



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

AGBU NEWS

1. AN EXAMPLE OF KINDNESS, GENEROSITY AND VIRTUE THAT CARRIES THE NAME OF ALEX MANOOGIAN [Azg, 05/20/09]

This year the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia has initiated a series of events the main purpose of which is to present the biographies of several outstanding prominent pan-Armenian figures and to introduce them to the young generation. The Ministry has decided to organize evenings dedicated to Charles Aznavour, Kirk Kerkorian, Vazken I and Alex Manoogian. These will be continuous events and will be held not only in the schools and other educational establishments of Yerevan, but also in the regions of Armenia.

“July 16, 1996, Alex Manoogian was lying in his deathbed, still interested with the letters coming to his office, still willing to know what the people in his homeland – Armenia – were in need of. His mind and memories were bright until the last seconds of his life. The last letter he received was from the Yerevan State University. And the last words of Alex Manoogian were about this university”, said Yervant Azatian, literary critic and foreign member of the RA National Academy of Sciences, sharing his memories of Alex Manoogian.

The evening of commemoration dedicated to Alex Manoogian took place yesterday in Charents Hall of the Yerevan State University. The evening was opened by the performance of the university choir.

“During the Soviet period the word “benevolence” disappeared from our lexicon, but not from our minds and hearts. We have had a lot of benefactors during the history and unfortunately many of them remained unknown. Today, “the great Armenian benefactor” is Alex Manoogian. It’s hard to estimate his contribution in the development of culture, science and art”, said Aram Simonian, Rector of the YSU.

RA Diaspora Minister Hranush Hagopian is concerned with the fact that we don’t know each other. “If we go out to the street and ask randomly who Alex Manoogian is, very few people will give a positive answer”, she said. Hranush Hagopian had the honor of meeting Alex Manoogian twice and she finds it very symbolic that both of these meetings took place in the church.

Yervant Azatian confessed that he was always fascinated at the generosity, honesty and cleanness of the great benefactor, which he always had in his eyes. “Being a rich man, he was always a very modest person”, said Azatian and added that we can hardly find such a modest person among today’s rich people. “For more than 36 years Alex Manoogian headed the AGBU. There are many similarities between Alex Manoogian and Bogos Nubar Pasha. Besides being benefactors these two people were initiators by their nature. They liked to create, they liked to help. Manoogian is a great hero. His image must always stay in the memory and in the hearts of our people. Manoogian is a national hero, who has had his contribution in Hai Dat and Karabakh issues”, said Mr. Azatian.

It was a very warm, kind and friendly evening – like Alex Manoogian himself was.

POLITICS

2. ANNUAL MEETING OF HAYASTAN ALL-ARMENIAN FUND’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES *ARA VARTANIAN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF HAYASTAN ALL-ARMENIAN FUND’S EXECUTIVE BOARD* [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 05/19/09]

The proposal of appointing Ara Vartanian Director of Hayastan All Armenian Fund’s Executive Board was approved at the 18th meeting of the Fund’s Board of Trustees held on May 18. Ara Vartanian was the Acting Director of the Fund’s Executive Board.

The Board also approved the proposal of making amendments to Fund’s regulations. As a result a new position of Vice-Chairman of the Fund’s Board of Trustees was established. The candidature of former NKR President, RA Ambassador for Special Errands Arkady Ghoukassian was approved on that post. RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian and Russian-based entrepreneur Samvel Karapetian were officially included in the Fund’s Board of Trustees. In 2008 Karapetian made the biggest donation to the Fund – 15 mln USD for a new hospital in Artsakh.

The Board also endorsed its new members ex officio: RA National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamian, CBA Chairman Artur Javadian, Chairman of State Revenue Committee attached to RA government Gagik Khachatryan.



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Louise Manoogian Simone was withdrawn from Board presidium at her request, due to her busyness. She was given the title of Honorary Member of Board of Trustees.

Fund's certificates were also given to big donors having provided assistance to Hayastan All Armenian Fund programs: certificates of honorary member having donated more than 1 mln dollars were given to Samvel Karapetian (15 mln USD), Sergey Hambardzumian (3.4 mln USD), Gagik Tsarukian (2 mln USD), Seyran Karapetian (1 mln USD), VivaCell - MTS company (1 mln USD), Genady Stepanian (1 mln USD), Tezik Khachatryan (1 mln USD), Armrosgazprom company (1.3 mln USD). A certificate of benefactor member was given to the Karabakh Telecom company having donated 500 thousand dollars, and assistant member's certificates were given to people having donated between 250 000 to 500 000 dollars, Mikayel Baghdasarov (300 thousand dollars), Samvel Alexanian (200 thousand dollars).

RA President Serzh Sargsyan, who is officially the Chairman of the Fund Board of Trustees, said that within the framework of the issue On Problems of All-Armenian Significance included in the agenda he will present the current developments in the Armenian-Turkish relations and Nagorno Karabakh settlement negotiations, as well as "some details from the latest events" to Board members.

3. AMBASSADOR OF INDONESIA TO ARMENIA PRESENTS HER CREDENTIALS TO RA PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

The newly appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Armenia Ms. Nining Suningsih Rochadiat (residence in Kiev) presented her credentials to Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan.

Congratulating the Ambassador on her mission, the President of Armenia expressed hope that she will contribute considerably to the development of the bilateral relations in different fields. Armenia attaches great importance to deepening of relations with the South Asian countries and particularly with Indonesia which plays a significant role in the region, President Sargsyan said.

Officials mentioned that the trade turnover between the two countries is increasing year by year. As officials emphasized, in order to promote bilateral business relations it is necessary to intensify information sharing and active communications.

The parties spoke also about some regional developments, noted the importance of cooperation in the framework of international organizations, and exchanged views on the global financial and economic crisis and its consequences.

4. SERZH SARGSYAN REAFFIRMS ARMENIA'S LOYALTY TO EUROPEAN VALUES [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

Reaffirming Armenia's loyalty to European values, RA President Serzh Sargsyan at the May 18 meeting with EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby recorded with satisfaction that the Eastern Partnership Summit held lately in Prague is a successful start for giving a new content to the Armenia-EU cooperation and for expanding further contacts.

