



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

TRANSLATIONS FROM YEREVAN NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES

AGBU NEWS

1. EVENTS DEDICATED TO THE ASCENSION DAY [Azg, 05/22/09]

On Thursday, 40 days after the Holy Resurrection Day, is the Day of Ascension of Jesus Christ. The Ascension Day concludes the circle of earthly mission and evangelic history of Christ. Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the historic decision of moving the Armenian pontifical seat from Sis to St. Etchmiadzin

On the Ascension Day the Araratian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church together with "Ararat" Youth Union had organized an event at the Diocese with the beautiful performance of "Ararat" choir.

The Ascension Day cross-march started at the St. Sarkis church, continued to the central streets of Yerevan and ended up at the park near the G. Sundukian Theater, where another beautiful concert took place.

The two-and-a-half hour event was organized by the students of the AGBU and St. Etchmiadzin Children's Centers.

Inspector of the Children's Centers Reverend Father Komitas Hovnanian spoke about the meaning of the day and its significance.

Speaking to Aida Andreasian, Director of the Nor Nork Children's Center, "Azg" found out that the center was established in 1993 and has more than 1000 students today. More than 3000 students are enrolled in the six Children's Centers of AGBU and the Holy See. A seventh one will be opened soon in Gyumri.

POLITICS

2. ZHARANGUTIUN MEMBER CALLS DEPUTIES FOR SHOWING UNITED APPROACH TO PRESENT NAGORNO KARABAKH PROBLEM AT INTERNATIONAL INSTANCES [Aravot, 05/20/09]

The parliaments of Armenia and Artsakh should try to jointly change the distorted picture of Nagorno Karabakh problem the international community has formed. Zharangutiun faction member Larisa Alaverdian stated on May 18 at NA. She said that NA deputy delegations members, who can present the real essence of Nagorno Karabakh problem at international instances, should discuss and work out a united approach on that issue. L. Alaverdian called for involving her Artsakh colleagues in those discussions.

3. ZHARANGUTIUN FACTION MEMBER: ARMENIA'S STEPS TOWARDS TURKEY ESTRANGE DIASPORA [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

The process of normalization of Armenia's relations with Turkey is a threat to Armenian people's unity. Vardan Khachatryan, a member of the Zharangutiun (Heritage) faction, stated on May 19 at the RA National Assembly.

According to him, Turkey and Azerbaijan continue unitedly acting against Armenia at international instances. V. Khachatryan also reminded of Turkish Prime Minister's statements made lately, in which normalization of relations with Armenia is conditioned by the Nagorno Karabakh settlement, as well as a threat of banishment of dozens of thousands of Armenians working in Turkey is voiced. And the arguments that such statements are for internal use, according to V. Khachatryan, do not seem convincing.

Armenia's steps aimed at normalizing its relations with Turkey contribute to estrangement of the Diaspora from the homeland, one of the brightest evidence of which, according to the deputy, was the picture of Diaspora's voting for the Armenian singers in Eurovision.

Being for development of Armenian-Turkish relations, deputy Viktor Dallakian meanwhile called for not forgetting the lessons of history. He reminded that by the Treaty of Kars Armenian territories were divided among Turkey and Azerbaijan without Armenian side's participation. Turkey and Azerbaijan acted unitedly then, and the Russian delegation paid no attention to it, and Armenia's interests were sacrificed to establishment of Russian-Turkish partnership.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

4. WORK OF NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY UNIT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM CURRENT STAGE IN ARMENIA APPROVED [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

RA President Serzh Sargsyan convened a National Security Council sitting on May 19, during which the report of RA Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Armen Movsisian was heard, steps taken in that direction so far were discussed and approved. Noyan Tapan was informed about it by the RA President's Press Office.

Recording the importance of Armenian economy's medium-term and long-term development, as well as importance of construction of a new energy unit in the context of country's energy security, the Security Council examined all stages of implementation of the process from technical-economic elaborations to energy unit's operation.

5. CRIMINAL APPEAL COURT KEEPS UNCHANGED FIRST INSTANCE COURT'S SENTENCE ON GAGIK JHANGIRIAN'S CASE [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

Armenia's Criminal Appeal Court presided by Arshak Khachatrian on May 20 kept unchanged the sentence of Yerevan Kentron and Nork-Marash communities' court on the case of former RA Deputy Prosecutor General Gagik Jhangirian. Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed about it by RA Cassation Court Spokesperson Alina Yengoyan.

It should be mentioned that the first instance court found G. Jhangirian guilty of using violence to power representative not dangerous for life or health (part 1, Article 316, RA Criminal Code) and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment.

6. ARMENIA AND CYPRUS HAVE LARGE COOPERATION FIELD WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EU EASTERN PARTNERSHIP [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

Newly appointed Ambassador of Cyprus to RA Petros Kestoras (residence Moscow) handed his credentials to RA President Serzh Sargsyan on May 20. Congratulating the diplomat on the occasion of assuming his post, S. Sargsyan gave assurance that P. Kestoras with his activity will greatly contribute to further development and expansion of Armenian-Cyprian friendly relations having rich traditions.

P. Kestoras, in his turn, assured that he will exert every possible effort for further expansion of cooperation between the two countries and strengthening of contacts with the friendly Armenian people. He emphasized the willingness of Cyprus to deepen mutually beneficial partnership in various spheres.

According to the report of the RA President's Press Office, the sides estimated Armenian-Cyprian relations as excellent mentioning that they have a brilliant future. They considered mutual assistance and aid peculiar to two countries' cooperation in bilateral and many-sided formats. S. Sargsyan and P. Kestoras agreed that Armenia and Cyprus have a large cooperation field within the framework of EU Eastern Partnership.

