted with the circumstances of the accident. Serzh Sargsyan was told about the works at the factory to investigate causes of the blast and to overcome fire consequences. The president emphasized the necessity of examining the reasons to exclude such accidents in future.

Serzh Sargsyan expressed his condolences to the families of the victims, saying that serious conclusions should be drawn from the accident.

## 7. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES DELEGATION HEADED BY THE RUSSIAN VICE PRIME MINISTER SERGEY IVANOV [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today the Russian Vice Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov and the delegation headed by him.

Public relations department of Armenian Government told Armenpress that at the beginning of the meeting Sergey Ivanov expressed condolences on the accident which took place yesterday in "Nairit" factory and expressed readiness to provide possible support to the Armenian side.

During the meeting Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan expressed gratification on the high-level cooperation between Armenia and Russia and noted that in the Armenian-Russian relations there is not a sphere where joint projects are not implemented. In Armenia more than 1000 enterprises with joint capital function and the Armenian Government is ready to utmost support them in the conditions of world financial-economic crisis.

During the intercourse particularly issues connected with transport, energy spheres as well as the activity of enterprises handed to Russia instead of the state debt have been discussed.

Stressing the importance of properly ensured cargo transportations between Armenia and Russia the sides have discussed issues connected with Caucasus-Poti-Caucasus railway-ferryboat and Novorosisk-Poti-Novorosisk vehicle-ferryboat lines.

T. Sargsyan and S. Ivanov have also referred to the Armenian railway net which has been handed to Russia for concession management, the implementation of concession treaty, spoke about the price policy, technical rearmament of the railways as well as investments demanded for modernization.

Within the frameworks of development of Armenian-Russian economic relations the Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan stressed the importance of promotion of the process of establishment of economic zones in the territories of industrial and scientific enterprises conveyed to Russia on the "Property for Debt" agreement.



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In his turn Sergey Ivanov noted that the issue is under the limelight of the Russian side and will be solved in the nearest future.

The sides have spoken about the participation of Armenia in the construction works intended within the frameworks of preparations for Olympic Games which will take place in Russian Sochi town, particularly in supply of construction materials.

Armenian Prime Minister and Russian Vice Prime Minister have mutually stressed the importance of the role of Armenian-Russian inter-governmental commission, noting that it gives an opportunity to discover the potential of mutual cooperation and involve new spheres in it.

## 8. PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN VISITS "NAIRIT" FACTORY TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ACCIDENT [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan visited today "Nairit" factory accompanied by the Energy and Natural Resources Minister, Health Minister, Emergency Situations Minister, Yerevan Mayor and other officials.

The president walked in the burnt territory, got acquainted with the circumstances of the accident. The president was informed that works are being carried out to find out the causes of the explosion and the fire broken out as a result of it. Serzh Sargsyan underscored the necessity of finding out the causes of the accident to exclude them in future.

The president also expressed his condolences to the families of the victims.

## 9. SERZH SARGSYAN RECEIVES EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SOUTH CAUCASUS [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan received May 16 EU Special Representative to the South Caucasus Peter Semneby who was in Armenia on a regional visit.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the president of the country, reconfirming Armenia's commitment to the European values registered that the summit on "Eastern Partnership" which took place in Prague was a good start for the expansion of Armenia-EU relations.

The interlocutors also expressed assurance that frequent meetings and discussions witness about the expanding agenda of the Armenia-EU partnership as well as give an opportunity to quickly respond and give solutions to the arising issues.

The sides also referred to the Armenian-Turkish dialogue, prospects of the Karabakh conflict regulation and deepening of democracy in Armenia.

## 10. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ARMENIAN-INDIAN RELATIONS DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan received May 16 Eurasian Coordinator of the Indian Foreign Ministry Divyab Manchanda.

Armenian Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that greeting the guest the foreign minister noted that Armenia highly underscores the Armenian-Indian traditional warm relations and is interested in their further development.