As Noyan Tapan was informed by the RA President's Press Office, S. Sargsyan and P. Semneby gave assurance that frequent meetings and discussions are evidence of the expansion of Armenia-EU partnership agenda, as well as give a possibility to quickly respond and to give solutions to emerging problems. They positively assessed stipulation of balanced approaches on the Nagorno Karabakh problem in the final statement of the Eastern Partnership Summit.

At the meeting S. Sargsyan and P. Semneby also touched upon the Armenian-Turkish political dialogue, prospects of Nagorno Karabakh peaceful settlement, and further deepening of democratic reforms in Armenia.

S. Sargsyan reiterated that Armenia sees Nagorno Karabakh conflict's peaceful settlement only within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group, on the basis of Madrid proposals, all principles of international law and of basic documents, self-determination right, exclusion of use of force, and principles stipulated by the OSCE Foreign Ministers' Helsinki statement. He emphasized Armenia's readiness to normalize relations with Turkey within the framework of reached agreements and in fixed time constraints. S. Sargsyan said that any attempt of intervening into the Nagorno Karabakh settlement process by Turkey can only have a negative impact on the Nagorno Karabakh settlement negotiations process.



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5. HOVIK ABRAHAMIAN: RECOGNITION OF NAGORNO KARABAKH PEOPLE'S SELF-DETERMINATION RIGHT AND NON-USE OF FORCE SHOULD BE BASES FOR CONFLICT SETTLEMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

RA National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamian at the May 16 meeting with Special Representative of EU for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Peter Semneby expressed satisfaction with the process of EU Eastern Partnership program, results of the May 7 summit in Prague, and EU's growing interest in the region. He expressed the hope that Presidents' meeting will be followed by parliament Speakers' meeting. In this context he reiterated that Armenia has declared European integration as its political priority.

H. Abrahamian attached importance to bilateral parliamentary contacts, necessity to make the cooperation active in the respect of region's stability, peace, as well as promotion of political and economic cooperation.

Touching upon the Nagorno Karabakh settlement process, H. Abrahamian said that Armenia attaches importance to OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs' mediation as an effective format of negotiations in the process of conflict settlement. He emphasized that the recognition of Nagorno Karabakh people's self-determination right and non-use of force should be bases for conflict settlement.

According to the RA NA Public Relations Department, at the meeting both sides attached importance to fair and transparent holding of Yerevan Council of Elders elections.

Chairman of NA Standing Committee on European Integration Avet Adonts, head of the European Commission delegation in Armenia, Ambassador Raul Luzenberger, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Poland to Armenia Tomasz Knothe were present at the meeting.

6. RPA MEMBER ARTAK DAVTIAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF NA STANDING COMMITTEE [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 05/18/09]

On May 18, the RA National Assembly by secret ballot elected Artak Davtian Chairman of the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth, and Sports Affairs. He is a RPA faction member and a member of the Committee on State and Legal Issues. Artak Davtian on that post replaced RPA member Armen Ashotian, who was appointed RA Minister of Education and Science on May 12.

According to RPA member Gagik Melikian, the Chairman of the NA Ad hoc Calculation Commission, 108 of 131 NA deputies took part in voting.

102 deputies voted for A. Davtian and 6 deputies voted against.

7. RPA MEMBER SAMVEL NIKOYAN ELECTED NA VICE-SPEAKER [Azg, 05/18/09]

On May 18, the RA National Assembly by secret ballot elected RPA faction Secretary Samvel Nikoyan as parliament Vice-Speaker. He replaced ARFD member Hrayr Karapetian on that post.

According to RPA member Gagik Melikian, the Chairman of the NA Ad hoc Calculation Commission, 108 of 131 NA deputies took part in voting.

104 deputies voted for S. Nikoyan, 3 deputies voted against. One ballot-paper was invalidated.

8. EDWARD NALBANDIAN: WE SHOULD NOT LEAVE BURDEN OF OUR DIFFERENCES AND PROBLEMS ON SHOULDERS OF COMING GENERATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

Creation of new dividing lines in the region is unacceptable. And differences should be settled by peaceful and political means. RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian said at the Security and Cooperation in and around the Caucasus two-day International Conference held in Yerevan. In his words, threat of or use of force for the solution of conflicts is not an alternative and could seriously destabilize our region and have grave consequences.

According to RA Foreign Minister's observation, the Caucasus needs constructive ideas and initiatives, not violence. "Outbursts of violence can only fuel new animosities, escalate new tensions, and trigger new repulsive demonstrations of destruction. If we fail to come to terms with the new realities and reshape our political thinking, it would only mark a roll-back to the cold-war realities in this small yet important corner of the world, with negative consequences for all," E. Nalbandian said.

He said that the wide-spread notions of security, stability and cooperation have long been exhausted during the most recent post-cold-war history of the region. For some, these have just been routine notions repeated during political campaigns. For others, Armenia being among them, they are vital issues. The foreign policy and external security priorities for Armenia, therefore, include, among others,



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the establishment of an overall regional security and cooperation framework. This could be achieved through dialogue, negotiations, alleviation of existing tensions and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

E. Nalbandian stated that two main security challenges that are of a paramount importance for Armenia are the peaceful and just resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict and the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations. "These challenges are different, and by no means interconnected, even if some would like to see a linkage or parallelism in their resolution," the Minister said.

He recorded that in the international arena Azerbaijan consistently misinterprets the essence of the Nagorno Karabakh problem, trying to conceal the ethnic cleansing and its policy of violence conducted against the people of Karabagh in 1988-1991. According to E. Nalbandian, "consequently, these actions developed into open aggression and large-scale hostilities against the people of Karabakh, involving mercenaries closely linked to terrorist organizations, and which claimed the lives of tens of thousands of civilians."

According to the RA Foreign Minister, the Nagorno Karabakh problem could have been solved as early as 2001, after the Paris and Key West talks, when we were very close to the resolution, had the Azerbaijan side not backtracked from the agreements. "Even today, we would have been closer to the resolution if the co-chairs did not spent months trying to convince the Azerbaijani side to negotiate on the basis of the proposals put forward in 2007, and known as the Madrid document the very existence of which Azerbaijani side had denied for months," E. Nalbandian said.

Concerning the Armenian-Turkish normalization process he said that over the past year, following the initiative of the Armenian President, together with our Turkish neighbors and with the help of our Swiss partners "we have advanced towards opening one of the last closed borders in Europe and normalization of our relations without preconditions. The ball is in the Turkish side now. And we hope that they will find the wisdom and the courage to make the last decisive step. We wish to be confident that the necessary political will can eventually leave behind the mentality of the past."