7. YEREVAN POPULATION'S HYGIENIC-EPIDEMIC SECURITY TOUCHED UPON IN RPA PREELECTION PROGRAM [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

If the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) wins Yerevan Council of Elders elections to be held on May 31 it plans to assist rise of the quality of primary medical aid and services provided to population in the sphere of healthcare and social security. Besides, RPA envisages to raise the quality and to make affordable specialized medical aid at Yerevan's medical institutions, to ensure population's hygienic-epidemic security, to implement mother and child healthcare and social complex programs, to assist development of family medicine and expansion of services provided by family doctors.

Orinats Yerkir (Country of law) party's preelection program's Healthcare part mentioned that "Yerevan population's possibility of receiving complete, especially specialized medical assistance is low so far." To solve the accumulated problems OYP is going to introduce a compulsory and voluntary medical insurance system, to continually raise medical workers' salaries, to pass to innovatory ways of payment for doctors. Besides, OYP promises to form social privileges' system for medical workers. Holding of events aimed at maternity, children and ensuring family health is considered important in the programs of both RPA and OYP.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

8. NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION IN THE USA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INCREASES [Azg, 05/21/09]

The number of cosponsors of #252 Armenian Genocide Resolution in the USA House of Representatives increased hitting upon 125. An official from Armenian Assembly of America told Armenpress that Congressmen Bruce Braley (Democrat-Iowa), Peter Defazio (Democrat-Oregon), Bobby Rush (Democrat-Illinois) and John Yarmouth (Democrat-Kentucky) are the latest members to give their support to this human rights initiative.

Res. 252 of the House of Representatives was introduced by Reps. Adam Schiff (Democrat-California), George Radanovich (Republican-California) and Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Co-Chairmen Frank Pallone, Jr. (Democrat-New York) and Mark Kirk (Republican-Illinois). It is modeled after H. Res. 106, which passed the House Committee on Foreign Affairs during the 110th Congress.

“Reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide will not be sidelined in the 111th Congress. The Assembly will continue to educate Members of Congress on the importance of H. Res. 252 and, through its activists across the nation, energize the community on the local level to contact their Representatives directly,” stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

9. OSCE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIRS TO VISIT THE REGION [Hayastani Hanrapetutian, 05/21/09]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan, who is in Brussels on a working visit, met May 20 with the French co-chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group Bernard Fassier.

Foreign Ministry press service told Armenpress that during the meeting the interlocutors discussed the Karabakh conflict regulation process. The co-chair presented to the Armenian foreign minister the results of the meetings in Baku. Bernard Fassier also said that as continuation of his visit to Yerevan and Baku last week, by the end of the month the co-chairs will visit the region to prepare the next meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents which may probably take place in St. Petersburg.

10. ON THE INVITATION OF ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SERZH SARGSIAN TODAY THE PRESIDENT OF CROATIA STJEPAN MESIC TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

On the invitation of Armenian President Serzh Sargsian today evening the President of Croatia Stjepan Mesic will arrive in Armenia on an official visit.

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that this is the President of Croatia's first official visit to Armenia. The visit aims at consolidating of the inter-state links, indicating the primary directions and issues of economic cooperation between the two states as well fostering the development scientific and cultural links.

The official welcome ceremony of the Croatian President will take place May 22 in the Armenian President's office, which will be followed by the face-to-face talk of Presidents Serzh Sargsian and Stjepan Mesic.

Afterwards the extended meeting of official delegations will be held followed by signing of inter-governmental documents. Armenian and Croatian Presidents will also have a joint press conference.

Within the frameworks of the visit Stjepan Mesic will also meet with the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian and Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian as well as be hosted by Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

The Croatian President will also visit the Memorial Complex to the Great Genocide, put flowers and attend the Museum to the Armenian Genocide.

In the Yerevan State University Stjepan Mesic will meet the professors' staff and the students.

The President of Croatia will also be in Matanadaran. On May 23 President Mesic will wrap up his visit to Armenia.

11. ISSUES OF ENHANCEMENT OF ARMENIAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS DISCUSSED [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

Secretary of National Security Council Arthur Baghdasarian received today the Ambassador of Iran to Armenia Seyed Ali Saghaeyan.

Press service of National Security Council told Armenpress that the interlocutors have discussed issues connected with enhancement of Armenian-Iranian relations. Necessity of fortification and



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

development of links between Armenian and Iranian National Security Councils has been stressed as important.

Issues connected with the construction of Armenian-Iranian railroad and oil pipeline and cooperation in the energy sphere have been discussed. A refer was made to the Armenian-Turkish relations and the process of regulation of Nagorno Karabakh issue.

S. Ali Saghaeyan expressed gratitude for organization and conduction of the “Security and Cooperation in Caucasus and Around It” international conference in a high level noting that it was an important step towards establishment of peace in the region.

12. H. KOTANJIAN SAYS THE ORGANIZATION OF TWO YEREVAN CONFERENCES ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH CAUCASUS WAS UNPRECEDENTED [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

Two representative conferences have lately been organized in Yerevan on the situation in South Caucasus. In response to the question of Armenpress what was the concurrent organization of these representative conferences conditioned by the head of the Institute of National Strategic Studies (INSS) of the Armenian Defense Ministry, consultant to the Defense Minister, Doctor of Historical Sciences Hayk Kotanjian noted that conduction of the two conferences – one organized by the INSS the other by the National Security Council was not accidental. It was planned for juxtaposing of academic and political recourses of state institutes.

“The conference organized by our institute, in which international well known analysts took part, was experimental. The National Security Council organized a conference in political format with the participation of state high-ranking officials,” H. Kotanjian said.

Stressing that concurrent organization of the two conferences was unprecedented he noted that the fact testifies of the wide scales and efficiency of the initiative of the Armenian authorities.

Referring to the results of the conference organized by them, H. Kotanjian noted that the institute continues to actively cooperate with the state and non-governmental “brain centers” of OSCE Minsk Group chairing states.