D. Manchanda pointed out that Indians have special warm attitude towards Armenia and its people and the authorities of the country are aimed at expanding bilateral partnership and cooperation.

During the meeting the sides spoke over the directions of boosting cooperation. Edward Nalbandyan also underscored the activation of political dialogue.

## 11. SAMVEL NIKOYAN NOMINATED IN THE OFFICE OF DEPUTY NA SPEAKER [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/18/09]

The four-day session of the Armenian National Assembly started today with the discussion of the issue of election of the chairman of the NA's permanent commission of education, science, culture, sport and youth affairs.

The head of the Armenian Republican Party's faction Galust Sahakyan nominated the candidacy of Samvel Nikoyan in the office of the deputy speaker of the parliament and in the office of the chairman of the permanent commission Artak Davtyan.



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The candidates presented to the members of parliament the directions of their activity, answered their questions. The candidates expressed their support to the coalition partners. Other nominations have not been forwarded. The closed voting will take place today.

## 12. A COOPERATION MEMORANDUM SIGNED BETWEEN THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES OF ARMENIA AND CZECH REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

Armenian and Czech Republic Attorney Generals Aghvan Hovsepian and Renata Vesecka who is in Yerevan on an official visit signed a cooperation memorandum today in Yerevan to consolidate the mutual cooperation in a number of directions. Particularly the sides will collaboratively combat the trafficking in human beings and illegal migration, foster the cooperation in protection of rights and freedoms of citizens and legal persons.

Today a session of collegiums was also held in the Armenian Chief Prosecutor's office in which Attorney Generals of Armenia, Czech Republic and Nagorno Karabakh Republic took part. During the session issues of international legal cooperation, exchange of experience in the legal sphere and other issues were discussed. From the Czech Chief Prosecutor's office six specialists who are in the delegation headed by R. Vesecka took part in the session.

After the session and document signing A. Hovsepian considered the meeting a historical event noting that this is the first time a woman Attorney General arrives in Armenia.

According to A. Hovsepian, the Armenian Chief Prosecutor's office gives a special significance to the signing of bilateral cooperation agreements with the Chief Prosecutor's offices of all the states. The experience showed that within the frameworks of signed documents Armenia has launched an efficient cooperation with other European states.

A. Hovsepian assured that this agreement will also contribute to operative solution of numerous issues existing between Armenian and Czech legal systems. He expressed hope that hence force the cooperation between divisions of the Chief Prosecutor's offices of the two states will also be fortified.

During the latest years Armenia has cooperated with the Czech Republic on 10 criminal cases. Now there is also a criminal case in the investigation on which the Armenian side must provide legal support to the Czech partners.

According to R. Vesecka, no analyses have been conducted to find out how many crimes are annually conducted in the Czech Republic with the participation of Armenians. She said that during the today's session of collegiums the sides have found out during the latest period the crimes in the two states have reduced. This proves that the cooperation gave the expected result. According to the Czech Chief Prosecutor, the document will give an opportunity to further develop the cooperation and expect for great results.

"We came to conclusion that we must really work hard. The signed treaty is only the bases for our activity. I hope that the Armenian Chief Prosecutor will take my invitation to visit Prague where the continuation of our agreement will be signed. An exchange of experience must also be held and conducted works presented to each other. Only in this case we will reach great successes", - R. Vesecka said.

## 13. S. NIKOYAN ELECTED DEPUTY NA SPEAKER AND A. DAVTYAN CHAIRMAN OF NA'S SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS COMMISSION [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

Today at the closed voting Samvel Nikoyan has been elected deputy NA speaker and Artak Davtyan chairman of the NA's science, education, culture, sports and youth affairs permanent commission.

104 of participating 108 members of parliament backed the candidacy of S. Nikoyan, three voted against, one bulletin has been recognized invalid. Candidacy of A. Davtyan has been backed by 102, 6 members of parliament voted against.