"We should not leave the burden of our differences and problems on the shoulders of the coming generations. We must build bridges between our nations, working out mutually beneficial regional cooperation schemes. And our common objective should be shaping of a region that is safe and prosperous for all," the RA Foreign Minister said.

9. SERZH SARGSYAN REAFFIRMS THAT ANY PRECONDITION IN NORMALIZATION OF ARMENIAN-TURKISH RELATIONS IS JUST EXCLUDED [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

On May 18, RA President Serzh Sargsyan had a private talk with RF Vice-Prime Minister Sergey Ivanov, who is in Yerevan on a working visit. The sides recorded with satisfaction the current high level of the two countries' strategic relations and political dialogue, the best evidence of which is cooperation developing in various spheres, new initiatives and programs being implemented.

S. Sargsyan and S. Ivanov highly assessed the dynamics of development of trade and economic contacts between the partner countries and high level of cooperation in the humanitarian sphere. Issues related to cooperation in various economic spheres, including transport, telecommunication, energy, and other spheres were also discussed during the conversation.

According to the RA President's Press Office, speaking about the Nagorno Karabakh settlement process, the interlocutors exchanged thoughts over various issues of regional and international agenda. S. Sargsyan reiterated that any precondition in normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations is just excluded and reaffirmed Armenia's readiness to normalize relations with Turkey without preconditions, within the framework of reached agreements and in time constraints. S. Sargsyan also emphasized that any attempts of intervening into the Nagorno Karabakh settlement process by Turkey can only have a negative impact on the problem's settlement negotiations process.

10. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT HOSTS CHARLES AZNAVOUR [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan received today world famous Armenian singer, public figure, Armenian ambassador to Switzerland Charles Aznavour and his impresario Levon Sayan.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that the president greeted with delight the visit of the great Armenian to Armenia and noted the invaluable contribution of Charles Aznavour to presenting Armenia to the world.

Charles Aznavour told the president about his visit to Nagorno Karabakh today after 21-year pause and said that he is very much impressed.

During warm conversation the sides spoke of different issues.



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11. FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MINISTERS TO TAKE PART IN THE SESSION OF NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

Armenian Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministers Edward Nalbandyan and Seyran Ohanyan will visit Brussels to take part in the 28+1 format session of the North Atlantic Council which will take place May 20 in Brussels.

Media relations department of Armenian Foreign Ministry told Armenpress that before the session of the North Atlantic Council the meeting of Armenian Foreign and Defense Ministers with the NATO Secretary General is intended. Within the frameworks of the session the Armenia-NATO Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) will be discussed.

12. NEWLY APPOINTED CROATIAN AMBASSADOR V. TSVYETKOVICH-KURELEC HANDS HER CREDENTIALS TO THE ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSIAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

Newly appointed Croatian Ambassador to Armenia Ms. Vesna Tsvyetskovich-Kurelec (residence in Athens) today handed her credentials to the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that the President has congratulated the diplomat on the assumption of the post and expressed hope that she will implement her experience and knowledge for the further development of cooperation between the two states.

Noting that Armenia is interested in deepening of Armenian-Croatian friendly relations, the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said that Croatian President Stjepan Mesic's upcoming official visit to Armenia (May 21-23) undoubtedly testifies of the mutual wish to expand and deepen the cooperation agenda.

The sides agreed that the visit will be a serious impetus to the promotion of political dialogue and for the mutually profitable cooperation in different spheres. From the standpoint of activation of economic relations Serzh Sargsyan gave a primary importance to the establishment of legal agreement field.

The interlocutors also referred to possible Armenian-Croatian cooperation within the frameworks of EU initiatives – Eastern Partnership and EU Black Sea projects.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan expressed gratification on the balanced Croatian position over the issues of our region in different international institutions.

Ambassador Vesna Tsvyetskovich-Kurelec said that her state is for the peaceful regulation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict and supports the OSCE Minsk Group efforts.

13. PRESIDENT OF NAGORNO KARABAKH BAKO SAHAKIAN AND HOVIK ABRAHAMIAN DISCUSS ISSUES OF KARABAKH CONFLICT REGULATION AND ARMENIA-ARTSAKH COOPERATION [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan met today with the President of Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan.

Public relations department of Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that H. Abrahamyan welcomed President of Artsakh in the Armenian Parliament and noted that the relations between Armenian and Artsakh legislative bodies have especially been promoted during the latest times. In this context he stressed the importance of parliamentary cooperation, organization of mutual visits and development of direct links between the professional commissions. The NA Speaker has expressed his confidence that this cooperation will contribute to the consolidation of Artsakh self dependent institutions.

Afterwards the interlocutors had a face-to-face talk during which issues connected with the Karabakh conflict regulations as well as Armenia-Artsakh cooperation have been discussed.

14. PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ARMENIA AND MOROCCO DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan received today the Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco to Armenia Abdeljalil Saubry (residence in Kiev).

Public relations department of the Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that the NA Speaker suggested encouraging the parliamentary communications between the two states due to which it will be possible to give a new impetus to the cooperation between Armenia and Morocco. The interlocutors agreed that there exists a great potential to foster the relations of the two states, afterwards the cooperation prospects have been discussed.



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During the conversation Ambassador A. Saubry presented to H. Abrahamyan the political and economic condition of Morocco.

15. ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ARMENIA-NAGORNO KARABAKH COOPERATION [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today the President of Nagorno Karabakh Republic Bako Sahakyan. Public relations department of Armenian Government told Armenpress that the Prime Minister stressed the importance of Armenia-Nagorno Karabakh cooperation and steps undertaken by Armenian and Nagorno Karabakh governments towards smoothing of financial-economic crisis.

During the intercourse the sides have exchanged thoughts on the economic reforms Nagorno Karabakh undergoes. President Sahakyan noted that drafting of joint projects with the support of Armenian partners has established an efficient partnership and registered notable results. Nagorno Karabakh Prime Minister Ara Harutyunian was also present at the meeting.

16. HOVHANNES HOVHANNISIAN: UNLESS FAIR ELECTIONS ARE HELD ARMENIA'S POLITICAL RATING WILL SUFFER GREATLY [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

The Armenian authorities should use Yerevan Council of Elders elections for recording progress in the sphere of democracy. Hovhannes Hovhannisian, a member of the Armenian National Congress, the Chairman of the Liberal Party of Armenia, expressed such an opinion at the May 19 press conference meanwhile mentioning that the authorities have been doing the opposite so far.