In October last year the INSS held a joint conference with the project of security of Black Sea region of the School of Statehood Science of Harvard University; the Yerevan conference was held in collaboration with the Lyon Centre for International Security and Defense Studies of “Jan Mullin” University.

“Leading specialists of security studies from France do not arrive in Armenia frequently and it gave us an opportunity to get better acquainted with their position,” he said.

According to H. Kotanjian the scientific conference organized by the institute was intrinsically an arena for exchange of thoughts between the independent experts seeking for ways of solution of south Caucasian conflicts. Most of them are consultants to the authorities who make decisions of strategic importance for the region.

“In this context during the conference mediated messages of 20 experts from 8 countries also sounded which were addressed to the authorities of states and international organizations which are involved in the process of framing a new architecture of security of Europe and south Caucasian region,” consultant to the Armenian Defense Minister said.

13. DELEGATION HEADED BY THE HEAD OF COMMISSION FOR EUROPEAN ISSUES OF HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT M. YORSH TO ARRIVE TODAY IN ARMENIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

Delegation headed by the head of the commission for European issues of Hungarian Parliament Matias Yorsh which also involves the deputy heads of the same commission Laslo Kosi and Matias Firtli will today pay a two-day visit to Armenia.

Public relations department of Armenian Parliament told Armenpress that during the visit the delegation of Hungarian Parliament will meet the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamian, head of the NA permanent commission for European integration affairs Avet Adonts, group of delegates of Armenia-Hungary relationship, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and the assistant to Armenian President Gevorg Kostanian.

Members of the Hungarian Parliamentary delegation will visit Tsitsernakaberd – the memorial complex and museum to the victims of Armenian Genocide.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

14. ARMENIAN PRESIDENT SIGNS A DECREE ON APPROVING THE STAFF OF MEMBERS OF PUBLIC COUNCIL (HEADS OF COMMISSIONS) [Hayastani Hanrapetutiun, 05/21/09]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsian has signed May 20 a decree on approving the staff of the members of Public Council (heads of commissions).

Presidential Press office told Armenpress that the following staff of members of Public Council (heads of commissions) elected by the Public Council commissions has been approved:

Artush Ghukasian – Commission for science, education, culture, youth and sport affairs

Grigor Badirian – Commission for state-legal affairs

Hovhannes Hovhannisian – Commission for consolidation of civil society

Vazgen Safarian – Commission for financial-economic and budget affairs

Yurik Javadian - Commission for agriculture and nature protection affairs

Derenik Dumanian - Commission for health and social affairs

Koryun Arakelian - Commission for territorial administration and local self governance affairs

Karlos Ghazarian - Commission for defense, national security and home affairs

Arshak Sadoian - Commission for entrepreneurs activity and consumers affairs

Grigor Asatrian - Commission for ethnic minority affairs

Elena Vardanian - Commission for demographic and gender affairs

Ruben Safrastian - Commission for religion, diaspora and international integration affairs.

15. V. MARUTIAN APPOINTED DEPUTY ARMENIAN TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION MINISTER [Azg, 05/21/09]

On the decision of Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian Valter Marutian has been appointed deputy Armenian Transport and Communication Minister, public relations department of Armenian Government reported.

16. CoE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES FROM MAY 27 – JUNE 1 TO OBSERVE THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

A delegation of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will from May 27-June 1 observe the municipal elections in Yerevan set for 31 May.

The Congress delegation will be headed by Nigel Mermagen (UK). CoE Yerevan Office told Armenpress that as part of the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, the delegation will include three members of the EU Committee of the Regions.

Prior to the election day, the delegation will meet with Armen Gevorgyan, Minister for Territorial Administration and Vice-Prime Minister of Armenia and Garegin Azaryan, Head of the Central Electoral Commission.

As a follow-up to the Congress pre-electoral mission, further encounters with candidates running for the post of Mayor of Yerevan are planned.

The delegation will receive feedback on latest developments of the electoral campaign from representatives of media (private and state media) as well as from NGOs representatives.

The delegation will involve representatives of Hungary, France, Estonia, San Marino, Poland, Italy and Belgium.

17. A. AGHABEKIAN'S APPLICATION OF RESIGNATION ADMITTED [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

Head of the NA Permanent commission of defense, national security and home affairs Arthur Aghabekian's application of resignation was today considered admitted as according to the NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan the application was not withdrawn within three-day period.

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation, coming out of the political coalition, decided to preserve the offices of heads of permanent commissions and in the nearest future will nominate a candidate in stead of Arthur Aghabekian.

The NA Speaker also wished the MP Karine Achemian, who got a mandate in the ARP proportional list instead of the Education and Culture Minister Armen Ashotian, an efficient activity.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

18. DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN IRI AND RA CONDITIONED BY MOSCOW'S ATTITUDE TO THEM [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/21/09]

The seminar organized by the Armenian Center for National and International Studies on May 21 was dedicated to discussion of Armenian-Iranian relations and their development prospects. ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian, Yerevan State University professor, Ambassador David Hovhannisian, and Center expert Manvel Sargsian speaking at the seminar pointed to great unused potential in development of relations between the two countries.

Issues of communication sphere, in particular, projects in the sphere of transport and energy are of special importance in Armenian-Iranian relations. In the opinion of R. Giragosian and D. Hovhannisian, the Iran-Armenia pipeline is the confirmation of deepening of cooperation between the two countries.

According to D. Hovhannisian, the construction project of Iran-Armenia railway, which seems senseless today, indeed can have much importance. In particular, the railway leading from Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan to Iran can pass through Armenia, which no doubt will raise the role of the latter in the region.

According to R. Giragosian, it is also alarming that today development of contacts between IRI and RA, unfortunately, is conditioned by Moscow's attitude to them. "The bright evidence is pressure exerted by Russia on Armenia, as a result of which the diameter of the Iran-Armenia gas pipeline made not 1200 mm, but 711, which reduced to zero the possibility of construction of a transit gas pipeline. These actions of Russia are far from actions of a strategic ally," R. Giragosian noted.