S. Nikoyan was secretary of the Armenian Republican Party's faction and will be replaced by Eduard Sharmazanov.



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## BUSINESS

### 14. ARMENIA'S CENTRAL BANK DEFINED 7.25 PER CENT REFINANCING INTEREST RATE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/15/09]

Armenia's Central Bank Council reduced the refinancing interest rate by 0.25 percentage point to 7.25 per cent.

As the CB public relation department reported, the council of the central bank stated 3.2 per cent of price growth was recorded in April of 2009 against March, the price growth within 12 month reached 3.1 per cent.

The Council of the CB stated that current inflationary developments are mainly relevant to the directions for the forecasted period.

According to the CB PR department, since the second quarter of 2009 the inflation pace, as expected, began to accelerate. However, the inflation pace will not surpass the upper target within forecasted period.

Concurrently, further inflation tendency will be conditioned by indirect impact of the rate increase for main utility services within this April. In addition to it, the inflation growth will be affected by continuing process of price adjustment for imported goods, which started due to dram devaluation in the beginning of this March.

GDP rate, lower than balanced level for the forecasted period, and outer deflation environment soften the influence of the mentioned factors on the regular level of prices.

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### 16. MEETING OF ARMENIAN-AMERICAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORK GROUP HELD IN YEREVAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/15/09]

A regular meeting of the Armenian-American intergovernmental working group was held in Yerevan on May 13. A number of issues related to regional integration in transport, energy and telecommunication spheres were discussed at the meeting. Participants also spoke about Millennium challenges program, new policy of free trade and engagement of Armenian companies in Silicon Valley were discussed. According to RA economy ministry data, between 2000 and 2008 the U.S. invested some USD 238 million in the Armenian economy, while in 1991-2008 American investments reached USD 299.7 million, including USD 198.62 million direct investments. In 2008, investments totaled nearly USD 30.2 million, including USD 17.7 million of direct investments. Exports reached USD 52 million and imports USD 219 million. As of January 1, 2009, 535 U.S. organizations are registered in Armenia. U.S.-Armenia cooperation will allow Armenian manufacturers to enter new markets and attract new investors, economy minister Nerses Yeritsyan, who is also Armenian co-chair of the commission said. Armenian state bodies, representatives of the US Embassy to Armenia and various international organizations attended the meeting.



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## 17. ARMENIAN DATACOM COMPANY REDUCED ITS MONTHLY FEES FOR INTERNET OFFICE MINI [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/15/09]

Armenian Datacom Company CJSC (ADC) has reduced its monthly fees for Internet office mini services, a broadband Internet access specially designed for small and medium sized businesses.

As ADC's public relation department reported, signing a one-year contract between May 13 and June 12, corporate customers will be able to pay heavily reduced monthly fees during the whole year, and will benefit from the advanced fiber-optic Internet connection without traffic limitations. "Monthly service fees are quite affordable for small and medium companies and traffic capacities are relevant to their requirements," ADC's management assures.

Internet office mini service delivery is based on a last mile connection from the nearest node of ADC network to the customer premises via optical fiber cable including installation of relevant end-point equipment.

Besides, end-to-end professional fiber-optic connection, customers will benefit from: 24 hours availability of all Internet applications (including unrestricted VPN connections), Data/Voice/Video traffic priority system, 24/7/365 support, which is a best combined offer in the market.

"I believe by the early summer of this year the company will have started providing services to apartment subscribers," told recently ADC Chief Commercial Officer Avetik Kalantaryan in an interview to Noyan Tapan.

Established in April 2006, the Armenian-Norwegian joint venture ADC has already invested USD 3.4 million in the venture. Since the early 2009 Dubai-based Delta Partners has become a stake holder in ADC.

The company operates a large fiber-optic network in Yerevan and has a significant business subscriber portfolio: banks, hotels, supermarkets, drugstore networks, state bodies and other multiple organizations, requiring virtual private LAN services. Market survey, conducted in late 2007, revealed that the company managed to gain a strong foothold in the market of data transfer: 50 to 54 per cent of the market of data transmission lines and 6 to 6.5 per cent of the market of Internet service provision.