In his words, the authorities try not to politicize the elections and not to attach much importance to them. However, in H. Hovhannisian's conviction, the election to be held on May 31 is a very important political event. According to him, if this time also the authorities hold elections like the 2008 presidential elections, they will greatly damage Armenia's political rating.

According to H. Hovhannisian's prediction, if fair elections are held the Armenian National Congress will win and will make a majority in Yerevan Council of Elders. According to him, the second will be BH and the third RPA.

17. REPRESENTATIVES OF 21 NGOS ACCREDITED FOR OBSERVATION MISSION IN YEREVAN COUNCIL OF ELDERS ELECTIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

In total 4 415 representatives of 21 local NGOs have been accredited at the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia so far to carry out an observation mission in Yerevan Council of Elders elections to be held on May 31.

The Liberty and Democracy NGO has accredited the smallest number, 3 observers and the Choice is Yours NGO the biggest number, 900 observers.

The deadline for accrediting observers at CEC is May 21.

18. NAIRA ZOHRABIAN: ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT BE TURNED INTO MILITARY OPERATIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

According to Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) and Bargavach Hayastan (Prosperous Armenia) responsible figures, one should not politicize the clash between representatives of RPA and BH parties' electoral headquarters that happened on May 18 at Yerevan Achapniak community's Silikian district.

According to RPA Vice-Chairman Galust Sahakian, the incident of Achapniak is not connected with the elections, therefore it cannot have a negative impact on the elections. As to RPA's relations with BH, according to him, RPA "is solidary" with its coalition partner "and respects BH very much."

Naira Zohrabian, a responsible figure for BH agitation, assured that BH "has never violated any law of free competition." In her words, BH even at the level of headquarters' employees has never been the first to initiate any attack and will not do it henceforth, either." N. Zohrabian also stated that they call all parties running for the elections for keeping correctness and understanding that "election, be it state or local self-government, should not be turned into military operations."

It should be mentioned that according to publications in press, the dispute in words that happened between RPA and BH representatives the day before turned into a fight, in which RPA members mainly suffered. Achapniak Prefect, RA Prosecutor General's brother Ruben Hovsepian also suffered slightly. According to eye-witnesses, BH leader Gagik Tsarukian, employees of Prosecutor's



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Office and Police arrived at the scene of action after the incident. The latter kept the district under control till late night.

19. MATTHEW BRYZA: STATEMENT OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER NOT AFFECT ARMENIAN-TURKISH RECONCILIATION [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

Public statements of Recep Tayyip Erdogan do not signal that accord reached between Armenia and Turkey has become abeyant, told in an interview to a Jirhan agency Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs and OSCE Minsk group co-chair. "Several weeks ago Erdogan noted in another his statement that settlement of Nagorno Karabakh conflict and Armenian-Turkish relations are separate processes, but they should go ahead parallel to each other. I would like to re-affirm the point of view of my government. These two processes are parallel to each other, but different. At the moment these processes are going forward, however, perhaps, at different speeds," said Mr. Bryza. According to Matthew Bryza, American authorities believe that Armenian-Turkish reconciliation will change the general atmosphere in the region and will facilitate the resolution of Nagorno Karabakh problem. "On April 22 Armenia and Turkey reached an accord related to normalization of relations. Opening of borders is a part of that process, however in a forthcoming phase. According to the road map there is nothing to be in a hurry. I don't think, that public statements of Recep Tayyip Erdogan signal that agreements reached between Armenia and Turkey have become abeyant," Mr. Bryza said. As it was reported in media, Turkey's prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, declared that "Turkey will open the border from its side only if Armenian side will stop occupation of Azerbaijani territories."

20. VLADIMIR PUTIN: NAGORNO KARABAKH PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY THE SIDES, SUPER POWERS SHOULD ACT AS GUARANTORS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

Nagorno Karabakh problem should be resolved by the sides of the conflict, while super powers should act only as guarantors, said Russian prime minister Vladimir Putin a press conference, after meeting with Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Sochi, Turkish media reports. "Our approach is the following: in regard to conflict settlement the sides should reach mutually acceptable agreement, and super powers should act as sponsors, if necessary. Countries involved in Minsk process should act only as supporters. Russia and Turkey wish that issue be solved in shortest terms," stated Mr. Putin adding that "In this issue both countries are ready to do what is necessary".

In his turn, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan emphasizing Russian-Turkish cooperation in the region, thanked the Russian prime minister for "effective meeting". Erdogan invited Putin to visit Turkey, and according to Turkish prime minister Putin would visit Ankara.

Meeting of two officials took place on May 16 in Sochi. Bilateral relations and regional issues have been discussed at the meeting.

21. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SUMMONS A SESSION OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL [ARMENPRESS, 05/20/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan summoned May 19 a session of National Security Council. Presidential Press office told Armenpress that the Council listened to the report of Armenian Energy and Natural Resources Minister Armen Movsisian on the present round of the project of construction of a new nuclear unit in Armenia, discussed the steps undertaken by now in that direction and approved them.

Stressing the importance of construction of the new nuclear unit in respect of mid-term and long-term development of the Armenian economy as well as ensuring the energy security of our state the Security Council has discussed all the rounds of implementation of the process started from the technical-economic drafting to the exploitation of the energy block.

22. USA AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA VISITS SYUNIK [ARMENPRESS, 05/20/09]

USA Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch for the first time paid a working visit to Syunik. During the May 18-20 visit the Ambassador met with mayors of Goris, Kapan and Sisian, got acquainted with the socio-economic conditions of the towns and discussed the projects which are implemented in the province through the support of the US Government. In Goris and Kapan Marie Yovanovitch also met with representatives of NGOs as well as the volunteers of "Peace Corps".



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In Kapan she visited the office of “Center of development of Syunik civil society” NGO, got acquainted with its programs, the activity of Syunik anti-corruption center which functions within the frameworks of “Mobilizing Actions Against Corruption” (MAAC) project of USAID financed Cassals & Associates Inc. as well as works conducted by the “Kapan lawyer’s clinics” project implemented in collaboration with the Association of USA lawyers.