R. Giragosian and D. Hovhannisian characterized relations between Russia and Armenia as relations of "a seignior and a vassal." It is conditioned by the low level of RA authorities' legitimacy, which makes them vulnerable for external influence.

19. AS OF MAY 15, 5 OUT OF 7 POLITICAL FORCES RUNNING FOR YEREVAN COUNCIL OF ELDERS ELECTIONS MAKE EXPENDITURES [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/21/09]

According to regular official information provided by the Central Bank of Armenia to the Central Electoral Commission, as of May 15, only the Labor Socialist Party of Armenia among 7 political forces running for Yerevan Council of Elders elections had not formed a preelection fund. Noyan Tapan correspondent was informed about it by CEC Spokesperson Tatev Ohanian.

Only the People's Party fund among political forces forming preelection funds did not record expenditures. The financial revenues and the balance of the latter is 120 thousand drams.

Bargavach Hayastan (Prosperous Armenia) party fund's general financial revenues made 34m 863 thousand drams, expenditures 33m 940.6 thousand drams, balance 922.4 thousand drams.

Republican Party of Armenia fund's general financial revenues amounted to 30m 750 thousand drams, expenditures 30m 105 thousand drams, balance 645 thousand drams.

Orinats Yerkir (Country of Law) party fund's general financial revenues amounted to 16.5m drams, expenditures 13m 16 thousand drams, balance 3m 484 thousand drams.

ARFD party fund's general financial revenues amounted to 6m drams, expenditures 2m 19 thousand 400 drams, balance 3m 980 thousand 600 drams.

Armenian National Congress bloc fund's general financial revenues amounted to 6m 930 thousand 500 drams, expenditures 6m 685 thousand drams, balance 245.5 thousand drams.

According to the Electoral Code, a political force has a right to spend a sum not exceeding 60m drams during election campaign.

20. DAVID SHAHNAZARIAN: KIDNAPPING WITNESSES AND PRESSING THEM IS STATE TERRORISM [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/21/09]

Yerevan Council of Elders elections campaign is accompanied by acts of violence to witnesses during political trials. Armenian National Congress (ANC) Central Office representative David Shahnazarian stated at the May 21 press conference. In his words, the Police persecute and kidnap witnesses, exert psychological pressure upon them to extort evidence beneficial for the authorities. "Such conduct of the authorities is unprecedented, it is just a state terrorism," D. Shahnazarian said adding that ANC strictly condemns the above mentioned phenomenon.

According to the oppositionist's formulation, this election campaign is also unique as TV companies under authorities' control do not cover it normally. In D. Shahnazarian's conviction, it is done deliberately for Yerevan citizens to be unaware of the election campaign process and their attention to be distracted from the campaign. He explained that the wish of the authorities is low voter turnout, which will



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

permit them to commit mass riggings. According to D. Shahnazarian, RPA's rating is too low, over 2%, while ANC has a possibility of receiving 80% votes. He said that the opposition will do its best to prevent riggings and to be able to fix the votes it will receive.

In response to the question of whether in case of being included in Council of Elders ANC will cooperate with pro-governmental forces D. Shahnazarian repeated the thought voiced by ANC members at previous press conferences, according to which cooperation with the authorities is impossible as long as there is even if one political prisoner in Armenia.

21. ARMENIA WILL NEVER MAKE CONCESSIONS IN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/21/09]

Over the past weeks the Turkish Prime Minister and other high-ranking Turkish officials stated on various occasions that normalization of relations with Armenia depends on three preconditions: recognition of the Treaty of Kars by Armenia, stopping of the process of recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and Nagorno Karabakh settlement in favor of Azerbaijan. ARFD faction member Vahan Hovhannisian stated on May 20 at the RA National Assembly. While, according to him, Armenia continues declaring to the whole world that an agreement was reached with Turkey on normalizing bilateral relations with Turkey without preconditions.

The deputy stated that we should speak with Turkey not about reopening the border, but about creation of a border check-point or corridor, as "hearing about reopening of borders, the Turks immediately fall ill with the Treaty of Kars." H. Hovhannisian also considers that it is time to accelerate construction of railway connecting with Iran and to start resettlement of territories surrounding Nagorno Karabakh. Mentioning RA President's promise to carry out the process of normalization of relations with Turkey in reasonable time constraints, he asked to make clear that time constraint and whether it is connected with the football match to be held in Turkey.

Mentioning that the government also attentively keeps up with Turkish side's statements, RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian assured that the Armenian side will make no concessions in the issue of normalizing the relations with Turkey without preconditions. Besides, in case any document is signed with the Turkish side it should be ratified by NA, which will create a possibility of public discussion and transparency.

According to the Prime Minister, NKR economic growth is a necessary condition for settlement of the territories, which will create a possibility for people to live there and to resist the crisis.

22. ANAHIT BAKHSHIAN APPLIES TO RA JUSTICE COUNCIL [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/21/09]

According to Anahit Bakhshian, the Chairwoman of the Zharangutiun (Heritage) party Board and a member of the NA faction of the same name, she receives many complaints on citizens' violated rights. However, as the deputy told Noyan Tapan correspondent, though she periodically voices part of the problems raised in them, including at the NA tribune, her statements do not have proper consequence.

According to A. Bakhshian, there are especially many complaints by residents of the Kond district, Firdus and Buzand streets recognized a supreme interest by the state, who report about gross violations of their ownership right. There are also many complaints regarding judicial bodies, in connection with which she has already applied to the Justice Council.

23. S. FARMANYAN DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF A "SPECIAL HEADQUARTER" SET UP IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ON MARCH 1 OR BEFORE IT [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

During the latest period news have been circulating in the Armenian press that the former Armenian Head of the Police Hayk Harutyunian stated in the NA that a special headquarter was established in the Armenian President's office on March 1 or before it.