ADC's network is based on state-of-the-art IP/MPLS technology with total infrastructure length exceeding 400 km. The company's investment strategy is to continuously develop and extend services in line with market demand and the network continues to be extended both geographically and in terms of its service portfolio capabilities, ADC's press office reported.

## 18. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT ATTENDS THE OPENING CEREMONY OF ARMENIAN-RUSSIAN ENTERPRISE PRODUCING OXIDIZED ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION BITUMEN IN SURENAVAN COMMUNITY OF ARARAT PROVINCE [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan was today present at the opening ceremony of Armenian-Russian enterprise in Surenavan community of Ararat province, which produces oxidized road and construction bitumen.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that with the help of schematic map set up at the entrance to the factory the head of the factory presented the productive cycle of bitumen.

Afterwards the Armenian vice Prime Minister, Minister of Territorial Administration Armen Gevorgyan and Russian vice Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov cut the red ribbon after which the officials walked round in the factory. High level mechanization of the experiment system is characteristic of this enterprise. Here a modern factory laboratory and coordinating system functions, on which the first testing of the raw material and production of bitumen was conducted.

Systemized cleaning systems are constructed and a mechanized system of condensation of bitumen steam is set up for reduction of environment polluting exhausts.

In the factory yard the President also took part in the symbolic tree planting.

## 19. FIRST SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP OF CIS EXPERTS DEALING WITH THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE FREE TRADE ZONE HELD [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

First session of the working group of CIS experts who conduct negotiation over the draft agreement on the free trade zone was held in Minsk.

Press service of CIS executive committee told Armenpress that representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine as well as responsible officials of CIS executive committee took part in the session.



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As a result of the session the participants decided to ask the Russian Economic Development Ministry through the registration of held discussion to make amendment in the draft agreement and by 15 June 2009 present it to the CIS executive committee for sending it to CIS member states. Next session of the working group is planned for July 2009 in Moscow.

## ARTS

### 20. ARMENIA TO TAKE PART IN THE SOUTH CAUCASIAN “I AM A HUMAN BEING” FILM FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

In September-October Armenia will take part in the South Caucasian film festival under the “I am a human being” slogan.

Coordinator of the works of the festival in Armenia, responsible for “The Caucasian center of peaceful initiatives” programs Luiza Poghosian told Armenpress that NGOs from different towns of South Caucasian states, cultural centers and citizens can primarily present applications which will be discussed by the jury and 25 applications will be selected.

Those who wish to hold the festival in different Armenian towns may apply to the mentioned center. The Festival organizers will visit towns which have presented applications and show 10 modern films on the conflict regulation themes which will previously be selected by the jury. The jury will involve cinematographers, film theorists and representatives of NGOs from South Caucasus, Germany, Czech Republic.

A three-day program will be formed from the presented films. The festival is not competitive: within its frameworks discussions will be held on the shown films in which experts, arts men, representatives of NGOs, etc. will take part.

According to L. Poghosian, compared with the last year this time besides documentary films short films will also be shown.

“We aim at enriching the thematic of the festival by selecting films touching upon new issues and at the same time preserve the ideology of the festival, i.e. peaceful regulation of conflicts, reconciliation and human rights”, - L. Poghosian said.

Before the festival kicks off a general preparatory meeting will be organized in Istanbul in which the 25 winner applicants and members of the jury will take part.

### 21. CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF CHARLES AZNAVOUR’S HOUSE MUSEUM TO BE FINISHED BY END MAY [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

Construction works of the world famous singer Charles Aznavour’s house museum are conducted according to the planned schedule. By end May the construction works will already be brought to an end.

Deputy Armenian Urban Minister, chief architect of the republic Narek Sargsyan told Armenpress that after the construction works are finished at the beginning of June the renovation, asphaltting and greenery works of the neighboring territories to the house-museum will be conducted. Concrete opening date of the construction is not yet known. Ch. Aznavour’s Armenian office is already dealing with transportation and presentation of exhibits which tell about the life and activity of the world famous singer.