Next stop of the guest was in the “American corner” which functions in the Syunik province library since 2007, where the Ambassador had a talk with Kapan businesswomen.

In Kapan on the request of journalists the Ambassador referred to the projects implemented in Syunik by the US Government and on the whole expressed satisfaction on their process.

Today in Sisian Marie Yovanovitch met with the teachers, visited the Migration center which has got grant by the USAID and “Eurasia” foundation. In the “Armen Andreasian” Co Ltd the Ambassador got acquainted with the mining works of the company.

Marie Yovanovitch also visited Noravank, Tatev temple and Tatev scientific center a part of restoration works of which has been conducted with the support of Ambassador’s foundation of cultural protection.

Meghri was not involved in the agenda of USA Ambassador’s first visit to Syunik, but Marie Yovanovitch said that in the nearest future she also intends to be in this region where projects are also implemented through the USA financial support.

23. E. SHARMAZANOV – SECRETARY OF ARP FACTION [ARMENPRESS, 05/20/09]

NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan stated today that according to the decision made during the session of Armenian Republican Party faction the office of secretary of ARP faction will occupy the MP Eduard Sharmazanov. Samvel Nikoyan who was on this post has been elected an NA vice Speaker.

Today the Parliament adopted the bills which have previously been discussed. Particularly the bills on making changes and amendments in the law on “The state border”, as well as bills on changes in Armenian Customs and Civil Codes towards prevention of import of hijacked cars and protection of rights of conscientious purchaser were adopted in their first reading.

24. NEWLY APPOINTED CYPRIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA HANDS HIS CREDENTIALS TO ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSYAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/20/09]

Newly appointed Ambassador of Cyprus to Armenia Petros Kestoras (residence in Moscow) handed today his credentials to the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that congratulating the diplomat on the post assumption President Sargsyan with gratification stressed the high level of political dialogue with Cyprus and the historically established great respect of the two peoples towards each other. The President expressed confidence that the newly appointed Ambassador will with his activity greatly contribute to the development and enhancement of Armenian-Cyprian friendly relations.

Ambassador Kestoras conveyed the Cyprian President Dmitris Khristofias’ warm greetings to Serzh Sargsyan. The diplomat underscored Cyprus’ wish to expand the mutually beneficial cooperation in different spheres.

The sides assessed the Armenian-Cyprian relations as excellent and agreed that they have a brilliant future. They have pointed to the mutual assistance and support as a characteristic line of cooperation between the two states in bilateral and multilateral formats.

President of the Republic and the Ambassador agreed that Armenia and Cyprus have a great cooperation arena within the frameworks of EU Eastern partnership.

Ambassador P. Kestoras expressed gratitude for the principle position of Armenia on the Cyprian issue in different international institutions. He also presented the latest developments of the negotiation process towards the conflict settlement.

With the request of the diplomat the Armenian President referred to the process of regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations.

Ambassador P. Kestoras assured that he will exert all the possible efforts for the further enhancement of cooperation between the two states and fortification of the links with relative Armenian nation.



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BUSINESS

25. STUDENTS OF ARMENIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE ARE PRIZE-WINNERS OF KASPERSKI LAB'S COMPETITION [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

Students of the State Engineering University of Armenia Elena Kosolapova and Nina Azizyan were awarded first degree diplomas in the competition of Kasperski Lab company. Kasperski Lab, one of the leading producers in antivirus software, organized the International Youth competition-conference "Safety and Security of Information Technology for the New Generation" on April 28-29 in Moscow. As the head of public relation and information department of the university Veronika Khorastanyan told a Noyan Tapan reporter, the organizational committee of the competition gave highest estimations to the project of the Armenian students, studying at the Information Safety and Software Department of Engineering University, commonly known as Polytechnic Institute. According to committee's estimation that work has a very high scientific value and application in information security area. 86 works from 13 countries were submitted to the competition. One, out of three first degree diplomas was awarded to Armenian students, presented "Study of cryptography methods" project for the "Educational projects" nomination. The students were also gifted souvenirs and 320-gigabyte memory device and the Armenian university obtained an 80 per cent discount for all software products of Kasperski.

Thanks to successful participation Polytechnic Institute has been allowed to member the Kasperski Academy. The university has obtained all teaching materials of Kasperski Academy and has been allowed use its educational programs. On the other hand students of Polytechnic Institute can intern in the Moscow headquarters of the company.

Established in 1996 the Laboratory of Kasperski, which currently employs more than 1400 engineers and has branches in more than 30 countries discusses the opportunity of opening its branch in Armenia. According to Khorastanyan, works of Polytechnic Institute's students were also highly estimated at the 35th International Youth conference Gagarin's Readings held in Moscow State Technological University after Tciolkovski in April. All 8 articles submitted by the Computer systems and informatics department were approved for publishing by the Moscow university.

26. ARMENIA'S BUDGET SPENDING INCREASES BY 10.4 PER CENT OVER THE FIRST QUARTER [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

Over the first quarter of this year Armenia's state budget spending reached 153.4 billion drams (USD 411.8 million), which is 10.4 per cent more than within the same period of last year.

2.2 billion drams were spent at the cost of off-budget funds of state enterprises, in particular, operational expenditure reached 147.7 billion drams, while transactions with non-financial assets amounted 5.7 billion drams.

Against the same period of 2008 budget spending increased by 14.4 billion drams. That increase is mainly conditioned by the grown amount of pensions and allowances, salaries of government-financed organizations and procurement of services.

According to RA finance ministry data, operational expenditure of the state budget over January - March this year reached 147.7 billion drams. 19.9 billion drams of operational expenses were directed to salaries of state organizations employees, including 964 million drams to social security. These figures increased by 20.9 and 7.4 per cent respectively compared to the same period of last year.

The state budget allocated 27.8 billion drams for procurement of services and commodities, which surpassed the last year's showing by 12.1 per cent.

Over the first quarter of this year 3.5 billion drams were allocated for state debt services, in particular 2.8 billion drams were directed to internal public debt and 700.5 million drams for external debt payment. Against the same period of last year state debt services grew by 20.5 per cent or 602.7 million drams, which is conditioned by the increase of internal public debt.

State subsidies reduced by 7 per cent to 3.7 billion drams. 11.6 per cent or 17.1 billion drams of operational expenses of the budget accounted for grants.