In response to the question of Armenpress whether this information is true and what details may be revealed on the activity of the headquarter spokesman to the Armenian President Samvel Farmanyan noted: "No headquarter has been established in the President's office in connection with the emergency situation announced on 1 March 2008, neither before that, therefore it is impossible to provide information about the activity of a "headquarter" which did not exist."



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

24. PRESIDENT OF CROATIA S. MESIC VISITS TSITSERNAKABERD [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

President of Croatia Stjepan Mesic, who is in Armenia on an official visit, today accompanied with the Armenian Justice Minister Gevorg Danielian and mayor of Yerevan Gagik Beglarian visited the memorial complex to the Armenian Genocide and put flowers by the Internal Flame.

The guest also visited the museum-institute to the Armenian Genocide where director of the institute Hayk Demoyan briefly presented the history of Armenian Genocide to S. Mesic.

Croatian President also made notes in the memorial register of the museum: "I bow in front of the memory to human victims".

H. Demoyan presented S. Mesic a book about the Armenian Genocide.

25. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ARMENIA AND CROATIA HIGHLIGHTED [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

On May 21-23, 2009, the President of the Republic of Croatia Stjepan Mesić paid an official visit to the Republic of Armenia upon the invitation of the President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructiveness the two heads of states discussed the current situation and the prospects of the Armenian-Croatian relations, and exchanged views on the international and regional issues of mutual interest.

The parties stressed the importance of the further development of political and economic relations between Armenia and Croatia.

The Presidents underlined the need to further broaden the legal framework between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Croatia. The sides signed the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Co-operation in the fields of culture, education and science, and the Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Croatia for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

They expressed readiness to foster the trade and economic relations, to promote the establishment of ties between entrepreneurs, to encourage mutual visits and of business forums. Exchange of experience in field of tourism was also emphasized.

The Presidents expressed their confidence, that regional conflicts should be resolved without use of force and only by peaceful means and negotiations based on the principles and norms of international law.

The sides underlined the imperative to open the remaining closed borders in Europe as well as the necessity to establish normal relations without any preconditions and develop friendly relations.

The parties expressed their readiness to consider the possibilities of cooperation within the frameworks of the European Union initiatives, including the European Neighborhood Policy, as well as in other international structures.

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation aimed at maintaining security and stability in Europe in the frameworks of international organizations was also emphasized.

Noting with satisfaction the constructive negotiations and achieved results, the Presidents will, in the nearest future, undertake practical steps for effectively realizing all agreements reached.

26. NAIRI PETROSYAN SAYS ONLY PRESIDENT OF ARMENIA HAS RIGHT TO FORWARD AMNESTY PROPOSAL [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

A number of mass media ascribed to the Armenian National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan statement on possible amnesty of the March 1 arrestees. Spokesman for the Armenian NA speaker Nairi Petrosyan, commenting on the statement with the request of Armenpress, stated that "While speaking to the reporters Hovik Abrahamyan did not exclude the possibility of amnesty, expressing his good will. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, only President of the Republic has a right to make suggestion of amnesty and only after it the National Assembly may announce it."



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

27. S. SARGSYAN SAYS IF THE ISSUE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH STATUS IS MORE DEFINITELY STRESSED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS EXPECTING RESPONSES IT DOES NOT MEAN WE HAVE TOUGHENED OUR POSITION [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

"I don't think Armenia has toughened its position in the negotiations with Azerbaijan, this is not our definition. The core issue of Nagorno Karabakh conflict is the issue of status of Nagorno Karabakh and if during the negotiations we more definitely stress the issue expecting responses it does not mean that we have toughened our position," during the joint press conference followed today's meeting with Croatian President Stjepan Mesic Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said commenting on the news that allegedly Armenia has toughened its position in the Karabakh conflict negotiations.

He stressed that Armenia is ready to continue the negotiations and his next meeting with the Azerbaijani President is scheduled for early June, probably in St. Petersburg.

"I hope that after the meeting the Azerbaijani media will not again try to misinterpret the sense of our meeting and will not say that Armenia has toughened its position," S. Sargsyan said.

In response to the question on Croatia's position in the issue of Karabakh conflict regulation if taken into consideration the circumstance that in its turn Croatia has successfully obtained the right for self-determination as a result of collapse of Yugoslavia S. Mesic noted that a Constitution was adopted in Yugoslavia based on which constitute republics of the Federation were self-determined as autonomous regions – Constitutional elements or Federation constitutes.

"If not the powers that chose the war as a solution, if they did not try to change the borders we would be able to settle all our issues peacefully. But regrettably the military solution was chosen; we had numerous victims but the borders did not change at all. The former republics became separate states and a necessity rose to settle the Kosovo issue," the Croatian President noted.

According to him Serbia did not have the corresponding potential to establish its power in Kosovo and there was also no potential to continue the negotiations.

"The Kosovo status was to be settled. Kosovo brought forward the aim to become independent and a new reality arose; we recognized the reality," he noted.

According to S. Mesic any issue can be solved exclusively through negotiations. "It's better to negotiate for 10 years than to fight for 10 days," President of Croatia stressed.

28. HOVIK ABRAHAMYAN HIGHLIGHTS DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CROATIA [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

Armenian National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan met today with the President of Croatia Stjepan Mesic who is in Armenia on an official visit.

Public relations department of the NA told Armenpress that Hovik Abrahamyan highlighted the deepening of the relations with Croatia both in political and economic spheres.

The interlocutors also underscored the role of parliamentary diplomacy in the development of bilateral relations. They agreed that the creation of parliamentary friendship groups in Armenia and Croatia will promote the development of contacts between the two countries. The sides also referred to the issues on the development of trade economic relations.

During the meeting the sides also spoke of a number of issues on cooperation between the two countries in international organizations.