Yesterday, accompanied by the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan and N. Sargsyan, Ch. Aznavour visited the museum, got acquainted with the process of works, structure of the building and expressed his gratification on the conducted works.

### 22. INGA AND ANUSH ARSHAKIANS WITH 92 POINTS TAKE THE 10<sup>TH</sup> PLACE IN THE “EUROVISION 2009” INTERNATIONAL SONG CONTEST [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

Representatives of Armenia Inga and Anush Arshakians with 92 points occupied the 10<sup>th</sup> place in the “Eurovision 2009” international song contest. Winner was recognized the representative of Norway Alexander Rybak with 387 points, who from the very first moment of presentation of the voting results was on the first place.

On the day before the final of the contest the bookmakers had predicted that winner would be Norway. Iceland with 218 points took the second place. The top ten includes Azerbaijan, Great Britain, Turkey, Estonia, Greece, France and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Armenia got the only highest score from the Czech Republic, 8, 7, 6, points – from Israel, Belgium, Romania, France, Bulgaria and Turkey.



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The winner of "Eurovision 2009" contest got the same crystal-made microphone which was brought to Moscow from Belgrade last year by the representative of Russia Dima Bilan. According to the contest rules the "Eurovision 2010" will be held in the winner country.

## SOCIAL

### 23. 4 PEOPLE KILLED AS A RESULT OF EXPLOSION AT NAIRIT PLANT [Aravot, 05/15/09]

According to the latest official information, 4 employees of the chloroprene department died and an area of 1,500 square meters burned down as a result of explosions and the consequent fire at the indicated department of Nairit plant on the evening of May 14th, NT correspondent was informed by Nikolay Grigorian, advisor to the RA minister of emergency situations. In his words, as of 12:30 am on May 15, in hospitals there were no victims who suffered from the explosions at Nairit plant.

N. Grigorian said that the alarm call about the explosion at the plant was received at 6.34 pm, while the seat of fire was isolated at 10:25 pm and extinguished at 10:35 pm.

An explosion occurred at Nairit plant at about 6:40 pm on May 14th. According to an official of the RA ministry of trade and economic development, there were no harmful emissions.

### 24. WORLD FAMOUS CHARLES AZNAVOUR IN ARTSAKH [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

World famous Charles Aznavour arrived in Artsakh May 17. In the airport he was met by the Nagorno Karabakh authorities headed by the President Bako Sahakyan. The delegation accompanying Ch. Aznavour left for the newly build cultural center named after the great singer, the red ribbon of which was cut by the outstanding singer.

With the decree of President of Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan Charles Aznavour has been awarded with the Medal of "Grigor Lusavorich". During his gratitude speech the great singer noted that his dream to visit Artsakh has come true.

On the same day in the Stepanakert Square of Revival Aida and Seda Aznavourians gave a concert. Charles Aznavour also took part in the concert of his sister and daughter.

### 25. AN ATTEMPT OF SUICIDE IN YEREVAN, COLLAPSE IN GYUMRI [ARMENPRESS, 05/18/09]

On May 16 an attempt of suicide has been registered on the Yerevan Kievian Bridge (from Halabian Street). A man of nearly 60 years old climbed on the bridgeboard and threatened to throw himself. The rescuers who left for the place of the occasion managed to prevent S. Simonian's attempt of suicide.

Public relations department of Armenian Rescue Service of the Emergency Situations Ministry told Armenpress that on May 17 a collapse took place in Gyumri, G. Nzhdeh 7 building. A fire-rescue brigade and operative group of Shirak province rescue department left for the place of the accident.

It has been found out that the back wall of the third entrance of 7 emergency stone four-floor building collapsed. In collaboration with the policemen an evacuation of 30 residents has been conducted and the collapsed area has been banned.

The corresponding services of Shirak governor's office and Gyumri municipality have been informed about the accident. There are no victims and injured.

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