27. ARMENIAN PM POSITIVELY ASSESSES RESULTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ARMENIA AND IMF [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan received today Armenian Representative of International Monetary Fund Ninke Omes and Director of the Armenian Mission of IMF Mark Luis.



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Governmental press service told Armenpress that prime minister positively assessed the results of cooperation of Armenia with IMF and thanked the organization for effective work.

According to Tigran Sargsyan, the made studies make the IMF ideas on causes and ways of overcoming global financial-economic crisis more visible.

IMF representatives reconfirmed the readiness of the organization to support Armenia's government in the implementation of anti-crisis program.

28. SUMMIT OF BUSINESS LADIES IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

Foundation of support to the business women of the Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry intends to hold a summit of businesswomen in Armenia by June.

Head of the Foundation Lilit Gevorgyan told Armenpress that businesswomen from Sochi, St. Petersburg and Moscow will arrive in Armenia to take part in the summit. Discussions will be held on a number of issues including ways to confront the world financial-economic crisis.

L. Gevorgyan said that in the conditions of world financial crisis businesswomen have faced a number of difficulties – volumes of production and export have decreased. More than 80 women cooperating with the foundation conduct activity in different spheres including education, textile, services, health care and construction. In its turn the foundation tries to support them in entering new markets.

Foundation of support to businesswomen already has its branches in Vanadzor, Sisian and Gyumri. It was established in November 2005.

DIASPORA

29. OPENING NIGHT OF A 'FRIGHTENED DOVE' PLAY HELD IN ROME IN MEMORY OF HRANT DINK [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

In the fringes of Italian drama festival opening night of a "Frightened Dove" play was held on May 12 in Rome at the hall of Teatro Tordinona. Authored by Italian journalist Raffaele Auffero the "Frightened Dove" play is devoted to the memory of Hrant Dink. Author presented the most important episodes of the Armenian history since the adoption of Christianity up to the Genocide, as well as the political atmosphere in Turkey forewarning the assassination of Hrant Dink, press office of the RA foreign ministry reported.

30. UNION OF ARMENIANS OF RUSSIA VOICED A PROTEST TO ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF EUROVISION-2009 [Azg, 05/19/09]

Union of Armenians of Russia voiced a protest to organizing committee of Eurovision-2009. Under pressure of Azerbaijani foreign ministry the organizing committee erased the picture of the Armenian statue "We and our Mountains" authored by Sargis Baghdasarian from the video card of Armenian participants Anush and Inga Arshakyan. The reason of erasing the picture of the Armenian statue from the card was stated as "the monument is located in Nagorno Karabakh, that is not in jurisdiction of Armenia". According to the Erkramas newspaper of Russian Armenians, going off into regular hysteria and politicizing the creativity and cultural event, Baku has achieved its goal: that odd claim was satisfied. "We and our Mountains" is a work of Armenian art and the usage of its picture is an indispensable right of Armenian singers, says Erkramas.

Even if we don't pay attention to the fact, that this fact violates rules of the contests and rights of its participants, the readiness of organizers to yield to absurd motivations of Azerbaijani part, known for its armenophobia, cause anxiety.

31. CELLIST SUREN BAGRATUNI TO PERFORM IN THE NETHERLANDS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

On May 31 cellist Suren Bagratuni will give a concert in the Dutch city of Nederburg to the accompaniment of a winner of several international music prizes, Japanese pianist Ayano Shimada. Winner of the Silver Medal at 1986 International Tchaikovsky Competition Suren Bagratuni will be the first to take the stage of Niderburg Recital Room.

A lot of radio and TV stations have held different programmes devoted to Suren Bagratuni. The musician has been represented on CBC Radio Canada, WNYC in New York, WGBH in Boston, NPR, and NHK TV Japan. Director of the Cello Plus music festival Suren Bagratuni is also Artist-Teacher and



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Professor of cello at Michigan State University of Music. His students now give lessons in major universities and perform in orchestras throughout the U.S. and abroad.

32. AFTER INTERRUPTION OF TWO YEARS MEMBERS OF HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEET [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

After an interruption of two years due to the unstable political situation in Lebanon, the members of Haigazian University Board of Trustees met in Beirut on May 1-3. The Board has 15 members from United States, some of which are ex-officio ones. 13 of them were present at the meeting, which demonstrates the Board's strong bond and sense of duty towards Haigazian University and its development plans. They were welcomed by six local members and the University administration.

During the meetings many topics and issues related to academic and development plans were covered. The Board has formed new sub-committees specialized in Finance, Legal Matters and Development. It was planned to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the University in the United States, Lebanon and the Gulf region. At academic level the Board has announced the start of a new scholarship program, which each year offers a 100% merit scholarship to three new applicants with outstanding academic performance.

33. ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL'S BRONZE ENTRY DOORS TO BE BLESSED ON MAY 31 [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

St. Vartan Mother Cathedral's new three bronze entry doors will be solemnly opened and blessed on May 31 at the Cathedral.

St. Vartan Mother Cathedral last year celebrated its 40th anniversary of its consecration. The majestic structure located in Manhattan is the most ambitious undertaking of the Armenian American community and it stands as a monument to the Armenian presence in the U.S. Although the structure has long been completed a number of the refinements of the original cathedral project were put on hold in 1960, for financial and other reasons, at the time of its construction.

On May 31 the new bronze doors of the Cathedral, which are remarkable works of art and depict the baptism of Armenia's King Drtad III by St. Gregory the Illuminator, will be blessed during the open ceremony held at the Cathedral.

34. ORHAN PAMUK MIGHT FACE NEW TRIAL [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

Orhan Pamuk, Turkey's Nobel Prize-winning author, said a criminal case can initiated against him for remarks he made about the World War One-era killing of Armenians, despite an earlier acquittal in a criminal trial, the Anatolian news agency reported. According to Anatolian news agency, Turkey's Court of Appeals this week overturned a lower court decision that had dismissed the claims of personal damages against Pamuk. The civil suit's plaintiffs, who seek 36,000 liras (USD 23 million) in damages, include members of a support group for families of soldiers killed fighting Kurdish soldiers. The compensation suit stemmed from an interview with a Swiss magazine in 2005 when Pamuk said "30,000 Kurds and a million Armenians were killed" in Turkey and nobody take the liberty to speak about this. The interview sparked a criminal case against Orhan Pamuk, the author of "Snow" and "My Name Is Red" went on to win the 2006 Nobel Prize for Literature. A group of Turkish lawyers brought a criminal case against him blaming him in assaulting Turkish identity. The court, however dismissed the claims, Pamuk was cleared of all charges and avoided a jail sentence on a technicality in 2006 since an international outcry over the trial, which the European Union called a violation of free expression.

35. ARMENIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL HELD IN BEIRUT [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09]

35th Festival of Armenian Folk Dance was held in Green oval Field of the American University of Beirut. Dance groups of 17 Lebanon high schools participated in the festival.

As Azdak reports, dance group of the Levon & Sophia Hakobian College received the highest responses from the audience : choreographer Varouzh Chaparian's guided group of 10 dancers after performing 10 European and Latin American dances inspired the audience by its "Yarkhushta" dance.



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36. GERMANY AND TURKEY: SIMILAR IN CRIME; DIFFERENT IN PENANCE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/19/09] By Harut Sassounian, Publisher, The California Courier

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) traditionally invites as guests to its "Annual Meeting" (banquet) members of the local consular corps and leaders of various religious and ethnic groups.

On April 22, when I attended AJC's annual gathering, I was surprised to see that the keynote speaker was Dr. Christian Stocks, the Consul General of Germany. Despite the fact that the German government has long acknowledged the Holocaust and paid substantial compensation to the victims' families, many Jews still feel uncomfortable dealing with Germans or visiting Germany.

I soon discovered that the German Consul General was not only the honored guest, but also the recipient of AJC's prestigious "C.I. Neumann Lifetime Achievement Award."

I was not the only one to be taken by surprise. When the German Consul General took the podium, he admitted that he was so astonished by AJC's invitation that he was "speechless for a few seconds."

Dr. Stocks' 45 minute-long empathetic remarks amply demonstrated why the AJC was fully justified in honoring this distinguished diplomat. His words deeply touched those in attendance -- many of whom were Holocaust survivors and descendants.

As the only Armenian in the room, I could not help but make a mental comparison between the remorseful way the German Federal Republic has reacted to the Holocaust and the Turkish government's incessant denials, lies and distortions of the Armenian Genocide.

I wondered if the day would ever come when a righteous and enlightened Turkish leader would acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and make amends, paving Armenians to similarly honor a Turkish diplomat! Should that day come, Turkish leaders would be the recipients of many accolades, not just from Armenians, but people around the world.

Ironically, the current Turkish Consul General in Los Angeles was also at this banquet. I wondered what thoughts were going through his head, as he listened to his German counterpart's deeply apologetic speech, and whether he wished he could make similar remarks someday to an Armenian audience!

I have reprinted below brief excerpts from the German Consul General's lengthy speech. While reading these remarks, if you substitute Germany and Germans for Turkey and Turks; and Israel and Jews for Armenia and Armenians, you would get a sense of how I felt, on the eve of April 24, listening to the representative of one repentant government, while the representative of another unrepentant and denialist state was sitting just a few feet away:

"Yesterday, on Yom Ha-Shoah or Holocaust Memorial Day, Jews all over the world commemorated the victims of the Holocaust. They remembered the attempt to eradicate an entire people; they remembered the murder of six million European Jews, murdered by Germans, at German hands, on German command. Millions of people were humiliated, defrauded of their rights, persecuted and murdered because they were born Jews....

"The Shoah's cruel effects continue to this day. There is almost no Jewish person anywhere in the world unaffected by it. And because it was Germans that committed or instigated these crimes, I simply cannot begin my speech without paying my profound respects to the Holocaust survivors and their families, and to those who have not survived, to those who have perished, and to those who have no graves where we can mourn them.

"And I join the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, who said in her speech to the Knesset last year, celebrating the 60th birthday of the State of Israel, and I quote: "The Shoah is a source of great shame for us Germans. I bow before the victims; I bow before the survivors and before all those who helped them to survive...."

"Former Israeli ambassador to Germany, Avi Primor, once asked: "Where in the world has one ever seen a nation that erects memorials to immortalize its own shame? Only the Germans had the bravery and the humility." Let me add on a personal note: The crime itself was so horrendous, that not a million memorials would be sufficient to constantly remind us of the past....

"Last year, in his message of greeting on the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the State of Israel, Federal President Horst Kohler said: "We accept this responsibility for the past and for the future. This means that the citizens, politicians and leaders of society must raise their voices against denial or trivialization of the Shoah and against intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism. It means we must not look away; rather we must see and act. And it means we preserve and pass on the memory so that future generations also will remain vigilant.... Only those who take responsibility for the past can gain trust for the future."



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"Synagogues that had been gutted by fire during Kristallnacht have been restored or received extensive makeovers. New synagogues and cultural centers like those in Munich and Dresden are now centers of flourishing Jewish life. You again find Jewish schools and colleges."

ARTS

37. ARMENIA TOOK 10TH PLACE IN EUROVISION 2009 [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

Inga and Anush Arshakians, represented Armenia at the Eurovision 2009 International Song Contest, took the 10th place.

Representative of Norway Alexander Rybak won the first place, Iceland took the second place. Among the top ten were Great Britain, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Greece, France and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Through voting of 42 countries Armenia obtained the highest 12 points from the Czech Republic, 8 points from Israel, 7 points from Belgium, 6 points per country from France, Bulgaria and Turkey, 4 points per country from Spain, Cyprus and Portugal, per 3 points from Sweden and Slovakia, per 2 points from Ukraine and Poland and per 1 point from Finland and Macedonia.

This year Armenia participated fourth time in the contest. In 2006 and 2007 Armenian singers took 8th, and in 2008 the 4th place.

38. RESULTS OF THE TENDER ANNOUNCED FOR CREATION OF STATUES OF DUDUK-PLAYERS J. GASPARIAN, L. MADOYAN AND V. HOVSEPIAN TO BE SUMMED UP IN 10 DAYS [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

Results of the tender announced by the Yerevan municipality and Armenian Union of Architects on creation of statues of duduk-players J. Gasparian, Levon Madoyan and Vache Hovsepian will be summed up in ten days.

Chief architect of Yerevan Samvel Danielian told Armenpress that 6 projects have been presented to the tender best of which will be selected by the jury. 450 000 drams is intended for the first place, 300 000 for the second and 150 000 drams – for the third. Two encouraging prizes are also intended. Based on the winner project the creation works of the statue will be conducted. According to S. Danielian it is possible that no project is recognized a winner and a new tender is announced.