29. S. SARGSYAN: "I CONSIDER TURKEY STILL PRESERVES ITS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONVINCING THE WORLD COMMUNITY THAT IT IS A MODERN COUNTRY AND IS GOVERNED BY PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW" [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

"I consider Turkey still preserves its great opportunity to convince the world community, why not the Armenian citizens as well, that it is a modern state and is governed by modern standards and principles of international law," during the joint press conference with Croatian President Stjepan Mesic Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said.

Referring to the latest pessimistic assessments on regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations S. Sargsyan noted that like he was not encouraged with optimistic statements at the beginning, the same way he is not displeased, disappointed with pessimistic assessments now. According to him, it is still very early to make conclusions.

Nevertheless the Armenian President advised not to undergo the speculation of other sides and media and not to attach the Karabakh issue to the Armenian-Turkish negotiations.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

“The Armenian-Turkish relations are entirely different relations; these negotiations vary from those held between Armenia and Azerbaijan or over the Nagorno Karabakh issue. I must say that regulation of most difficult issues demand great efforts, demand a hard way to pass.

During overcoming of this most difficult way surely in Armenia as well as in Turkey there will be optimists and pessimists who, being unaware of the whole information, can emotionally express their joy or displeasure, optimism or pessimism.” Armenian President said.

BUSINESS

30. ARMENIA TO START SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY TO IRAN IN A MONTH [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

The Iranian gas is already pumped to Armenia through the Iran-Armenia gas pipeline. After a month Armenia will start to supply Iran with electricity.

Armenian Energy and Natural Resources Minister Armen Movsisian told Armenpress that at present gas from the Iranian side is got through “gas instead of electricity” agreement. The whole produced electricity will be supplied to the Iranian side. Formerly during the summer period Iran was being supplied with the surplus electricity of Armenia, but because of the increase of the demand the entire produced electricity will be sent to this state.

Volumes of the got gas and supplied electricity are commercial secrets. The Minister assured that the volumes of gas imported from Russia will not decrease too.

At present technical issues are being solved in supplying gas from Iran, works of increasing of the pressure are conducted. At present the residents of Syunik province and Nagorno Karabakh mainly make use of this gas.

In response to the question on supplying electricity to Turkey the Minister noted that at present bilateral negotiations are held and greater amount of electricity will be supplied to Turkey from Armenia, than it was intended by the primary agreement.

The Minister informed that at present technical issues, works of juxtaposing of equipments and nets are being solved.

The Turkish side has already purchased the necessary equipments, which testifies of their intention to make supply. Armenia will soon start to supply Turkey with electricity because the works are conducted in quite active tempos.

The intention of construction of an atomic station on the Turkish territory will also not substitute the project of supplying electricity from Armenia.

31. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN “ARMENTEL” AND “TURKCELL” FROZEN [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

Negotiations between “ArmenTel” company and “Turkcell” have been frozen and no works are conducted in that direction.

During today’s press conference the executive vice director for business development of “Vimpelcom” company in CIS states Dmitry Pleskonos stated that the negotiations aimed at providing an internet to Armenia from Turkey.

D. Pleskonos noted that in some issues they have not agreed and “Vimpelcom” solved the issue of providing the link through Georgia.

“Time will show how the Georgian internet wire will satisfy; it is somehow also conditioned by the increase of the number of internet users. Today the wire which comes from Georgia covers our needs, but if in the future “Turkcell” offers new, additional cooperation terms for continuation of the negotiations, we will be ready for that”, - D. Pleskonos said.

“ArmenTel” is involved in the group of “Vimpelcom” companies.

DIASPORA

32. RA MINISTER OF DIASPORA RECEIVES BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR AND HEAD OF BRAZILIAN BRANCH OF ALL-ARMENIAN FUND [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

Armenian Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan met with outgoing Brazilian Ambassador to RA Renate Stille in connection to completion of her diplomatic mission to Armenia.

According to Ms. Hakobyan, while implementing her difficult and honorable mission Ms. Stille has gained authority. As a first Brazilian Ambassador to Armenia, Ms. Stille has managed to shape a healthy



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

and firm diplomatic basis which will help developing further Armenian-Brazilian bilateral relations, Minister Hakobyan said. Ms. Hakobyan thanked the Ambassador for her tenure-long efforts aimed at strengthening of Armenian-Brazilian ties and expressed hope that Renate Stille will continue contributing to the development of those relations. The ambassador characterized her three-year long mission in Armenia as a period of approximation and expressed gratitude in respect to warm and favorable atmosphere she worked in. "I take Armenia with me in my heart," she said.

Minister Hranush Hakobyan received the Head of the Brazilian branch of all-Armenian fund Hayastan Oshin Mestijian. O. Mesjian noted, that problems of keeping the Armenian identity is especially urgent and timely in the countries of Latin America, including Brazil.

Agreement was reached to intensify ties between the ministry of Diaspora and organizations and institutions of the Armenian community in Brazil.

33. SONA KARENTZ ANDREWS APPOINTED PROVOST OF UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

Idaho's ktvnews webside announced that Sona Karentz Andrew was appointed the provost of USA Providens state's Rhode Island University.

Sona Karentz Andrews, 55, the provost and vice-president of Boise State University, has struggled with two others for the presidency of the University of Rhode Island.

"Sona is the one who raised the stature of the college as a research institution," said Boise President Robert Kustra, adding that the university began as an undergraduate teaching college.

She graduated from Worcester State College in Massachusetts in 1975 and earned her doctorate from Arizona State University in 1981. Andrews began her career at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee as an associate professor of geography in 1988 and rose to vice provost of academic affairs in 2003.

Geographer Sona Karentz Andrews hails from an Armenian family and freely speaks Armenian. Her husband, Joseph, is an endocrinologist at the University of Wisconsin, her son is in graduate school at George Mason University and her daughter is a student of the medical school.

34. MINISTER OF DIASPORA RECEIVES VAHAGN DADRIAN [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/20/09]

RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian received Istanbul Armenian scientist Vahagn Dadrian, who has much contribution to international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide.

The Minister thanked Vahagn Dadrian for receiving RA President's 2008 Prize, wished him long life and good health. Further tasks of Armenia-Diaspora contacts, as well as development of Armenian-Turkish relations were discussed during the conversation. V. Dadrian expressed readiness to give a lecture for Ministry of Diaspora employees during the current visit.

Vahagn Dadrian was born and lives in Istanbul, he is a mathematician-sociologist and a lawyer. Famous scientist's works mainly relate to struggle against negation of Armenian Genocide.

35. SUPPORT FOR ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION GROWS [NOYAN TAPAN, 05/21/09]

The Armenian Genocide Resolution, reached another milestone today with the bi-partisan support of 125 cosponsors, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly). Congressmen Bruce Braley (D-IA), Peter Defazio (D-OR), Bobby Rush (D-IL) and John Yarmouth (D-KY) are the latest Members to lend their support to this human rights initiative.

Res. 252, a congressional resolution which reaffirms the historical record of the United States on the Armenian Genocide, was introduced by Reps. Adam Schiff (D-CA), George Radanovich (R-CA) and Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Co-Chairmen Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and is modeled after H. Res. 106, which passed the House Committee on Foreign Affairs during the 110th Congress.

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden and State Secretary Hillary Clinton supported the resolution.

The Resolution demands from the President an exact position in foreign policy towards human rights, ethnic cleansings and genocides, as well as calls country's executive power for making a statement confirming the fact of Armenian Genocide on April 24 every year, where American efforts in the direction of suspending the genocide should be mentioned.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

ARTS

36. PREMIERE OF THE "I WILL REVENGE THROUGH LOVE" PERFORMANCE OF MOSCOW ARTISTIC THEATRE AFTER S. PARAJANOV TO TAKE PLACE MAY 22 IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

The Premiere of "I will revenge through love" performance of Moscow artistic theatre after S. Parajanov will take place May 22 in Yerevan National academic theatre after G. Sundukian.

During today's press conference the artistic director of the theatre Vladimir Gabbe noted that the paying a tour to Armenia is the start of jubilee events on S. Parajanov's 85 and theatre's 15 anniversary; the main events will be held in September in Moscow.

"In Yerevan the theatre staff performs with great devotion and responsibility. The performance is a comment on the Parajanov's dream spiced with cinematography elements. I hope that the Armenian audience will be pleased with our performance," V. Gabbe said.

According to him, after the death of the great master enormous efforts were necessary to present his works: first his world outlook and philosophy was necessary to understand. During preparation of a performance the theatre with its 15 actors first tries to conceive Parajanov's ideas.

"Parajanov was supranational talented arts man; his work is durable and teaching. We try to follow his dream," the artistic director of the theatre added.

The Artistic theatre after Parajanov was established in Yerevan in 1990s but connected with the difficulties in the state it removed and now functions in Moscow.

The Armenian premiere of the performance will take place with the support of Yerevan municipality and under the sponsorship of "Ararat" brandy factory.

37. EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF GERMAN PHOTOGRAPHER H. SHLUTICH IN GYUMRI [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

On the initiative of the Embassy of Germany to Armenia from May 19 an exhibition of works of German photographer Harold Schlutich is being held in the Gyumri gallery of Aslamazian sisters. It has been organized within the frameworks of "A Week of German Culture" project. The photos have been taken in Kabul and present different episodes describing the market, culture and state's traditions.

Although this is German arts figure's first visit to Gyumri, he managed to get acquainted with this town and liked it. The photographer told Armenpress that he is aware how the Armenians managed to preserve their culture.

"I am interested in the Armenian culture. I've already taken some photos in Gyumri. They show how you preserve your culture."

The exhibition will function by May 24.

38. EXTENDED WORKS ARE INTENDED IN NAGORNO KARABAKH TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURES AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL PROCESSES [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

This year extended works are intended in Karabakh towards the development of cultural infrastructures and promotion of cultural processes.

Nagorno Karabakh Culture and Youth Affairs Minister Lernik Hakobian told Armenpress that a serious attention must be paid to the work of theatrical, concert groups, providing of material-technical base to the cultural centers, as well as promotion of the cultural life of the villages.

Among the works conducted with the youth L. Hakobian pointed out to the establishment of Prime Minister-affiliated council of youth affairs as well as drafting of state youth policy concept.

39. FRANCE ARRANGES CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF CHARLES AZNAVOUR [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

Today France arranged celebration in the honor of Charles Aznavour on the occasion of his 85th birthday anniversary. He has a 70 years' experience on the stage.

According to MIDEM classification there are nearly 1000 songs on the account of the singer, he was shot in 60 films and wrote 50 albums which were spread in more than 100 million copies.

The latest album of the master - the collection of duets with the world leading stars has already hit many records. It was recognized "Platinum" after six weeks it was released.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

RELIGION

40. ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH TAKES PART IN “DEACON ACTIVITY OF CHURCHES: ACHIEVEMENTS, ISSUES, CONCERNS” CONFERENCE IN BUCHAREST [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

“Deacon activity of the churches: achievements, issues, concerns” conference took place May 18-20 in Bucharest, capital of Romania organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Press service of the Mother See told Armenpress that the Armenian Apostolic Church was represented by the head of “Armenian benevolent roundtable” foundation Karen Nazarian who reported on “Social deacon in the Armenian Apostolic Church”.

The participants of the conference were hosted by the head of Romanian Orthodox Church, His Holiness Patriarch Daniel A.

Representatives of more than 20 states have discussed the present and future prospects of deacon activity, the role of WCC in the future development and improvement of deacon service.

A number of speeches have been delivered on different spheres of social deacon service.