The statues will be set up in the small park, Abovian 21.

39. AN EXHIBITION OF PRECIOUS STONES OPENS IN DILIJAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/19/09]

An exhibition of precious stones "Stone Fairytale" opened in Dilijan. The collection of more than 1000 processed and rough stones belongs to the silver worker from Dilijan Artak Bojikian who has been collecting precious stones for already 25 years. Stones from nearly all the parts of the world are presented in the exhibition. For instance the latest purchase was the great mountain crystal which was brought to Armenia from Brazil. Works of silver worker masters Levon Martirosian, Sergo, Martin Lusinian from "Armenian stone" organization are also exhibited here.

"Silver and the stone are in harmony. Silver is also very beautiful with rough stones and the processed stones are used in jewelry", - A. Bojikain told Armenpress.

The "Armenian stone" organization has a history of a few years. The Armenian silver makers have numerous times presented their art in the world exhibitions. According to A. Bojikian their aim is to present the Armenian nature to the world.

SOCIAL

40. NO ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION RECORDED AFTER ACCIDENT AT NAIRIT PLANT [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

No environment pollution has been recorded after accident at the Nairit plant, said Harutyun Kuchkyan, minister of health care of Armenia on May 15. Mr.Kuchkyan refuted, that 2 schools and 2 kindergartens of Shengavit community have been closed because of the danger of poisoning emission after the blast and fire at the Nairit plant. According to the minister, there has not been any danger and won't be.



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No environmental pollution risks, including water pollution, have been revealed through examination of the Environmental Inspection of Nature Protection Ministry. According to Marzpetuni Kamalyan, deputy Head of State Environmental Inspection, after the blast content of chloroprene, azoth, carbon oxides, dust, benzyl, toluol in Yerevan's atmosphere have remained within the norm, which has been monitored at 5 locations.

41. 40 TAXI-STOPS SELECTED IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/20/09]

In Yerevan taxis already park in 40 taxi-stops selected for specially this aim.

Chief architect of Yerevan Samvel Danielian told Armenpress that furnishing of these areas has already been finished and corresponding mark-lines have been drawn. Areas have been chosen where there is a great flow of people and naturally there is a demand for taxis. Particularly taxi-stops have been established in the French Square, at the end of Kasian street, near the sport-concert complex, etc.

All the areas are for general use and cars of all the taxi services may stop there. Parking of other cars is forbidden.

In the future the number of taxi-stops will possibly be increased.

42. LABOR CLUBS TO BE OPENED IN A NUMBER OF TOWNS OF THE REPUBLIC [ARMENPRESS, 05/20/09]

With the support of "State Employment Service" agency of Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry labor clubs will be opened in a number of towns of the republic.

Head of the Labor consultation and information department of the Agency Tsoghik Bezhanian told Armenpress that in the nearest future clubs will be opened in Gavar, Vanadzor, Alaverdi, Ijevan, Berd, Hrazdan and Dilijan towns. Such clubs already function in Charentsavan, Goris and Abovian.

The club will implement special projects of works with population by the local self-governmental and regional and province centers of employment. They will be available for the unemployed people; they will get consultation as well as support in finding a job irrespective how long they have been unemployed.

The labor clubs will assist the unemployed people to acquire skills of seeking for a job, provide information on the social guarantees, choice of profession and education, vacancies as well as annual state employment projects.

In the labor clubs the unemployed people will be given opportunities to get acquainted with the procedure of applying to an employer (collection of necessary documents, their filling in, to convey the documents to the employer through the internet and order of taking part in the interviews).

In the clubs regularly meetings of job seekers with the employers, representatives of NGOs and other beneficiaries will be organized.

43. TIGRAN SARGSIAN ADDRESSES MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF AYDIN MORIKYAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/20/09]

Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan addressed a message of condolences on the death of outstanding journalist, orator, public figure Aydin Morikyan who passed away May 19 at the age of 51.

Public relations department of the Armenian Government told Armenpress that the message of condolences particularly says:

"With deep sorrow I learnt about the untimely death of the well known journalist and editor Aydin Morikyan. His name is closely connected with the Artsakh movement, restoration and development of Armenian independent statehood. He was one of those intellectuals who unhesitatingly stood by the nation, exerted all the efforts and enthusiasm to make its wishes come true.

Aydin Morikyan founded and headed editor's staff of "Hayastani Hanrapetutyun" ("Republic of Armenia") daily, worked in other media making a great contribution to the consolidation of the state's free press.

I offer my deep condolences in connection with the death of Aydin Morikyan to his family and relatives, the community of journalists".



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SPORTS

44. BOXERS ANDRANIK HAKOBIAN AND TSOLAK ANANIKIAN BECOME WINNERS IN CZECH REPUBLIC INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

The Boxing International Tournament finished on May 17 in the city of Usti nad Labem, Czech Republic.

Eight sportsmen represented Armenia in the competitions. Andranik Hakobian (75 kg, Etchmiadzin) and Tsolak Ananikian (91 kg, Abovian) won all fights and took the first place. Hovhannes Danielian (51 kg, Yerevan) and Azat Hovhannisian (57 kg, Yerevan) became second prize-winners.

In the team competition Armenia's national team took the second place being inferior to only Russia's boxers. The sportsmen of Czech Republic took the third place.

45. ARMENIAN JUDO NATIONAL TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT OF BELGIUM [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/18/09]

Armenia's national team took the first place in the team competition in the Judo International Youth Tournament held on May 17 in Belgium. Tournament's individual winners are Yerjanik Karapetian (48 kg, Yerevan), Garik Haroutiunian (50 kg, Vanadzor), David Nikoghosian (55 kg, Yerevan), David Ghazarian (60 kg, Vanadzor), Mher Tavakalian (73 kg, Charentsavan), and Artur Kroyan (81 kg, Yerevan). Arman Soghomonian (81 kg, Yerevan) and Gevorg Torosian (60 kg, Yerevan) took the second place.

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Established in 1906, AGBU (www.agbu.org) is the world's largest non-profit Armenian organization. Headquartered in New York City with an annual budget of \$36 million, AGBU preserves and promotes the Armenian identity and heritage through educational, cultural and humanitarian programs, annually touching the lives of some 400,000 Armenians on six continents.