SOCIAL

41. “IT FOUNDATION” INTENDS TO RESTORE THE TERRITORIES OF HISTORICAL ARMENIA THROUGH THE VIRTUAL SPACE IN THE INTERNET [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

Armenian “IT Foundation” intends to restore the territories of historical Armenia through virtual space in the internet. Head of the foundation Garegin Chugaszian told Armenpress that an attempt will also be made to restore the cross stones of Old Jughha, Ani and Norashen temple.

At present the foundation negotiates with a number of US companies for carrying out the works collaboratively. G. Chugaszian expressed hope that in summer it will already be clear with which company they will cooperate. According to him, this is somehow a business plan the undertakers of which intend to attract the attention of tourists.

The “IT Foundation” also intends to make another initiative in the internet according to which through the www.googleearth.com website it will be possible to see samples of Armenian cultural heritage existing not only in Armenia but also in the whole world as well as materials telling about them.

The main works are finished but the website is not yet completely ready and does not function yet. G. Chugaszian noted that from time to time the website will be updated and enriched with new materials and information.

42. “EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND ELECTIONS” PROJECT TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

From May 27-June 1 “Federation of Youth Clubs” will organize a project under “European Citizenship and Elections” slogan in Yerevan.

Chairperson of the Federation Atom Mkhitarian told Armenpress that during the project which will be financed by the EU issues connected with the importance of participation of the youth in the elections, their encouraging, arouse problems and their solution will be discussed. It will last for a week; four young people from each state – Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Holland, Denmark, France, Poland, Germany and Latvia will take part in it.

In collaboration with the Armenian Sport and Youth Affairs Ministry the “Federation of Youth Clubs” also intends to organize a conference of youth clubs and centers in July in Yerevan.

According to A. Mkhitarian more than 400 youth organizations are registered in Armenia; besides this youth clubs and centers also function. During the three-day conference the activity of these organizations, their structure, issues as well as further tasks will be presented. Young people from Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh and Javakhk will take part in the conference.

43. DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR “STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE” AGENCY FINDS JOB FOR 2748 PEOPLE [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

As of May 1 the “State Employment Service” of Armenian Labor and Social Affairs Ministry found jobs for 2748 job seekers. Head of the labor consultation and information department of the Agency Tsoghik Bezhanian told Armenpress that as compared with the same period last year the index increased for 4.8%.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

614 of those who found job are young people. According to Ts. Bezhanian in the conditions of tenseness in the labor market the activeness has notably increased among the job seekers.

According to agency data, as of May 1 the unemployment rate in the republic reached 6.8% increasing 0.5% compared with the beginning of the year. 101,200 people are seeking for job the number of which compared with the same period last year increased by 10.2 %. Among the job seekers 20,600 are young people. Among the unemployed the number of women decreased compared to the start of the year and from 75.5% reached to 71.6.

In April 954 vacancies have been presented to the agency, 400 of which regularly repeat. Ts. Bezhanian noted that in the provinces the vacancies of doctors, teachers, heads of village office staff remain mainly vacant or are difficultly filled in, and in the capital – taxi drivers, sewers, sellers, chemists, pharmacologists as well as workers.

Absence of corresponding specialists in the given area, low salary and unfavorable working conditions are among the reasons that the vacancies are not filled in.

44. CONSULTATION OF CIS ASSOCIATION OF HISTORIANS TO BE HELD IN YEREVAN [ARMENPRESS, 05/22/09]

The annual consultation of CIS Association of Historians will this year be held in Yerevan June 15-16.

An official from the Institute of History of Armenian National Academy of Science told Armenpress that the consultation will be followed by the summer school courses of CIS young historians which will be held by June 21. Issues connected with the state administrative-legal status of Soviet Armenia will be discussed.

Historians not only from CIS states but also from former Soviet Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Bulgaria will take part in the consultation. Last year the consultation was organized in Moscow.

The Association has a history of five years; the Institute of History of Armenian National Academy of Science is also its member. Chairperson of the Association is the academician Alexander Chubarian, Head of Russian Institute of World History, with whose suggestion this year the consultation will be held in Yerevan.

SPORTS

45. NATIONAL TEAM OF IRAN WINS RA PRIME MINISTER'S CUP

The first International Handball Tournament finished on May 20 in Yerevan. In the third round Iran's national team beat Armenia's team with the score of 42 to 17 and Georgia's national team beat Armenia's youth team with the score of 50 to 21.

Iran's national team won the tournament ending all three matches with a victory. Georgian handball players were the second and Armenia's first and second teams took the next two places.

The tournament will become traditional.

46. WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP TO START ON MAY 23 IN YEREVAN

World Boxing Youth Championship will start on May 23 at Yerevan Karen Demirchian Sports and Concert Complex. 51 countries' teams will participate in it.

RA Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian is the Chairman of the championship organizing committee. 200m drams will be spent on holding the event, 34m of which was allocated by the RA government and the rest by the Boxing Republican Federation.

Armenia's national team continues training at Abovian sports complex with senior coach, merited trainer Fedya Alexanian. The team of Ireland that was first to arrive in Armenia also trains with them. F. Alexanian told Noyan Tapan correspondent that Armenia's boxers are in a good sports condition.

The competitions will start at 14:00. The entrance is free.

47. ARMENIAN 6 ATHLETES TAKE FIRST PLACES IN JUDO INTERNATIONAL YOUTH TOURNAMENT IN BELGIUM [ARMENPRESS, 05/21/09]

In the international judo youth tournament which was held in Belgium 6 Armenian athletes took first places.



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, May 22, 2009

According to the weight category the tournament winners became Yerjanik Karapetian (48 kg), Garik Harutunian (50 kg), Davit Nikoghosian (55 kg), Davit Ghazarian (60 kg), Mher Tavakalian (73 kg), Arthur Kroian (81 kg).

Gevorg Torosian and Arman Soghomonian (60 kg) took silver medals. With this result the Armenian judo team took the first team place.

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